

Punlish, So, Norfolk July 11, 1968 P.M. WXR
Brent Jay April 29, P.M. vvd

"SILENCING GLOOM"

Isaiah 41

INTRODUCTION:

"Nobody knows the trouble I've seen", is a description of your life. Every person faces trouble. It is bound to come.

Fear

Gloom had settled over Israel -- (how) were they to face it?

A nation going into captivity without a King or local government - darkness settled upon their hearts.

(How) will the Prophet deal with this time of fear?

40 -- Describes a Sovereign God. Creator, rewarder, excellent one, knowledge, wisdom, and mercy. "Behold your God" is the (Gospel) of Isaiah.

"Before Jehovah's awful throne,

Ye nations, bow with sacred joy:

Know that the Lord is God alone:

He can create, and he destroy.

His sovereign power, without our aid,

Made us a day, and formed us men;

And when, like wand'ring sheep, we strayed,

He brought us to his fold again.

Wide as the world is Thy command,

Vast as eternity Thy love:

Firm as a rock Thy truth shall stand,

When rolling years shall cease to move."

41 - Extention of sovereignty of God as prophecied in deliverance from Babylon and care of his people.

Outline:

- I. Silence Commanded 1-7.
- II. Silencing Fear 8-10.
- III. Silencing Enemies 11-29.

I. Silence Commanded - Verse 1-7.

Verse 1 - God is calling the whole world to judgment.

Jews call all that were beyond the Mediterranean Sea -- "Islanders".

→ Keep silence.

Challenge to the worshippers of idols - strengthen yourself - defend your idols - come near.

Speak fully.

(Kingdom of God is not afraid of fair trial.)

Let the enemies of the Kingdom say and do their worst in support of their unrighteous cause.

1880 - F. W. Grant wrote in an article, "The Future of Infidelity - "Never in the history of man, has so terrific a calamity befallen the race, as that which all who look, may now behold, advancing as a deluge, black with destruction, resistless in might, uprooting our most cherished hope, engulfing our most precious creed, and burying our highest life in mindless desolation".

He points to conflict between faith and infidelity. Attacks on all that is supernatural - anti-theism of the Bolshevik has taken root in the earth.

Faith is feeble -- "When the Son of man cometh shall He find faith upon the earth?"

God said be silent - invites sea washed continents to trial.

Verse (2) - Challenge in form of question - Who called the conquering hero from the East? From the sun rise?

Unbeliever says no sign of hero coming - year after year Babylon remains and the Jews remain in captivity - believers are fanatics concerning promises.

God is sovereign - (Cyrus) comes into view of the Prophet.

Chap. 44-46. The Lord not only names Cyrus but calls him His "Shepherd", His "Anointed", "The man that executeth my counsel".

Spoken of as though it were a past event - Hebrews way of expressing certainty.

Bringing him on the stage of History.

Nations broken up before his (Sword) - like dust.

Righteousness to his (foot) -- God made him a minister - a task - an instrument - rule over completeness of Cyrus rule.

Stubble before his (bow) - true destruction.

Verse (3) - Protected. Brief History the wars of Cyrus. Untrodden ways. Assyrian King boasted of trampling obstacles. Cyrus not worry this way. Pass over the road. Fly - rapid.

Verse (4) - Sovereign God. Who has wrought this? Has any idol?

My Work - eternal - unchangeable God that governed the world from the beginning and will to the end of time.

Generations: Refers

A. Call of Abraham - Gen. 7

B. Righteous man of the East - called from serving other gods. Example of righteousness in his day. Rom. 4:3, 11; 2 Cor. 5:21. From East - Ur, than from Haran which lay E of Canaan. God did not let him settle in either of those places.

C. Called him to his foot - to follow - Heb. 11:8. Hittites acknowledged him as a Prince. Gen. 23:6. Made to rule over Kings whom he conquered in rescue of Lot - Gen. 14.

Now he will raise up Cyrus from the East - In Isa. 45:13 call him to his foot - make what use of him he pleases - victorious - success in all his wars.

Verse 5 - Whole earth trembles.

Weak nations gave up - scarcely any resistance. Not avoid taking notice of God at work.

Verse 6 - Idol Worship in danger - Dagon falls before the Ark. Helping the Neighbor - Heathen helping each other.

Christians: A. Day of adversity.

B. Day of bereavement - weep with them that weep.

C. Day of persecution. (Luther)-- "The plough of persecution was yoked. As early as the days of Cain; and it has been going upon the back of the church ever since." Gal. 4:29, 2 Tim. 3:12.

D. Day of Temptation.

E. Day of Death.

Verse 7 - Dangerous to them.

Carpenter had done his part - encouraged the goldsmith to do his part - one that beats it on the anvil is encouraged - one does sodering - fasten it with nails and you have a god!

Sinners quicken one another in sin.

Servants of God ought to stir up one another in service.

Manufacture a god - we smile - I Cor. 10:20.

Things which Gentils sacrifice they sacrifice to Devils - Have no Fellowship with Devils -

Many gods to which unbelieving heart may turn. Ambitious - ceremonies - formalist - sacraments.

Believe the most absurd things, trust in gold, lead a Christless life and yet somehow hope to get in Heaven at last.

They do as others do - custom.

II. Silencing Fear - V. 8-10.

Verse 8 - Intensifying - affection:

A. Servant

B. Chosen

C. Offspring (Seed)

D. Friend

Encourage own people to trust him.

Pronoun "MY" - I belong to him - I have cost him dearly - He will never fail me.

True of Israel is true of us! Christ - I am his servant - His chosen -
John 15:16.

Jacob - low estate - crooked - deceitful - God in mercy chose.

His servant - his friend Abraham God wanted him as a friend.

Some parts of world where God seems to have no friends at all.

Missionaries become friend of the savages. Become friend because they are good. Evil men love darkness.

Abraham proved his friendship to God:

1. Built Altar - Gen. 12:7-8.
2. Believed what God told him - promises.
3. Obeyed what God told him.

You to be a friend - Jesus said John 15:14 - Friends share troubles.

Gods servants - He will protect.

Gods chosen - Peculiar people to himself.

Gods offspring - Seed.

Gods Friend = Honour - covenant - never leave.

James 2:23. 2 Chron. 20:7.

Verse 9 - Brought from great distance. Not cast away. When exile His great care still over them.

Verse 10 - Fear Not - Tenderness, I will strengthen, I have chosen.

Repeated - V. 13, V. 14.

Depend upon the presence of God.

Constant need - sorrow, physical pain, heavy responsibilities, alone in a position, death.

Dark is the lot of a man who has no God.

Men fear they cannot fulfill their duties.

Men fear they cannot overpower temptation.

Men fear they cannot handle trouble.

Men fear they cannot face death.

Soldiers felt no fear in the presence of Napoleon. "Long live the Emperor! Lead us and we go to Victory or death".

Sin causes fear. Adam was never afraid of God until he broke His commands. Gen. 3:8.

Sin continues to bring fear to heart.

Lack of faith brings fear, 1/2 faith.

Fear feeds sin - distrust God.

Fear weakens your influence.

Fear Thou Not.

Some fears of people:

A. Fear of (loneliness) - old age, great issue.

B. Fear of (material loss) - money, property.

Jonah - gourd withered - His God did not!

Your goods may go, your God will not.

You will lack no good thing.

C. Fear of (Health loss) - weak, frail, mental.

Samson - physical restored.

"I will strengthen Thee".

God gives this.

D. Fear of (Inadequate ability) to serve the Lord - Lack Talent.

Moses - Bush in Wilderness not consumed.

Set you a blaze with glory like bush.

"I will help thee" - If you try to do the Lord's work

He will help you.

E. Fear of loss of (Friends) - Forsake.

Jesus take no thought - be not anxious.

German reformer in time of trouble, few friends, looked up in twilight and saw a bird hop in shade of a thick tree.

It stayed a few minutes on its first perch to sing its evening song and then leaped upon a higher branch, placed its head below its wing and went to sleep. Happy little bird, said Luther: "He sings his song and goes to sleep and lets God think for Him; and I will do the same".

John 10:27-28.

F. Fear (of Death) - Lack of assurance - Horror of darkness.

Rev. 1:18 "Fear not; I am He that liveth and was dead; and behold I am alive forever more, and have the keys of Hades and of death".

Rich man and Lazarus - Jesus help.

G. Fear of (Unforgiven Sin) - Guilt - Judgment - Meeting God.

Gen. 3:8. *Heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden - hid themselves from God*

Exod. 20:19. - *People said more talk to God lest we die*

Judges 13:20. - *Fire came after Manoah with full face*

Isa. 6:5. *Woe is me -*

"Fear Not" -- not guarantee immunity from trouble -
temptation - death - future judgment.

Sin disastrous results.

Jesus helped men of old - woman, guilty of a great sin,
wanted to stone - let him without sin cast first stone.
Go sin no more.

Jesus gave health to the sick.

God is on our side. He comes to help us and forgive.

Widow's barrel - meal continue by faith.

Faith removes fear from judgment.

Up hold you - Spurgeon - story "A minister was one day bring his books upstairs into another room. Instead of on 1st floor study - his little boy wanted to help. "Now said the father, I knew he could not do it, but he wanted to. To please him and encourage him in his industry, I told him to take a book and carry it up." So away he went and picked out one of the biggest volumes. When he had climbed a step or two, down he sat and began to cry! Could not manage to carry the big book further. Disappointed, unhappy.

How did the matter end. Why the father had to go to the rescue and carry both the great book and the little man.

So when the Lord gives us a little work, or fear takes hold of us, the Father carries us. "I will help Thee."

Encouragement Sovereign Is rolled forth - I am - I will - man can lay hold on God - I will trust.

III. Silencing Enemies - V. 11-29.

Verse 11 - Israel grew strong through God's help.

Enemies "Angry" with Thee.

Enemies at strife with Thee.

Enemies in conflict with you.

Shall be covered with shame - shall perish - shall not be found - nothingness.
Enemies were severe - God reckon with - be nothing!

Verse (12) - Repeats - Enemies of God's people soon melt into nothingness.

Verse (13) - (Right Hand) - Hold - Guide - Lead - Keep us from falling.

Verse (14) - Compare Worm.

Like a worm, trodden under foot in Babylon.

God's people weak - need not fear!

God's people (little - need not fear!

Verse (15) - (Instrument) of God's making - Threshing.

Fear not says the Lord the strong may seem to trod down the worm. Hold on through the conflict and no power will carry you up the strait - take heart - strive on.

Strange (image) presented - down trodden worm. Reducing hills to powder.

Moses before Pharaoh and power seemed ready to destroy the infant church. God's chosen.

Elijah - on carmel and power of Ahab, Jezebel, Court, Priest of Baal against him.

Disciples - power of Judaism, wealth of Romans and the Empire against them.

Luther - poor monk, challenged by Vatican, Emperor, Cardinals. "Here stand I alone for the truth; God help me!"

Who would have expected that the mountain would have been crushed by the worm?
Worm prevailed!

Path to Heaven, pass through enemy country. Worm attempting the impossible.

Verse (16) - The (Figure) is carried out complete. Mountains threshed, winnowed, thrown to the wind.

Triumphs of (cross) over darkness.

Rejoice in the Lord - freed from hinderances.

Verse 17 - Everything Supplied.

Israel in captivity - The Poor in Spirit.

Outward wants - God help - I Cor. 15:57. *Thanks be unto God that giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Inward trouble, distress from sin.

Ill. Child in need - you take notice - not pass by.

We strive for holiness - despair.

"I The Lord will hear" - Hagar - Gen. 21:17.

Israel in Egypt. Exod. 3:7.

Hezekiah letter of Sennacherib's.

God's people seem to suffer more than others -- you need a word of hope - Satan press you.

Way to Heaven through wilderness - supplies!

Verse 18 - Constant Supply.

Preaching the Gospel opens a river in wilderness. Living Water. Rivers, fountain, (wells) pools, springs!

Verse 19 - Wilderness into a Garden. Delight - Choice trees water - rain - vegetable growth.

Saver - Bread - Trees - Symbol!
Shadow of a great rock - great change. Cedar (glory of Lebanon), Acacia (ark made of), Myrtle (hills of Jerusalem), Olive (whole country), Cyprus - Juniper (Lebanon), pine and box tree (Large in size - Syria).
incorruptibility (abundant in Jordan), *holiness of character* Myrtle, *Spirit of God* Olive.

Verse 20 - World Can See - God at Work!

Those that experience this can not fail to see it!

A change above the ordinary - wonderful change - power of his favour in his people.

Verse 21 - Future - Prove Case. Let the enemies speak. Produce. (Bring your reasons!)

Idols challenged to bring proof - Defenders of idols come and speak.

Verse 22 - Challenges the idols to tell us what things are going to come and be here after!

Verse (23) - (If) Idols cannot predict future - They cannot do that now idols chance to do good or evil.

Can't prophecy - let them show whether they can do good or harm. I Kings 8:27.
Good to their friends - harm to enemies.

Verse (24) - Idols (say nothing) - bring no reasons - nothing - shame.

Verse (25) - God (Silences his enemies) - produces proof - He will raise up Cyrus, North and from East - Born of two different people, The Persians by his father, and Medes by his mother. Persia ^{Sun Rise} lay to the East of Babylon, Media northward and Cyrus' army (of which the Medes made a considerable part) is described (Jer. 50:9, 41) as coming out of the North.

At a very early age was removed to Media, lying on the North of Babylon and it was from Media that he came down at the head of Victorious hosts upon the doomed capital.

Prophet visions a prince of Eastern birth, marching upon the city from the North and that his name was Cyrus. 45: ~~1-3~~

He will come and (publish God's name) and release the Jews out of captivity.
All opposition shall fall before him.

Verse 26 - Infallible Foresight of God as opposed to idols.

Verse (27) - First Has Said - Jehovah. Already announced deliverance to Zion. Foresee, foretold.

Good tidings - and of captivity at hand.
Rom. 16:25-26.

Verse (28) - (No Man) - No idol could prophecy. No counsellor or Prophet among them.

Speechless Matt. 22:12. King came in & saw a man not having a wedding garment, then he saith unto him friend how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless.

Verse (29) - Judgement - All vanity - A cheat.

Pretend to be - works are nothing.

Scorn - against idol worshippers.

1 Cor. 4: 8-10 "we are troubled on every side yet not distressed, we are perplexed but not in despair - persecuted but not forsaken - cast down but not destroyed - always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus that the life of Jesus might be manifest in our body."

1st.

THE GOD OF COMFORT

I have been through the valley of weeping,
The valley of sorrow and pain;
But the God of all comfort was with me,
At hand to uphold and sustain.

As the earth needs the clouds and the sunshine
Our souls need both sorrow and joy,
So He places us off in the furnace,
The dross from the gold to destroy.

When He leads thru some valley of trouble
His omnipotent hand we can trace;
For the trials and sorrows He sends us
Are part of His lessons of grace.

Oft we shrink from the purging and pruning,
Forgetting the husbandman knows
That the deeper the cutting and paring
The richer the cluster that grows.

Well He knows that affliction is needed,
He has a wise purpose in view;
And in the dark valley He whispers,
"Hereafter thou shalt know what I do."

As we travel through life's shadowed valley,
Fresh springs of His love ever rise,
And we learn that our sorrow and losses
Are blessings just sent in disguise.

So we'll follow wherever He leads us,
Let the path be dreary or bright,
For we've proved that our God can give comfort,
Our God can give songs in the night.

—Selected

1st.

THE GOD OF COMFORT

I have been through the valley of weeping,
The valley of sorrow and pain;
But the God of all comfort was with me,
At hand to uphold and sustain.

As the earth needs the clouds and the sunshine
Our souls need both sorrow and joy,
So He places us oft in the furnace,
The dross from the gold to destroy.

When He leads thru some valley of trouble
His omnipotent hand we can trace;
For the trials and sorrows He sends us
Are part of His lessons of grace.

Oft we shrink from the purging and pruning,
Forgetting the husbandman knows
That the deeper the cutting and paring
The richer the cluster that grows.

Well He knows that affliction is needed,
He has a wise purpose in view;
And in the dark valley He whispers,
"Hereafter thou shalt know what I do."

As we travel through life's shadowed valley,
Fresh springs of His love ever rise,
And we learn that our sorrow and losses
Are blessings just sent in disguise.

So we'll follow wherever He leads us,
Let the path be dreary or bright,
For we've proved that our God can give comfort,
Our God can give songs in the night.

—Selected

Silencing Storm -

Silence Commanded 1-7

Silencing Fear - 8-10

" Enemies - 11-29

Drift of this Chapter ^{is} God's sovereign care of
our fear & Daily Battle with living Christian life -
20 years ago Mrs Elsie Berry began preparing for funeral -
A sealed envelope for Pastor Tom Hughes instructions -
Detail - Psa 22 - 121 - John 14 -
Poems she loved & want my family to hear -
one was "The God of Comfort"