

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The word of God which He brought to the prophet Isaiah by the Holy Spirit is found in 35:4-7a.

Say to those *who are* fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come *with* vengeance, *With* the recompense of God; He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water.

So far our text. Dear fellow redeemed.

"I'm going to tell my dad on you!" Did any of you ever say this when you were a child? Do you remember being picked on by another child and then warned that person that sure retribution would come by the hand of your father if they didn't stop?

"If you don't leave, I'll call the police!" People might say this statement if someone is trespassing or if you find someone in the act of committing a crime. Throughout the world laws have been created to bring justice to criminal actions. "Justice has been served" is something that might be said at the sentencing of a criminal.

And what person doesn't rely upon another in their family to keep them safe? If someone begins to treat another poorly, who doesn't feel loved by the actions of a family member coming to their rescue? The protection by others such as the police or our armed forces is something we treasure. But when protection comes by the hand of a loved one, it is all the more precious.

Now ask yourself, how about the vengeance made by the hand of our God? How much more precious is that? It is the greatest vengeance ever served. And in our text for today the Lord reminds us that, "You're avenged!"

In our text for today we have the prophet Isaiah speaking about a situation that was soon to come. The children of Israel who first heard this message looked upon it as the vengeance of God being taken out upon the world. More specifically, in regards to the countries that oppressed the children of Israel.

They believed that the Lord would come and again lead them as a strong military people. They looked upon this prophecy of the Holy Spirit through Isaiah as another reason why they should be waiting for that king who would come and lead them. But they were sorely mistaken. To this day the religious Jews of the world still wait for this prophecy to be fulfilled. They are still waiting for God to come and take vengeance upon the rest of the world because they fail to see that this vengeance was in the form of the Messiah on the Cross of Calvary.

Therefore let us thank God that He has opened our eyes to see Jesus Christ the avenger in the words of the Old Testament as He comes saying, "You're avenged!"

Our text begins by stating who this message is addressed by saying, **“Say to those *who are fearful-hearted.*”** The Jewish people were certainly fearful hearted, but again they were fearful over against the wrong things. Instead of fearing the Lord and His word, they feared the rest of the world. In actuality this dominance of other countries upon the nation of Israel was the fault of the Jews alone. This occurred when they disregarded the word of God and erected idols in the place of Jehovah. They failed to see the true message in these words in light of the fear they and we should have over our sins. Therefore, this message is given to all of mankind, to every single person here today. Who can say that they’re without sin? When we consider our many sins we should be full of fear.

But the message that follows is one of comfort and peace, **“Be strong, do not fear!”** This particular part of our text today is better translated, **“Be strong, stop fearing!”** The Lord here is speaking to those who are burdened and weighed down because of sin. He is speaking to those who are in the state of being fearful hearted not to those who still believe themselves to be righteous on their own behalf or because of something that we do to appease God. The Lord who we owe all things to, perfect obedience and love tells us to “stop fearing.”

This message is certainly a wonderful one. To a large extent it brings us comfort and peace because we are hearing from the Creator Himself that we should stop fearing. But this message is even more clearly defined and therefore brings greater comfort, **“Behold, your God will come *with vengeance, With the recompense of God; He will come and save you.*”** Just like that little child on the playground wants to be avenged, the fearful hearted sinner by the power of the Holy Spirit wants to be avenged of his sin. When we see the Law clearly as something we can never do it makes perfect sense then that the Lord Himself would be the One who would come and take vengeance upon it.

But what’s absolutely amazing to me is who the Lord came to avenge. He came to avenge sinners! “You’re avenged!” When we see a child being a brat and they’re punished for it we don’t have the tendency to want to avenge him. We think to ourselves that the kid got what he deserved. The punishment is warranted. And that truly does fit mankind.

Satan came to Adam and Eve in the garden tempting them to disobey the clear, perfect words of God, and they did. Instead of complete and absolute punishment God the Father promised the One who would come and avenge us from the temptation of Satan and avenge all of mankind from its fallout. Each and every one of mankind’s sins have been laid upon the righteous Son of God incarnate in Jesus Christ.

For the believing Jew they looked forward to the One who was promised in Genesis and again promised here. The One who David spoke of in the Psalms in speaking clearly of how the Avenger would come and avenge you of your sins, **“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? *Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning? All those who see Me ridicule Me; They shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, “He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!” They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*”** (Psalm 22:1, 7, 8, 16c, 17, 18)

That my dear friends is how “You’re avenged!” You have been avenged of the temptation of Satan by the perfect life of Jesus Christ. You have been avenged of your sins by the perfect death of Jesus Christ. The Holy innocent Lamb of God who suffered and died for the sake of sinners who in no way deserved to be avenged. That is the kind of wonderful, peculiar love that our God has for us.

And what follows is yet another wonderful gift provided by the Avenger of sins Jesus Christ.

“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing.” We know clearly that the Son of Man would come and bring sight to the blind, to bring hearing to the deaf, to strengthen legs which never walked and bring sound to the tongue of those who never spoke. But in its context we can also see that the gift of faith in Jesus Christ brings these things to us spiritually as well.

We are spiritually dead by nature. Jesus spoke of all mankind in this way, **“And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' 16 "But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear.”** (Mat. 13:14-16)

Count yourself blessed that you have been given eyes to see that the One who hung on the Cross was no mere man. Instead with the eyes of faith you believe that it was the God Man Jesus Christ who avenged you! Count yourself blessed by God because He has given you ears of understanding to the resurrection of the dead. Knowing that just as Jesus lives you will live forever with Him. Count yourself blessed that your tongue has been loosed to praise His Holy name because “You’re avenged” in His love through Christ.

And be assured of this by the final words of our text, **“For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. 7 The parched ground shall become a pool, And the thirsty land springs of water.”**

These words show to us that the vengeance paid to sin by Jesus is meant for all mankind. The picture here of the dry ground is the world. It is you and I. But the water that shall burst forth in this wilderness is the word of God. Growing and spreading throughout the land becoming streams and then pools. When the ground is dry one can soak it for a great length of time and it continues to soak it up without ever becoming a pool. But the word of God is living water which is even able to cause our spiritually dry souls to become a pool from which others can drink.

Therefore take this living water into the world. Be that stream that our God speaks of here and cause new streams to form from its power. Thanking God that you’re now His tool to tell the rest of the world of the great work of Jesus Christ telling them, “You’re avenged!” Amen.