

October 2015

Dear Friends,

### The Complaint of Isaiah

Oh that thou wouldest rend the heavens, that thou wouldest come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, (Isaiah 64:1 KJV)

We just enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Esko MN at the Youth Rally. On Sunday we had our annual Seminary Rally there as well and after that had the chance to share some conversation with some of the people that led to a discussion of Isaiah. The passage above from Isaiah is always striking to me. God gave these words to Isaiah between 100 and 200 years before the events he was to describe would take place. God Himself anticipated the complaints that would come from the people and placed those words in the mouth of the prophet so that He could answer them. God knew the people would complain as their enemies would grow strong around them and press them so He had Isaiah fulfill the role of those that would question what God was doing and why He didn't come down and help them as He had in the past. The beautiful verse above is actually that complaint summarized in poetic form in the KJV. What God really has Isaiah say is "Why don't You come down off Your throne and come help us?" God knew that the people wouldn't understand that what they were going through was the consequence of their own action. They had been disobedient and would wind up going into exile. God would summon them to repentance but they wouldn't listen to Him. God wasn't coming down to help them because He was the one sending them to exile. However God was going to come help them. He was going to come down off that throne and do something amazing, He was going to send His Son as a man to save His people once and for all. He would send Immanuel; God With Us, and would indeed dwell with us restoring us from fallenness.

Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and *one* saith, Destroy it not; for a blessing *is* in it: so will I do for my servants' sakes, that I may not destroy them all.<sup>9</sup> And I will bring forth a seed out of Jacob, and out of Judah an inheritor of my mountains: and mine elect shall inherit it, and my servants shall dwell there.<sup>10</sup> And Sharon shall be a fold of flocks, and the valley of Achor a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me. (Isaiah 65:8-10 KJV)

God was demonstrating through His dialogue with Isaiah that He always knows what He's doing. Sometimes in the circumstances we face in this world we may question if God knows what He's doing, we may even turn to the point of thinking that we are being punished by God. It's in those times that we must turn from our own thoughts and give ear to the Word of God, to listen to Him speak to us of Jesus; the precious Lamb of God, who has taken away the sin of the world on the cross at Calvary. This is a true repentance, a real change of mind about God in which we see God not according to our mind but in the mind of Christ. Then we can see the fullness of the gospel, Jesus took our sin once and for all and gave us God's righteousness (2Cor. 5:21)

God always knows what He's doing. Even more important, He knows what He's done. Isaiah could only see and know in part but we see and know the fullness of Jesus Christ fulfilled and guaranteed through the Holy Spirit. God is with us. Thanks be to God. This is the message we are given by God to deliver to the world, God is reconciled to us and wants us to be reconciled to Him (2Cor. 5:19-20). This is the substance of all we teach; the finished work of Jesus Christ, and we thank you for support by which you make what we do possible. Thanks be to God for the unspeakable gift of His grace in Jesus Christ. Blessings upon all of you.

God's Peace,  
Jay Weidner



*DONATIONS RECEIVED...*

*In memory of Edwin Puumala*  
from Luella Puumala

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from James & Laurene Mattinen

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**Seminary Service Schedule**  
**7 p.m.**

**October**

18<sup>th</sup> – Heath Anderson @ Seminary



**SAVE THE DATE....** *Winter Night of Music*  
*at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock, MI, to benefit*  
*the seminary on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7PM.*  
*Join us for an evening of Christmas caroling and*  
*special music. Refreshments will be served afterwards.*