

Zion's King Shall Reign Victorious! - 8

In his last inspired words, king David referred to the covenant which God had made with him - "He has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire" - 2 Samuel 23:5.

As we can see among the nations of the world, the sort of governance a people has over them will have much to do with the conditions in which the people live. The sort of government which God requires over mankind, in order to bring His purpose with them to fruition, is not yet come -

"HE WHO RULES OVER MEN MUST BE JUST, RULING IN THE FEAR OF GOD."

David makes it clear that these are not his own private thoughts - "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue. The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spoke to me..."

This divinely inspired message conveys the beneficial effect of such a ruler in the view of a becalming and cheering scene. "And he will be as the light of the morning when the sun rises - a morning without clouds - as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining, after rain" - as if to suggest that the promised reign will follow a dark night of trouble among men.

David was near the end of his forty years reign when he wrote these words. It is clear from what he wrote next that fulfilment of the covenant was still in the future, because the required conditions were still absent. Solomon was ready to be the next king, but the inspired message was that his son's reign would not be the fulfilment of the promise.

And so David also wrote, "For - not so is my house with God... for - He has not caused it to spring up" - v.5, Young's Lit.Trans., adding, "yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, ordered in all things and secure. For this is all my salvation and all my desire" - 2 Samuel 23:1-5 - and so David expected his own personal salvation to be included in that fulfilment.

The reign of Solomon has been called the golden age in Israel's history, but the Scripture record shows that it could not be described as a morning without clouds. Solomon disregarded the clear instruction for kings which God gave in His law given by Moses -

"He shall not multiply horses to himself...Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold" - Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

Remarkably, in the account of Israel's conquest of Canaan no mention is made of horses - all was accomplished by Israel's foot soldiers whose manoeuvres were under divine direction through Joshua. But Solomon established "forty thousand stalls of horses for his chariots, and twelve thousand horsemen" - 1 Kings 4:26, not demonstrating the same faith in God's help.

It is true that God gave Solomon great wealth, but the king could have used much less of it for his own aggrandizement. But there was a terrible result from his many marriages, a great number of which were for diplomatic purposes to keep the peace with foreign rulers -

"He had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart... after other gods..." - 1 Kings 11:3, soon infecting the entire nation.