“Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.”

THE BIRTH OF HOPE

“Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people…” Isaiah 40:1. Jerusalem, the religious center of the world and the capital of Judea, was not without its problems. Historians have said it was captured or besieged many times. The people of Israel were taken captive in Babylon and the city was demolished. It was strong religiously but it was weak militarily. Nevertheless, Jerusalem was the environment that God used to speak to the world. What happened and when it happened had great significance to the rest of the world. Isaiah was one of the prophets whom God raised up to bring His message of reproof and restoration to the people, whether they were in captivity or rebuilding. The Christian who experiences turmoil, problems, sickness or wavering in purpose today has one thing he can hold unto, that is HOPE. Fear not, for I am with you... Isaiah 41:10. Isaiah prophesied that despite the situation happening to Jerusalem everyone would see the power of God coming to Jerusalem in victory. This message was not meant for Jerusalem only but for the world, which the birth of Jesus would bring to it. Someone said, “There are three ingredients to life: learning, earning and yearning” in hope.

THE RELATIONSHIP OF FAITH TO HOPE

Hope is the expectation that despite the experiences of today there is something to look forward to tomorrow. The opposite of hopefulness is despair which even the religious people were experiencing. “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God” - Isaiah 40:1. These words are soothing to the ear of one who feels distraught and downtrodden, and one who is conscious of his failure and think that his condition justifies his feeling. But, FAITH, is what Israel would bring to the source to receive HOPE. In other words, there can be no hope without faith. Hebrews 11:1 - Faith is the substance, the real content, of things hoped for, the evidence or proof of things that are invisible. Faith in God means forming an image of God in your mind using all the qualities you know or heard of God and focus on that image. It is the belief that a Power or Being exists though you cannot see nor touch Him. Like the wind. We have the potential to relate to Him that gives us the consciousness of fellowship with God. Faith gives us the emotional satisfaction of knowing that the child of God is never alone as long as he craves for the awareness of God. The presence of God and your faith is not necessarily prevention from sickness, sin or death, the human realm, but it keeps us positive when we are going through the valley of sickness or death. The Messiah will come with His own agenda.

HOPE FINDS MEANING IN THE MESSIAH

When anyone says, “I have hope” there must be a context, hope in what? John 1: 14 - Jesus would be born Flesh because He would be recognized as human, but the flesh could not dominate His existence like a human being. The real Jesus would exist in the Spirit and whatever happens in the flesh does not affect the Spiritual man for he is walking by the Spirit. Romans 8: 1-2 - Human beings have access to the divine realm through his belief or faith. When a person hears the message of Christ or he feels the Spirit, he begins to have an awakening of the Spiritual in himself. This power was always there but was dormant. His decision to submit his life to the new influence begins a struggle Paul calls “wrestling of the Spirit against the flesh.” That person begins to focus on the Spiritual things by reading the Bible, praying, and practicing Christian standards. Romans 6:14 - For sin shall not have dominion... That is the hope which Christians sing about and live by “My hope is built on nothing less…” That is why a servant of God remarked “When you say a situation or a person is hopeless, you are slamming the door in the face of God.” There is hope for us despite whatever situation we are going through. That hope is in the child of Jesus born in Bethlehem.
“IS THERE ANY HOPE?”
Isaiah 40: 1-11; John 1: 10-14

“Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.”

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