

singing : "Thy mercy my GOD" #11

### Welcome friends to another broadcast of "Morsels for Zion's Poor"

The natural man rebels against the notion of a GOD who is in absolute control of all persons and events and whose will cannot be resisted nor any of HIS purposes overturned. Yet this is exactly how GOD is pleased to reveal HIMSELF. *"I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand." "I am the LORD, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things." "Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.*

Men are more comfortable in imagining that GOD is largely limited in HIS ability to accomplish HIS desire and can only determine what HE will do as HE waits to see what men will do. They have devised many explanations involving HIS ability to see what will happen in the future, which they call "foreknowledge" and they teach that men can cause GOD to bless them according to their will rather than HIS. Thus they picture HIM as looking at man's response in order to determine HIS own purpose. This is totally foolish. The will of men is shaped by GOD rather than vice versa. *"O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps."*

GOD is often pictured as hoping men will do the right thing and desiring to bless them if they will let HIM, in the preaching that we hear today. David understood the folly of those who devise gods of their own imagination as he said, *"But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased."* It is this ABSOLUTE GOD which David goes on to describe as true Israel's *"HELP and their SHIELD"*. It is impossible that ONE who is to be their PROTECTOR and DELIVERER, is not also the GOD who does *"according to HIS will in the army of Heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth."* One who must wait upon men cannot be their HELP in every situation. David called upon HIM who does all things well.

When the LORD delivered David *"from the hand of all his enemies"*, he was moved to write *"I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."* David did not consider that the LORD was his strength because he trusted in HIM, but rather HE trusted in HIM because HE is his STRENGTH. The salvation of the righteous is of the LORD both in its inception and in its fulfillment. They are caused to trust HIM, as HE reveals HIMSELF to them.

HE is indeed the DEFENSE of HIS people in whom they can safely trust without any fear that HE should ever fail or falter in their protection. The LORD JESUS CHRIST is that ONE who shall keep those from harm whom HE has sworn to protect. *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."* HIS sheep are all of those which are hidden in HIM in the covenant of redemption from before the foundation of the world. *"this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day."*

Everything that HE does is without any mixture of error and each action which HE ordains is set forth to fulfill HIS purpose. How else could salvation be brought to a people who were in total rebellion against HIM and who would not seek HIM, nor pay any heed to HIS overtures of kindness and mercy? If HE was not the PROVIDER of faith how would they then believe, or how could they remove themselves from the darkness and death in which they were born by nature?

HE is that ONE who is a SHIELD and exceeding great REWARD to that people whom HE has determined to save. HIS own ARM, has brought salvation, while treading the winepress of GOD's wrath and destroying the ability of HIS enemies to harm even one hair of the heads of those whom HE has loved with an everlasting love. Because HE is the SHIELD of HIS people they are enabled to trust HIM. HIS ARM bears their SHIELD, fending off every assault and parrying every blow which would jeopardize HIS beloved? Do you trust HIM or do you trust your own arm?

*"Thy free grace alone," #11* **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at [forthe poor@windstream.net](mailto:forthe poor@windstream.net)**