

Series: Questions

Title: What Will Ye Do in the Day of Visitation?

Text: Isaiah 10: 3

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Isaiah 10: 1: Woe unto them that decree unrighteous decrees, and that write grievousness *which* they have prescribed; 2: To turn aside the needy from judgment, and to take away the right from the poor of my people, that widows may be their prey, and *that* they may rob the fatherless!

God sends Isaiah to give this woe to oppressors. God charged them with making wicked laws—*They decree unrighteous decrees* and write unjust laws. They did this having the best civil law that any nation ever had. Their civil law came directly from God's hand. Yet corrupt rulers found ways to write corrupt laws and *turn aside the needy from judgment*—to judge them unjustly, take away their rights and enrich themselves. This they did to widows and orphans—the helpless. But before anyone condemns these unjust rulers in self-righteousness, remember, you and I are by nature guilty sinners the same as they.

Romans 2: 1: Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man, whosoever thou art that judgest: for wherein thou judgest [condemn] another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest doest the same things. 2: But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

There is coming a day when God will judge every sinner who is found outside of Christ. Are you without Christ? A sinner either rests entirely in Christ by faith or he is outside of Christ. If you are outside of Christ, if you have not cast your care on Christ, then hear God ask you the same questions he asked these sinners.

Isaiah 10: 3: And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation *which* shall come from far?

There is a day of visitation coming: a day in which God will bring to light every sinner and his works—and for all outside of Christ that will be a day of desolation—*“And what will ye do?”* If you do not flee to Christ for help now, when the day of God's judgment comes—*“to whom will ye flee for help?”* If a man will not flee to Christ for refuge now, then to whom will ye flee for help then?

Revelation 6: 15: And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; 16: And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: 17: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

If you reject Christ the Refuge then to whom will ye flee when He HIMSELF comes to judge you?

Hebrews 10: 26: For if we sin wilfully [if we willfully reject Christ] after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, [after we have heard the gospel in truth] there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27: But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

“And where will ye leave your glory?” Where will you leave all that you went after all your life in this world? Those things you coveted, adored, labored for, fought for, lived for, died for, and rejected Christ for? Your glory such as material stuff, the glory of rank, position and power and influence, the glory of career, the glory of pleasure, your intellectual glory, the glory of fame and fortune, the glory of every vain religious work you ever did for salvation? What about that glory that should have been your chief concern, your soul. You will not be able to commit it into Christ's hands then. So where will you leave your glory?

Isaiah 2: 20: In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which they made *each one* for himself to worship, to the moles and to the bats; 21: To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

The Lord our Savior answers these questions himself.

Isaiah 10: 4: Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Without Christ sinners shall perish forever as a prisoner in chains of darkness. *“For all this, his anger is not turned away”*—you will never satisfy his justice—*“his hand will be stretched out”* in fury upon you for eternity.

Proposition: There is only one refuge for sinners to whom we must flee right now—Christ Jesus our Refuge!

So I want to tell you about Christ the Refuge. What kind of refuge is the Lord Jesus Christ?

AN APPOINTED REFUGE

The Lord Jesus, God's own Son, was ordained of God from eternity to be the refuge of his people. In Israel, God appointed six cities of refuge. These cities of refuge were for the manslayer who killed someone unawares. That is what the Holy Spirit reveals to his people. We have crucified the Lord of glory unawares. Christ said that when the Spirit is come, he will convince you of sin, because ye believe not on me. God appointed the city of refuge for when the manslayer found that he was guilty and justice pursued him. Then he could flee into one of those six cities and find refuge.

God the Father chose and appointed Christ to be the Refuge of his people. He is appointed the High Priest of his people to satisfy divine justice for us. God appointed him the Prophet of his people to teach us the gospel effectually in our hearts. And God appointed him the King of his people to protect and defend us by his almighty, sovereign power

Proverbs 14: 26: In the fear of the LORD *is* strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

AN ABLE REFUGE

Many sinners seek safety in a false refuge in this world or in their flesh or their works where they are not shielded and protected.

Isaiah 36: 6: Lo, thou trustest in the staff of this broken reed, on Egypt; whereon if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so *is* Pharaoh king of Egypt to all that trust in him.

But of our Lord Jesus God said, "*I have laid help upon one that is MIGHTY; I have exalted one chosen out of the people.*" (Ps 89:19) Christ was able to take flesh like unto his brethren and fulfill all righteousness for us. He was able to bear the sin and the curse of his people to the full satisfaction of justice. Our victorious Redeemer is now risen and ever lives as the great High Priest of his people

Hebrews 7: 25: Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

When his people suffer, he knows because he suffered it. Therefore, Christ is able to succor his people.

Hebrews 2: 18: In that he himself hath suffered, being tempted, **he is able** to succour them that are tempted..."

He is able to heal poor sinners like us and make us every whit whole.

Matthew 8: 2: And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3: And Jesus put forth *his* hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

A REFUGE AT HAND

When God appointed the cities of refuge in Israel, he placed them so that no matter where you were in Israel you were near a city of refuge. For those whom God has convinced need righteousness—the Lord our Righteousness is near

Romans 10: 6: But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down *from above*;) 7: Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.) 8: But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, *even* in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For you and who already rest in him, when you find yourself in troubles of trial and affliction, remember,

Psalms 46: 1: God *is* our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

FOR ALL KINDS OF SINNERS

Christ is a refuge for all kinds of sinners. Young or old, those who know doctrine, those who don't know much at all, rich or poor, male or female—Christ is a refuge for all kinds. Like the thief on the cross, to all kinds of sinners,

Revelation 22: 17: And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Sinner, never imagine you have to experience some great feeling or some great experience—*are you thirsty?* Do you need Christ to be all your salvation? Are you totally ruined in sin? *Then come.* Never imagine you have to reach a certain level of doctrinal knowledge? Salvation is not in *what* you know. Paul said I know *WHOM* I have believed! *Do you know Christ?* Do you believe he is the Son of God who accomplished the salvation of his people and that he is that salvation? *Come to him!*

The one thing required about you is that you be a sinner unable to do one thing to save yourself. Never imagine that you have to reform your life and put away sin before you can come to him! Paul said, "*I was a blasphemer, and a persecutor,*

and injurious; but I obtained mercy." 1 Tim. i. 13. Christ said, "I came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance." (Mk 2: 17) If you are sinner, a ruined, needy, totally helpless sinner who believes Christ is All your salvation then "take of the water of life freely"

THE ONLY REFUGE

We could look at the truth that Christ is an unchanging refuge, a refuge opened, and an eternal refuge. But I must tell you that Christ is the only refuge.

Acts 4: 12: Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Salvation, justification, holiness, redemption is not by our works under the law nor by our religious works

No other could *justify us from our sins*. There is no other that could have made atonement for the sins of his people but Christ, God's own Son. God chose him and sent him! And the GodMan Mediator said, "It is finished!"

Acts 13: 38 Be it known unto you therefore, men *and* brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: 39 And by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.

WHAT IS IT TO FLEE TO CHRIST FOR REFUGE?

To flee to Christ is to do so with *need*. Imagine if your boat sank in the ocean. To flee to Christ with need is to cast your care on him like you would if there was only one plank floating in the middle of the ocean.

To flee to Christ is to believe on him for *all* your need. Believe on him for forgiveness of all your sins. Believe on him for free justification from all your sins. Believe on him for the righteousness wherein you can appear before God and be received. Believe on him for holiness. Believe on him for mercy, grace, peace, strength, comfort—for all things! We do not believe on him for some things but depend on ourselves for other things—we trust him to do *all* the saving! To be *all* our acceptance with God!

To flee to Christ is to believe on him with *urgency*. If the ax head flew off your ax and killed a man and you realized you are the manslayer with justice pursuing you to put you to death, how fast would you flee to that city of refuge? You would run to that city because you know you are in imminent danger! Well, it is true, sinner, the avenger of blood is at your heels! So flee because of the uncertainty of your life. We are here today, and gone to-morrow. No time is ours but the present time. Today is the day of salvation!

Be sure to hear this! No guilty sinner that repented and believed the gospel and came to Christ for mercy has ever been turned away! "*He delighteth to show mercy!*"

Now, to you who have fled to Christ, never cease coming to Christ! Never turn from him, never cease resting entirely in him! We have "*strong consolation who have fled for refuge to lay hold on the hope set before us.*" So be sure you are never caught outside of Christ our Refuge! By the grace of God,

Hebrews 10: 39: But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

Hebrews 3: 14: We are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end...

One last thing, let's answer those questions in our text for the believer resting in Christ. *What will believers do in the day of visitation when desolation comes to those outside of Christ?* We will rest safe and secure in Christ our Refuge. *Where will believers flee?* We will not have to flee; we will be safe in Christ our Refuge. Our judgment was settled at the cross! *Where will we leave our glory?* Christ is our glory and he prayed Father "*I will that they be where I am that they may behold my glory.*" "*When his glory shall be revealed, [then shall we] be glad also with exceeding joy.*"

Matthew 25:34: Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Jude 1: 24: [He will] present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,...

1 John 3: 2: ...when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

What Will Ye Do in the Day of Visitation? It could be today!

Amen!