

Bethel

Prayer Meeting Addresses

Number 70 “I will Work”

Reading: Isaiah 43. 1-13

1 But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

3 For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.

5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west;

6 I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

7 Even every one that is called by my

name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

8 Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears.

9 Let all the nations be gathered together, and let the people be assembled: who among them can declare this, and shew us former things? let them bring forth their witnesses, that they may be justified: or let them hear, and say, It is truth.

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no saviour.

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, that I am God.

13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

Address

The great theme of these verses is redemption, and the Lord makes some wonderful promises. Of course, there are the two aspects of it. First of all, the literal, the national, the redemption of God's ancient people from Babylonian

captivity. Then secondly, that great redemption wrought out by Christ, and these wonders of redemption are promised. Really impossible things are promised, but right at the end, the Lord says, “*I will work*, and who shall let it” – *let* of course being used in its ancient meaning of hinder or stop. Who shall hinder it; who shall stop it? Well, it was so with God’s ancient people being brought out of Babylon. How could they come? That mighty empire – how could they be released, how could they be set free? But the Lord says, they *shall*. “I will work,” and there is no-one can stop it. “Who shall let it?”

But then looking forward to the coming of the Son of God, the wonderful work of redemption, and all the impossibilities and all the hindrances in the way and the opposition of sin and the world and wicked men and Satan, the great mountains in the way, but as the Saviour comes from heaven to earth, “I will work.” What a work it was, the work of redemption, and no one could hinder it; no-one could stop it. Even Simon Peter tried. He said, “Be it far from Thee, Lord.” “Get thee behind me, Satan.” And the Lord Jesus saw all the problems and sorrows in the way. But,

“This was compassion like a God,
That when the Saviour knew
The price of pardon was His blood,
He pity ne’er withdrew.”

“I will work.” None shall hinder it; no-one can stop it. And the work was complete. “It is finished.”

Now beloved friends, this truth is still the same tonight. A wonder-working, promise-performing God, and nothing can overturn His will, and nothing can stop His purpose. Earlier in the Book, He says, “The Lord of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and His hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?” He is the wonder-working, promise-performing God.

Well, it is a subject for a prayer meeting. When we think of our concern about the preaching of the gospel, our prayers for it here, “Who shall let it?” Well, there are many who try to stop it. Satan does. He tries to hinder the Word. We have it in the parable of the sower, how he tries to hinder the Word. There is the natural darkness, the blindness, deadness, unbelief – all these things completely fighting against God’s work in salvation. But the Lord is working His purposes out, and He says, “I will work,” and all these hindrances will be

taken out of the way. So that is a great encouragement for us as we meet together for prayer, that when the Lord works, nothing can stop Him.

But then we think of things in our own lives, the various problems and difficulties and sorrows – you have them – the various difficulties, your ill health, and those you are concerned about, and old age, and infirmity, troubles of various sorts. All these are hindrances, all these are obstacles in your way, but it is so easy for the Lord to move them out of the way. They just fall down like ninepins, or perhaps a more scriptural illustration, they melt as the snow, when the Lord goes forth in love, in mercy, in answer to your prayers. Now there is nothing can stop it. What an encouragement to pray in all your problems and trials and burdens and difficulties to this great God in heaven who for Jesus' sake says, "I will work, and who shall let it?"

There is a question mark at the end, but it is not a question; it is a challenge. The Lord throws out a challenge here. It is like that word in Romans 8: "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect?" It is a challenge. "It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth?" It is a challenge. "It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." But do not forget, it is in judgment as well as mercy. When we think of all the wickedness in our country and the terrible plans of the wicked, yet over and above it all, the Lord says, "I will work." They cannot hinder God's work. "I will work, and who shall let it?"

Let me just give you one illustration before we finish: Moses. He was almost in black despair. Pharaoh would not listen; his own people turned against him. He even said, "Neither hast Thou delivered Thy people at all." Everything seemed to be wrong. It seemed to be the end. He seemed to be deceived. It seemed to be black despair. And then the Lord spoke a very simple word. He said, "Now shalt thou see what I will do." What a word that is! We sometimes sing of it: "The wonders God alone can do." "Now shalt thou see what I will do."

"I will work, and who shall let it?"

This address was given at Bethel Chapel, Luton, by Mr. B. A. Ramsbottom, on Monday, 3rd December, 2012

