

Christ the Witness of God to the World and Our Redeemer King

Isa 55:4-5 Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, and nations who do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you."

Calvin points out that "Whenever, therefore, the Jews thought of a Redeemer, that is, of their salvation, they ought to have remembered "David" as a mediator who represented Christ; for David must not here be regarded as a private individual, but as bearing this title and character."

However, that was not the case, for when the Jews read this passage they no doubt were looking for a commander, a leader that would restore the earthly kingdom over which David the Son of Jesse had once reigned; A restoration of the kingdom that no longer existed since the captivity into Babylon. Thus they looked for a commander that would overthrow the Roman Empire's hold upon the land, and establish them as rulers and victors in that earthly kingdom. And as you read this passage I think we can agree that that's what it sounds like. And on that day we now call Palm Sunday when they were ready to crown Him as king and he simply walked away from them no doubt great disappointment must have filled their hearts. They were looking for different Redeemer, not one that would offer Himself as that Lamb of God that would take away the sin of the world.

I would remind you that even among the twelve, there were discussions and debate as to who would sit next to Him upon His throne. Even a casual reading of the Four Gospels will show quite clearly that they were expecting Jesus to establish an earthly kingdom, not a kingdom eternal in the heavens. The response of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus reveals what was expected by the followers of Christ. When our Lord asked why they were so downcast, they replied, that this one whom they were hoping was going to **redeem Israel**, had been crucified and buried and now women who were among the believers found His tomb empty and certain of the disciples went to the tomb and He was nowhere to be found. When they spoke of redeeming Israel, they were not thinking of one's eternal salvation but of a restored temporal and earthly throne of David. Even at His ascension the disciples ask Him, are you going to now restore the kingdom to Israel?

But now we are able look at Isaiah 55 in the light of what has been revealed to us since Pentecost in the writings of the gospels and the epistles of the New Testament writers. So with that added revelation before us let us ask: Who commissioned this witness to the nations and established Him as a Ruler over the people? Who are these nations over which He shall rule? And in what manner has the God of Israel glorified this David spoken of here by the prophet Isaiah?

A. Who commissioned this witness to the nations and established Him as a Ruler over the people? - *Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, a leader and commander for the people*

1. As we noted last Sunday it is non-other than David's greater Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
 - a. Paul pointed this out in his message in the Synagogue at Antioch

*Acts 13:32-34*³² *And we declare to you glad tidings—that promise which was made to the fathers.*³³ *God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He has raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'*³⁴ *And that He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, He has spoken thus: 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'*

b. We have then apostolic authority as to who this witness and commander is.

2. He has been commission by His Father to be a witness to the nations.
 - a. Once again we have an Old Testament prophecy, not that this coming Messiah would restore the nation of Israel but that He would become a witness to the nations.
 - b. It is not that this one would go throughout the nations, but that the church would fulfill that witness to the nations.
 - c. Even as Jesus told His disciples that they would be His witnesses which witness would go throughout the world.

Acts 1:8 ". . . and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- d. When the Jews in Antioch rejected Paul's message, Paul responded that he would turn to the Gentiles in obedience to the command clearly proclaimed in the Old Testament and to him personally.

Acts 13:47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

Acts 9:15 "Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

- e. The fact that Christ is preached throughout the nations today is clearly a fulfillment of this prophecy given here. - *I have given Him as a witness to the people*
3. And a leader and commander for the people.
 - a. This title is used both for rulers, both political and religious, and military leaders.
 - b. In Hebrews 2:5 He is called the "captain" of our salvation.
 - c. In Revelation He is revealed as "King of kings and Lord of lords"
 - d. In Hebrews 5:9 He is the High Priest of His Church
 - e. And in 2 Tim 4:1 read that the Lord Jesus Christ will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.
 4. The nations to whom He will be witness will be the Gentiles nations to the ends of the earth.
 5. Nations that He did not know.
 - a. Not that He did not know of their existence
 - b. But nations He did not know as His elect people will now be known of God

Gal 4:8 But now after you have known God, or rather are known by God,

6. Truly people throughout the nations of the world have and are coming to Christ. - *will run to Him*
 - a. That is will come to Him and be saved
 - b. As many as the Lord our God shall call. (Acts 2:39)

B. And in what manner has the God of Israel glorified this David spoken of here by the prophet Isaiah? - , *because of the Lord your God, and the Holy One of Israel; for He has glorified you."*

1. He has glorified Him with the glory which He had with the Father before the world was. (Jn 17:5)

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

2. He has set this King upon the holy hill of Zion (Ps. 2:6)
3. He has given Him the nations for His inheritance and the ends of the earth for His possession. (Ps. 2:8)
4. He has given Him a name that is above every name
5. All authority has been given to Him. (Matt. 28:18)
6. He is far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. (Eph 1:21)
7. He has given Him the throne of His father David, and has made it to be an everlasting throne.

Luke 1:32-33 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

CONCLUSION: This humble servant of Isaiah 53 shall be exalted far above the heavens.

Ps 8:5-6 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor. You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet,

Ps 45:6-7 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.

And the wonder of it all - we shall reign with as kings and priests forever.