Ephesians in the Heart

January 1 to 3rd Quarter September 29-29, 2025

Sabbath Afternoon, September 25

Memory Text:

"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." KJV – Ephesians 2:8-10

The reason that Paul's readers not infrequently encounter difficulty in understanding his epistles is that they read them as if they were addressed to them. If they would understand them rightly, they must see that the letter that he wrote then to groups with whom he had previous acquaintance and correspondence, of whose troubles and queries he had previous knowledge. It was in their own time and place that they should read it, and it would then and they well understand the mind of Christ. Consequently we are to understand his letters, we must first become acquainted with the circumstances of the time and place in which they were written, and the state of the people to whom they were addressed. The prominent thoughts of each epistle included with reference to the people to whom it was addressed, and the bearing of the truth upon their individual and collective experience. Then we must find the application of the principles of the truth to our own time and place. We should be as Ezra, the scribe, who "prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments." Ezra 7:10.

"Ezra was a ready scribe, well versed in the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. He was a man of deep piety, of great learning, and of much practical wisdom. He was a faithful student of the sacred scriptures, and he had prepared himself for his work by prayerful study and by the discipline of a life of self-denial and self-sacrifice. He had set his heart to do the work of God, and he was well fitted for the work. He was a man of one book, and that was the book which contained the word of the living God, which was given by inspiration of God to holy men who spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The Bible was his text-book, and he was well versed in its sacred lessons. He was a man of prayer, and he was a man of faith. He was a man who had a deep sense of his own weakness, and who was ever ready to lean upon the Mighty One for help and counsel. He was a man who was ever ready to do his duty, and who was ever ready to do more than his duty when occasion required it

desolate wilderness, yea, and nothing shall escape them."

Here you see that a message is to be proclaimed to the church, to Zion, declaring that the great and dreadful day of the Lord is at hand; that it is to be devastating behind His people, and glorious ahead of them, – that the Lord is thoroughly to comb the field, that He is to gather every grain of "wheat," and then burn the tares.

Verses 4-6 – "The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run. Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array. Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness."

We see that the power which attended ancient Israel while they were taking the Promised Land, shall also attend the servants of God at this gathering time.

Verses 7, 8 – "They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks: neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded."

Nothing shall be able to hold down the people of God. Everyone shall perfectly attend to his business. They shall gather the fruits of the earth and nothing shall hurt them. The Spirit of Prophecy testifies: "As the saints left the cities and villages, they were pursued by the wicked, who sought to slay them. But the swords that were raised to kill God's people broke and fell as powerless as a straw" – Early Writings, pp. 284-285.

Verse 9 – "They shall run to and fro in the city; they shall run upon the wall, they shall climb up upon the houses; they shall enter in at the windows like a thief."

"The servants of God" shall certainly gather all their brethren out of all nations (Isa. 66:20). Indeed so, for the legs of the Gospel are the legs of the people who proclaim it. Of course, only with perfect co-ordination and a bullet-proof army can the gospel work be finished when the two-horned beast declares "that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Rev. 13:15.

Verses 10, 11 – "The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining: and the Lord shall utter His voice before His army: for His camp is very great: for He is strong that executeth His word: for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible; and who can abide it?"

Having announced how great and dreadful the day is to be, the Lord is making this plea:

Verses 12-14 – "Therefore also now, saith the Lord, turn ye even to Me with all your heart, and with fasting, and with weeping, and with mourning: and rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God: for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repenteth Him of the evil. Who knoweth if He will return and repent, and leave a blessing behind Him; even a meat offering and a drink offering unto the Lord your God?"

God's plea is that we prepare to meet the day; that now as sincere Christians who realize that for such an hour as this has this message of mercy come to us, we penitently return unto Him.

For further studies, feel free to contact:

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