

Title: A Man our Refuge

Text: Isaiah 32: 2

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**Isaiah 32: 1: Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. 2: And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.**

This is the word of the Lord to his elect in Judah. It is the word of the Lord to his elect here today. This is not Isaiah, the preacher's word. It is the word of the Lord.

God commands us, "*Behold.*" When God says 'behold' then whatever comes next is vital. God says turn your eyes from all else and "*behold.*" God says—"Behold, a King." Oh, that the Spirit of God would make us behold this King! Yes, this can be said of Hezekiah. But he is a picture of the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. God the Father's good news for his people is concerning his Son, Christ Jesus, who took flesh like unto his brethren and reigns as our King, "*Behold, a King.*"

1 Timothy 6: 14...our Lord Jesus Christ: 15: Which in his times he shall shew, who *is* the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16: Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see to whom *be* honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Christ has shown each sinner born of him, that he is the only Potentate; it means Christ is the only Authority and Power. He is King of every king, Lord of every lord. But our King is not like other men; our King is immortal; he lives forevermore; he has immortality to give to his people to make us immortal. God is light, which no man hath seen; God is Light which no sinner can approach or look unto and live; but Christ our King *dwells* in the light which no man can approach unto; our King is God, the Son of God, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Catch the last word, "*to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.*"

In an earthly kingdom, when citizens of that kingdom come before the king, they bow. They do not call their king by his first name. Self-made religion speaks so flippantly of our King. It is "jesus this and jesus that." But when servants come before a king they show reverence, calling him, "Your Majesty!" or "My Lord!" or "My King." When our King reveals himself in us, we bow the knee and we own him to be our "Lord" Jesus.

1 Corinthians 12: 3: Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

In Isaiah 32: 1, God declares Christ is our sovereign righteous King. "***Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness...***" A King shall reign in "tseh-dek". It means he reigns in righteousness, justice. His name is MelchiSEDEK: the King of Righteousness (Heb 7: 2). Christ is the LORD our Righteousness. He now reigns over all in righteousness from his holy hill in Zion. His sceptre is a sceptre of righteousness: righteousness is the girdle of his loins and faithfulness the girdle of his reins (Is 11: 5). He shall reign until he has put all enemies under his feet (1 Cor 15: 25).

We are thankful and comforted that Christ is God. As God his salvation is eternal. But we are also thankful our Savior is a Man. As the Man, who is God, he established righteousness for his people. He is our righteous King who reigns over all. As a Man, like his brethren, he sympathizes with us and is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.

Not only is this Man our King reigning in righteousness, he is our Refuge.

**Isaiah 32: 2: And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.**

As believers we are passing through this world as in a dry desert. The children of Israel passed through the waste howling wilderness (Deut 32: 10). In a desert there are three extreme dangers:

- One danger are storms-great winds. We need shelter—"And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest."
- Another danger in a desert is drought—"And a man shall be...as rivers of water in a dry place."
- Also, in a desert a great danger is the scorching sun—"And a man shall be as...the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

**Proposition:** Christ Jesus our King is that Man. He is the GodMan our Refuge and Provider.

There will be times in the life of a believer when we feel as though we will perish, when we feel as though God has forsaken us. But never forget this word, "*a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.*"

## A SHELTER FROM THE STORM

**Isaiah 32: 2: And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest...**

Sin entering in has made this world a cursed desert. It is why our Savior promised we must through much tribulation enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14: 22; Jn 16: 33).

Job 5:7: Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward.

Job 14:1: Man *that is* born of a woman *is* of few days, and full of trouble.

The wind, the tempest—storms and hurricanes—are a good example of the various kind of troubles we face. Christ said of the wind,

Joh 3:8: The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth:

Brethren, trouble comes like the wind. You see things come about. You do not want trouble to come. You may try to stop these winds from blowing. But like the wind there is nothing you can do stop trouble. The winds blow stronger. You find out your helpless.

One, when God first calls us we experience the fierce winds of *guilt and conviction* due to our sin. This wind comes as a tempest. If we are God's child then this wind will not cease. There is but one thing the child of God can do. This is the purpose for the storm of conviction. Flee to Christ for mercy.

Luke 18:13: And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as *his* eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.

What was he doing? He was fleeing into this Man, our shelter from the storm. That is how you flee into this covert from the storm. You believe on Christ. You cry to him for mercy. He has never turned away a true sinner who comes to him empty seeking mercy.

Psalm 147: 10: He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. 11: The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

Some speak as if a believer never experiences that stormy wind of conviction again. But God's children know better. We hate sin. We flee from it. But we are yet sinners. From time-to-time, the strong tempest of conviction comes due to our sin. How do you flee into this Man our Shelter, believer? David was a believer running again to Christ our Shelter from the storm, our covert from the tempest, when he cried out,

Psalm 51: 1: Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2: Wash me throughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Be sure to remember this. Christ laid down his life on the cross for God's elect and justified us from our sins. He purged our sins by himself. Therefore, God will not condemn one who has already been condemned in Christ crucified.

Jeremiah 50:20: In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and *there shall be* none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for I will pardon them whom I reserve.

Our GodMan, Mediator, is the fountain for sin and uncleanness. When he called us he made us know we are complete in him—every whit whole. But as he declared, we need our feet washed and he is willing and shall wash our feet. He is also willing to be our Advocate with the Father when the storm of conviction comes again.

1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: 2: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for *the sins of* the whole world.

Two, we all must go through the strong winds of *temporal trouble*. We have sickness of body, all sorts of trials, loss of loved ones due to death. These are strong tempests. They are storms too great for weak ones like us.

Child of God do not make the mistake the children of Judah made. They took counsel from men. So they went back to Egypt and put their trust in the shadow of Egypt.

We have one hiding place, one covert from the storm, "*a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest.*" Flee to Christ and hide in him. He is our peace and safety from every storm of temporal and spiritual trouble.

Isaiah 25:4: For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones *is* as a storm *against* the wall.

Isaiah 26:20: Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast.

**A RIVER TO SAVE FROM DROUGHT**

### Isaiah 32: 3...a Man shall be...as rivers of water in a dry place,

Believers have inward, spiritual, seasons of drought.

One, some believers are feeble-minded. They suffer mental troubles: droughts of depression, droughts of the mind, anxiety, great mental and spiritual drought. Even the strong in faith, sometimes feel as though they have lost communion with God. It is a drought within. Sometimes this spiritual drought is overwhelming. (Lam. 3:1-26). Sometimes we don't know why we have this inward drought. It can be emotional, physical, spiritual, or circumstantial (Matt. 6:25-34).

But there is a Man near at hand who is a river for our drought. "*A Man shall be...as rivers of water in a dry place.*" The GodMan, Christ Jesus, is the River near at hand to satiate our souls in drought.

Psalm 46:4: *There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High.*

Philippians 4: 5: Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord *is* at hand. 6: Be careful [anxious, depressed] for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7: And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The Psalmist said,

Psalm 77: 1: I cried unto God with my voice, *even* unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me. 2: In the day of my trouble I sought the Lord: my soul refused to be comforted. 3: I remembered God, and was troubled: I complained, and my spirit was overwhelmed. Selah. 4: Thou holdest mine eyes waking: I am so troubled that I cannot speak. 5: I have considered the days of old, the years of ancient times. 6: I call to remembrance my song in the night: I commune with mine own heart: and my spirit made diligent search. 7: Will the Lord cast off for ever? and will he be favourable no more? 8: Is his mercy clean gone for ever? doth *his* promise fail for evermore? 9: Hath God forgotten to be gracious? hath he in anger shut up his tender mercies? Selah. 10: And I said, This *is* my infirmity:

He said this is my own weakness. Then he fled to the River.

Psalm 77: 10...*but I will remember* the years of the right hand of the most High. 11: I will remember the works of the LORD: surely I will remember thy wonders of old. 12: I will meditate also of all thy work, and talk of thy doings.

Continually talking about our trouble makes this spiritual drought worse. But the Spirit of God turns us to stop talking about our trouble and to talk of our Savior's doings. Sadly, in our mental, spiritual drought, we are prone to absent ourselves from the Lord's sanctuary. But that is when we need to hear his gospel most! He said,

Psalm 77: 13: Thy way, O God, *is* in the sanctuary: who *is so* great a God as *our* God. 14: Thou *art* the God that doest wonders: thou hast declared thy strength among the people. 15: Thou hast with *thine* arm redeemed thy people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah.

Another time, David experienced this drought of soul by looking at the prosperity of unbelievers. He began to question if he had believed on the Lord in vain.

Psalm 73: 2: But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. 3: For I was envious at the foolish, *when* I saw the prosperity of the wicked....13: Verily I have cleansed my heart *in vain*, and washed my hands in innocency. 14: For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. 15: If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend *against* the generation of thy children. 16: When I thought to know this, it *was* too painful for me; 17: Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end. 18: Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

His drought was so serious that he began to question if he had believed God in vain. Then he went into God's house to hear the gospel. It was through the preaching of the gospel that the Lord reminded him of the good news. He realized that looking away from Christ to this world was his problem. He needed to run to Christ our River.

Psalm 73; 21: Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins. 22: So foolish *was* I, and ignorant: I was *as* a beast before thee.

This drought was within in his heart and reins. But here is the good news. Through the gospel, the Spirit of God reminded him that Christ is our River for the drought, to strengthen the heart. This is how Christ comforted his heart.

Psalm 73; 23: Nevertheless I *am* continually with thee: thou hast holden *me* by my right hand. 24: Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me *to* glory. 25: Whom have I in heaven *but thee?* and *there is* none upon earth *that* I desire beside thee. 26: My flesh and my heart faileth: *but* God *is* the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

Child of God, get alone. Read God's word and meditate on Christ's person and his wonderful works. Then go to his house and hear the Lord declare his strength among his people. Then get alone and meditate on what you heard. Think on Christ's person and works. Keeping doing this over and over. "*A Man shall be...as rivers of water in a dry place.*"

## **A ROCK TO SHADE FROM THE SUN**

**Isaiah 32: 2: A man shall be...as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.**

The sun represents oppression. Desert heat is oppressive.

Satan's accusations and temptations come upon us as the scorching sun. Human opposition is a scorching sun. Christ said every believer shall feel this scorching heat. He said friends will betray. Family will oppose. Brethren will misjudge and speak evil of us. Christ experienced it and he said the servant is not greater than his Lord. We shall experience it. David experienced it and David tells us time and again, Christ is "*as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.*"

Psalm 9: 9: The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, a refuge in times of trouble.

Psalm 31: 20: Thou shalt hide them in the secret of thy presence from the pride of man: thou shalt keep them secretly in a pavilion from the strife of tongues.

Psalm 119: 114: Thou *art* my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.

Child of God, there is a Man. He is truly Man like unto his brethren. Christ our King was tempted and tried and he sympathizes with us in all our troubles. He is our Refuge and our Provider.

**Isaiah 32: 2: And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.**

Believe on the Lord Jesus. Cry to Christ for mercy. That is how we get into this shelter and under the shadow of this great Rock. Drink of this river when your soul is dry. He said,

John 14:1: Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

John 6:35...he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 7:38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Proverbs 29:25: The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe

**Amen!**