

Thursday, August 24, 2017 - Day 235 – Isaiah 52-54, Psalm 42, Titus 2

A Different Kind of King

Today's readings are among the riches in all of scripture – the vision of the Messiah who takes away our sins; the Psalmist calling us to trust in God even in the midst of our life's struggles; and St. Paul reminded us to live Godly lives, not to earn God's grace, but in response to the grace revealed in Jesus Christ to create a people of His own.

The predominant vision of the Messiah, the anointed one of God, in the Old Testament is of a king like King David. The Messiah will come with political and physical power to restore the fortunes of God's people and bring an earthly piece. The other vision and the vision that has captivated those of us who follow Jesus Christ, come largely from this passage in Isaiah. It is a vision that sets earthly kingdoms in a secondary place as the Suffering Servant appears to bear our griefs, to be wounded for our transgressions, and to offer His life as an offering to take away our sins. This Messiah has come to take away all that separates us from the Holy God and to restore us into the image God intended for all people.

Psalm 42 speaks to the deep longing in our souls to find God, to be restored to the life with the God who created us and is present with us, even in times of struggle and separation. It is a psalm that includes both lament and praise, encouraging us to place our trust, our lives in God whatever we may face, for God is more powerful than any of our earthly struggles and our hope in God will never disappoint.

Paul's encouragement to Titus is for Titus to teach the church Titus is serving to live Godly lives at whatever age or station in life his congregation is experiencing. Live Godly lives, not to earn God's grace, for the grace of God has already appeared in Jesus' death and resurrection. Godly lives reflect that grace we have received and will draw others into this life that is really life.

By The Rev. W. Frank Allen