

Introduction

- I. God's General Call to the Whole World. Matt. 13:47
 - A. Isaiah 9:12, This began in Matthew 4 when Christ preached in the area described by Isaiah, preached the sermon on the mount, instituting the New Covenant and the Kingdom of God.
 - B. He said that the Kingdom would be like a net, cast into the sea, catching all kinds of creatures: “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind:” (Mt 13:47)
 - C. He would give His disciples power to preach this gospel to the whole world: “14 Settle *it* therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer: 15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.” (Lu 21:14-15) [BEFORE PERSECUTORS]
 - D. This was prophesied by Isaiah: “6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.” (Isa 9:6-7)
 - E. All power would be given to the apostles to achieve this: “16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Mt 28:16-20)
 - F. Again in Acts 2: “33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.” (Ac 2:33-35)
 - G. And Psalm 115: “1 Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, *and* for thy truth's sake. 2 Wherefore should the heathen say, Where *is* now their God? 3 But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.” (Ps 115:1-3)
 - H. We find this in general terms in Isaiah 55:6, 7 “6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.” (Isa 55:6-7)
 - I. This is the message to the world.

- II. The Incomprehensible Purposes of God. We must be reminded of this always. “8 For my thoughts *are* not your thoughts, neither *are* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. 9 For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it.” (Isa 55:8-11) What are some of the things accomplished by the preaching of the word of God to the world.
- A. Establish God’s authority over the whole world through Jesus Christ, making His providence understandable.,
 - B. Restrict and restrain sin. Holy Spirit “7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.” (Joh 16:7-11)
 - C. Call men outwardly to the kingdom. To confess and be baptized. This began, as I said, when Jesus preached, fulfilling Isaiah 9. This was far from Jerusalem, in Galilee to the remnant. It would later come to Jerusalem and to the nation.
 - D. To harden men in sin and reveal that their punishment is just. To separate the light from the darkness.
 - E. Powerfully call the elect to salvation: “4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:” (Eph 2:4-6)
 - F. “33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of him, and through him, and to him, *are* all things: to whom *be* glory for ever. Amen.” (Ro 11:33-36)
- III. The Joyful and Gracious Promise to Believers and implied warning to Unbelief.
- A. Isaiah 55:,12,13: “12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign *that* shall not be cut off.” (Isa 55:12-13)
 - B. Continuing in Eph 2:6-10 “7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Eph 2:7-10)

- C. The implied warning of Is. 55, become explicit in Heb 6:7,8: The same water that makes the desert blossom, will also cause the thorns and thistles to come up and turn hard and barren land into mud and waste. “7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God: 8 But that which beareth thorns and briers *is* rejected, and *is* nigh unto cursing; whose end *is* to be burned.” (Heb 6:7-8)
- D. And in Mark: “14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mr 16:14-16)
- E. Beware, the word of God will do what God sends it to do: it will both harden to damnation or soften to repentance and eternal life. Which are you.

Application: If you would count yourself among the living, alive in Christ, then pay heed to the blessed Savior

- 1. To the lame, he says with power: arise and walk.
- 2. To those without strength: take up thy bed and walk.
- 3. To the unclean, Thy faith hath made thee whole.
- 4. To the polluted guilty, neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more.
- 5. To the blind: Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee.
- 6. To the dead He says, “Lazarus, Come Forth.”

We respond: What a word is this!!! 31 And came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and taught them on the sabbath days. [Parallel to Matthew 4] Luke 4

32 And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.

33 And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,

34 Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.

35 And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the devil had thrown him in the midst, he came out of him, and hurt him not.

36 And they were all amazed, and spake among themselves, saying, What a word is this! for with authority and power he commandeth the unclean spirits, and they come out.

Amen and Amen. Exactly, what a word this is! What a privilege to confess, to preach, to believe, to live, to watch and wait. What a word is this!! Amen.