

ISAIAH THIRTY, EIGHTEEN

Intro: There is one thing which every person has to do, but which no one like to do: that is waiting. There are other things, too, but this is certainly one.

But it is especially hard for a child of God because sometimes it seems to pointless--such a waste of time. We may be praying about something. We may want the Lord's will. We may be seeking to please Him in ourdaily lives. BUT STILL WE HAVE TO WAIT.

This is where the Bible becomes so very important to us. It is full of examples of the people of God waiting. Cf.:

- 1) Abraham and Sarah waiting for the birth of a son.
- 2) Joseph waiting for the fulfillment of promises which God had given to him.
- 3) Moses--waiting until all hope seems to have left him.

All of these involved long periods of time.

But think of the following, too:

- 1) How Jacob should have waited for the blessing.
- 2) How the children of Israel should have waited for Moses to come down from the mount. Cf. Ex. 32:1.
- 3) Mary and Martha waiting for the Lord Jesus to come when they sent word to him that Lazarus was sick. The Lord did not come until he had died.

There are many examples in the Word. The circumstances often are very different. Sometimes sin is involved, but many times it is not. But the OT as wellas the NT make it very clear that waiting is one thing which every child is going to have to do--not just once, but over and over again. Patience is one thing that is absolutely essential to our growth as the children of God.

Cf. Rom. 5:1-5; Gal. 5:22, 23 (where "longsuffering" can be translated, patience), Jas. 1:2-4, "My brethren, count it all joy . . ."

How can our verse tonight help us?

Let us look first at the context. (Explain.)

Now, you may say, But this does not fit my situation. I want to do the Lord's will. I just do not know what it is.

This is where the verse becomes even more wonderful. If God can say this to people who spiritually were like the people of Judah were at this time, then the promises are a thousand times stronger if you want the Lord's will and are seeking to please Him!

Note first,

## I. THE DIVINE LOGIC.

Sometimes in the bitterness of our souls we say, of God's dealings with us, It just doesn't make sense!

Let me ask a question: After reading the first 17 verses of this chapter can you see any logical connection for a verse like we have as our text tonight. Does it make sense that God should give a promise like this? Absolutely not!

But it makes sense to God because He is a God of mercy, compassion, and grace. This does not excuse our sin, much less encourage it. But it makes us see that God is greater than our sin!

From this we go on to see at least some of

## II. GOD'S PURPOSES IN WAITING.

- A. To expose the needs which He sees in our own hearts. That is, He is going to expose them to us.

You cannot understand this verse unless you understand what the word, wait, means. It is not sit passively, or to pace the floor, or to mark time. BUT IT IS TO LOOK INTENTLY, HOPEFULLY, EARNESTLY FOR SOMETHING.

Who is looking first of all in this verse? The Lord is. HE IS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FROM US, FOR SOMETHING IN US.

It will only be there by His grace, but He is looking, waiting to see how much we trust Him.

Secondly, God waits

- B. To teach us more about Himself.

1. That He really is Jehovah--with all that that means. This name is used twice in the verse.
2. That He is God--with all that that means. We are not dealing with a man, but with the living, eternal, Almighty GOD!
3. That He is a merciful, compassionate, tender God. He does not deal with us as we deserve, but in infinite grace. "That He may have mercy upon us."
4. That He may show us His glory. "Therefore will He be exalted." We do not put Him where He is, but we

exalt Him when we recognize that He is sovereign over all, conspicuous in His power, sitting on high where He can view all of the affairs of the earth--and all of the circumstances of our lives!

5. That He loves us more than we will ever be able to realize--at least here on earth. "That He may have mercy upon you." He wants to act as a mother toward her child, or as a hen toward her brood, or as a bird toward her eggs!

Why is it so hard for us to believe this?

What a help for fathers is, "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him" (Psa. 103:13).

6. That He is "a God of judgment"--who always does what is right, at the right time, under the right circumstances, for the right reason. This is not sometimes, BUT ALWAYS!

After the thousands of years of human history God has yet to make His first mistake--which will never come!

But there is one other reason for our waiting:

- C. To confirm to us the promises of His Word.

Look at the promise here: "Blessed are all they that wait for Him."

LIKE Psa. 1:1.

It speaks of the multiplied happinesses that will come to those who wait for Him. And it comes to "all"--there are no exceptions!

But what is the condition?

The same word is used here at the end of the verse that was used at the beginning. We are not to be passively waiting, but confidently expecting that God will do all that He has promised--AND MORE!!!

Concl: Will you say what the children of Judah were encouraged to say in Isa. 8:17? "And I will wait for Jehovah, that hideth his face from the house of Jacob, and I will look for him." Or, as in Psa. 33:20, 21 where we have this same word for wait: "Our soul hath waited for Jehovah: He is our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name."