

Notes of Sermons Preached by Pastor Henry Haddow at Brockham Green
on Lord's day September 18th 1910

Morning Sermon

Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary. (Psalm 68:9)

What an unspeakable mercy if we can testify of God having sent a plentiful rain, and having confirmed His inheritance when it was weary. I believe there are some in this house of prayer who have thus been favoured to have this plentiful rain from the God of all grace, and their soul has been confirmed. God has an inheritance, and God does confirm it. He does send plentiful rain, and confirms His inheritance when it is weary. The Lord is good indeed unto His people. They have ever proved Him to be a God nigh at hand in all they have called upon Him for. And He bids them call upon Him in the day of trouble: *I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me. (Psalm 50:15)*

O what an unspeakable mercy to have the witness within that we are the Lord's. God has loved a people, and chosen a people for an inheritance. When they were few He loved them, He set His heart upon them. As is recorded in the Word of God, He did not love them because they were many in number, for He says they were few. But God loved them as His people, and He made a covenant with His servant Abraham that He would multiply this people, and bring them into the land of Canaan. And in the fullness of time the Lord appeared for His people, and brought them *out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day. (Deuteronomy 4:20)* Well, this people, as we have often reminded you, were a type of God's spiritual Israel. They are not all Israel that are of Israel. He has set His love upon His people. The Lord's portion, as we read in *Deuteronomy 32*, is His people. So that God has a people, and He says, "This is my portion I have chosen and loved and redeemed." His heart is set upon this people. They are a special people, a peculiar people, a people He forms for Himself to show forth His praise. God in His own time separates vessels of mercy from the world. He separates His people from the Egyptians. His people are redeemed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He brings them out of Egyptian darkness. He shines into their hearts to give them the light of the knowledge of the glory of Himself.

What I want to do is to show you that God's inheritance is a blessed inheritance, a secure inheritance. And not only to show you this, but to trace out the Lord's dealings with His inheritance, and to show you where you are. Some of you do not know where you are. You come into this house of prayer, and the very language of your soul is, "Am I His, or am I not? Is He dealing with me as He deals with His own?" You cannot see your signs, and you wonder where you are, but there is this earnest desire for the Lord to shine in your path. He makes crooked things straight, and rough places plain. He cannot forsake His people. He must bless His inheritance. They are preserved for ever. You say, "I believe it, but am I one of them? Do I belong to the Lord? How can I know I am His?" These are solemn exercises of soul. Some can take things for granted. You must have God's smile, and know that He is leading you by the right way. O I say, friends, God's people are an exercised people, and they are made honest by the Spirit of God, and they want the witness of the Lord.

*Shine upon Thy work of grace,
If it be indeed begun. (John Newton)*

"What!" say you "do God's people get as low as that?" Yes, they do, if I know anything about it. I have felt as destitute of grace as I believe it is possible for a partaker of grace to be. Testify of the grace of God, when there is none in exercise, man? This is how it is with me. I feel as destitute of grace as though there were none. What, testify of grace when you are like that? It seemed impossible for me to come before you this morning. As I was speaking to a friend, they said, "He that has helped you hitherto will still help you." I am come to speak to any gracious soul after that manner, and we

would seek to encourage those that are brought so low. God rests in His love. He hates putting away, though they may sometimes fear He has forsaken them, and they wonder whether the Lord will appear again. He will make it good in the experience of every tried believer. *I will see you again, and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you. (John 16:22)*

God is very jealous of His people; He is very jealous of them, and He will give them to realise this. And He will be glorified in their salvation. O how I beg of God to give me a single eye to His glory in my own salvation! His people shall glorify Him, and shall have a single eye unto the glory of God. *Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake. (Psalm 115:1)* This generation, I say, is a peculiar people, a royal priesthood, to show forth praise to Him. This is the Lord's doing to bring His people out of darkness, a darkness that can be felt.

I dare say that you noticed that I prayed for one that has been made very acceptable to the living family of God. But he is brought very low; he believes he is a deceived character. None of God's people can comfort him. But there is One that can comfort him, and He will comfort him, and that is God. Some say that you should take God at His word. He would, if he could. His faith does not stand in his own wisdom – it is in God. And God must bring it forth at His set time, and say: *Be not faithless, but believing.* It is the work of God that ye believe. It is in the first beginning, and in after exercise. But God will command this faith. Let God try a man's faith, and how much has he got?

Now, supposing some of you are strong in faith. It is a good thing when it is so. Let God put you into the furnace. God tries His people in the furnace. When God puts you into the furnace, how is it then? Let Him hide His face while you are in the furnace, and how will it be then?

*When (your) faith is sharply tried,
(You) find (yourself) a learner yet,
Unskilful, weak, and apt to slide. (William Cowper)*

Faith is more precious, we read, than gold which perisheth. It will be found unto praise and honour unto Jesus Christ.

*Could we see how all is right,
Where were room for credence?
But by faith, and not by sight,
Christians yield obedience. (Joseph Hart)*

But that faith is of God, and stands in the power of God. Jesus is the Author of it, and the Founder of it. O I wonder if you have a faith that stands in God's wisdom. It will not do if you have not. O how many a professor has found he has a religion that will not do to die by! But God's inheritance have a religion that will do to die by. Though they have solemn exercises about this matter, at evening time it shall be light, and God will break in upon their soul, and give them to realise that He has loved them with an everlasting love, and to show forth His praise, and they pass, it may be, through the river telling the triumphs of their King.

O my dear hearers, let me ask you this question: Have you any reason to believe that you belong to this people, to this inheritance, that the Lord has formed you for Himself to show forth His praise? Some men speak against the sovereignty of God. But *hath not the potter power over the clay... to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? (Romans 9:21)* What we claim for ourselves – that is, men in a state of nature – they do not allow God. But He works His sovereign will, and doeth as it pleaseth Him. There are vessels of honour, and of dishonour. The late John Warburton was once taken into a pottery, and he gazed upon the man as he worked, and said: "Hath not the potter power over the clay to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?" He said, "I heard you preach from those words once." Mr Warburton did not know him, nor that the man had ever heard him preach.

There are vessels of mercy, and it is a mercy if you are a vessel of mercy. If you are one of God's inheritance, sooner or later you will have the witness within you that you are the Lord's. I do not mean by that that they are all favoured alike with the same measure of assurance. Some are blessed with greater assurance than others. Some, it is true, are soon brought down and lifted up. With others the work is more gradual, and they wonder if they will ever be able to use the language of full assurance. Hope springs up from time to time. It is a mercy to have a good hope –

*– built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
(You) dare not trust the sweetest frame,
But wholly lean on Jesus' name. (Edward Mote)*

There the soul hangs, on no other refuge. Christ is my Refuge, hangs my helpless soul on Him. Ah, here the soul hangs on the Person of the Son of God. He has redeemed them with His own heart's blood. You are not your own, therefore glorify God in your bodies and spirits, which are His. All we have belongs to Him. I sometimes feel this, most blessedly, I hope: All I have belongs to the Lord, and I desire Him to be magnified in my body. I say, "Here I am, Lord, make use of me."

*Take my body, spirit, soul;
Only Thou possess the whole.*

Let me be spent in Thy service. Is it not well when God claims you?

*Come and claim (me) as Thy portion,
Leave (me) not to empty notion. (William Gadsby)*

It is solemn, friends – let the Holy Ghost test you. If there is something more than another that you dread, it is to be left to empty notion, whilst dead in trespasses and sins, and dead in a profession. I say this is a solemn exercise of soul with the inheritance. And this is the language of the heart in such seasons: *Come and claim me as Thy portion*. I sometimes tell you: Let God lay claim to you, and then you can lay claim to God. When I can say the Lord is my portion, with all that grace and power, I shall then be at home, and be no more. In His favour is life, and there is life in the soul, and the soul lives, must live. Because Christ lives, the soul must live. *I give unto (my sheep) eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. I and my Father are one. (John 10:28,29)* Friends, it is worth a million worlds to have this exercise – *to know my Jesus crucified*. O to belong to His people, willing to serve Him, and to do His will, to live passive in His hand, and know no will but His.

It is indeed good to look to the hole of the pit from whence ye were digged. How He is leading us about, and instructing us in the mystery of iniquity. It is a mercy to be well taught, to be a partaker of the grace of His inheritance in the sons of light. There is an inheritance for the inheritance. God's inheritance have an inheritance reserved for them. Now friends, the Word of God testifies of it. *Begotten again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. (1 Peter 1:3)* You that belong to this inheritance have not yet come to this inheritance. And there are moments when you know what it is to inherit God. Moses said, and I may say to you who are God's inheritance, though you are passing through the wilderness, but have not yet come to this inheritance, yet you are on the way to this inheritance. But God's inheritance are favoured sometimes to anticipate the day when they shall have done with all things here below.

*Amen! so let it be!
Life from the dead is in the word;
'Tis immortality.*

O blessed soul that knows the power of God's grace. O blessed soul that knows something of the solemn exercise of the living in Jerusalem. Blessed soul that is being led by the Spirit of God to see your own ruin. You do not belong to this inheritance if you are not coming through the Lord Jesus Christ. If you are, it will be manifest; there will be that stretching after the things of God from day to day. If there is life, there is hungering and thirsting and desire after the Person of the Son of God. And your treasure is His precious blood. And for the rest, you desire to have that frame which He thinks best. O what an unspeakable mercy to have the grace of God in exercise in the soul. And if you have, the world will hate you. There must be a difference between you. We are in this world, but as I have told you more than once, I could not live here always. Give me to see my standing in the Person of the Son of God, and give me His smiles, make me fruitful, ripen me for heaven, and take me home. Can you say the same, that this world is nothing to you? The older I get, the more I feel, friends, that there is nothing worth living for – only to be found serving God, and doing His will. This is the desire of my heart: to be found walking uprightly in the service of God, and if it be His will that I go through tribulation – then I am willing. To be afflicted in body and mind, to be made acceptable to the living family of God. If we be afflicted it is for your consolation. I say: Lord, Thy will be done, and to Thy name shall be all the praise. Amen.

Afternoon Sermon

Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary. (Psalm 68:9)

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. There is no nation like that nation whose God is the Lord, no nation that has God so nigh unto them in all they call upon Him for, whose God is the Lord. And the people He hath chosen for His inheritance – God's nation is a blessed nation, His inheritance is a blessed inheritance. We are satisfied of it – I do not know if you are. Even when I cannot feel myself among His inheritance, I am satisfied His inheritance is a blessed inheritance.

*'Tis well with them while life endure,
And well when called to die. (John Kent)*

God has chosen His inheritance, and He has a right to do as pleaseth Him. Some men will not allow God to do as He likes. I say – I speak it with reverence – our God has a right to do as pleaseth Him with His own. And mark this, whether men allow it or not, He doeth as pleaseth Him.

*In heaven, and earth, and air, and seas,
He executes His firm decrees;
And by His saints it stands confessed,
That what He does is ever best. (Benjamin Beddome)*

God's people justify Him. I do not believe any man will get to heaven unless he justifies God. The dying thief justified Him when on the cross. It is true he reviled Him with the other thief, until God took him in hand. Who could have taken him in hand but God? And who is to convince him that one of those two crucified with him was God? And God did convince him, and showed him that He was God. And so he said to the other thief: *Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward for our deeds; but this man hath done nothing amiss. (Luke 23:40,41)* And he has not a word to say against Him – that this man, this God-man, this Christ of God, He hath done nothing amiss, never did, never can. And every child of God will say feelingly at times: *My Jesus hath done all things well.* And when we get to heaven:

*Among the rest this note shall swell,
My Jesus hath done all things well. (Samuel Medley)*

It is an unspeakable mercy to know anything of the power of God, the grace of God, the peace of God. It is a mercy to know anything of the leading and teaching of God the Holy Ghost, and to be put at times among God's inheritance. Let me ask you this question – I like to put solemn questions to my hearers – Has God ever put you among His inheritance? Have you ever asked Him? Is this the desire of your heart, that He will put you among His inheritance? O what a mercy if He has put you among His inheritance. And if He has not, what a mercy if you are seeking His face to put you among His inheritance. I remember as a lad I used to look upon the people of God as angels. But I have found out they are not. Friends, the old man of sin is still there. *That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John 3:6)* Well, what I was about to say was this: I used to look upon them as the favourites of heaven, and this was the desire of my heart:

*With them numbered may I be,
Now, and through eternity.*

And oftentimes has it been since:

*Blest are the saints who sit on high,
Around the throne of majesty;
Thy brightest glories shine above,
And all their work is praise and love. (Isaac Watts)*

*With them numbered may I be,
Now, and through eternity.*

Perhaps you would like to be numbered with them in eternity, but not in this time. Sinner, is it so? Would you like to have all the pleasures of sin, and afterwards be numbered with the saints in glory? That can never be. O what would heaven be to an ungodly man, a sinner that does not want God? It is irksome to some to spend one hour in the house of God. What would heaven be to them? It would be a hell to them, if I may put it in this manner. Flesh and blood cannot inherit incorruption. There must be a change, be born again, and know something of the power of His grace, and be formed for God Himself to show forth His praise. I have sometimes felt this, friends, and expressed it before the Lord: "O God, at any cost do make me one of Thine. I am willing to go through tribulation."

One of our friends put it very solemnly in his prayer this afternoon. He asked the Lord to deal with him in a very solemn way and manner, that he would know the power of His grace. We would have trial here, and heaven afterwards. I have seen persons in affliction, such affliction as has caused me to tremble, so to speak, and they have told me this: they would not with the world exchange. No, they would not with the world exchange. But that man, that woman, has something the world knows nothing of, the peace of God which passeth all understanding, a little of heaven below. He does not give us two heavens, but He gives us a taste of that heaven which is prepared for His people. So then, God's inheritance is a blessed inheritance, a sanctified inheritance, a justified inheritance. O what a blessed inheritance is God's inheritance!

Let us pass on to notice this. Though it is God's inheritance, sometimes it is wearying – the seeker is weary, that soul that knows the power of God is weary. Weary! O how weary sometimes we are! One has put it something like this – and at times it has been the very feeling of my heart:

*Weary of earth, myself, and sin,
Dear Jesus, set me free,
And to Thy glory take me in,
For there I long to be. (Samuel Medley)*

Now, you will find that God's people who have gone before know something of this weariness. Job said he was weary of his life. See what God did – He took away all that Job had. And the psalmist speaks of being weary. Jeremiah also, he was weary. And the apostle Paul speaks of weariness. And

the saints of God in all ages have known something of what it is to be weary. God's people have to tread the path of sorrow, and trial, and affliction, and temptation, and as they tread this path, and walk this way, oftentimes it may be they are weary – weary of trial, temptation, tribulation, earth and sin.

Well, when God's people are weary, they need confirmation. You know, the devil takes advantage then. Let it be dark, and the beasts of the forest come forth. And the child of God knows what it is for the devil to be busy in such seasons. *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. (1 Peter 5:8)* And sometimes, friends, it seems as though Satan is about to devour. He cannot devour, but he is determined to annoy. And the poor child of God begins to wonder where the scene will end. Do you know anything of this path? Are you parched up in soul feeling? If you are, then you will know what it is to feel your need of heaven, and of something from God. *My soul thirsteth after God, for the living God. (Psalm 42:2)* *Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. (Psalm 107:5)* Do you know what it is, my dear hearers? Do you know, I ask you, in any measure what it is to be weary and thirsty?

Now, there are exceeding great and precious promises in the Word of God, and all these will be fulfilled in the experience of the redeemed. He hath promised, and He will fulfil. You will not be tempted beyond what you are able to bear. He will come down as the dew. Sometimes He will come down as the rain, as showers which water the earth. He will then come down that He may confirm His inheritance when it is weary. You look at the figure. You see the springing up of the grass after the rain has come down upon it. There is the mown grass, for instance – like rain upon the mown grass. *He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth. (Psalm 72:6)* Now really, it does not seem fully set forth what it intends to set forth. It should be grass that is eaten. You know locusts will eat grass lower down than you can mow it. Well, He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass with refreshing showers of blessing when you are really parched up and dead in soul's feeling, to all appearance dead. It is a mercy that God is a God that raises the dead. Some of you will know what I mean – as if there is no life left. But if there was no life, you would not desire the Lord to refresh you. Well, the Lord has promised that He will *come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.* Sometimes He comes down as the dew. *I will be as the dew unto Israel (Hosea 14:5)* – that is, like the rain there is more blessing comes upon you, a greater blessing, so to speak. And at other times, there is really a shower. And this is that He may confirm your soul in the things He hath done for you. God says in another place: *I will pour water upon him that is thirsty. (Isaiah 44:3)* You know a little water will not be sufficient when the earth is dry. He will, in other words, send a plentiful rain upon him that is thirsty. *When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. (Isaiah 41:17)*

Heaven is a high place, and He pours water from heaven, as we have in the words of our text: *Thou O God, didst send a plentiful rain.* God sends it, God gives it. He opens the windows of heaven, and pours this water, and He confirms them. He pours water upon him that is thirsty. When God fulfils this in the experience of His inheritance, there is a springing up. It must be so, friends. There is a springing up in your heart. The Lord waters you from heaven. And then the earth yields his increase, and there is a springing up. You know what it is, some of you. There is such a springing up as among the grass, as well as by the water courses. *And one shall say, I am the LORD's. (Isaiah 44:5)* That is when there is this plentiful rain. The soul drinks it in, so to speak. He pours it into the weary ones, and there is such a springing up in Zion when this is the case. *I am the LORD's.* God's Spirit bears witness with our spirit. God sends forth a blessed portion of His Word, it comes with life-giving power into the soul, so to speak – a word in season. His doctrine drops as the rain into the soul, and there is the witness with our spirits. *I am the LORD's.*

O my friends, have you ever had this great blessing? My Saviour is mine, and I am His. *I am the LORD's.* I am not my own. He has redeemed me. *I am the LORD's.* The Lord says: Thou art Mine. The soul says: *I am the LORD's,* and walk in the light of God's countenance. *In the light of the king's*

countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain. (Proverbs 16:15) O how sweet this is! It is impossible for any man to put it into words when the Lord gives in the plenitude of His grace, and the soul responds: *I am the LORD's*. I shall never forget this season in my own experience. It was heaven begun below. God gives it, and there is the springing up.

You have not been there, do you say? *Another* – that is when the Lord pours water, perhaps not such a shower as I have mentioned – *another shall call himself by the name of Jacob. (Isaiah 44:5)* You cannot say: *I am the LORD's*, but can you call yourself by the name of Jacob? Or let me put it like this: are you a wrestling Jacob? Can you say the Lord has given you a touch? When that hope sprang up in your heart, you subscribed by the name of Jacob. Yes, it was the finger of God. A wrestling Jacob will become a prevailing Israelite. In His own time, He will answer that prayer. It shall come to pass that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. *And another shall subscribe with his hand unto the LORD, and subscribe himself by the name of Israel.*

You say you believe God is faithful. *He that cometh to God must believe that He is. (Hebrews 11:6)* The Lord will visit the soul just as the soul needs it. He will come as the latter rain. I have sometimes thought that there will be the two rains. And these rains will come, friends. When God begins a work of grace, the rain comes, sooner or later. They only had two rains in the East, that is, two they looked forward to, and I have read this – that it would be impossible to plough the ground until the rain comes. Sometimes, when the rain is delayed, then they call upon God for it. And if the Lord did not send the rain, they would have a drought. If they did not plough when the rain came, it would be no good. So in spite of the rain coming down, they dare not turn back, and when the seed is cast in, the man, he hath long patience, for the Lord to pour the rain upon the corn before it is gathered in. And so there is that rain which comes upon the child of God in the beginning, and that which comes upon him in the latter end. Some of you are waiting for the latter rain.

I shall have to leave the subject, but let me just read one verse to confirm what I have said. *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. (Joel 2:23)* O, when He comes down, and sends the plentiful shower, He will confirm you, and your soul will be confirmed in God's faithfulness, and God's power.

May the Lord add His blessing.