

Monday, August 14, 2017 - Day 225 – Isaiah 25-27, Psalm 34, I Timothy 3

Have you noticed all the poetry and prophecies in the Bible? Have you noticed that the prophecies often sound like poetry, and the poetry often sounds like a prophecy? The book of Isaiah (though probably a collection of writings by several authors) has such poetic resonance that Handel set large parts to music in his oratorio, *The Messiah*. The Psalms in our Book of Common Prayer were translated by a group of people (including the poet W. H. Auden) who were sensitive to their meter. They were meant to be sung in their original Hebrew, and the BCP translation makes this possible in today's English.

Perhaps these prophecies and psalms stay in our minds best when they carry the words in phrases that subtly find homes in our hearts. *“O Lord, you are my God, I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things...” “Taste and see that the Lord is good...” “I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.”*

Is this how we follow Paul's teaching to “Pray always?”

Many years ago I regularly took consecrated bread and wine to a dear friend, then in her 90's, in a nursing home. Her memory had failed her. She knew who I was, yet could not name me. But two things never left her: The Lord's Prayer and the 23rd Psalm. Weeks before she died, she could still enjoy saying them with me before she received communion.

When we have let the poetry and prophecy in Scripture into our hearts, they will keep us company all day long. Read these passages once again: what phrase will keep you company today? Can you commit these words to your heart, so that they will be a comfort to you this day and this night?

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