



Sermon Notes

US N°. 58

Date: May 6th, 2012

Title: The Praise of Nations

Series: #4 of "The Messiah's Ministry, and Ours"

Text: Is. 61:8-11, "For I, the LORD, love justice; I hate robbery for burnt offering; I will direct their work in truth, and will make with them an everlasting covenant. Their descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the LORD has blessed." I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."

1. Review

- a. The Anointed One
- b. To whom the Anointed One preaches the Good News
- c. God the Restorer and Healer
 - i. Generational sin and curses
 - ii. The Ugly Duckling Syndrome
 - iii. The Valley of Dry Bones
- d. The Church as a House of Prayer for the Nations, populated by a royal priesthood

2. The LORD's love of justice and truth.

- a. God hates every false way (cf. Ps. 119:104, 128), lying (cf. Ps. 119:163), evil, pride, arrogance and the evil way. (cf. Prov. 8:13)
- b. The phrase "robbery for burnt offering" leads us to understand that God will not allow us to "spiritualize" our evil activities.
 - i. Mt. 15:5-6, "But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is a gift to God – then he need not honor his father or mother.' Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition."
- c. Dt. 10:18, "He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing." Dt. 16:19, "You shall not pervert justice; you shall not show partiality, nor take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and twists the words of the righteous." Ps. 37:30, "The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom, and his tongue talks of justice." Ps. 72:4, "He will bring justice to the poor of the people; He will save the children of the needy, and will break in pieces the oppressor." Ps. 89:14, "Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; mercy and truth go before Your face." Ps. 97:2, "Clouds and darkness surround Him; righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne." Ps. 106:3, "Blessed are those who keep justice, and he who does righteousness at all times!" Ps. 146:7, "Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry. The LORD gives freedom to the prisoners." Prov. 21:3, "To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice." Is. 1:17, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rebuke the oppressor; defend the fatherless, plead

for the widow." Is. 42:3, "A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth." Jer. 10:24, "O LORD, correct me, but with justice; not in Your anger, lest You bring me to nothing." Amos 5:24, "But let justice run down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream." Mt. 23:23, "*Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.*"

- d. The LORD is true, He works in truth, and He approves of those who live in truth. "*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life...*" (cf. Jn. 14:6) Satan works with truth like bait, but he is the father of lies. (cf. Jn. 8:44) All truth is God's truth.
3. The everlasting covenant of the LORD with His people. God's promises are eternal whereas we live in a very temporary and fleeting world. God engages at much deeper and more intimate level than we are comfortable with, a level that we as a society are drawing further away from, making it that much more difficult to comprehend.
 - a. The importance and proximity of covenant. The transformation of circumcision, from the outside in to the inside out. Rom. 2:28-29, "*For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.*"
 - b. The promise of eternity is possible because of the resurrection; we will live forever.
4. The LORD's favor will distinguish His people from among the nations. However, misguided and misinformed comprehension of what God's favor truly is creates *bitterness* and *disappointment* in our hearts when we don't receive what we thought we would get. The peace (*Shalom*) that gives us is then lost in a cloud of worries and frustrations caused by erroneous beliefs; we must separate ourselves from the worldview prevalent in our culture. Consider the seed that fell among the thorns, "*Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful...*" (cf. Mt. 13:22)
 - a. His favor is first and foremost *Shalom*, from which flow other blessings. The "*prosperity gospel*" mistakenly labels shadowy blessings as true. Christ's command to "*seek first the Kingdom of God...*" centrally positions what true wealth is. If *animism* and *fetishism* are the inherent worldview dangers of West Africa, *materialism* and *pragmatism* are the Achilles' heel of Western Christianity.
 - i. "*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*" Jim Elliot
 - ii. Luke 9:57-62, "Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to Him, 'Lord, I will follow You wherever You go.' And Jesus said to him, '*Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.*' Then He said to another, 'Follow Me.' But he said, 'Lord, let me first go and bury my father.' Jesus said to him, '*Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God.*' And another also said, 'Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.' But Jesus said to him, '*No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.*'"
 - b. The many parables of the KOG (e.g. the Pearl of Great Price, the Hidden Treasure, the Seed, the Tree, etc.)
 - c. Ps. 67:1-3, "God be merciful to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us, *Selah*, that Your way may be known on earth, Your salvation among all nations. Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You."
5. The LORD will adorn His people – His beloved bride.

- a. The extraordinary narrative of marriage hints at a much more profound love that God has for His people than we can grasp. The beauty of a bride is universal.
 - b. The Bride of Christ in the visions of John is revealed arrayed in splendor, a splendor that is the consequence of righteous acts. Rev. 19:7-8, *"Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints."*
 - c. Our righteous acts are not of our own doing, but are the fruit of faithful obedience to the author and finisher of our faith. Phil. 3:9, *"...and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith..."*
6. Winter has passed; spring has come with all its attendant beauty.
- a. Scene from The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.
 - b. *"...as the earth brings forth its bud, as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord GOD..."* What could be more *natural* than the Kingdom of God blossoming within His creation.
 - c. Rom. 8:19, *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."*
7. Conclusions
- a. Righteousness, Justice and Truth
 - i. Prov. 13:23, *"Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, and for lack of justice there is waste."*
 - b. Covenant theology
 - c. Biblical Shalom v Worldly "Prosperity"
 - d. The Bridal beauty of righteous acts. God expects us to do something with our faith, *"faith without works is dead."* (cf. James 2:20)
 - e. The joyful response of His people; *"...I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God..."* Our response is in direct proportion to our understanding of our status prior to salvation.
 - f. Spring has come! He is risen and His Kingdom forcibly advancing. Rom. 10:14, *"How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO PREACH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE, WHO BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!'"*