

THE RIGHT TO BARE ARMS

Part 2

Isaiah 53

March 21, 2010

This is part two in a three-part message. THE RIGHT TO BARE ARMS

Under the second article of the Bill of Rights our Constitution affords us the right to bear arms. This privilege is in addition to the constitutional right of the sovereign United States of America to have and maintain an adequate military to defend our borders and the freedoms we enjoy. History proves that the best defense is a superior offense and the will and resolve to deploy that offense if and when needed. We must stand ready and oppose those who would disarm our military and the citizenry with the notion that we can negotiate peace with those who would destroy us. Failure to make use of the means given us to defend ourselves would be disastrous to all freedom-loving peoples.

As America has the right to bear arms in her defense, so has God *“made bare his holy Arm”* in the church’s defense. He declares so in **Isaiah 52:10**. *“The Lord has made bare His holy Arm in the eyes of all the nations: and all the ends of the earth shall see his salvation.”* As God has given us the means to defend and protect our borders, so has he given us the means to protect and provide for his church. He commands his servants to *“Put on the whole Armour of God”* and stand against the wiles of the devil. Failure to make use of these means has its consequences also. We have so much more here worth defending than just national borders.

Satan is a defeated devil. His head has been bruised. He has suffered a deathblow by the cross work of Christ. This was Isaiah’s message. It is the message of every sinner made righteous by the holy Arm of God. Notice: Isaiah is writing here of something that would happen as though it had already happened. God could and did declare sinners righteous (those who see his salvation) based on that righteousness yet to be established and revealed by his holy Arm because it was sure and certain to be. Our battle has always been for the hearts and minds of those for whom Christ has established and imputed righteousness. They must be enlightened. Our’s it is who know of this great redemption in Christ to *“beseech sinners, be ye reconciled to God.”*

In this conflict we learn from **2 Corinthians 10:4-5** that *“the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds: Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* This warfare is not carnal (fleshly, governed by human nature) but spiritual. It is not to maintain borders or gain territory. This warfare is to liberate and illuminate the Church. These are they of whom Christ said in John 10:15-16, *“I lay down my life for the sheep.” Them I must bring.”*

This warfare is for the hearts of God’s Elect. The Holy Spirit of God must do heart surgery to accomplish this work. His instrument to perform this surgery is a two-edged sword, the Living Word, the true gospel. *“God is pleased, by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”* (1 Corinthians 1:21) The heart includes the mind, affections and the will. This heart surgery is specific; it is the pulling down of strongholds.

MIND- *“casting down imaginations.”* The first stronghold is the mind. *“As a man thinketh, in his heart so is he.”* The imagination by nature is that of **Psalm 50:21**, *“these things hast thou done and I kept silent; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself, but I will reprove thee and set them in order before thine eyes.”* We imagine a vain thing when we think God will save a sinner based on anything but the righteousness of Christ imputed. But God will set things in order for those who see his salvation. *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”* What was Christ’s mind; the Fathers glory & the salvation of his sheep. The truth that sets men free first affects the mind.

AFFECTIONS- The second stronghold is the affections. *“every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God.”* God has revealed (made known) his Arm and men reject Christ’s blood and righteousness for their own self-righteousness. We love self until God *“shines in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

Unless and until the mind is enlightened in the truth, the affections will not change.

WHY? *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*

WILL- The third stronghold is the will. *“Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”* The spiritual warfare is to capture every thought as to what Christ accomplished in his obedience. Satan would keep us ignorant of Christ’s finished work and keep us busy in our own works. The will is bound, either by ignorance or truth. God’s Elect are made to see it’s not their obedience but the obedience of Christ: His satisfaction, his righteousness and willingly submit to that work. The will is always influenced to follow the mind and affections. These three are orderly, inseparable and indispensable. This is the warfare every Elect son and daughter of God is called to engage.

In **Isaiah 53**, we see God’s holy arm was made bare in the:

Incarnation of Christ. V1-3

Humiliation of Christ. V4-9

Exaltation of Christ. V10-12

In our first study we saw how God made bare his holy arm in the:

Incarnation of Christ. Isaiah 53:1-3.

Here we discovered how the eternal Son of God, the sovereign Creator, Lord over all, equal with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, according to Philippians 2:7, *“Made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”* Very God of very God in every attribute of Deity, united with true humanity, body and soul without sin, for the purposes of redeeming the people of God. This one of a kind, once for all time, only begotten **Son of God incarnate** accomplished three things in his incarnation. He:

Fulfilled the promise of God. V-1 *“Who has believed our report?”* (Gospel) promise.

What promise? **Read Deuteronomy 18:18.** *“I will raise them up a Prophet from among*

their brethren, like unto thee, and I will put my words in his mouth, (gospel) and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.” God the Son incarnate fulfilled God’s promise of the Savior.

Fits the Person who is God. V-2 Who is this person who is God? He shall grow up before him as a *“tender plant.”* This speaks of his humanity. Growing up is a natural human trait. *“As a root out of a dry ground”* speaks of his Deity. Nothing can grow out of a dry ground. *“With God all things are possible.”* *In the fullness of the time,* God sent forth his Son (this root out of the stem of Jesse) *made of a woman.* This fits this Person who is God.

Isaiah 9:6 says, *“for unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given.”*

Forebears with the people of God. V3

Though *“we esteemed him not,”* (counted his blood as nothing) he certainly did esteem his Elect precious in his sight. He’s not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance, and he bears with his sheep until, in each successive generation every sinner for whom he died is called into the fold of God. His holy arm bares out these truths.

In this second lesson we see today how God made bare his holy arm in the:

Humiliation of Christ. Isaiah 53: 4-9

Christ’s humiliation began with his incarnation. When the eternal Son of God took into union with his Deity, true sinless humanity, body and soul, He, according to **Philippians 2:7**, *“made himself of no reputation and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”* According to Hebrews 2:9, *“He was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death.”* This Christ, the God-Man went from the highest (V6) *“who being in the form of God”* to the lowest, (V7) *“made himself of no reputation,”* (make empty)

Christ did not lay aside the form of God in which he was. He did not lay aside his divine nature nor deny his equality with the Father. His Deity was simply veiled. It was hidden from view. *“He had no form nor comeliness.”* He didn’t look like the Son of God. His subordination to the Father was in office only. His mission on earth was to *“do the will of Him that sent me.”* That will was simply to magnify and honor every attribute of God’s redemptive glory in the salvation of his people. In his willingness to humble himself and become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, God made bare his holy arm in that humiliation. In the humiliation of Christ we see three things. His humiliation reveals:

- 1. The holiness of God. V4-6**
- 2. The justice of God, V7-8.**
- 3. The love of God. V9-11**

In V4-6 we see the holiness of God.

Isaiah 52:10 defines his arm as a ðholyö arm. God is first and foremost holy. Before he is anything he is holy. God is love, but that love is a holy love. God is just but that justice is holy justice. Holiness is infinite perfection in every attribute of Deity. To God alone is this perfection. He alone is holy. (Revelation 15:4) In the salvation of ungodly sinners, every attribute of God's redemptive character is actively and harmoniously engaged. His love is not dispensed at the expense of his justice. His faithfulness to save is not at the expense of his threats to punish the wicked. He always does right. *"Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?"* He sure will because he is holy. Luke 1:49 says that his name is holy. **Read Psalm 99:3.** *"Let them praise thy great and terrible name; for it is holy."* ðHoly, holy, holy.ö (Isaiah 6:3)

I don't guess anyone would deny the holiness of God. The Scriptures are full of testimony to this fact. But where is God's holiness seen in its greatest demonstration? Is it not in the death of Christ? Is it not the cross?

The holiness of God demands the severest of punishment (eternal death) to the most moral of persons where the least sin is charged. Adam, by his one sin brought the sentence of eternal death upon all his posterity. (Romans 5:12) As the Representative of the whole human race, his sin was made my sin and his guilt became my guilt by imputation. God's holiness demands such. To refuse this representation is to deny the holiness of God. Never before or after has God's holiness been manifested more than in the punishment poured out on his Son when sin was charged to him. This charge is vital, for had he not been legally charged, God would have been unholy to smite him because in his Person, his character and his conduct he is; *"holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners.* (Hebrews 7:26)

By contrast, the vilest of sinners, to whom the charges of sin have been satisfied, cannot die this spiritual death. He must live. God's holiness demands this also. God can no more punish the righteous than he can fail to destroy the ungodly in eternal death. **Read 1 Corinthians 15:22.** *"For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."* All those who die in Adam and are not made alive in Christ shall perish.

V 4-6 shows the ðarm of Godö to be a holy arm.

V-4. ðHe has borne our griefs.ö He has carried our sorrows.ö Yet we esteemed (we imagined,) him stricken (killed) for his claims to be the Son of God. **Read John 10:33.** *"The Jews answered him saying, for a good work we stone thee not, but for blasphemy, and because thou, being a man, maketh thyself God."* The Jews were looking for the Messiah. They said of Christ; you are not him therefore your death is justified.

Did we not say of Christ, as those in the parable in Luke 19:14, *"we will not have this man to reign over us."* When we refused God's salvation in Christ, (which all by nature do) we were denying the holiness of God. We were, as Hebrews 10:29 declares, *"counting the blood of the covenant, whereby he was sanctified, an unholy thing."*

Though we were guilty of such wickednessö V-6

Yet **V-6,** God *"laid on him the iniquity of us all."* Why? Because God would justify the ungodly and the incarnate Son of God alone could bear their sin. He alone could do for

them what they could not do for themselves. He alone could satisfy all claims of the law of God against all for whom the Father chose in him. He alone was set up in eternity past to be the Surety of a people loved of God. In order for a holy God to have a holy people, he must have a holy sacrifice. There is but One. He is Jesus Christ, the righteous. Every charge against us in V5-6 was satisfied by this incarnate Christ in his humiliation. A holy God could accept nothing less. The humiliation of Christ revealed the **holiness of God**.

The humiliation of Christ revealed:

2. The justice of God. V7-8.

How can God be just (holy) and justify the ungodly? And both He must do because He has obligated himself to this end and his holiness will be satisfied with nothing less. In fact, his holiness demands their salvation.

V 7-8 answers this question. *“He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.”*

Two things are necessary if a sinner would stand holy before the Lord, and God commands us to *“be ye holy, for I am holy, saith the Lord.”*

1. We must be justified from the guilt and condemning power of sin.
2. We must be made and stand righteous in the sight of a holy God.

Our justification from guilt and condemnation is by the *“Lamb brought to the slaughter.”* For *“without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.”* By the death of this Lamb of God, satisfaction was made to God’s holy Law and justice for every sinner Christ represented. God the Father charged God the Son with the sins of his sheep and he bore their sins in his body on the tree. He became a curse for those who were cursed. He exacted from God what we deserved and we received from God what we didn’t deserve. We received release from the demands of the law against us. The death of the *“Lamb slaughtered”* removed the guilt and condemning power of sin from the Church of God. Our sanctification from the filth and defilement of sin is by the *“sheep dumb before her Shearer’s.”*

Satisfaction to the law of God is necessary for salvation but that is not the whole of it. Unless we have a righteousness to stand before a holy God we cannot fellowship with God or his people. In the humiliation of the Son of God incarnate we have him who satisfied the law and established the only righteousness by which we should be clothed. A lamb was brought to the slaughter and his blood bought our redemption. A sheep was brought to the Shearer and HER wool made a garment sufficient to our nakedness. The lamb and the sheep are one, the Lord Jesus Christ. He is for sin the *“double cure”* He saved us from wrath and made us pure. Both are required to stand before a holy God. Now: Who is the *“HER”*? She is the Church: Christ the head, She the body. Both one. His death wrought a righteousness to satisfy a holy God’s wrath against her and clothe her in holiness. This righteousness, residing in heaven in the Person of Christ can be found on earth only in the church of the redeemed. You will find it in no other religion.

Read Isaiah 1:18. *“Come now, let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”* The sins of God’s people are red with the blood of Christ. But thanks to the justice of God, they have been made as wool. (1 John 1:17) *“The blood of Jesus Christ*

his son cleanses us from all sin.” Those who “*reason together with God*” are clothed in a perfect righteous garment made by God. Wool is nature’s most perfect fabric. It cools in the summer and warms in the winter. It is the perfect garment to wear. The robe of Christ’s righteousness is the choice for all seasons. It is much better than the fanciest or finest of man’s fig leaves.

Why did he open not his mouth? Why is a sheep dumb before his Shearer’s? Why is he dumb before the slaughter: because it is a sheep’s sole purpose in life to supply food for the hungry and clothing for the naked. That was Christ’s mission. **THAT IS THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH.** Those who eat lamb chops and wear wool clothing shall not go hungry or naked. Those who eat the body of Christ and are clothed in his righteousness stand unchargable and unchangeable before God. He opened not his mouth to complain in his suffering to establishing this righteousness but submitted himself unto the Father. He gave himself freely.

V-8 “*He was taken from prison and judgment.*” God raised him from the dead, declaring his death a success, not a failure as the world judges him. Had he not paid our ransom in full, the grave would not let him go. Most in religion today deny his finished work. To them, he left something for the sinner to do. “*Who will declare his generation;*” Who will preach his gospel? Who will declare his death an accomplishment? He “*was cut off out of the land of the living.*” His life was cut short but his ministry lives on in those who declare his generation. Will you stand in the gospel of Christ’s righteousness imputed as the only salvation of sinners?

In the humiliation of Christ we see the:

- 1. Holiness of God.**
- 2. Justice of God**

3. The love of God. V9-11

No less than 12 times in this scripture is the term *ōhim* for *usō* used. We esteemed him not and he was wounded for our transgressions. We esteemed him not and he was bruised for our transgressions. Every charge against his people was answered and satisfied to the requirements of a holy God by Christ. God so loved the world, (his elect) he gave his only begotten son. The humiliation of Christ was an open display of God’s love for his people.

1 John 4:10; “*Herein is love, not that we love God, but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sin.*” Aren’t you glad salvation is not dependant on your love of God? Aren’t you glad our God is a holy and just God, because these attributes of God insure his love? It is his love that is the first cause of our salvation. It was “*in love*” he chose us before the foundation of the world.” It was his love that provides what his holiness and justice demanded of us. It is his love that sustains us in our warfare against Satan and self and it is his love that will deliver us to final glory in heaven. It is all certain because (V-9) “*God made his (Christ’s) grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death because he had done no violence (he was sinless), neither was there any deceit in his mouth.*” **V10** YET it pleased the Lord to bruise him. His death pleased a holy God because the fruit of this unblemished Lamb wrought satisfaction to God’s law and justice for many.

V-11 It was the love of God for his people that brought travail of soul to Christ and justification to the many for whom he bore their iniquities. In Jeremiah 31:3, to those for whom Christ was humiliated, God says; *“I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee.”*

Read Isaiah 52:10. *“The Lord has **made bare his holy arm** in the eyes of all nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see his salvation.”*

In the humiliation of Christ, those who have *“reasoned with God”* and had heart surgery are made to see God’s **holiness, justice and love.**

What a blessed revelation is the incarnation and the humiliation of Christ.

Next time we will consider the **exaltation** of Christ and the glorification of the church with him.

By Winston Pannell