

"SUPERNATURAL GOODNESS"

Isaiah 26-27

INTRODUCTION:

Conditions are described as musical. Another song of praise for Supernatural Goodness follows Chapter 25.

Song - Thanksgiving for temporal - spiritual mercies - happiness of the righteous - peace.

Many (titles) could be used to classify this section. Tale of two cities - here represented is a strong city. The title of "Perfect Peace" covers the material.

"Doctrine of the Resurrection" is another truth. I have decided to bunch them all in the topic "Supernatural Goodness".

- I. Strong City - Verse 1-7.
- II. Souls Desire - Verse 8-12.
- III. Struggle With Lords - Verse 13-21.
- IV. Slaying The Dragon - Verse 20-27:1.

I. Strong City - Verse 1-7.

Verse 1 - City with everlasting government - Jerusalem, "We have a strong city."

"Salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks" - God will be a wall of fire about the city.

25:12 Great World City represented in Moab, brought down to dust. Get the contrast. We have here a strong city.

Jesus lets it be known the feeblest of churches that put confidence in Him will stand. Bulwark, that means salvation.

Deliverance from Egypt - song at Red Sea.

Deliverance of church upper room Jer. - Leaders of the church seized and threatened "not to speak at all or teach in the name of Jesus".

Deliverance of early church when martyrs were made Rev. 6:9, 10. Holy men thrown to lions, dedicated women thrust into caldrons of boiling pitch, crucifixions were carried out.

Deliverance from many a fiery furnace. Bulwark.

Verse 2 Gates - City.

Admit nothing that defileth or works abomination.

Righteous - who confess their unrighteousness and accept God's provision for it.

Psa. 24:7 - "Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."

Good picture of peace - security - war - harassed Israelites are singing - God's salvation shall take the place of the walls.

Gates - shall stand open and men shall go in and out without a guard to keep peace. No danger of alarm at night.

Dream never realized yet - Solomon had a transient type of the Messianic Kingdom of peace. Today no less than 2770 names of ancient sites have been recovered and plated on maps of the ancient land.

Verse 3 Perfect Peace. Peace upon peace, all kinds of prosperity and happiness in this world and in the world to come.

Without one ripple of anxiety - the mind that is leaning upon Thee.

Profit you nothing, though men all about you trust - your miss trust.

Mind - that which is formed - formed, the outcome of thought - in turn comes from the heart. The Lord alone knows the heart.

Gen. 6:5. Every imagination of the thoughts of the heart was evil.

Holy security - the river rises - measure.

Why do believers often fall in dispondency? Mind is not stayed - trusting.

We are liable to trials - feelings - patient continuance in well-doing. Rom. 2:7.

James 2:26.

Without this we cannot possess comfort.

Without this we cannot help our fellow man.

Without this we cannot glorify God.

Without this we cannot reveal power of grace.

True peace originates in men reconciled to God. Harmony with his will.

True peace is supernatural - abiding.

Friends may leave us houses, lands, but only Christ can give us peace. John 14:27.

More we obey the Master, the more our submission to God, the deeper our peace.

Peace with God - Inward Peace - Outward Peace. Peace of Conscience - Peace at all times - Under all Events.

This is the way of a good man. Evil tidings are abroad - God will keep in perpetual peace.

Verse 4 - Exhortation - Here is a precept - principle. God has promised peace, let us not miss the promise. Trust the world, whatever it offers will be for a moment.

Do not look downward to the stream of miseries and troubles, but fasten on to the power and promises of Jehovah.

Everlasting - Rock of ages - Deut. 32:4. Rock - Strong tower - Isa. 33:16.

Everlasting strength - His arm is never dried up. There is no wrinkle - God is where he first was and continues forever a God of infinite power.

Rock - A refuge - a sure foundation. God faithful to his promises. He never changes. The 'same yesterday, today, and forever'. Covenant keeping God.

Verse 5 - Proud Enemies Brought Down. Those that trust triumph.

Verse 6 - Oppression Summed Up in the great cities. Poor trampled.

Verse 7 - The Just Man's Security.

Note the way his people delight in.

One of features of life - determining the right path.

"This is the way: walk ye in it".

Follow the footprints of the flock - blood marks tell you plainly enough - mountains to cross - tribulation.

Mark by uprightness has levelled it as they walked.

Uprightneses - this level path is made up of successive steps - step after step of which we can only see one at a time and we take that one, the next becomes clear. Distress, poverty, sickness, bereavement, death.

II. Souls Desire - Verse 8-12.

Verse 8 - Means a straight course, not to turn aside to crooked evil ways.

Duty to wait - keep up this holy desire in the darkness.

Practice of God's people to keep up a constant dependence upon him. Waited and still waited. Jew waits for Messiah to intervene and judge his oppressors.

Salvation lies embedded in that name, as Jesus.

Our great desire must be that Name - that that name be glorified.

Comfort found in remembrance of that Name - tells us of God - a pleasure to our hearts to remember.

Verse 9 - Desire for God must be inward - fervent - sincere. What good is your profession of faith if your religion is without sincerity?

Desire for God in darkness of night - affliction - sorrows - doubts - separations - confirmed Christians.

Desire for God gives evidence we seek him early.

Many have a strong desire to follow God when they hear a stirring sermon, but they go out and forget it.

Verse 10 - Will not learn - Never will learn!

"Earth Dwellers" in land of uprightness, yet he will deal unjustly.

Favour is shown to them - receive mercies - live in a land where religion is professed, where the word of God is preached, where he has a good example set before them - wise man will learn something from everything.

The deal wickedly with man and God and with their souls, because they will not behold the majesty of the Lord!

Will not believe - will not consider - hold in contempt - holy things.

Verse 11 - God gives them warning.

Presses them to repentance - prayer - peace.

They who pay no attention - He must deal with their wrongs. They see the harm done to God's people and will be ashamed. See the zeal of God for his friends and Lord revealed as flaming fire.

III. Struggles With Our Lords - Verse 12

Cause of right does not always at once prevail.

Verse 12 - Peace ordained - God is gracious. Power to promise a thing.

Verse 13 - Other Lords. Baalim - Ashtroth and what resulted? Bondage - Babylon - Persia - Greece - Rome.

Not rightful Lords.

Days of Judges - ~~care~~less in service to God - laws and customs.

Lady wrote - Dr. Peale. "Why religion leaves me so flat. I've tried reading the Bible but it is so boring I never got past Joshua. I've often gone to church but come away feeling like a hypocrite. I've tried to let God take over in my life but my offers seem to have gotten me nowhere.

He wrote: You love yourself. Replace that with love for God and show concern for others.

You have tried to be a receiving station, become a mirror of reflection. Religion will get hold of you.

The only power which is absolutely necessary to the world's good is that of righteousness.

Verse 14 - Power is not always where it seems to be, but very often where it seems not to be.

Bad habits not easy to overcome.

Man is a responsible being.

Amazing Ruin of the church's enemies.

Cut off the other Lords - shall not rise. Haman. Lords and nations that had dominion over Israel - pass away - never return! Die, empires crumble, never recover.

Verse 15 - Little one become great - In Egypt they multiplied exceedingly and afterwards in Canaan.

Verse 16 - Prophet remembers when they were oppressed and cried unto God.

Afflictions stirred up prayer. Visited God. This may have been.

Verse 17 - Likens that time of anguish to travail - pangs. Struggle for their liberty, painful - perilous - dreaded pains. Endeavoured to help ourselves - try to save self.

IV. Slaying The Dragon - Verse 19-27:1

Verse 19 - Doctrine of Resurrection.

Babylon - life beyond grave expected but duration uncertain.

Egyptian - life beyond more complete, elaborate, weighed on scales your deeds.

Pass through transmigrations.

Contrast previous verse - trying to save self - efforts ineffectual, now their actual deliverance is by God.

They shall rise because they are thy dead.

The dead people awake.

Dew - illustrate, the vivifying power of God. Strong confidence and hope God will raise the dead.

Awake and sing - as the dew revives the herbs, so does the power of God revive thee, and the earth brings forth the shades (the dead).

Until then the people wait quietly.

Then love's soft dew o'er every eye

Shall shed its mildest rays,

And the long-silent voice awake

With shouts of endless praise.

Shadow - O. T. - Not the very image of the New.

Jonah - remained unassimilated - cast forth - resurrection bodies come forth.

Awake - the act of dying - laying one's self down to rest - dropping out of consciousness.

Physical fact of the parting of the man from the house which he has dwelt in.

Christian - falling asleep - repose - infant.

Sleep - idea if night then day follows.

Immortality - except open grave with empty grave clothes.

Verse 20 - Chambers - As Noah in Ark. God will hide us. Egypt - inside the house - slaying 1st born.

Enemies Reckoned with. Blood flow.

27:1 - Chaining of the Devil

2 Thess 1:6 - When the Lord comes out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth.

Church had many enemies - Sennacherib, Nebuchadnazzar, Antiochus, Pharaoh, and summed up in Leviathan.

Strange word - Levi, joined - Than, dragon or serpent.

Leviathan - Defies every weapon formed against him. He is king of all children of pride. Job. 41:34.

No doubt refers to Satan!

Slain - cast in the Pit!

Verse 2 - 3 - Second Coming Christ.

Leviathan in the pit - naturally have joy expressed in song.

Vineyard - the Lord will keep.

Verse 4 - What can oppose these purposes of his love?

Thorns - Briars.

Story retold in Rev. 5. Fast - Closed Book.

Verse 5 - Is this blessing for only one nation?

Anyone, anytime, any place, who confesses his guilt and needs God can save and at once there is Peace! Blood of the cross.

Make peace with me - repeated.

Verse 6 - Future Israel - Peace reign - Sabbath calm.

Verse 7 - Jehovah dealt with enemies as enemies had dealt with Israel.

Verse 8 - Chastening - carefully measured - limited.

Eastwind (rough) scattered the Jews.

Verse 9 - Strange Thought - Jacob suffering - peculiar people in midst of nations of the earth.

Redeemed by blood of the lamb from Egypt, but this doesn't take him out from under but puts him under God's government.

Heb. 10:29.

I Cor. 11:32

Furnace of affliction had brought forth its desired fruit. Done its work.

Sin is put away, not by any amount of suffering on our part but on the value of the atoning blood. I John 2:2.

Rev. 3:19.

Verse 10 - City Built by man - banishment. Calf feeds on sprouts that grow up quickly.

Verse 11 - Women gather the dry stick for kindling wood. Real poverty.

Verse 12 - Jehovah has a threshing floor.

Blows - separate wheat from chaff.

Winnows - beat off - grain separated from the husks.

Get this - one by one!

Verse 13 - Great Trumpet

I Thess. 4:16. Trumpet of God that awakens all the dead.

I Cor. 15:52 - Lord's return that "Last Trumpet".

Num. 10:1-7 - Introduced the 7th Month.

Matt. 24:31 - "And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet and they shall gather His elect from the four winds, from one end of Heaven to the other".

"Waked by the trumpet's sound

I from the grave must rise,

And see the Judge with glory crowned,

And see the flaming skies.

How shall I have my tomb?

With triumph or regret?



A fearful or a joyful doom,

A curse or blessing, meet?

I must from God be driven

Or with my Saviour dwell;

Must, at his command, to Heaven,

Or else depart, -- to Hell.

Show me the way to shun,

Thy dreadful wrath severe,

That, when thou comest on thy throne,

I may with joy appear."