

871
LaD389

LIBRARY OF THE
GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

871

Prayer Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on 23rd. October,
1950

50/B

I s a i a h 2 5

In this chapter the Prophet is giving praise and exalting the Lord God because of His judgments and wonderful works, and this is under a favoured sense of covenant interest in the mercy of God in his own case for he says, "O, Lord, thou art my God and I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things, thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." He proceeds evidently to say how God by His great power has brought judgment upon the enemies of His people, laid them waste, made their cities a ruin and in so doing has been the defender and deliverer of His people. He is here referred to as their refuge, their strength, their protector, and God has proved Himself to be this many times in the experience of His people and on a number of occasions in the history of His ancient Israel.

But the chapter also holds forth very gracious encouragement to those who are looking for His coming, as conforming with that promise in the Hebrews where the Apostle says, "unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto Salvation". So that those who believe in Him, have waited for Him, looked unto Him and put their trust in Him, may be assured that He will appear to their joy. That day will come when they shall say "this is the Lord; we have waited for Him, we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation". When that Salvation is brought into the soul in experience it is a fulfilling of the Lord's gracious promise. But there will be a day when His people who have looked for His appearing will unitedly rejoice in the open evidence and manifestation of His great Salvation. All who are truly waiting for Him now will see that day, if indeed their heart is set upon His appearing, if they are enabled by His grace to look alone to Him, to make Him their refuge and their Hiding Place. He will swallow up death in victory, Paul writes to the Corinthians of this, of the resurrection of the saints

"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory", and actually this was so when the Lord Jesus Christ Himself as the great Head of His Church rose triumphant from the dead. Death could not hold Him, death was swallowed up in victory when the mighty stone was rolled away from the sepulchre and the pure, untainted human nature of the Son of God came triumphantly forth. He gained the victory then, He gained the victory representatively too in as much as His resurrection is an earnest of the resurrection unto eternal life of the bodies of all His people. For He is the first fruits. "Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that slept".

What a wonderful mercy it will be if we are found among those who have part in the first resurrection. Life here is attended with uncertainty; we cannot tell what a day or an hour may bring forth. Death comes suddenly and sometimes unexpectedly. Even last evening Mr. Leigh Hunt who has at times attended here, who was one time editor of the magazine "Peace and Truth", was taken ill during a service in St. Peter's Church and died. (Most of you will know him I feel sure.) He was a man of God, and one who had, I feel persuaded, a saving knowledge of the Gospel in his soul, and that being so what a wonderful exchange that was for him, "Absent from the body, present with the Lord". I shall miss him, for I enjoyed his company and greatly respected his friendship. Many are being taken from the church on earth and all is as a voice to us "Be ye also ready" for after all that is the great thing, to feel we are in a right way and upon a good foundation that our peace is made with God so that whether the summons shall come suddenly or otherwise or by what ever condition, it will be well with us as we know it will be with all who fear God.