

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Isaiah – “The New Creation”

by Dempsey Collins

A common theme of Isaiah is the new spiritual Zion to come. In 1:26, 27 this new Jerusalem will be called “the city of righteousness”. In Chapter 2:1-4 all nations will stream to it, willingly submit to the one Lord and dwell together in unity. All of these promises are fulfilled in the kingdom of Jesus the Christ beginning in Acts 2 (see also Matt. 16:18; 28:18; Acts 3:18-26; Rom. 1:16; 3:20-26; 8:1-4; Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:13; Heb. 12:22-29; and Rev. 1:4-9).

In Isaiah 4:5, Isaiah speaks of the spiritual Zion to come as a creation of God. Isaiah says, “Then the Lord will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy.” (cp. with Ex. 13:21)

The word “create” in Isa. 4:5 is the verb *bara*. S.R. Driver in his commentary on Genesis (p. 3) defines *bara*. “The root signifies to cut; so ... the proper meaning is to fashion by cutting, to shape. In the simple conjugation ... it is used exclusively of God, to denote the production of something fundamentally new, by the exercise of a sovereign originative power, altogether transcending that possessed by man” (cp. Ps. 33:6; 90:2).

In other words, only God creates. The word *bara* is used nineteen times in Isaiah. By the use of this word Isaiah makes it clear that God is the sole author of this work. Both the physical creation and the “new creation” of Isa. 4:5; 65:17, 18 owe their origin to God alone. See also Ps. 102:18.

Brother Homer Hailey’s comments are helpful here:

“The new order will come about by a divine creation of something that did not exist before. This manifestation of Jehovah’s presence will be not only over the hill of Zion itself, but also over the whole habitation and over her assemblies ...” (Hailey, p. 62).

“The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe” and obey the gospel insures a constant fellowship with God (See Rom. 1:16; 3:21-26; 8:1-4).

The apostle Peter offers this assurance to the new covenant faithful – “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time” (I Peter 1:3-5).

God’s new creation of “righteous ones” created through faith in His Son Jesus is spoken of throughout the New Testament (II Cor. 5:17, 18; Eph. 2:10; 4:24; I Pet. 1:22, 23; Gal. 6:15).

WORDS

L.A. Stauffer

It may be that our words, unlike sticks and stones, may not hurt others, but don’t assume that if our words are harmless to others that they are innocent. What we say, like what we think, is an expression of our character.

The words we utter are but a reflection of what we think: they are a manifestation of the ideas we harbor. “I don’t know why I said that” is not entirely true. We said “that” because we first thought it. Words as our thoughts are as much deeds as other activities in our lives. A distinction between words and deeds is more technical than real.

James says that if a man can control his words, he is a “perfect man” who can bridle his whole being. The tongue he says is not innocent, but is a “fire,” a “world of iniquity” that defiles the entire person (James 3:2, 6).

We know therefore, that man, as with the intents of his heart, will be judged by every idle word that proceeds out of his mouth (Matt. 12:36-37). God as with thoughts, condemns evil words – whether gossip, filthy speech, or using God’s name in vain: He does so because, again, they are a measure of who a man really is. Guard your words and you will also guard your life – even your soul. (Proverbs 13:3).

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

*“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer
of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16*