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Prayer Meeting Address by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer" Clapham on  
21st. October, 1950

Isaiah 41

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GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

These chapters give proof of the vanity of all idolatrous worship, of departing from God, and seeking unto ourselves, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. It also brings before us the blessedness that pertains to those, who by the grace of God, cleave to Him, serve Him, trust in Him and keep His commandments.

The Lord speaks very tenderly unto His people here, very reassuringly, in spite of all their fears and misgivings about their own case and their apprehensions about the future or things that may press heavily upon them. It is a great thing for any of us to really feel the support of God's grace, power and guidance in our lives, our circumstances, and more particularly in our souls, and in as much as this word may have a spiritual application to the living in Zion, we can trace a three fold promise of God unto His people.

There is a promise of help in times of need whereby we are first exhorted to put our confidence and trust in the faithfulness and power of our God. We are not to fear, "Fear not", is the word here, be not dismayed. "I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee", it is wonderful to feel that, especially when weakness is upon us in different ways, to feel spiritually that comfort and strength in the heart, a promise, or some token from the Lord that He will not leave or forsake us, this will enable us to look with a single eye to Him, to confide in Him, and to believe that we shall have strength equal to our day.

Then there is a promise in verse 17 that He will regard prayer under extreme conditions, "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". It describes an extreme condition, literally speaking, when the tongue faileth for thirst, I the Lord will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them". It describes an extreme

condition, literally speaking when the tongue faileth there is very little strength left, life is at a very low ebb and one in such a case is very near to death. But in this condition, spiritually, God has promised to regard His people when they seek Him, and will deliver them in their distress.

There is also a promise of provision for the people of God in the wilderness. "I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys", not I will open rivers in the valleys where rivers usually run, in the low lands, and fountains springing from the mountain side, but rivers in high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys. He would, as it were, overturn the ordinary course of nature to supply their needs. It is a great thing to know God, to have merciful dealings with Him, to have communications from Him, and being exercised to have a sentence as the voice of God in the heart speaking a confirming word. This is very great, very sweet. "Therefore, behold I will allure her and bring her into a wilderness and will speak comfortably unto her". Oh may the Lord grant us such favours as these, that we may not only know Him to be our God but may live upon His grace and strength, His word and promise, and be thereby sustained and brought well through to our journey's end.