

Title: **AN INHERITANCE OBTAINED**
Text: Ephesians 1:10-12
Subject: *The Believer's Inheritance In Christ*

Introduction:

I left home last Friday and did not return until late Thursday night. But, from the moment I kissed Shelby and the children good-bye at the airport until I returned, I constantly had one sweet thought in my mind. — “I’m going home soon.” Though my body was two thousand miles away, home was in my heart all the time.

As a believer, it is that thought that sustains, cheers and invigorates me each day that I live in this world. — “I’m going home soon.” — “Home!” What a blessed thought. — “I’m going home soon.” What a home awaits us! Soon we shall return to our home in Glory. There we shall abide with Christ forever! — A home **prepared** for us before the foundation of the world. — A home in which there are **many mansions**. — A home **near the throne and heart** of God. — A home whose **peace** shall never be broken. — A home whose **brightness** shall never be overcast by the slightest shadow of a cloud. — A home whose **joy** shall never be disturbed. — A home where there shall **never be any misunderstanding, or sorrow, or pain**. — A home **unmolested** by fear, or care, or death. — A home **into which darkness and death** shall never enter. — A home in which there is **no sin!**

How comforting it is to my weary soul to think of a resting-place so near, — my Father’s house where I shall **neither hunger nor thirst** any more, — where **the sun of adversity** shall not scorch me, — where **the heat of my lust** shall never molest me, — where **Satan** shall never stand to accuse me, — where **the Lamb** that is in the midst of the throne shall feed me and lead me to living fountains of waters, and **God himself** shall wipe away all tears from my eyes!

Can you enter into what I am saying? We’re going home soon! — **The time** is at hand. — All **our conflicts** are almost over. — **Our struggles and sorrows** are nearly done. — **A few more days**, or months, or years at most, and we shall either be laid quietly to rest in the earth, or caught up into the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. — **A few more deaths**, and then we shall be knit together in eternal brotherhood with all the scattered members of our Father’s family. — **A few more suns** shall rise and set, and then we shall ascend to that land where the sun shall never set. — **A few more days** shall dawn and darken, and then shall shine forth the one unending day. — **A few more clouds** shall gather over us, and then all clouds shall be cleared forever. — **Soon we shall enter in through the gate Beautiful into the City of Light**, sit down beneath the shadow of the Tree of Life, feed upon the Hidden Manna, and drink from the pure River of the Water of Life, clear as crystal, which proceeds out of the throne of God and of the Lamb! — Soon, we shall **see his face!** — And when we see him, “*we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is!*”

We have only the foretaste of these things now. Soon we shall possess them fully and forever. — **Out of all evil** good shall come. — **Out of sin**, holiness shall shine forth. — **Out of darkness**, light shall shine brightly. — **Out of death**, life eternal shall spring. — **Out of weakness**, strength shall appear. — **Out of rottenness and ruin**, loveliness and majesty shall arise. — **Out of the curse** comes the blessing, the incorruptible, the immortal, the glorious, the undefiled!

Our present portion is but the pledge of our inheritance, not the inheritance itself. The inheritance is reserved in heaven for us; but it shall not be possessed by us until our Redeemer appears to call us home. Here we see through a glass darkly. *“It doth not yet appear what we shall be.”*

Here, we are **wayfaring pilgrims**, passing through this world below. But, soon, we shall go over Jordan. Soon, we shall go to our home! **It is this hope, this prospect that sustains, comforts and cheers us in this world.** And **the joy of believing is enough until we have the joy of seeing.** We are content with the *“mountain of myrrh, and the hill of frankincense,”* until *“the day breaks and the shadows flee away.”* It is this *“inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you”* that is the subject of Ephesians 1:10-12.

(Ephesians 1:10-12) “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him: (11) In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: (12) That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

Heavenly glory is the inheritance, the happiness of which is a sufficient portion for our immortal souls. It is ours by inheritance, the gift of our heavenly Father to his children. — *“If children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.”* **All the blessings that we have in hand, great as they are, are small when compared with “the glory that shall be revealed in us,” the inheritance that is ours in Christ.**

Yet, the Holy Spirit here tells us that we have already obtained the inheritance. We have already obtained it and have a present right to possess it, because we actually do possess it in Christ, our Forerunner, Head and Representative, who has obtained and taken possession of it for us. Now, let’s see what the Holy Spirit tells us about our inheritance in Christ in Ephesians 1.

OUR GATHERING TO IT

In verse 10, Paul tells us about our being gathered unto our inheritance.

(Ephesians 1:10) “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; *even* in him.”

“In the dispensation of the fullness of times,” that is, when the times are full and the set season comes, all the mystery of God’s will toward his elect, all his eternal purpose of his grace will be openly manifest. God will then visibly gather together in one, under one Head and one in that Head, *“all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth, even in him.”* Then, the *“mystery of God,”* we are told in Revelation 10:7, shall be finished.

But it is not yet finished. The great Potter’s work is still on his wheel. There is still a work to be accomplished. Elect souls are yet to be called and gathered home. —Living stones are yet to be quarried and hewn from the pit here below, before the temple of God is complete in all its glory.

The mystery of God’s will is made known to chosen, redeemed sinners, personally and experimentally, in the new birth. Regeneration and effectual calling is a gathering of *“things on earth”* into Christ. When the sinner is taught of the Father and comes to Christ in faith, God makes known *“the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself.”*

“As Christ is made known to the soul, believed in, hoped in, and loved; as union and communion with him are sensibly felt and realized, there is a gathering of the understanding, of the will, of the conscience, and of the affections unto him, so as to center wholly in him. The *understanding* is enlightened and informed, so as to approve of this mystery of God’s will. The *will* is won over to join in sweet harmony with the will of God as thus revealed. The *conscience* is made alive, and being purged by blood, becomes clean and tender. And the *affections* are kindled and drawn forth to embrace the wonderful mystery of the love of God in Christ Jesus.” — *J. C. Philpot*

Being gathered by Christ and to Christ, the heaven born soul, being taught of God, looks forward to the glorious day when the mystery will be complete, when the Lord himself will come and all his saints with him, and will openly claim and manifest his bride as his own, visibly *“gathering together”* in himself *“all things which are in heaven and on earth.”* **How we long for that day,** when *“the mystery of God”* is finished, *“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appear of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people”* (Titus 2:13-14) — *“Looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life”* (Jude 1:21).

This is the hope we have in Christ, *“Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began”* (Acts 3:21). — *“That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus”* (Eph. 2:7). Then, in that great day, our great Savior shall *“reconcile all things unto himself...whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven”* (Col. 1:20). Then we will see clearly how that all things have worked together for our good and his glory.

Often I wonder why I must journey
Over a road so rugged and steep.
Why all the darkness? Why all the heartache?
Why must Your chosen so often weep?
Farther along we’ll know more about it.

Farther along we'll understand why;
Cheer up, believer, trust your great Savior. —
We'll understand it all by and by.

“IN WHOM”

Now, watch this. — *“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will”* (v. 11). **I love the way Paul blends the doctrine of grace with the experience of grace.** Here he brings the doctrine of verse 10 to bear upon our personal knowledge, experience and possession of heavenly things.

“In whom” — **Again and again Paul points us to our blessed union with Christ as the foundation and the fountain of all spiritual blessings.** — *“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance.”* Those words might be rendered, quite literally, “In whom we have been allotted,” or “chosen and apportioned unto by lot.” The Holy Spirit here tells us three things: — (1.) Christ has been allotted to us for our Inheritance. (2.) We have been allotted to Christ for his inheritance. And (3.) all the glory of heaven has been allotted to us in and with Christ for our inheritance.

CHRIST OUR INHERITANCE

Christ, in all his glorious fullness, is the portion and inheritance of his people. — *“The LORD is my portion, saith my soul”* (Lam. 3:24). — *“The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot”* (Psalm 16:5). You will remember that **the Levites** had no inheritance in Canaan among the other tribes of Israel (Jos. 13:33).

(Joshua 13:33) “But unto the tribe of Levi Moses gave not *any* inheritance: the LORD God of Israel *was* their inheritance, as he said unto them.”

They had no inheritance because the Levites were typical of God’s saints, who are priests unto God, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to him by Christ Jesus (1 Pet. 2:5). — *“Unto the tribe of Levi, Moses gave not any inheritance: the LORD God of Israel was their inheritance, as he said unto them.”*

That is a picture of the peculiar relationship between Christ and his people. Is not the husband the wife’s best portion? To a loving wife, her husband is her earthly all. His love, his approving smile, his tender caresses, and affectionate embraces, his protection and companionship, his counsel, his watchful care and constant faithfulness, and above all else, her husband himself, is the object of her ardent love. He is possessed by her as her own for life, and as her own life. — Her loving husband is, to a loving wife, a far better inheritance than a few acres of dirt left her by her father, or a little pile of money in a bank, that she might lose at any time.

What an inheritance our Husband, Christ Jesus, is to us! Our manifest union with the Son of God, and the sweet communion arising from that union causes our souls to look upon our Inheritance with joy, saying, — *“My Beloved is mine and I am his!”* To have Christ himself for

our Inheritance is to have all, for “*Christ is All in all!*” Having Christ I have all I want, desire, or need. Possessing him I possess all things. His Person, his work, his blood and righteousness, his dying love, his all-sufficient grace and his glory — all are mine as my enduring and eternal portion! — Could our great God give us a greater portion, a more blessed inheritance than that? What is all the earth compared with Christ, our Inheritance? In him, the poorest, lowest, weakest believer has obtained “*an Inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.*”

CHRIST’S INHERITANCE

And as we have obtained an Inheritance in Christ, so Christ has obtained an inheritance in us, his Church. — “*For the LORD’S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance*” (Deut. 32:9). — “*Ask of me,*” said the Father to the Son, “*and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession*” (Ps. 2:8). **Look at Ephesians 1:18**, and you will be astonished at what the Holy Spirit tells us in the last line of that verse. As redemption through his blood and the forgiveness of sins is ours “*according to the riches of his grace,*” we are described as “*the riches of his glory!*”

(Ephesians 1:18) “The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints.”

What a wonder! As the riches of his glory, we are “*the fulness of him that filleth all in all*” (Eph. 1:23).

OUR INHERITANCE WITH CHRIST

As Christ is our Inheritance, and we are his inheritance, we have obtained an inheritance in Christ and with Christ our Head, Representative and Mediator. You and I, every saved sinner, all God’s elect are “*heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ*” (John 17:5, 22; Rom. 8:16-18).

(John 17:5) “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

(John 17:22) “And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.”

(Romans 8:16-18) “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: (17) And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. (18) For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

“*In whom we have obtained an inheritance.*” — This inheritance is **not a hereditary possession**, like an estate passed on from father to son. **Ours is an inheritance of grace, bought by blood.** It comes to us in Christ. He purchased it with his blood. **His righteousness** gives us a title to it, as **his grace** makes us “*meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light*” (Col. 1:12). **Our Savior has claimed the inheritance and keeps it in possession for us, writing our names**

upon the royalties of heaven. And, soon, in that great day, he will put us into full and final possession of our inheritance in heaven.

This is the inheritance of God's children, his **adopted** sons and daughters, **chosen** in love, **redeemed** by blood, and **called** by grace. — **Have we any part** or lot in the great gathering together in Christ of which the apostle has just spoken? — Have we any part in this inheritance? **Answer this question, and we have the answer to those.** — “*Dost thou believe on the Son of God?*” — “*He that believeth on the Son of God hath everlasting life!*” — “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.*”

What is this inheritance that we have obtained in Christ? Obviously, I cannot answer that question, because “*it doth not yet appear what we shall be.*” Yet, some things about it are revealed. Our inheritance is described more often in negative than positive terms in Scripture. We are told more fully what will not be in heaven than we are what will be there. This much is revealed (Rev. 21:1-8).

(Revelation 21:1-8) “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. (2) And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (3) And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God. (4) And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (5) And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. (6) And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. (7) **He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.** (8) But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ shall make all things new. When he comes the second time, in the glory of his second advent, the universe in which we now live shall be dissolved with fire, and thus purged of all the consequences of sin. **The slime of the serpent** shall be erased from God's creation. The heaven shall depart as a scroll when it is rolled together. And every mountain and island shall be removed out of their places (Rev. 6:14). **Peter wrote...**

(2 Peter 3:10) “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

Every trace of sin upon the handiwork of God shall be removed. Then, the Lord Jesus Christ will create a new heaven and a new earth (Isa. 65:17; 66:22; 2 Peter 3:11-13). **He will redeem the earth itself from the bondage of corruption by his transforming power and make this earth a suitable habitation for his glorified saints,** delivering his whole creation into “*the*

glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom. 8:20-23). **Then shall come** what Paul calls “*the manifestation of the sons of God*” (Rom. 8:19; Eph. 2:7).

(Ephesians 2:7) “That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

THE DIVINE PRESENCE

(Revelation 21:3) “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.”

This shall be the glory of heaven, the joy of the saints, and the delight of the new creation. The Lord our God, in the Person of Jesus Christ his Son, shall be **immediately and eternally present** with his people. God shall eternally tabernacle among men.

- • The spiritual presence of Christ with his church is her glory in this world (John 14:23).
- • In the midst of all our troubles, the Lord is with us (Isa. 43:1-5; Heb. 13:5).
- • He graciously visits his saints in our assemblies in the sweet manifestations of his presence through the ordinances of divine worship (Matt. 18:20).

But, blessed as our fellowship is now, it cannot begin to compare with the presence of God we shall enjoy in the new creation. God himself shall be with us forever. His presence with us and our communion with him will never be interrupted. This is the heaven of heaven.

- • In that blessed state, we shall enjoy **perfect communion** with Christ, perfect **commitment** to Christ, and perfect **conformity** to Christ forever.
- • In that state, our covenant interest in and relationship to the triune God shall be perfectly revealed, realized, and enjoyed.
- • We shall find eternal delight and satisfaction with God.
- • And God shall find eternal delight and satisfaction with us! — Then, our Savior “*shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied.*” — “*As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness!*”

THE BLISS OF ETERNITY

(Revelation 21:4) “And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.”

In that day, trouble shall be no more. God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes. We have many tears to shed here.

- • Our sins, our afflictions, our heartaches, the struggles of our souls, the troubles of God’s church in this world, and the perishing souls of lost friends and relatives all cause our cheeks to burn with tears.
- • But God will dry our tears with the knowledge of complete forgiveness, acquiescence in his perfect will, and the accomplishment of his glory in all things.

All possible causes of future sorrow shall also be removed. In the new creation there shall be no possibility of pain, sorrow, crying, or death, because there shall be no more sin. In that state the very consequences of sin shall be gone. There shall be absolutely no sorrow of any kind, “*for the former things are passed away*” (Isa. 25:8; 35:10; 51:11).

(Isaiah 25:8) “He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken *it*.”

(Isaiah 35:10) “And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

(Isaiah 51:11) “Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy *shall be* upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; *and* sorrow and mourning shall flee away.”

That one statement, “*the former things are passed away*,” destroys the teachings of purgatory, degrees of reward in heaven, mourning in heaven over the lost, and even weeping in heaven over past sins. There will be nothing for God’s saints in eternity but an everlasting fullness of glory and joy.

THE DIVINE ASSURANCE

(Revelation 21:5) “And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

These blessed promises of glory to come are here assured to us by the oath of him who is “*faithful and true*.” Our Savior says, “*Behold, I make all things new!*” The language is present tense. He is now making all things new by his providence and grace (Rom. 8:28; 11:36; 2 Cor. 5:17). Soon, his work will be done.

When that great day comes, he will declare, “*It is done!*” **All that was purposed and planned** by God the Father before the world began, **all that Christ agreed to** as our Surety in the everlasting covenant, **all that he came into this world to accomplish**, shall be done when time is no more. God’s works shall be finished exactly as he purposed. **Everything that has been, is now, or shall hereafter be shall serve his glorious purpose and ultimately glorify him. Everything, in the end, shall prove to have been the work of God for the salvation of his people.** It is written, “*All things are of God*” (2 Cor. 5:18). And when our dear Savior has made all things new, when the triune God has finished his work we shall see that it has been so (Rom. 8:28-30).

MANY MANSIONS

There are many mansions in our Father’s house. There are heavenly places not made with hands. There is a better and more enduring substance in store for us.

Our Savior promises, “*Where I am, there ye shall be also.*” That promise carries with it the assurance that our future home will be adorned with everlasting spiritual blessedness.

- • We shall know even as we are known (1 Cor. 13:12).
- • We shall stand before God our Savior, just as he is. — “*When we see him we shall be like him,*” — “*without spot,*” without a trace of corruption, — “*without wrinkle,*” without one trace of decay, — “*holy and without blemish*” — “*faultless before the presence of his glory*” — “*unblameable and unreprieveable in his sight!*”
- • Rest, glorious, eternal, perfect rest and satisfaction of heart shall be ours in that everlasting Sabbath awaiting us! — “*Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord, for they shall rest from their labors.*”
- • Christ shall be there! — “*Forever with the Lord!*” That is the inheritance awaiting us!

BY DIVINE PURPOSE

Perhaps you ask, “Pastor, How can we be sure of these things?” Look at Ephesians 1:11 again, and understand that this inheritance is secured to us by God’s predestination (his eternal decree), God’s purpose (his sovereign, unalterable determination), and God’s providence (the execution of his determined purpose), working all things after the counsel (the infinite wisdom) of his own will.

(Ephesians 1:11) “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”

FOR HIS GLORY

Now, look at verse 12. All that we have experienced of God’s matchless free grace in Christ, all our salvation, and all that concerns our obtaining of the inheritance to which we were predestined before the world began is for one grand end.

(Ephesians 1:12) “That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

In the saving of our souls, in giving us that inheritance that awaits us beyond this time world, our great, triune God is making himself an everlasting, glorious name (Isa. 63:12-14). And when he is finished with the work, **everything that has breath** shall praise the Lord our God forever (Ps. 150:6). Our God will accomplish all this for us and for himself, “*that we should be to the praise of his glory,*” altogether by his omnipotent mercy, love and grace alone.

Knowing, as I do, my own miserable helplessness, sinking under the pressure of daily weakness, mourning over continual failures, and grieving over my constant sin, encompassed by foes, and distressed by fears, how strengthening it is to my faith, though tried to the utmost, to believe that he who has purposed has power to perform all that he has purposed.

It was the persuasion of God's almighty power and grace that supported and strengthened Abraham's faith, and sustained him in the face of seeming impossibilities, enabling him to give glory to God (Rom. 4:18-21).

(Romans 4:18-21) "Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. (19) And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb: (20) He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; (21) And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."

Walking in the steps of the faith of Abraham, we can look up confidently to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ — as we behold sovereign **love and grace** in his heart —infinite **wisdom** in his mind — and almighty **strength** in his arm — we are sweetly persuaded that all that his loving heart desires and his infinite wisdom purposed, and his omnipotent grace will execute.

I can hardly imagine it, but soon it shall be so. When my Savior comes to carry me home, I shall truly shine forth to wondering worlds in his glory, robed in his righteousness, washed in his blood to the everlasting praise of the grace and glory of the triune God in Christ, with Christ, as Christ himself! — "*Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*"

(Colossians 3:1-4) "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. (2) Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. (4) When Christ, *who is* our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory."

"What a day that will be,
When my Jesus I shall see,
When I look upon His face,
The One Who saved me by His grace. —
When He takes me by the hand,
And leads me through the Promised Land, —
What a day, glorious day that will be!

What glory awaits us on the other side, when we shall be brought home in Christ "*in whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.*"

(Zephaniah 3:14-20) "Sing, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel; be glad and rejoice with all the heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. (15) The LORD hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the king of Israel, *even* the LORD, *is* in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil any more. (16) In that day it shall be said to Jerusalem, Fear thou not: *and to* Zion, Let not thine hands be slack. (17) The LORD thy God in the midst of thee *is* mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing. (18) I will gather *them that are* sorrowful for the solemn

assembly, *who* are of thee, *to whom* the reproach of it *was* a burden. (19) Behold, at that time I will undo all that afflict thee: and I will save her that halteth, and gather her that was driven out; and I will get them praise and fame in every land where they have been put to shame. (20) At that time will I bring you *again*, even in the time that I gather you: for I will make you a name and a praise among all people of the earth, when I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the LORD.”

Amen.