

The Visitation Of Blessing

We've seen that the term "**visit**" can indicate a fulfillment of God's promises, as in the case of Joseph. The scriptures also tell of the visitation of God as a time when God will bless. The story of Abraham is an example of this. Abram was told to leave his home and travel to a place God would show him (**Gen 12.1-2**) and informed the patriarch he would have a son (**Gen 15.4, Gen 18.9-10**). Years passed and Abraham, as he was known after God changed his name, wondered when the Lord would fulfill this promise. In a vision God revealed the future of his offspring (**Gen 15.2-15**) and repeated the promise that Abraham would have a son. We see the realization of that promise later. "**And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac.**" (**Gen 21.1-2**). The visitation of God in this instance was part of the Lord's plan to save all mankind as the nation of Israel descended from Abraham and was the vehicle God used to bring the Messiah into the world.

The visitation of blessings from God takes place even during time of trouble as we see in the life of Job. 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 he possessed, but also with life itself. In the midst of such darkness, Job acknowledged that God was with him and sustained his life.

David spoke of this aspect of God toward his people stating, "**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**). As David indicates, the visitation of blessing continues with those who seek to remain faithful to the Lord.

One of the blessings that we have in a visitation of God is found in repentance when we turn from things that are wrong in the sight of God. As Israel and Judah fell away from God and were afflicted for their sin, there were those who prayed for forgiveness and restoration of God's blessings. **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**) then later 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**). God is merciful, restores and blesses when we repent of things that aren't right in His sight.

The greatest visitation of blessing God bestowed on the world is the gift of His son who came to save all of mankind from sin if we believe and obey. Peter reminds us that God's blessings, or visitation, is eternal salvation as he writes, "**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 we're preparing for is judgment and the blessing of an eternal home with God and Christ.