His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (23)
Repairer of the Breach

The prophecy of Isaiah emphasizes the unmatched holiness of God, His singular supremacy as the only true God, and His absolute control and sovereignty over nations and events. One of the key verses in the book is *"Look unto me and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God, and there is none else"* (Isa. 45:22).

Isaiah also contains a message of salvation, restoration and hope and refers many times to the coming of Messiah. Prophecies concerning His birth, His sufferings for sin and His ultimate future reign in glory, are found throughout the book.

In chapter 58 of this amazing prophecy, the Lord calls for a fast of genuineness and sincerity. He appeals to His people to loose the bands of wickedness, to let the oppressed go free and to deal their bread to the hungry.

If the Lord's people obeyed His Word in dealing in truth and sincerity and in kindness, He promised to be their guide and to satisfy them, so that they would be like a watered garden. Any that built up the old waste places and raised up the foundations would be called, *"the repairer of the breach, the restorer of paths to dwell in"* (Isa. 58:12).

It is interesting to think of our Lord Jesus Christ in this connection. Peter described Jesus of Nazareth to Cornelius and his household, *"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him"* (Acts 10:38).

When He was in the synagogue in Nazareth, the Lord Jesus read from the prophecy of Isaiah concerning Himself (61:1-4), *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised"* (Luke 4:18-19).

Isaiah wrote, *"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear"* (Isa. 59:1-2). Sin has caused a breach, a gap between mankind and God.

The Lord said through the prophet Ezekiel, *"I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none"* (Ezek. 22:30).

The breach between God and man could only be repaired by the Lord Jesus Christ, God's well beloved Son. The apostle wrote, *"there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all"* (1st Tim. 2:5).

Through His sacrificial, substitutionary, atoning death on the cross, He repaired the breach and bridged the gap between God and men. Isaiah wrote, *"he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"* (Isa. 53:12).

While the phrase, *"restorer of paths to dwell in",* may refer to the future restoration of Israel under the millennial reign of the Lord Jesus, there may also be some practical implications for believers today.

The prophet Jeremiah exhorted**, "***Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls"* (Jer. 6:16).

Solomon advised, *"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths"* (Prov. 3:5-6). The psalmist wrote, *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"* (Ps. 119:105).
Also in the book of Psalms, we get this prayer, *"cause me to know the way wherein I should walk; for I lift up my soul unto thee"* (Ps. 143:8).

When Abraham was ninety nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and said, *"I am the Almighty God, walk before me and be thou perfect (blameless)"* (Gen. 17:1). The prophet Isaiah prophesied of a future day when people would seek to walk in right paths, *"And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths"* (Isa. 2:3).

Noah walked with God (Gen. 6:9). Enoch walked with God (Gen. 5:24). The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews wrote of Enoch, *"he had this testimony, that he pleased God"* (Heb. 11:5). Paul reminds us in his first letter to the Thessalonians how we ought to walk and to please God (1st Thess. 4:1).

A number of verses in the New Testament Scriptures offer counsel and exhortation for us as to our walk before God and before the world. We are to walk circumspectly, or wisely (Eph. 5:15), We are to walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing (Col. 1:10), we are to walk worthy of the vocation or calling that we have received (Eph. 4:1) We are to walk as children of light (Eph. 5:8).

There are many verses found in both the Old and New Testaments of the Sacred Scriptures that have relevance for believers today, regarding our walk as is becoming for those who belong to the Lord Jesus. Perhaps the verse that sums it up perfectly is in the exhortation of Paul the apostle, *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour"* (Eph. 5:2).

When peace with God was out of reach,
Because of sin of man;
Then, Christ, the Lord repaired the breach,
A gulf too vast to span.

He gave Himself a sacrifice,
And intercession made;
His precious blood, the ransom price,
The wrath of God was stayed.

Thus, through His death, we're reconciled,
The chasm has been spanned,
Though once a stranger, now a child,
And guided by His hand.

We seek to walk in paths of old,
In reverence and fear;
The paths in Sacred Scriptures told
In sweet communion, near

Soon shall we walk with Him in white
And learn His wondrous ways;
In regions of unsullied light,
Throughout eternal days.

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