

Come Let us Reason Together

What an incredible invitation this is as given to us in Isaiah 1:18! Here God, speaking through the great prophet Isaiah is beckoning His people to come to Him so that they can better know Him and reach a true understanding of what He expects of them. This offer is made in the context of a severe backsliding of the people of Israel, where their hollow prayers and meaningless sacrifices were repugnant to God. Can anyone today, who is at all conscious of the workings and the conditions of the so-called Christian Churches not recognize the similarity of that time with the present? With statistics regarding divorce, abortion, infidelity and many other measures of worldly ways no better within the “Christian body” than elsewhere in the world, isn’t this highly suggestive of similar times and conditions within the ranks of “His” people? In verse 9 of the same chapter, God says that only because of the existence of a very small, and of course obedient remnant, they should have been treated to His wrath, as were Sodom and Gomorrah. Has God’s wrath been similarly deferred on this nation by the presence of an ever shrinking “true” remnant which yet exists here? With the rampant biblical illiteracy in this country and the prophesied ever increasing proliferation of false prophets, false teachers, and false religions in these end times, the size of the present day, genuine remnant is ever shrinking and more difficult to find.

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, Jesus reveals to John the true nature of the Christian Church as it was and is throughout the whole history of its existence. The typical church of our time, that is these end times, is characterized by the ancient church of Laodicea. Laodicea means, “ruled by the people.” WOW! I thought that Jesus was the ruler of His church! No! Today the people rule, majority rules, democracy functions at its “finest” even in what is supposed to be God’s church. We have market surveys to determine what the people want of the church. Salvation is no longer the issue; what Jesus taught is either ignored or twisted; it is all about attracting the unchurched, about filling the pews, as if that saves souls. It is about making them “feel good” and wanting to come back for more touchy feely advice about how to improve one’s self esteem, and to live a more

pleasant, seemingly “righteous life. That there must be conviction before a sinner can experience conversion is rarely if ever mentioned. At the rate certain words are disappearing from the pulpits and from bible studies, words such as repentance, humility and obedience, they may well eventually disappear entirely from the Christian vocabulary. While words, such as faith and belief and love remain in popular usage, the world has successfully hollowed them out and thus removed the true spiritual quality and meaning they once enjoyed, but now only survive in that “very small remnant.”

In Isaiah chapter one, God is citing the repulsion and utter disdain with which He views their false, superficial, or at best half-hearted, motivation regarding worship, sacrifice and walking in His ways. In verse 6, He speaks of their “wounds and bruises, and putrefying sores” of their souls which they have done nothing about, trying to heal. He counsels’ them to adopt His ways and to anoint their eyes with a spiritual “eye salve” that they might see the wrongness of their ways. There, after noting their vain, valueless and hated burnt offering and other formerly meaningful expressions of worship, along with examples of their sinful ways, does He offer those precious words of reconciliation, “come let us reason together.”

To further illustrate this beautiful parallel between Isaiah and Revelation 3:14-22, let us further compare the two messages. Where in Isaiah 1:6, God speaks of an ointment to help heal the spiritual affliction, in Revelation, Jesus tells Laodcea to “anoint thine eyes with eye salve, that thou mayest see.” History reveals that the City of Laodcea was noted for the manufacturing of a very effective eye salve. In Isaiah, God calls for repentance or His wrath would come, while in Revelation 3:19, God says, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten; be zealous therefore and repent.” Where in Isaiah 1:13 God rejected the offering and the false worship, and therefore clearly left His place in the Holy of Holies in the Temple, in Revelation 3:20 God has left the “Church” and as He says, “Behold I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door I will come in to him, and I will sup with him and him with Me. How very similar in effect is this to God’s invitation to “come let us reason together.” Here again it is the small remnant with which He is seeking a true fellowship and eternal family relationship. God

is the same yesterday, today and forever. He changes not. The God of the Old Testament is the very same God of the New Testament. He wants all of us to be His family. God is "...not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2Peter 3:9). Have you heard His knock and His offer to reason with you? Can anyone in his or her right heart reject such an offer?

But how do we accept this offer to "come let us reason together" and how do we open our hearts so that He can enter? The way is very clear for those who sincerely wish to know it. First we must know that He exists and know of His presence. Then we must listen in order to hear "His Voice." Only then can we open the door of our hearts to let Him in. Primarily, it's the Word, the Holy Bible, through which God speaks to us most generously and convincingly. It's where His reasoning is revealed if one approaches these precious words in a true spirit of seeking to know Him, and what He wants of us. From this we begin to understand that it is Jesus who is the truth, the way, and the only way. And once we recognize this, and our hopeless state, we become ready to confess our sins, repent, believe in the salvation offered through the shed blood of Jesus, and accept Him as our Lord and Savior. Then we have opened that door, and can begin to reason with Him. From that moment on both here on earth and in eternity to come, He and we will both sup and reason together. We will "sup", that is eat and drink, and absorb the spiritual nourishment of His very presence in our hearts. Currently, through prayer and study of Scripture by the light of the Holy Spirit, His reasoning will be revealed, as will be our purpose in life, and how we should go about achieving it. Don't wait another moment. Begin that process NOW!