

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Never Put To Shame

(Jerry Fite)

Israel had made her choice. Instead of returning to God and His standard of righteousness, Israel in unrighteousness looked to another bastion for safety. Isaiah addresses the situation with the following irony: “*Wherefore hear the word of Jehovah, ye scoffers, that rule this people that in Jerusalem: Because ye have said, ‘We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves’*” (Isaiah 28:14-15). No, they did not believe they were making lies their refuge or literally hiding in falsehood, but in reality that was exactly their condition. Turning to Egypt, instead of returning to God’s righteousness would not save Israel.

Isaiah then shows what God has laid down in Zion for them: “*Therefore thus saith the Lord Jehovah, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone of sure foundation: he that believeth shall not be in haste*”

(Isaiah 28:16). Peter points to Jesus as the precious foundational stone to look to in faith as the perfect fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophetic teaching. By believing in Him, we “*shall not be put to shame*” (1 Peter 2:6). Driven away from our supposedly stronghold in haste, brings shame. This will never happen to the true believer in Christ.

What is the foundation for your life? With whom or what have you made covenant?

Some youth look to their young age as their covenant with death. Death will not overcome them, because they have many years ahead of them. They are physically invincible; why get spiritually serious? Look at the face of the youth in cancer treatment centers across this country, and you will see fear and vulnerability. What? You never attended a funeral of a teenager?

Young people, remember your creator now while you are young and not encumbered by old age issues (Eccl. 12:1). Give your young heart to Christ in obedience of faith. In godliness have the

blessings in this life which purity gives, and have the surety of heaven which Christ secures for you through faith (2 Timothy 4:7-8, 1 Peter 1:3-5). Regardless of circumstances you will never have to retreat in haste to another stronghold and be ashamed. In Christ, you will never be put to shame.

Some make their covenant with death depending upon money as their safety net. They work their whole life securing “a number” upon which to retire. But an economic crisis can wipe out the “secure nest egg” overnight. What then? Our present economic crisis has exposed more than one “Ponzi” scheme. The victims are many times sophisticated investors, just wanting a decent return on their money. Often, they look no deeper into the investment arrangement than seeing their friend, in whom they trust, also invested. So they turn over their life’s savings to the manager only to be burned. Have your hope set on God, not the uncertainty of riches (1 Timothy 6:17). In doing so you will never be put to shame, Heaven’s treasures are always secure (Matt. 6:20).