"And if I go and prepare a place for you..." Joh 14:3

Psa_55:8-15

In last week's study we looked at how God uses the enemies of this world within and without to bring us to a place where we want to flee away and not have to deal with the trials and pressures that an ungodly age and world bring upon us.

We cited these verses (Mat 26:56, Rom 1:20, Mar 14:50, Rev 12:6) amongst others to demonstrate that when we initially flee from God it is by His design that the "woman" the church should go into the wilderness where there is a place prepared for her of God. This is also the place where God prepares the elect to be delivered from the wilderness where we operate with an obedience which is to the "law for the lawless" (1Ti 1:9). We can't see spiritually at this point and are not yet able to understand that this law 1Ti 1:9 typifies the higher law of Christ(Gal 6:2). We are able to do many wonderful works but again we are not able to stop glorying in that which has been given to us (1Co 4:7).

Our reward at this stage as a result of this blindness is in the earth and not treasure laid up in heaven which is only possible through Christ (Mat 6:2 negative trumpet blown by carnal men not the seven last trumpets blown by God's elect to destroy the flesh, Mat 6:20). Said another way our gift is buried in the earth (Mat 25:18, Jer 22:29) until we acknowledge God's sovereignty that tells us that it is Christ who is working in us both to will and to do of God's good pleasure (Php 2:13). It is only the starting point of "oh earth earth earth hear the word of the Lord", and it is in the spiritual hearing that Israel could not hear what (Jer 22:29, Deu 6:4) the Israel of God is blessed to be able to hear and see as a result of the spiritual eyes and ears that God has given us.

We are fed and nourished of God by His word which does not return void in the wilderness (Isa_55:11) but at this time in our walk we wrap that word of God around the idols of our hearts as it has not been given to us yet to believe the sum of God's word or how to rightly divide the word (seed still in the earth not even broken free from the ground of Babylon and not having seen the true Sun of righteousness) (Mat_25:18, 1Co_2:13, Php_1:29 the suffering is the dying to the earth that we naturally cling onto, Mal_4:2). Consequently we cannot try the multitude of spirits, the many winds of doctrines which are speaking to our yet carnal perspective of God's word which is sheltered but blinded in the earth where there is no light. The rest of our journey in the Christ as His holy seed (Gal_3:16) is to be understood as a process that we are promised that God will grant us victory through Christ who is the author and finisher of our journey of faith (Heb_12:2, 2Pe_3:18, 1Co_3:6)

It will only be in the most dire of situations that the law that we have been keeping by our own wisdom and power will be used to reveal to us that we are incapable of loving in the deep manner that God's spirit can cause ($\underbrace{\text{Rom}_3:20}$, $\underbrace{\text{Rom}_7:13}$, $\underbrace{\text{Mat}_24:12}$, $\underbrace{\text{Mat}_10:21}$, $\underbrace{\text{Mat}_5:44}$). This seed of Christ must come out of the earth, earth, earth and will experience this miracle of His judgement that makes this possible ($\underbrace{\text{1Pe}_4:17}$). It is God's judgements upon us today that our purifying and trying the faith He's given us through fiery trials ($\underbrace{\text{1Pe}_4:12}$). This much needed process of much tribulation comes ($\underbrace{\text{Act}_14:22}$) upon all the elect to His glory and to witness of true discipleship which God creates through Christ ($\underbrace{\text{Jud}_1:20}$, $\underbrace{\text{Joh}_13:35}$, $\underbrace{\text{Php}_1:29}$).

None of us are able to hear the voice of the true Shepherd and obey from our hearts until we are

dragged out of the wilderness or Babylon and blessed to be seated with God the Father and Christ and the elect in New Jerusalem which is above (<u>Joh 9:35-37</u>) and the mother of us all (<u>Rev 18:4</u>, <u>Gal 4:26</u>). It is in this place that we reside as the manchild (<u>Rev 12:5</u>) where God is preparing a place <u>today</u> for us to rule and reign under him as Kings and Priests (<u>Joh 16:7</u>, <u>Joh 14:3</u>). There are two stages of preparation, one to witness against the idols of our own hearts and the other to witness to the world that when God does drag us out of Babylon He can and does purify the bride of Christ by preparing a place for us in Christ where we are accepted and grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord by His power and might working within His workmanship.

Last week we looked more specifically at the inward application of these enemies within and in particular we focused on the first verse that demonstrates that our greatest enemy is our own inability to hear the voice of the true shepherd. It can be disheartening to be attacked and rejected by the world or, "the voice of the enemy" or "the oppression of the wicked" and the "iniquity" they cast upon us as it brings us to feel sorrow and rejection which is the natural way our flesh will feel when we learn that "in wrath they hate me" (Psa 69:4, Isa 53:3).

There is always an outward application to God's word with all these examples that were brought out but as always we must remember to apply it primarily inwardly as His children who are being judged in this age (1Pe_4:17) by that word that tells us that God is working all these events together for our good (Rom_8:28). We are dragged to a place where we see the purpose behind those persecutions and accept them as the needful part of our life so that we can become Kings and Priests who are matured today so that we can rule and reign under Christ in earnest both now and in the fullness of what the first resurrection will manifest (*these verses apply to us today...* Isa_53:5-6, 2Ti_2:12, 1Jn_4:17, Eph_5:21, 1Co_6:3).

This week we will look again at the actions that are prompted as a result of verse three that tells us of the cause that God brings upon us so that we want to "hasten my escape from the windy storm *and* tempest." of verse 8.

So when we read "Psa 55:3 Because of the voice of the enemy, because of the oppression of the wicked: for they cast iniquity upon me, and in wrath they hate me."

...we understand this verse to mean what our own oppressive spirit does within us unless we don't neglect so great a salvation that God is giving us in this age (Heb 2:3, 2Ti 1:6). We are blessed to believe and remember (Php 1:29, Joh 14:26) that we are Jesus Christ and so when we put hands on each other as Timothy did and Thomas upon Christ's wounds (Joh 20:27) we are being shown a parable of how it is with the anointing that comes from Christ or the placing of Timothy's hands upon us that we can then touch or understand the wounds of Christ and become partakers of them which nourishes us and gives us the strength to go without the camp and suffer with Christ (1Co 10:16, Heb 13:13).

Our common affliction, the body and blood of Christ is one that we share, as we learn of God's power and grow in our ability to bear each other's burdens (<u>Joh_3:16</u>) burdens which come about from the relationships that God is forging within the body of Christ as we overcome the "the voice of the enemy" along with the oppression, iniquity and hatred that we face together as one body in this world (<u>2Ti_3:13</u>, <u>Rom_12:5</u>, <u>Rom_12:21</u>, <u>Joh_17:15</u>).

With all this said let's look at this Psalm understanding that we are looking at a battle that appears to be very much against forces which are outside of ourselves, when in fact it is both the

forces within and without that God is using together for our good (Rom_8:28) so that we can grow and mature in this high calling that we have been given (Php_3:14).

Psa 55:8 I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest.

God is good to not try us beyond what we can endure (1Co_10:13) and so when the time comes for us to "hasten our escape from the windy storm *and* tempest." there is nothing that can prevent this from happening, he will make a way for us to escape by giving us power to go through the storm *and* tempest (Psa_107:29-31)

Here are just a few examples of how we escape "the windy storm *and* tempest" which all point to it being God's power through Christ that delivers us.

Act 12:6-10

<u>Jas_5:17-18</u> type of the two witnesses. 3.5 years withhold the rain, the holy spirit, no conversion during the millenium, and then we pray again and the heaven gives rain and the earth brings forth her fruit...

Luk 17:26-28

Mat 2:13 (this event is a shadow of how God prepares a place for us in the wilderness (Rev 12:6), and then when we are able to receive His word that He sends us His son who is called out of Egypt within us...the earth, earth, earth again Hos 11:1)

Dan 3:16-18

any comments on this first verse?

Psa_55:9 Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for I have seen violence and strife in the city.

The word destroy $^{\text{H}1104}$ is directly connected to being swallowed up, and it is when we are double-minded ($_{\text{Jas}_1:8}$), or with a forked tongue of the devil that we will find division and strife in a city within that will not stand as it gets swallowed up by the earth ($_{\text{Num}_16:32}$, $_{\text{1Co}_3:17}$).

It is only when God destroys this first tongue of Babylon that is divided and in the earth that we can begin to cease from doing damage to His word and have singleness of mind (2Co_11:3) in Christ rather than "violence and strife in the city." which is what a divided house or tongue will always bring (Mar_3:25).

any comments on this second verse?

Psa_55:10 Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it.

Psa 55:11 Wickedness is in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets.

These next couple of verses show us the comfortable nature of sin and how although there are pleasures of sin for a season (<u>Heb_11:25</u>) that season is ordained by God who knows that it will come to an end. "the walls thereof" will come tumbling down at the appointed time when the day of visitation comes upon us (Jos 6:20, Rev 1:4-6, Rev 1:10, 1Pe 2:9, Rev 21:9).

"Wickedness *is* in the midst thereof: deceit and guile depart not from her streets" is there to remind us of the enduring nature of sin and how we can only overcome through Christ and leave these streets and enter into the strait gate the narrow way through Christ which brings us to "New Jerusalem" which is above. (Mat 7:14, Isa 40:3, Rom 3:27, Jas 4:15).

any comments on these verses?

Psa 55:12 For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him:

Psa 55:13 But *it was* thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. Psa 55:14 We took sweet counsel together, *and* walked unto the house of God in company.

This is the hardest trial, the most unexpected and yet God deems it needful and necessary that we see the deceitfulness that is in our own flesh (<u>Jer_17:9</u>), and so we have these scriptures which are a prophecy of Judas, but also words that we live by having that man of perdition within each of us that must be destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming (<u>2Th_2:8</u>).

How could Peter have not felt like the man described in these verses having been an "acquaintance" of Christ's who took "sweet counsel together" and "walked unto the house of God in company." That man of sin was soon to be exposed in Peter and the rest of the disciples who forsook Christ and yet Christ could utter these words prior to their betrayal as an example of speaking of things that are not as thou they were (Joh 17:6, Joh 18:9, Joh 6:39, Rom 4:17).

any comments on these verses?

Psa 55:15 Let death seize upon them, and let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness is in their dwellings, and among them.

When death seizes upon us in the sense that this verse is conveying it is akin to what Christ says in this verse (<u>Luk 9:60</u>).

"let them go down quick into hell: for wickedness *is* in their dwellings, *and* among them." is the best thing that can happen to our old man that is corrupt and in need of being destroyed and made anew through Christ. Unless a seed dies it cannot bring forth fruit, so this is 'step one' in a process that God willing will start to bring forth fruit that comes as a result of the death of self (Joh 12:24).

To go "quick into hell" tells us that it is a quick work that God does on our old man. The wickedness that is in our dwelling and among us can only be overcome by this death that is described in these terms in the new covenant (Rom_6:3)

All of this destruction that we have read about tonight is a witness to how "**And if I go and prepare a place for you...**" Joh 14:3

any comments on this last verse?