

The Enemy Shall Not Prevail

Isa 54:15-17 ¹⁵ *Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake.* ¹⁶ *"Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy.* ¹⁷ *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.*

In a sense the whole history of the church is summed up in this passage. The world, the ungodly world has and will assemble against the church. But God, being the absolute Sovereign over all things herein proclaims His authority over those who would destroy the church and promises that His servants will be victorious. For this is their heritage as the servants of the most High God who places over them the banner of righteousness, they will prevail and the enemy will fail.

Now having come to the final part of last Sunday's message, our confidence is founded in this; nothing can happen outside of God's perfect will for us. We can sum up these three verses under these headings. 1. The enemies of God's people will assemble against them. 2. But they are subject to God's authority over them. 3. Therefore no weapon formed against the elect of God can prevail for the church serves under the banner of His righteousness.

A. The enemies of God's people will assemble against the church - *Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me.*

1. For ancient Israel this meant that Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar would carry them away into captivity.
 - a. Both the faithful and the ungodly in Israel would be taken into captivity
 - b. This will come to pass because of the ungodly amongst Israel and their rebellion against God.

Jer 25:8-9 *"Therefore thus says the Lord of hosts: '**Because you have not heard My words**, behold, I will send and take all the families of the north,' says the Lord, 'and **Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant**, and **will bring them against this land**, against its inhabitants, and against these nations all around, and will utterly destroy them, and make them an astonishment, a hissing, and perpetual desolations.*

- c. Therefore this was a result of God's judgment upon them and not what God would have desired for them had they responded to the warnings of coming judgment.
2. For the church it means that the ungodly will assemble against them not because God has put it in their hearts but because they have a natural inborn hatred against God and His people.
 - a. The world has an inborn anger against God and His Anointed.

Psa 2:2-3 *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."*

- b. The world has this same anger against His church.

John 15:18 *"If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.*

Matt 24:9 *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake.*

B. But they are subject to God's authority over them. - *Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake. "Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy*

1. God is creator of the very one who would make weapons against us and the ones who would use those weapons against us. - *"Behold, I have created the blacksmith who blows the coals in the fire, who brings forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the spoiler to destroy*
 - a. Nothing takes place in this world outside of God's purpose and plan.

Isa 42:8-9 *I am the Lord, that is My name. . . . Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them."*

- b. Nothing has happened in the history of man that God has not purposed.

Isa 46:9-10 *For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, **declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'***

- c. Nebuchadnezzar was simply the servant of God doing God's bidding, the man who executed God's purpose. (Isa 45:11)

Jer 27:6-7 And now **I have given all these lands into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, My servant.**

- d. Nebuchadnezzar learned this when God brought an end to his boasting. (cf. Dan. 4:34-35)

2. When the rulers of this world crucified our Lord they were simply fulfilling God's purpose.

Acts 4:27-28 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, **both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel,** were gathered together **to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.**

- a. Man's purpose was to cast off the authority of God over them. (Ps. 2)
- b. God's purpose was to provide so great a salvation for His people.

3. Our Lord made this truth quite clear to Pilate at His trial.

John 19:7-10 The Jews answered him, "**We have a law,** and according to our law He ought to die, **because He made Himself the Son of God.**" Therefore, **when Pilate heard that saying, he was the more afraid,** and went again into the Praetorium, and **said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.** Then Pilate said to Him, "Are You not speaking to me? Do You not know that I have power to crucify You, and power to release You?" Jesus answered, **"You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.** Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."

4. Herein is our comfort, nothing can happen to us unless it is God's perfect will in our behalf and for our good.

Isa 14:26-27 This is the purpose that is purposed against the whole earth, and this is the hand that is stretched out over all the nations. For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?"

- C. Therefore no weapon formed against the elect of God can prevail for the church serves under the banner of His righteousness. - *No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is from Me," says the Lord.*

1. This was the promise of God to His elect in Isaiah's day
2. This promise has remained true in behalf of God's elect to this day
 - a. Paul was soon to be beheaded - His confidence "a crown of righteousness awaits me"
 - b. The Jews did everything possible to destroy the witness of the church. - A.D. 70
 - c. Rome did it best to stop the spread of Christianity - Rome is but ruins today - The church continues to flourish
 - d. Time and time again Satan and the world have done it best to extinguish the witness of the church.
3. No weapon prospers - even the tongue has failed.
 - a. They falsely state we are against science - fact: science proclaims an Intelligent Designer
 - b. They falsely state that reason speaks out against the Christian faith - fact: Christianity is the only reasonable faith in the world today
 - c. They falsely state that history is against the claims of our faith - fact: archaeology evidence that the history recorded in Scripture is true.

CONCLUSION: - The enemies of God's people have and continue to assemble against the church yet they continue to remain subject to God's authority over them.

The church continues to be victorious for the message of Christ still saves the lost sinner

No weapon formed against the elect of God has or can prevail for this truth remains:

Matt 5:10-12 *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.*

The reasons:

As the servants of the Lord Himself is our heritage

His righteousness is the banner over us

Therefore Truth and justice are on our side

Founded upon these words - *Thus saith the Lord.*