

GOD EXALTS HIMSELF TO SHOW MERCY

Pastor David O'Dowd

CPC, July 26, A.D. 2009

*God greatest exaltation of his justice is on the cross of Christ:
because Jesus rested in the Father's mercy you may rest in Jesus.*

ONE: As his people run from him God exalts himself in justice.

30.15-17

- It's not wise to tell God, *Shut up!* (30.8-14).
- What we turn to for strength will end up as weakness (30.6-7)
- God justly greases the tracks we choose to run on (Rom. 1.124ff; Isa 30.15c-17))

TWO: As his people repent & rest, God in mercy dwells with them.

30.18-26

Headings (A¹, B¹, etc.) from Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*:

- A¹ Blessedness when the waiting is over (18)
When brokenness does its work God's children repent.
- B¹ Comfort and care after tears (19)
God longs for his children to cry out to him.
- C¹ Spiritual blessing: revelation & receptivity (20–21)
God gives guidance (by Word/Spirit) willingly to receptive hearts.
- D Response: the end of false religion (22)
When our affections center on God we scatter our idols.
- C² Earthly blessing: abundance of food (23–24)
In the day of the Lord earthly abundance is restored.
- B² Abundant water in the day of victory (25)
As strongholds are brought down even arid hilltops flourish.
- A² Abundant light in the day of healing (26)
The Lord's presence will be the healing of his people.

THREE: Because the exalted Jesus rested in afflictions from the Father you can rest in Jesus.

30.18-26

- A¹ Jesus exalted is both blessed & the source of blessing (Phil 2.9-11).
- B¹ Because of Jesus' cries & tears God now hears us & wipe s away our tears (Mat 26.39; Rev 21.3-4).
- C¹ Because Jesus' rested in adversity & affliction from the Father he is your way of victory and instruction (Heb 5.7-10; 1Co 1.30).
- D **Since out of love for his own** Christ clung neither to heavenly nor earthly glories he can be for you an affection strong enough to cast off all lesser things (2Co 11.2-4).
- C² Christ Jesus is our assurance that we may live generously; in him is our abundance (Mat 6.30, 33; 2Co 9.6ff.; Rom 8.19-21).
- B² As the waters of the Spirit flow (Joh 7.37-39) strongholds of enslavement are torn down, bringing every thought captive to God's Christ (2Co 10.3-5).
- A² Christ Jesus the Lamb, with his Father, is the light of the new creation, the healer and Teacher of the nations (Rev 22.1-5).

For you pondering and praying from Isaiah 30:

In childhood & youth we tend to lean on simple comforts and pleasures in order to feel good about life. Later we turn to knowledge, money, sex, status and power. We use these as our *justifiers*: "I'm doing well; I'm okay." In the church we add spiritual and moral grounds for feeling good about life and ourselves, too often by comparing ourselves with others. We find our security, identity and protection in these achievements and enjoyments.

On what *Egypt*s do you most tend to set your affections (investments of money, time and heart) in place of God in Christ and the pleasures of his kingdom?