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The Visitation Of Blessing

The term “visit” in it’s various forms has demonstrated the fulfillment of God’s promises, as in the case of Joseph, and as a manifestation of judgment against the evil of God’s own people as well as other nations that did evil in the sight of the Lord. The scriptures also tell of the visitation of God as a time when God will bless. Besieged with the trials and sufferings that he endured, Job recognized this aspect of God in his life. **“Thou hast granted me life and favour, and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.” (Job 10.12)**. Job realized that in spite of the things that were occurring, God had blessed him, not only with the physical things that he possessed, but also with life itself. In the midst of such darkness, Job still acknowledged that the presence of God was with him and sustained his life. David speaks of the power and goodness of God toward his people in the blessings that he gives to them. **“Who can utter the mighty acts of the LORD? who can shew forth all his praise? Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times. Remember me, O LORD, with the favour that thou bearest unto thy people: O visit me with thy salvation; That I may see the good of thy chosen, that I may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that I may glory with thine inheritance.” (Psm 106.2-5)**. We see that it is the desire of the righteous to seek the blessings of God so long as they continue in faithfulness to the Lord. God indeed visited negative consequences upon the nations of Israel and Judah as they digressed from him but in the midst of these times there were those who prayed to God that he might restore the blessings that had been taken away. Psalm 80, attributed to Asaph calls upon God to perform this as a plea is made for the people to return to the Lord. The writer asks, **“O LORD God of hosts, how long wilt thou be angry against the prayer of thy people?” (Psm 80.4)**. Later, in the same psalm, the writer asks God to restore goodness to the land. **“Return, we beseech thee, O God of hosts: look down from heaven, and behold, and visit this vine; And the vineyard which thy right hand hath planted, and the branch that thou madest strong for thyself. It is burned with fire, it is cut down: they perish at the rebuke of thy countenance.” (Psm 80.14-16)**. Throughout the scriptures we find that God is filled with mercy and will restore and bless when we repent of those things that are not right in His sight. The greatest visitation and blessing that God bestowed on the world was in the gift of His son who came to save all of mankind from sin and the promised destruction of the second death to those who will not heed the warnings. As Christ spoke of the nation of Judah during the first century, he foretold of events that would come as a result of the spiritual blindness of the people at that time. When the Pharisees requested that Christ rebuke his disciples for proclaiming Christ, the Lord answered them stating, **“If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side, And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.” (Lk 19.42-44)**. They had failed to appreciate the great blessing that God had given them but the wisdom of God used that ignorance to complete the great plan that He had to bring salvation into the world. The visitation of God does not end here. We have the blessings that God affords us through his word which tells us of His son, salvation and what we need to do to receive this. In our own time we may blind ourselves to the truth and neglect obedience and faithfulness. Such an attitude on our part will bring about the negative consequences that God has stated in His word as well and we will be lost throughout eternity. Peter speaks of the continuation of God’s blessings, or visitation, reminding us that these things are as real today as they were then. **“Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.” (1 Pet 2.12)**. The visitation that we strive to be prepared for is the judgment. We work to be justified in the sight of God so that we can have an eternal home with Him and Christ. The Bible stands as a reminder that while God blesses us daily with the things that we need and the spiritual strength to persevere in spite of trials that will come upon us, that he is with us and we can reach the end of this life and depart knowing that we will be with Him forever.

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