

906
LaD389

LIBRARY OF THE
GOSPEL STANDARD BAPTISTS

906

Prayer Meeting Address given by Mr. J. Delves at "Ebenezer", Clapham,
on 23rd. February, 1957

Hymns: 82, 259

Reading: Psalm 20 57/D

This is an expressive Psalm, said to be a Psalm of David. It is evidently a prayer for himself as king, that the Lord would hear him in the day of trouble. So David had his days of trouble, as, more or less, it is appointed to the Lord's people in this wilderness. We find it written: "The Lord is good, a strong-hold in the day of trouble; and He knoweth them that put their trust in Him". How sweet it is when "God is known in her palaces for a refuge" and when the strength and security of that refuge is experimentally felt and enjoyed in a time of trouble.

Many of you have known a time of trouble, but what a wonderful thing to experience the faithfulness of God in such a time, and moreover to see prayer answered. For what can we say of the many prayers that are often put up here before the Throne of Grace? We have to say, as in this Psalm, "The Lord fulfil all thy petitions." The Psalmist prayed for help from the sanctuary and to be strengthened out of Zion. O how many times the Lord's people have received help from the sanctuary! In the margin it is rendered "Send Thy help from the sanctuary". Indeed the sanctuary of God, where His people meet together for worship, has often been a place where help has been received from God, where the soul has been revived, refreshed, strengthened; and some have been enabled by the help received to go on their way.

How does God help His people from the sanctuary? Is it not by using the means of His appointment? Not that He is dependent upon this, but His appointments are to be observed. They were once more honoured than they are, generally speaking in these days; but sometimes He may send help by a prayer or a hymn, or occasionally it may be by a sermon read or preached. Has not this been the case here and there? May the Lord, of His great mercy, grant it again and send help from the sanctuary, and fulfil our petitions in this time of need.

Then as enabled, we shall go on to verse 5 - "We will rejoice in thy salvation." This is not a separate matter from the 'time of trouble' for many a child of God has rejoiced in God in a day of trouble; had some very sweet times; been enabled to rejoice in His salvation; found their meditation of Him to be sweet. So, though at times there may be severe conflict, a tempting enemy and darkness spread around our tent, yet He is the God of Jacob, an unfailling God. We change often in our feelings and are now up, now down; but it is a mercy to have a little feeling, to have a feeling religion, which is a very different thing from a religion of feeling. What a mercy to get a touch from God, to feel strengthened out of Zion, to prove that underneath are the everlasting arms! There is matter for joy then. The Apostle Peter speaks of this. "Wherein we greatly rejoice, though now for a season we are in heaviness through manifold temptations." The ground for joy remains just the same.

"Rejoice ye saints in every state;
Divine decrees remain unmoved.
No turns of providence abate
God's care for those He once has loved."

How sweet to feel that and to come up from the wilderness leaning upon our Beloved.

"We will rejoice in Thy salvation." What a wonderful Gospel it is when the love of God is shed abroad in the heart, when a sight of Christ is given, when faith sees 'Jesus only' and is enabled to hold fast and prove the promise true. "In the name of our God we will set up our banners." We will own God, acknowledge that this God is our God, who has done great things for us. His banner is a banner of love over His people. "He brought me to the banqueting house and His banner over me was love." His dear people can set up their banners in the name of their God. We will follow Him, serve Him, render praise and thanksgiving unto Him, lift up our banners. "The Lord fulfil all thy petitions". May the Lord, in His great mercy, do this for us even this evening, so that it may be profitable for us to spend a short time waiting upon Him in the sanctuary.

Further reading Psalm 23