

Series: Isaiah Series 2024

Title: The Covenant

Text: Isaiah 42: 5-8

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Isaiah 42: 5: Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: 6: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; 7: To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house. 8: I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

God the Father commanded us to behold Christ his Servant. Now, God the Father is speaking to Christ, his Son. He is declaring what he will do for Christ as Christ serves God to save his people—*"I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee."* Do you think God's promise to his Son is sure? We see how the Father fulfilled this promise for his Son.

Well, child of God, for you God has called, since we are one with Christ this is God's word to you in Christ and for Christ's sake—*"I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee."* God is using you who he has called to preach his gospel and call out his people. Therefore, all the thing promised here to Christ are promised to you in Christ and for Christ's sake. And for us these things are by Christ.

Proposition: As we hear God the Father's promise to his Son, we hear God the Father's promise to us in his Son and for his Son's sake and by his Son.

WHO MADE THIS PROMISE?

Isaiah 42: 5: Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

The LORD God declares his faithfulness and ability to perform this covenant by declaring he is the Creator who gives all life and sustains us. This ought to settle our hearts in every trouble we face. We have the covenant promise of God our Creator. Just think on that! *"He created the heavens and spread them out; he spread forth the earth and that which cometh out of it"* as easily as we would spread a blanket. This promise is from God who gives breath and spirit unto all people so that we are able to even walk about.

There is not a second in our life that God is not providing us life. It is true of people who take his name in vain. The God men curse gave them the breath with which they curse his name.

But God our Creator made this promise to his Son. He was able to perform all that he promised to his Son. And Christ was able to finish the works the Father sent him to accomplish. So we see to whom Christ made this promise. God our Father and his Son are one. Brethren, God is faithful! Trust God.

GOD THE FATHER'S COVENANT TO HIS SON

Isaiah 42: 6: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee...

This is the covenant God the Father made with his Son, Christ Jesus. God's children learn everything looking to Christ. We behold God's immutable-covenant-faithfulness by beholding how God our Father fulfilled every promise to Christ and by beholding how Christ fulfilled every promise to God our Father.

"I have called thee in righteousness." God called Christ in Righteousness. God called him to *fulfill* all righteousness. God called him *to be* the Righteousness of God for his people.

God called Christ in righteousness—first of all—for God himself. The Father sent forth the Son to fulfill all righteousness for God, to uphold his law and make it honorable, that God might be just to show his people mercy. And God called Christ in righteousness for God's elect. Christ came to fulfill all righteousness for God's elect. He came to be us, to be our Righteousness before God.

Those Christ came to save are sinners! He came to seek and to save the lost! We have no righteousness by the things we do. "There is none righteous no not one." This whole book declares Christ is the Righteousness of God. He is the righteousness of his people. Is Christ *your* Righteousness? Is Christ your *only* Righteousness? If we believe Christ is our Righteousness and also that we made ourselves righteous by our obedience to the law then we do not trust Christ alone. Christ *alone* must be our Righteousness.

Christ came into this world and filled the office of High Priest faithfully and willingly but it was God who called him and sent him in righteousness

Hebrews 5: 1: For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins: 2: Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity. 3: And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins. 4: And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as *was* Aaron. 5: So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. 6: As he saith also in another *place*, Thou *art* a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Dear saints, Christ Jesus is the one High Priest of his people. God called him in righteousness! Christ offered to God perfect obedience for the sins of his people. He pleased God in all things without sin. He bore the sins of his people. He bore the curse of his people. He made satisfaction to justice for his people. Also, Christ is our one High Priest who knows our weaknesses and temptations. He alone is able to succour you and make you stand.

Believe on Christ. In every need, go to Christ our High Priest! Pour out your heart and need to him alone! He alone is able to save to the uttermost because he has an unchangeable priesthood and he everlives to make intercession for us.

“I the LORD...will hold thine hand, and will keep thee.” It may seem strange to hear God the Father make this promise to Christ considering the Lord Jesus is God. He turned water into wine. He was able to turn a few fish and loaves into enough food to feed a multitude. He was able to speak and still the wind and waves.

But the Son of God became the one, perfect, righteous servant of God representing his people. His perfect faith in God is the faith by which his people are made righteous. His perfect faith in God is the faith by which we are saved.

Galatians 2:16: Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.

In Psalm 89, God’s promise to David is God’s promise to Christ the true David and to all God’s elect in and by him.

Psalm 89: 19: Then thou spakest in vision to thy holy one, and saidst, I have laid help upon *one that is* mighty; I have exalted *one* chosen out of the people. 20: I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: 21: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. 22: The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. 23: And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him. 24: But my faithfulness and my mercy *shall be* with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. 25: I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. 26: He shall cry unto me, Thou *art* my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation. 27: Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth. 28: My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. 29: His seed also will I make *to endure* for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. 30: If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; 31: If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; 32: Then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. [the cross—that is why God sent him forth—God laid the rod on him in our place—and with his stripes we are healed] 33: Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. 34: My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. 35: Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. 36: His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. 37: It shall be established for ever as the moon, and *as* a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.

That is God’s covenant to the true King David and that is God’s covenant to you who trust Christ to save you.

CHRIST IS THE COVENANT

Isaiah 42: 6...and [I will] give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

This is what God sent Christ to be for God’s elect. So many debate “covenant theology.” The Lord Jesus is the Covenant. We just heard God the Father’s covenant to Christ his Son. The promises of God to his people are only in Christ. God promised by his holiness that he would not break his covenant with Christ! He included Christ’s seed in that covenant, God’s elect! Therefore, Christ is the Covenant. All God’s promises to his people are yes in Christ and amen in Christ.

2 Corinthians 1: 19: For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, *even* by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. 20: For all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

The false Jesus is a “maybe Jesus.” He leaves part of the covenant in the sinner’s hand. He might save, he might not. He might love you today and tomorrow hate you. He is the “maybe” Jesus. The true Lord Jesus is himself the Covenant—“all the promises of God in him *are* yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God.”

Isaiah 42: 4: He shall not fail nor be discouraged till he have set judgment in the earth and the Gentiles shall wait for his law [in his name the Gentiles shall trust—Mt 12:21]

Isaiah 49:8 Thus saith the LORD,...I will...give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

Luke 1:72: To perform [finish, to accomplish] the mercy *promised* to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;...

Romans 15:8 [Christ came]...to confirm the promises *made* unto the fathers:

Hebrews 9:15: And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament [the new covenant, the new promise], that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions *that were* under the first testament [to redeem us from the curse Adam put us under], they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Romans 4:16: Therefore [*salvation*] of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed;...

Dear saints, believing Christ alone to save us, we say with David. 2 Samuel 23: 5:...he hath made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things, and sure: for this is all my salvation, and all my desire...

HOW DO WE BELIEVE AND CONTINUE IN FAITH?

Isaiah 42: 7: To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

God the Father sent Christ to do this work in his people.

Being blind and delivered out of the prison house is such a good analogy of justification and sanctification.

Self-made religionists are like the prisoners you see on documentaries. Some work out crooked deals with the warden. They work out crooked deals with gangs in the prison. They trade for items. They have their cells fixed up nice. They get extra perks others don't get. But how foolish if they walked about boasting that they are free.

That is the self-made religionists. He has worked out crooked deals with his warden, the devil. He has cleaned up his life and got religion. He is united with all the gangs of religious organizations, called churches. He boasts his will is free and that he is free. All the while he is blind and cannot see he is bound in the prison house unable to free himself.

For Christ to free us from the prison house, he had to do two things.

One, he had justify us before the Judge and give us a clean record. That is what Christ accomplished *for* his people on the cross. He justified us. By his blood he blotted out our sins. The just Judge of heaven and earth declares us not guilty.

Two, Christ had to regenerate and sanctify us. He had to give us life and reveal *in us* what he has done *for* us.

There we are like Barabbas bound in prison. We heard the shouts, "Barabbas, Barabbas...crucify him, crucify him, crucify him!" Christ comes to us through the gospel. There we are in the back of our little cell hiding in the darkness. Christ declares I loved you from eternity—a *shackle falls off*. Christ declares I took your nature and justified you—*another shackle falls off*. Christ declares, "I've come to sanctify you and set you free."—*all the shackles fall off*. He says, "Prisoner, show yourself!"—for the first time we "do truth"; Christ said he that doeth truth comes to the light confessing Christ worked all the works. (Jn 3: 21). When Christ works this work he deliver us from our sin-nature, from the law, and separates us from the prison house, saying, "You are free. Follow thou me!" And Christ keeps revealing himself to us and keeps us sanctified in him.

Isaiah 49:9 [God said to Christ]: That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that *are* in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures *shall be* in all high places.

How does Christ keep us sanctified in him? After faithfully preaching the Lord Jesus, John the Baptist was overcome with unbelief. He sent word to the Lord Jesus and asked, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?" Do you remember what the Lord declared to assure him he is the Christ?

Matthew 11: 4:...Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: 5: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. 6: And blessed is *he*, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Christ keeps revealing to us that we are a miracle of his grace: he makes blind, deaf, dead, God-haters like us see and hear and live and rejoice in the unsearchable riches of Christ. Next time you doubt, remember the miracle Christ has worked to make you righteous and to make you believe in Christ!

WHY DID GOD SEND CHRIST TO DO THIS WORK?

Isaiah 42: 8: I *am* the LORD: that *is* my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

Who gets the glory in what you've heard today? That is what it is to not be offended in Christ. It is to desire God our Father and his Son, Christ Jesus, alone get all the praise and glory!

Amen