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Morning Sermon MS 77

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Sermon preached by Mr J K Popham
at Galeed Chapel Brighton
on Sunday evening 25 November 1934

Isaiah 49 v 6

"And He said it is a light thing that Thou shouldest be
My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give Thee
for a light to the Gentiles, that Thou mayest be My salvation
unto the end of the earth".

A very gracious, blessed, full word, "and He", God the Father. "Herein is love not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins" (1 John 4 v 10) If we are taught of the Spirit there will be times when that eternal fountain of all grace - God, will be manifested to us, and we shall thank Him. And He said to His only begotten Son - a great word - that Son, being His servant, that Son willingly becoming His Father's servant, He said, I will prepare a body for Thee, and in the fulness of time that took place, and the virgin mother gave birth to Jesus. Made of a woman, the mysterious, miraculous work of God, and He said go into the world, and be My salvation to the end of the earth. He put all grace into His Son. When Jesus was born there came into the world the only begotten Son in our nature, full of grace and truth. That grace the Apostle Paul speaks of, saying of God the Father, "who hath saved us and called us with a holy calling not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began". If the Holy Ghost should give any of us here now, or at any time, that beautiful light in which we shall see God the Father speaking to His Son, giving Him a revelation, telling Him what to say, and what to do, and then to see the Son assuming the prepared body, receiving the Spirit without measure, coming to do the will of God, and then to see the Holy Ghost coming into Christ, the Man Jesus, without measure, qualifying, helping Him in the trouble and difficulties (I use that word, not that there were difficulties with Christ, except that He was a Man of sorrows and

acquainted with grief)we shall see the Holy Trinity, and I believe that it is among the most blessed moments of the life of a child of God, to get a faith's view of the Trinity in salvation. It sanctifies us, it humbles us, it exalts God, it makes Him precious, the chiefest among ten thousand and the altogether lovely. "And He said". May the Lord help us to follow this, it is so beautiful. We are carried back to eternity and to the Council of Peace there and each person in the Trinity, entering into communion with respect to the election of grace, and with respect also to the whole world, what should happen, what should become of nations, and what of individuals, and what of ourselves. It will alleviate our minds, it will sanctify us in our affections. What did He say to Jesus? "It is a light thing that Thou shouldest be My servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and restore the preserved of Israel." When Christ came, was he welcomed? No! He came unto His own and His own received Him not. Truly, if one may so express it, truly a type of our treatment of Him. We did not want Him. I did not, you did not. I am found of them that sought me not. He came unto His own and His own received Him not. They hated Him, persecuted Him, said to Him thou hast a devil, called Him a gluttonous man and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. This Jesus, this holy, blessed Person, He had comparatively few converts, few friends, during His life here. And after His resurrection one hundred and twenty names numbered the first gospel church meeting, not in a well lit and comfortable chapel, but in an upper room. Think of it 120 was all that Jesus had manifest. At one time 500 brethren saw Him after His resurrection but so far as a body there was just that number and no others, 120 names and these were all among the preserved of Jacob and Israel. It was a light thing as it were, a comparatively small matter, as compared with what was to follow. Let us look a little at this as enabled. I will also give Thee for a light to the Gentiles, that Thou mayest be My salvation unto the ends of the earth. This expresses God's purpose concerning Gentiles, concerning their being called with an effectual call, an invincible work in their hearts. Light. "Truly the light is sweet and it is a pleasant thing for the eyes to behold the sun." This is the testimony concerning God "God is

light and in Him is no darkness at all". A pure, beautiful light. We receive our light from the sun and it is beautiful in itself and if the light of life, which is Jesus Christ, should come and shine into our hearts, we shall be favoured.

Well let us look at this. I will give Thee for a light to the Gentiles. When the light comes and shines into the heart it is a discovering light. "Whatsoever doth make manifest is light" and the discovery is remarkable. You find millions today saying "Good Lord have mercy on us miserable sinners," yet you might go to numberless houses where the inhabitants have said that, finding them at their games and their cards. They are not miserable sinners. They have had no light to discover to them what they confess with their lips. Now, when the true light shines, it makes a true discovery, and the man who has it sees what he is. But the first discovery, I believe, that a man has by the true light is he sees the fountain, He sees God. You will never know what a crooked, wicked, defiled person you are until in some degree you see who and what God is, a great thing. It is a remarkable discovery, it carries with it immediately a view of the sinner. When he sees God, then he sees himself. When he sees God then he believes in God; then he believes that he is a sinner; then he knows that there is nothing right in him. And though this may not be powerful at the beginning, it will grow. Everyone knows that. It grows, the light increases. In the morning our sun rises in the east, and his rays are bent to the west, and we get just the dawn of day. The light increases until midday the meridian comes, the fulness of light. So gradually the light comes into the heart and makes discoveries of God then of sin. Then the sinner realises what he is. Oh it is so easy to be religious, but it is so solemn to be quickened by the light of life, to have your eyes opened to see God, what He is, to realise your state and to see that you cannot help yourself, that you cannot do what you would. This light is very searching. All the corners, all the cupboards with leaven, and all the places where you would hide are more or less gradually discovered, opened to your view, and your pride, and everything that is wrong sooner or later, not all at once, but sooner or later God discovers to you. We could not bear it all at once. As we could not bear much of

the glory of Christ at one moment, so we could not bear a full discovery of our ruined condition. I thought I got a good view of God and myself - when I say good, I mean a real view - at the beginning and O how little it was compared with what I have had since. Do not ^{be} discouraged if you find somebody showing that your convictions are not so deep as theirs. You leave off judging yourselves by others. Go according to the shining in into your own hearts of the light of life. With God is the fountain of life. In Thy light shall we see light. What is this light for, to discover only sin? No! To show only a hell that we deserve? No! To show us the sword of justice only? No! As it comes from God it surely leads the soul up to God and then Jesus is seen. Oh what a sight. When you see Him by faith, as in every respect meeting your need of salvation, then you will follow that light. Then you will know, as it is promised - "Then shall we know if we follow on to know the Lord". Now here again I would say this is more or less gradual, but in proportion to the inshining, so is faith, and so are the exercises of the soul. A little light affects you, a little more affects you still more, as you see the Lord Jesus, the suitableness of His Person. Let me dwell for a moment on His sacred humanity. God has never revealed Himself in holy scripture just in His absolute deity, never immediately but always mediately, has He discovered Himself. He said to Moses thou canst not see My face and live. Thou canst not see Jehovah just in His holy, eternal being, but thou shalt see Me in the Mediator. I will give Thee for a light. The light shall shine through that sacred humanity. This raises a soul into a hope, this gives sobriety of mind, this gives a sinner to follow on to know the Lord. May we see that blessed Person Jesus "Thou shalt call His Name Jesus". All the light of life is in Him, all the grace of God is in Him, all the love of God is in Him, all the patience of God is in Him. All the salvation of God is in Him.

"I will give Thee for a light of the Gentiles", a light that discovers love - the love of God. "Herein is love not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son into the world". What for? That we might live through Him. When you get this sight your cries will be very strong. "Say unto my soul I am thy salvation". And you will never be content until you get the

answer. Friends may try to help you, to comfort you, but you will find you will never be able to rest on anything but that one blessed word. "I am thy salvation". It may not be these letters, but it will be that matter. It may be some scripture, it may be a line of a hymn, it may be a sentence in a sermon, but it will always be that matter. - Thy salvation.

This light penetrates, it reaches every doubt, and scatters it, every question and answers all. It reaches the infidel and makes a believer of him. It reaches the poor, guilty creature, and brings justification to him. It reaches the weak soul and strengthens him. It reaches the ignorant sinner and teaches him. It reaches a man who is far off, and brings him nigh. "You that were far off are made nigh" Nigh in Christ, nigh through Christ by the Holy Ghost.

A light to show you the path that no fowl knoweth, that the vulture's eye hath not seen. It shows you a way to walk in the path of tribulation. One versed in the scripture says - I know the way to walk, the Bible tells me so. Very true, the Bible does tell us how to walk but you wont walk in that light safely. You may walk presumptuously in that Bible light. You make a bad use of the Bible then. But when one in affliction, perplexity, doubt and fear has a bright inshining which he cannot describe, he perceives by faith the way to walk, to submit himself to God, to cast himself on the mercy of God, to wait on God. To wait is wait, not to attempt to give Him counsel, but to wait for counsel, and to wait in such a way as that his soul says "My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning, I say more than they that watch for the morning". And that soul walks in the path that no fowl knoweth. He is afraid of taking a wrong step, he asks to be guided, he worships God in affliction, and perhaps occasionally he gets a sense of the love of God. He cannot express it, it comes into his soul like a river, a river of peace. It comes as a strength to strenthen him, it strengthens his feeble knees, it lifts up his hanging down hands, and enables him to say I wait for the Lord. To such, if there be such here, in this beautiful light, you will hardly need me to say to you, walk as well as you can, fearful of turning aside, in

that blessed light. I know just a little of what I say. It is a safe shining. It is not a false light. It is not a false liberty. It is not a false confidence. It is a humbling, a trembling movement of a living soul after God, and this is certain to issue in salvation. I have given Thee for a light of the Gentiles, that they may know God and be found in Christ. You take Paul's experience, he knew the scriptures well, he perfectly knew that except his righteousness should exceed the righteousness of the scribes and pharisees he could not enter into the kingdom, but a light shined into his heart and he said - O Christ is more than all religion, more than all the gold and silver in the world, and my soul desires to be found in Him not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, therefore insufficient, but the righteousness which is of God by faith. He walked in that light. Jesus said "I am come a light into the world that whosoever believeth in Me should not walk in darkness". If this light shines in our hearts, it will have several effects. Infallibly, it will have several effects. One is, it will make you afraid of yourself. You will be afraid of trusting in an arm of flesh. It will make you afraid of that disposition which you have, of turning away from God. You will cry "Hold Thou me up and I shall be safe". It will draw you this way. Another effect will be that you will cast yourself unreservedly on the Lord, and all your burdens, and your cares, and your afflictions, and your troubles, you will just cast them all on Him. This light sometimes will carry you to Bunyan's delectable mountains, O what you will see, what you will see in God, the life, the love, the goodness, the blessedness, the bliss that God possesses. You will see Him, you will never be able to describe what you may see in five minutes on these mountains. You are a believer then, and O, it is so pleasant to be there. You would like just to remain there until you enter into glory. It is wonderful to see the blaze of glory that Jesus Christ has. Crowned with many crowns, full of sympathy for afflicted souls, full of power to help them, full of an expectation till all His enemies be made His footstool, full of wisdom to guide the ignorant. What a sight, the priest, our great High Priest, able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him, a king, crowned with many crowns, by whom kings

on earth reign and princes decree justice, a counsellor, saying hearken unto Me, follow Me. Faith getting such a sight is delighted, God becomes the dread and fear and the delight of the soul. If you have never had this, you wont pretend to it as you are honest, but you will wish for it, and the end - I must just say a few words - the end of it "that Thou mayest be My salvation unto the end of the earth" - so far is the gospel to extend. That is one explanation of the word that all the earth is to be full of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. But it will come to you as one whom God will save. You will want it in your own soul. While you may be praying that the kingdom of God may come and be extended, you will be saying O let that salvation come into my soul. Well, when it comes you know it. You cannot be doubting when you know it. Your soul is persuaded of it. Why? Christ has come, That thou, My servant, My Son, Thou in whom the Spirit is without measure, Thou the fullest possible expression of the love of God, that Thou mayest be My salvation. Christ is the Saviour and He is salvation, salvation from hell, and salvation from that which merits hell, sin. Salvation from trouble that brings rebellion, and salvation from self confidence which God rejects. Salvation from self wisdom, which would lead you astray, salvation in every respect in which it is needed. It covers the whole case and you feel it; it covers you. Righteousness covers you, light surrounds you and fills you, love melts you, goodness leads you to repentance, and all these things are in this word salvation. And God says to Jesus Thou must be, Thou shall be, My decreed salvation. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Having predestinated us unto it. Having predestinated us unto what? The adoption of sons unto Himself by Jesus Christ. O what a salvation there is here. It does not end with, and in time. It carries the soul into heaven and there to the full, and for ever, is the song sung "Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory" Yes, glory for ever and ever. Well might John say "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" because then they get the full, the fulness of the word, of the blessing, "Salvation - O the joyful sound to malefactors doomed

to die. And some of you may be saying Lord may this bliss in me
be found, may I redeeming grace enjoy.