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Sermon Preached at Uckfield March 8th 1974 by Mr R S Jupp

“Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty; they shall behold the land that is very far off.” Isaiah 33 v 17.

Dear friends, this blessed and sacred promise is written in the future tense; it is something that the Lord will be pleased to verify at the time appointed to all those who by His grace fear His name. We have the character portrayed in the context, because, as you will observe by what is written, that this is expressly for those who fear God; and in addition to this I feel there is the promise of the supply of all their needs in providence and in grace that is to be bestowed upon them as we have it in verse 16; those that fear God will by His grace “dwell on high, their place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks.” That is to say, defence, security, and help, and support will be bestowed upon them in every way that the Lord sees that they need; and also, that his bread shall be given him - that is, the bread that perishes, and the bread which cometh down from heaven will be given him, and in addition his waters shall be sure. These waters of course could be spoken of in connection with the gospel of God’s grace flowing from the fountain head, and it is this that is promised.

Now we must, if helped, speak a little concerning the King who is mentioned here, the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Dear friends, He is the blessed potentate, King of Kings, and Lord of lords; He is the King in Zion. Now it is but little that we have any gracious knowledge and understanding of this King. But what a mercy it will be if we are favoured at the consummation of our earthly pilgrimage to see with the eyes of the soul this King of glory; to see Him without a veil between; to be in His immediate presence. But, my friends, I do feel this, that there is a perception given of Him by faith in this time state, just a little view. Now faith has eyes, and faith has ears, and faith has hands, and the influence of living faith communicated by the Spirit of God by God Himself is the vehicle that does bring into the soul some of the benefits concerning Jesus Christ. I like the language of your first hymn (737) very much. What a wonderful experience is set forth there of peace, consolation, and a sense of the love of Christ, in that the realisation of the thoughts of the Lord toward one are thoughts of peace and not of evil. But, my friends, how true it is that our nature, the things pertaining to it, is subdued by sovereign grace, unmerited, invincible discriminate grace is underneath it all; the grace that flows from the Trinity in unity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in complete union toward the vessels of mercy.

Now, my friends, in three particular ways I believe there is a seeing of the King in His beauty. First by faith, secondly, by the soul in eternal glory; thirdly, at the great resurrection morning, then with their bodily eyes they will behold the King in His beauty. So, it is sensible sinners, who are made so by the teaching of the Spirit, they are brought to realise their need of Jesus, and to whom Jesus is essentially precious to their souls. Precious first in the want of Him, in the desire after Him, His presence, His smile, His love, and His favours resting upon the soul.

Now it may have been that the Lord has favoured some of you a little in this particular sense of the word, that He has opened your eyes, and He taken away the scales from your eyes, and the veil from your heart, whereby you have seen this first, and you see a little by faith. To verify this remark, to speak of it more expressly, it is a little gracious enlightenment of the heart and mind to see where salvation is, that it is in Jesus. And, dear friends, I feel this is to be spoken in the way that is somewhat different to a theological knowledge of the truth. There is a certain power and unction that attends a little divine revelation of Christ whereby He is made precious, and whereby you behold a little of His beauty. And when you are favoured to behold a little of His beauty it has several effects that are produced upon the heart. We have one recounted here in this same prophecy, which produced a profound effect; Isaiah had a vision of the Lord in His glory. He discovered this when he had a little view of the beauty and grandeur of this King, he said, "Woe is me; for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts." To illustrate the point, it is like this, the same as you can see sun shining upon a cloud, and when the sun shines upon it it looks so black. Now let a little of the beauty, a little of the glory of this King, shine into a poor sinner's heart, it has the same effect, dear friends, we see our vileness. We do. And I do believe this, this is the way the Lord is pleased to give repentance of an evangelical nature and character to these poor sinners.

Now just a few words then concerning the beauty of this King. There is a beauty in the truth concerning Jesus; it has an attraction to your heart. It is like a magnet, it draws you out after it. And it also, when it is influenced, has a deadening effect with regard to the world while it lasts. I do not mean that one who fears God is always favoured to become separated and dead to the world, but my dear friends, I do believe it has this effect upon the heart in measure; there is a subduing of our carnal appetite, of our carnal mind, the lusts of the eyes, the lusts of the flesh, and instead the love of the Way, the Truth, and the Life. O how essential this is, my friends really, because Christ is the foundation of a sinner's hope, Christ and His work of salvation in all its completeness, fulness, and blessedness: His atonement, and glorious righteousness,(that you have been singing of (109) You see there is a beauty, there is an excellency, it shines, as it were, into this sinner's heart and case; because this is exactly what they feel to need, a poor, black, vile sinner needs clothing, and healing, and hence the atonement becomes beautiful, sacredly so, to the soul: and there is a seeking by His Spirit and grace an application of the atonement. They want to feel the effects and virtue of the atonement. O my friends, how blessed is the atonement, the fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness. Now some of you have seen this, and some of you I believe have tasted a little of the efficacy of the atonement, because it has helped your wounds, has driven away your fears, and also it has bestowed upon you a sense of blood bought pardon, peace, and consolation, communion, and fellowship with the Lord of life and glory for a few moments on the earth.

“Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty.” I want to speak reverently, but I do believe this, there is a being brought to esteem Jesus Christ – fall in love with Him in all those things that belong to Him; you love His people, you love His ways. Yes. Now my friends, to have a little of this in our heart is an unspeakable mercy. Prize the privileges that have been bestowed upon you. “Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty.” There is this beauty of His relationship to the church. Yes, a relationship to the church; He is the mediator, the surety, the advocate, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace: The government shall be upon His shoulder, the government of the whole universe; the government of the church of God, and even the government of men! He governs; circumstances He governs. Yes He does!

“Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty.” Do you feel at times a longing, and a hungering, and a thirsting to behold His beauty as you hear these things set forth from time to time in the ministry of the word? Perhaps at present you feel to be outside, some of you, outside of this, you really cannot honestly and truthfully say you see this beauty in Him, but you believe it, you believe it is true, and you do long to be favoured by the Spirit to view a little of His beauty. Now He is like a magnet, He draws. He draws the soul up to Himself. And I do believe that some of the language, though it is very sacred, that is to be found in the Song of Solomon is applicable to such a soul, “Let Him kiss me with the kisses of His mouth.” For, “His mouth is most sweet.” “Draw me.” O my friends, some of us in our declining days, we have come to that state that that is our prayer; we want the Spirit of the Lord to draw us. ‘Draw me to Thyself, and draw me away from all forbidden toil and care. Draw me, we will run after thee.’ Yes, you run after Him in desire, Christ is precious to you. Now if this is so, it is because you have become a believer on Christ. You will become a believer into Christ presently. You have become a believer on Christ for salvation.

Now I want to speak kindly, affectionately to you, you are safe but not sound, as in Mr Hart’s hymn 234. You are safe for eternity because in this sense if you by His Spirit and grace have had that work accomplished which is a necessary work, which signifies this, all your fleshly hopes have been slain and been removed, and Christ has been laid in your heart the hope of glory, the foundation of your hope is on Christ and Him crucified; I say that you are safe, but you are not sound. That is, to explain this, it means you have not yet been brought into gospel liberty, and you do not realise at present that which your soul has been longing for. The same as it was with Simeon when the Lord was pleased to give him that wonderful sacred time and also occasion when Christ was brought into the temple, and Simeon took Him up in his arms – took Him up – he embraced Him as his Lord and Saviour, and his Redeemer. Now this is what you are longing for. It is. But you see a little of His beauty, there has been a hope raised up in your soul, a hope that that time will come.

“The time of love will come,
When we shall clearly see,
Not only that Christ shed His Blood,
But each shall say, For me. (330)

Now there is a beauty in this, is there not? "Thou art all fair, my love, there is no spot in thee." O I feel if only we could be favoured to be brought to that spot and place, the beautiful robe of righteousness put upon us, imputed to us – there is imputation and impartation of that righteousness, my friends. Christ's obedience put to our account; our transgressions transferred to Him. We believe the doctrine that this has been accomplished, but it is in experience, the sense of it, that you know what a beautiful robe of righteousness it is. It is a garment that is illustrated in this particular way, it will never fade; it is a garment that has no seams in it. Ps. 45 will give us some intimation of the blessedness of having upon us this righteousness, "Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and forget thy father's house: so shall the King greatly desire thy beauty." You see the Lord looks upon His people in and through Christ, and He beholds the inward beauty. "For He is thy Lord, and worship thou Him." Then He says, "The King's daughter is all glorious within, her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework; the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter the King's palaces." This of course in its entirety will be fulfilled in eternity. Yes, "Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty." Now you have just a passing glimpse, you see Him in His Word sometimes. If you see Jesus in His Word, that will make the Word of God precious to you, you will value that above every other book. Not that there is anything wrong in reading godly literature, God forbid, but this Book will have the pre-eminence, you will be seeking in this record your case revealed, and your union to Him, it will be like "Apples of gold in pictures of silver."

And there is a beauty also in drawing near at the throne of grace at times, such a beauty, especially when you feel the ear of sovereign grace is listening to your complaints; when you feel a measure of gracious access to the throne, a little pouring out of your soul. And in addition to this I do believe there are just a few moments when your hope is concentrated on Christ and His finished work, and then it extends itself beyond the grave. "Thou shalt behold the land" that heavenly land, the land of hope and glory and peace. I do believe there is for a few moments at times a heavenly longing, a willingness to depart this life in the day of His power, to be where Jesus is. Oh, beloved friends, what are the saints enjoying in glory in the immediate presence of this King! Some of you have lost your dear ones; you have a good, sweet hope that at the time appointed, though it is greatly contested, greatly opposed, at times, yet you have a hope that day will come when He will call you hence from this time state, and you will see this King in His beauty. Oh, His smiling countenance, His lovely face! Saints adore Him; the angelic hosts praise Him, when those things we read of in the Revelation concerning the heavenly state of felicity, joy, and peace will be entered into for ever and ever. "Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty."

I feel that there is something before some of you before long, the Lord will sever the brittle thread of your life, and He will call you hence to behold Jesus, to be with Him. O my friends, we must die to speak of Christ. "Living tongues are dumb at best, we must die to speak of Christ." Does this soften your heart at times? Does it not work and operate in this way at

times, to cause tears to flow in hope, in expectation of the time of your departure? All fears are removed. We are the subject of slavish fears. I am, my friends, I often fear death, I fear often, and my flesh does not want to walk this way, but it has to. But I hope there have been moments when there has been a spiritual longing. And I believe it seems as if there is something within that would leap out of your body to be present with the Lord.

Now dear friends, there is a beholding the land that is very far off. Now to you it is so near. Faith brings distant things near. Now after this you may feelingly come into that place and condition where you are so far off. You have seen it by faith, but the vision, the revelation, has been withdrawn, withdrawn from you, and perhaps you feel now farther off than ever. But you are not. You are not. Every moment, poor soul, brings you nearer to where you long to be. I believe there are moments when you long to depart and be with Christ when He draws near. It does not signify that He speaks every time he draws near. Do you know what it is to have some discernment bestowed upon you whereby you have some feeling that He is hovering around you, He is near to you? But you could not say always that you have got Him, that He is in your heart, but He draws nigh. Well now, that signifies to me that you are a vessel of mercy that you are in the covenant of God's grace, because He never draws near but to His own blood bought people. You may say to me, 'I am not satisfied with this, I want an indeed blessing. I want Him in my heart, formed there the hope of glory.' But now look, if you have the love of Christ shed abroad in your poor heart, you have the indwelling of God by His Spirit. You know these things are very deep, very profound, very far reaching. It may take several years in experience to realise this. But this is holy truth.

"Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty." So it is spoken in positive terms. That is what I like about the Word of God, there is no maybe, everything is graciously determined, graciously decreed. "Thou shalt see." Although you are the subject of much unbelief, and the buffetings of sin and Satan, and the tossings to and fro, and ups and downs, thou shalt see the King. Not in His terror, not in His justice, no, not in condemnation, but with an approval, - His smile. Yes. O how valuable this is, how blessed it is. Now sometimes we see Him through the lattice, the lattice of His word and the cross-handed dispensations of God we see him through the lattice. How true it is, "He standeth behind our wall." Does He not? What is that wall? Our sins and transgressions. Sometimes the wall is so high, so mountainous. He stands behind it. But that wall presently will be broken down. Now I have seen this in this light, if you see a loved one through the lattice, through a window, or through a door, and perhaps you had not seen them for a long time - yes, you see them, your heart will go out toward them. You would not be satisfied with this, you would want the window or whatever it was that separated you, to be taken away, broken down, in so much you might be favoured to embrace one another. Now you know that naturally. O that you could be so very favoured. I believe you will some of you, if you have not already been able to say, "My beloved is mine, and I am His." To have a feeling sense of union to Jesus Christ; joined to Him by true and living faith, to partake of the sap and virtue of the stem. "Thine eyes shall see the King in His beauty." I feel that you will have this realisation that it is

Christ you want above everything else. I hope some time back the Lord was revealed to me in such a way that I did not want anything in this life for two days especially. I do not mean I did not want my wife, my children, but I wanted Jesus. Now I want to explain this, if you are the subject of this experience in your heart it will make you a good husband, make you a good wife, and a good dutiful child. You see grace in the heart does not work opposite to this. No, you will be very devoted, and yet there will be a measure of detachment in this sense, the world recedes from you, and you want Jesus. You will be like the Greeks, "Sirs, we would see Jesus." "I have heard of Thee by the hearing of the ear." The wisdom and saving power that is demonstrated for poor guilty sinners, we want to taste it, handle it, and feel it for ourselves. And some of you can come in here, I trust. Now you are favoured to behold Him.

Now I feel there is one spot and place we need to speak of before we close, that is to be favoured and privileged to see Him in His sufferings, see Him bowed down beneath the load of sin in Gethsemane's garden, weltering, sweating great drops of blood; see Him in the judgement hall, and see Him on the cross. If ever I have seen Jesus it was on one occasion I hope when He was revealed to me in a hymn. I was reading a hymn on the passion of Christ. It had been a great exercise for many years that He might be revealed. It was a rough path to it, it was, but one day it was by the Spirit measurably opened. It was like the shell of a nut cracked and the kernel was found inside, Christ was there. If ever He was a lovely person He was then; a lovely Jesus. I do believe that was the means in the Lord's hand eventually of bringing me to follow Him in His despised ordinances; I followed Him out of love to Him. I saw a little of the beauty of Christ, the worth of Christ, the excellency of Christ. Yes. The world is crucified to you and you to the world while you are there. "Love and grief your heart dividing." Godly sorrow for sin, the peace of God which passes all understanding. You see, dear friends, we just cannot fully explain how the soul feels when there is the perception by faith of Christ, a little concerning Him. I do believe this, it will have an effect upon one's heart and conversation, it will be known you have been with Jesus because of the softness, the tenderness of your spirit, the love and affection that will be made manifest to all around you. In addition, there is the shutting of your eyes to evil.

Well, dear friends, I do feel this is a very poor attempt to try and speak of the beauty of Christ, but I do feel the time is not far distant when you will see Him by the eye of your soul, the faculty of your souls, indulging the will and the understanding. The eyes of the soul will be completely taken up with Jesus. Yes. Then when faith perceives this it will be easy to leave the world. It has been said we shall know one another in heaven. Well, if we are favoured by God's grace to enter into that eternal, holy, sacred place I believe our whole concentration will be on Christ, because we shall be wholly taken up with divine worship. And I speak reverently; heaven would not be heaven without Christ. I do not say we shall not know one another, we do not know, no one has ever come back to acquaint us of what is taking place there, the thing is to be favoured to be in Christ here, and then we shall be with him hereafter throughout the countless ages of eternity. Amen.