

Pentwater Bible Church

Isaiah Message 68

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God Blesses Noah after the Flood, Artist Unknown

Daniel E. Woodhead – Pastor Teacher

Pentwater Bible Church

The Book of Isaiah

Message Sixty-Eight

GOD'S BLESSINGS FOLLOWING CORRECTION

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Isaiah 29:17–24

¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? ¹⁸And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. ¹⁹The meek also shall increase their joy in Jehovah, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. ²⁰For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scoffer ceaseth, and all they that watch for iniquity are cut off; ²¹that make a man an offender in his cause, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just with a thing of nought.

²²Therefore thus saith Jehovah, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale. ²³But when he seeth his children, the work of my hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name; yea, they shall sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall stand in awe of the God of Israel. ²⁴They also that err in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmur shall receive instruction (ASV, 1901)

GOD'S ULTIMATE BLESSINGS TO COME

Isaiah 29:17

¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest (ASV, 1901)?

This is a continuation of the imagery of the agriculture parabolic form of expression (Isaiah 28:24–28). When God says that Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field (Psalms 84:6; 107:33, 35; Isaiah 32:15), He is saying that all things will be turned upside down as He accused the Jewish leaders of doing which was stated in verse 16. The Jewish leaders ignored God thinking He could not see them and realize what their sins were. They were revolving things in their minds, throwing them into different shapes, forming various schemes, and inverting the order of things and seeking to hide things from the Lord. This is nothing short of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33), which is not of the Lord. The apostle Paul describes this as a reprobate mind (Romans 1:28). The moral and spiritual change in the national regenerated Israel will become as thorough and obvious as if forested Lebanon were to become a fertile field or vice versa, the fruitful field esteemed (considered) as if it were a forest. So, God will be the one revolving the things for the nation's leaders to experience. When He does this, they would be very much aware of who God is, what He is doing, and what their genuine part is in it all. The meaning is also, that the Gentile world, (wicked men) which was like a forest uncultivated, and full of unfruitful trees

should through the preaching of the Gospel be fertilized and become fruitful. And through God's land management, they would become like a fruitful field, having an abundance of people and churches, fruitful in grace and good works. *And the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest.* The Jewish people, who were given the Word and Ordinances of God, through the Mosaic Covenant, were a fruitful and flourishing people to whom God revealed Himself. However, through their rejection of the Messiah, and contempt of His Gospel, they would then be deprived of all their privileges. They would become like a barren land. This was fulfilled, when the earliest stages of the kingdom of God was taken from them, and given to a nation bringing forth its fruits, (Matthew 21:43; Isaiah 32:15 and 35:1).

DIVINE REVELATION TO THE GENTILES

Isaiah 29:18

¹⁸And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness (ASV, 1901).

Isaiah now continues to describe the reversal change. At the time when Lebanon and the fruitful field will become one, then the deaf will hear the words of a book. The deaf are not those who are physically deaf, but spiritually deaf. He is referring to two people groups. One, the Jewish leaders who refused to hear and the Gentiles to whom the Book of the Law was not given, therefore it was not at that time offered to them. Neither of them heard the promises. One because they ignored it and the other to whom it was not given. Therefore, it was to both of them as if the words of God were a sealed book which was unable to be opened.

There is an obvious allusion to what the prophet had earlier said in verses 13 and 14. A spirit of deep sleep had been poured out upon this nation so that it could not hear. Their change or reversal in their hearing will not be physical, but spiritual so it results in deep-seated obedience.

The Jews heard the words of Isaiah with their physical ears, but they were to them inconsequential. There was no response of obedience. The blind had been in obscurity and darkness. This condition will be removed, and their mind's eyes, will be freed from their blindness, they will see and realize what they ignored. This is a complete reversal of conditions. It does not specifically refer to the Gentiles alone, but to all. Because this passage is primarily to Israel in the preceding verses, because it was them who had walked in darkness and blindness. Therefore, it is foremost directed to them. Through these verses we see the completely radical nature of the change to come upon them.

First, though the Gentiles who will receive the Gospel as a result of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) which will be preached to the Gentiles. They who before were deaf, but now should be made to hear, and be willing to hear, so as to understand the doctrines contained in the Scriptures. They will also understand the prophecies of them concerning the Messiah, and even the words of that book that is sealed to the Jews through their unbelief and confusion. They would not read, neither the learned nor unlearned among them. Now it should be both read, heard, and understood, by the Jews as well as the Gentiles. They will understand, having ears given them to hear the Gospel, to receive its doctrines, and obey its ordinances. Now *and the*

eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness; such, who before were blind and ignorant as to spiritual things, being called, through the ministry of the Word, out of darkness into a marvellous light, and their eyes being opened by it, should now see their sin and misery. In their lost and dangerous condition, the way of life and salvation by Christ, the great and glorious truths of the Gospel, and what eye has not previously seen, nor ear before heard are now open to them.

Those that were ignorant shall become knowledgeable. Those that did not understand this prophecy (but it was to them as a sealed book, v. 11) shall, when it is accomplished, understand it, and shall acknowledge, not only the hand of God in the event, but the voice of God in the prophecy about it. *The deaf shall then hear the words of the book.* The fulfilling of prophecy is the best exposition of this verse. The poor Gentiles shall then have divine revelation brought among them, and those that sat in darkness shall see a great light, those that were blind shall see out of obscurity, for the Gospel was sent to them to *open their eyes.*

The second group to realize this is the Jews when their national regeneration takes place at the end of the Great Tribulation. When God regenerates Israel, He will give them a heart to know Him. With this regenerated heart, they will then return to God with an undivided heart entirely focused upon Him. At the time of Israel's regeneration, her sins will no longer be steering their behavior (Jeremiah 50:19–20). God also described this new spirit of awareness which He will give them through Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 11:19–20

¹⁹And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them a heart of flesh; ²⁰that they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God (ASV, 1901).

At the time of Israel's regeneration, they will be given a new heart and a new spirit as their human spirit will be reborn. The result of this work of God on the heart and spirit of man will be an enablement to no longer ignore God but have a desire to keep His righteous standards. This is confirmed by God again through the prophet Ezekiel.

Ezekiel 36:25–27

²⁵And I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. ²⁶A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep mine ordinances, and do them (ASV, 1901).

Repeating some aspects stated earlier and then adding some more information the Lord describes the coming regeneration. All of Israel's sins will be cleansed. A regenerate heart and spirit will be given to them so that Israel can walk in newness of life. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit will indwell the Jews so that they will be empowered to obey the commandments of the Lord. The regeneration of Israel is also a prominent theme in the Minor Prophets. Hosea, who spoke a great

deal about God's punishment for Israel's sins, also spoke of Israel's future national regeneration (Hosea 1:10–2:1).

THE REDEEMED, THE MAN OF SIN AND THE FALSE PROPHET

Isaiah 29:19–21

¹⁹The meek also shall increase their joy in Jehovah, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. ²⁰For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scoffer ceaseth, and all they that watch for iniquity are cut off; ²¹that make a man an offender in his cause, and lay a snare for him that reproveth in the gate, and turn aside the just with a thing of nought (ASV, 1901).

The *meek* are the godly, afflicted remnant who will be preserved through the severe chastisements of the Great Tribulation (Psalms 25:9; 37:11; Isaiah 61:1-3). They are also the poor among men. These people groups will experience satisfaction as they behold the punishment of their oppressors, confirming their longsuffering obedience to God. This vindication will be realized as they witness the Holy One of Israel, our Lord Jesus at His Second Coming. The *meek*, are indeed the lowly, and humble, who have submitted to the righteousness of Christ. They did not envy those that had more than them in gifts and grace, and they did not look down upon those who were below them in worldly status. They have the Lord's morality always in mind and strove to avoid the temptations of Satan. They always thought less of themselves, and the best of others (Philippians 2:3). These people will now have a complete realized joy in the Lord.

When Jesus shall come again, it shall be a realization of the life they led and will then be validated unto them, that they were correct to follow Him always. They will experience the spiritual joy at the realization of seeing Christ Face-to-Face as He established His Kingdom and ends the Tribulation.

The terrible one referenced is the culmination of all evil leaders on this earth, the Antichrist (Revelation 13:1-10). He will be brought to nothing before the beginning of the Messianic Kingdom. The scoffer is likewise, in the ultimate sense, the false prophet (Revelation 13:11-18). This man who will lead all the world's false religious groups will be the epitome of all who were genuinely spiritually blind as to who God is and what He expects of us. Both of these men will be entombed before the Messianic Kingdom will be established on the earth (Revelation 19:19-20). They will be the first ones sent to the Lake of Fire for their final destination. Others who strive for iniquity, that is, those not only commit iniquity but also plan opportunities for doing it to others, who encompass all the genuine wicked, will be destroyed by Christ at His Second Coming (Revelation 19:21). The Devil who is ultimately responsible for leading the entire world into sin will be bound for the entire thousand-year Kingdom (Revelation 20:1–3).

ISRAEL'S NATIONAL REGENERATION STATED

Isaiah 29:22–24

²²Therefore thus saith Jehovah, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob: Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale. ²³But when he seeth his children, the work of my hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name; yea, they shall sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall stand in awe of the God of Israel. ²⁴They also that err in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmur shall receive instruction (ASV, 1901).

As this passage states, the national regeneration will be a result of the judgments of the Great Tribulation, which will be God's discipline upon the nation of Israel in order to correct them. It will be by way of the judgments of the Tribulation that Israel will come to a saving knowledge of her Messiah. It was God Who chose Israel from the very beginning and Israel has yet to become the chosen vessel which she was ordained to be. God will pour out His Spirit upon the entire nation with the result that Israel will begin to bear fruit and will remain forever loyal to her God.

When God regenerates Israel, He will give them a heart to know Him. With this regenerated heart, they will be able to return to God with an undivided heart. At the time of Israel's regeneration, her sins will no longer be found.

Jeremiah 50:19–20

¹⁹And I will bring Israel again to his pasture, and he shall feed on Carmel and Bashan, and his soul shall be satisfied upon the hills of Ephraim and in Gilead. ²⁰In those days, and in that time, saith Jehovah, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I leave as a remnant (ASV, 1901).

Repeating aspects stated earlier and then adding some more information of his own, Ezekiel further describes the coming regeneration. All of Israel's sins will be cleansed. A regenerate heart and spirit will be given so that Israel can walk in a new of life. Furthermore, the Holy Spirit will indwell the Jews so that they will be empowered to walk in the commandments of the Lord.

The regeneration of Israel is also a prominent theme in the Minor Prophets. Hosea, who spoke a great deal about God's punishment for Israel's sins, also spoke of Israel's regeneration (Hosea 1:10–2:1).

Israel's Apostasy will all be thoroughly healed and only then will Israel receive the complete blessings of God. All worship of other gods will cease when the regeneration comes and they will no longer deny God and chase after their own double minded thoughts.

The regeneration of Israel will be a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the point of the prophet Joel.

Joel 2:28–32

²⁸And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my Spirit. ³⁰And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. ³¹The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of Jehovah cometh. ³²And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of Jehovah shall be delivered; for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be those that escape, as Jehovah hath said, and among the remnant those whom Jehovah doth call (ASV, 1901).

Once the Holy Spirit is poured out on all Israel, then they will call upon the Name of the Lord. God will respond to that call by delivering them from the fruits of their sins and saving them. The national regeneration of Israel will result in the total forgiveness of Israel's sins.

Micah 7:18–20

¹⁸Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth over the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in lovingkindness. ¹⁹He will again have compassion upon us; he will tread our iniquities under foot; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea. ²⁰Thou wilt perform the truth to Jacob, and the lovingkindness to Abraham, which thou hast sworn unto our fathers from the days of old (ASV, 1901).

God's eternal love for Israel will cause Him to pardon and to pass over the sins of Israel, as He has in the past. Then He will return to them in all compassion. He will do so on the basis of the Abrahamic Covenant. The Lord spoke another prophecy of Israel's regeneration through Zephaniah.

Zephaniah.3:9–13

⁹For then will I turn to the peoples of a pure language, that they may all call upon the name of Jehovah, to serve him with one consent. ¹⁰From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliant, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering. ¹¹In that day shalt thou not be put to shame for all thy doings, wherein thou hast transgressed against me; for then I will take away out of the midst of thee thy proudly exulting ones, and thou shalt no more be haughty in my holy mountain. ¹²But I will leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall take refuge in the name of Jehovah. ¹³The remnant of Israel shall not do iniquity, nor speak lies; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth; for they shall feed and lie down, and none shall make them afraid (ASV, 1901).

Throughout the dispersion, the Jews will begin to call upon the Name of the Lord. It is important to note that regardless of wherever on earth the Jews are, they will respond, so that the

regeneration will indeed be total. The apostle Paul affirms the regeneration of Israel in the book of Romans.

Romans 11:25–27:

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: ²⁷ for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins (KJV).

Next message: GOD BLESSES AFTER CURSING

E-mail: Pentwaterbiblechurch@scofieldinstitute.org Call: 877-706-2479