

# THE LONG ARM OF THE LORD

(Isaiah 53:1)

## I. WELCOME / PRAYER

## II. INTRODUCTION

A. You've heard of *the Long Arm of the Law* (HSL)

*A Mr. Neville, of western New York, has married a Miss Amanda Drop, while having another wife. The long arm of the law dropped down on him, and walked him off to prison for bigamy. (Milwaukee Herald, 1844)*

B. This afternoon we'll be looking at a text from Isaiah and thinking about *the Long Arm of the LORD*.

C. Today's Text: "Who has believed our message, and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?" (Isaiah 53:1)

D. Today's Big Idea: *Throughout the entire life of Christ—but especially from noon till 3 on Good Friday—our heavenly Father reached out His **arm** in such a way as to rescue a chosen people from His own wrath and judgment, and to **plant them**—once and for all, eternally and immutably—in Christ, and therefore before the life-giving **face** of His infinite love (2 X)*

## III. PRELIMINARY REMARKS ABOUT THE ARM OF THE LORD . . . AND THE FACE OF THE LORD AS WELL

A. Father and Son: Face to Face in Eternity: A Pure Delight (HSL)

B. Their Eagerness to Share this Pure Delight (1): Creation (HSL)

C. Their Eagerness to Share this Pure Delight (1): Probation of Man in Adam (HSL: headship of Adam, imputation, impartation, *all that might have been had he believed and obeyed*)

D. The Fall of Man in Adam: Away from, into (HSL: headship of Adam, imputation, impartation, *all that came to be because he disbelieved and disobeyed*)

E. The Very Great Need: A new and better Adam, to rescue from, and to restore into (HSL)

F. The Very Great Provision: The Son Incarnate

G. Provision A: The righteousness of His righteous life . . . but uninheritable apart from . . .

H. Provision B: His atoning death, and especially from the darkness at noon on Good Friday

#### IV. DARKNESS AT NOON ON GOOD FRIDAY

A. Darkness at Noon (**Reading:** Matthew 27:45-46)

B. The Meanings of the Darkness

- Darkness at the dawn of creation: sin, spiritual darkness, spiritual war to come. (HSL)
- Darkness in Egypt, 9<sup>th</sup> plague: judgment upon sin
- Darkness on the first Passover: judgment upon sin
- Darkness on the (coming) Day of the LORD (**Reading:** Nahum 1; Acts 2)
- Darkness in Hades and Gehenna (Christ: outer darkness; Peter and Jude)

*Moreover, angels who failed to keep to their own domain, but left their proper dwelling place, he has reserved under darkness in everlasting chains (in dark dungeons) for the judgment of the Great Day. – 2 Peter, Jude)*

- Brief darkness on the future Day of the Lord Jesus Christ (HSL: Matthew 24)
- **MP:** *These texts illuminate what happened on Good Friday, when darkness fell upon the land from noon till 3 . . .*

C. What Happened in the Darkness

- Imputation (HSL: of His people's sin, guilt; OT type: the scapegoat)
- The light of the Father's face of love *turned away* (HSL; **Reading:** hymn)
- The darkness of Father's face of wrath *turned towards* Christ (HSL: Nicodemus, bronze serpent; **Reading: 2 Cor. 5)**
- The Father's wrath and our just punishment *fully outpoured* (**Reading:** Ezekiel 20; HSL)
- The Father's wrath and punishment *fully absorbed* by His Son (OT type: offerings by fire, consumed; **Reading:** a soothing, calming, quieting of God; Gen. 8)
- **MP:** *The darkness at noon signifies the wrath and judgment of God; it signifies the Day of the LORD falling upon Christ instead of us; it signifies the penalty of eternal punishment falling upon the Christ of God instead of the people of God*
- **Reading:** Calvin on the Apostle's Creed and the Descent into Hell

#### V. BUT WHY? TO UNDERSTAND, WE MUST UNDERSTAND: "IT IS FINISHED!"

A. Satisfaction (HSL)

B. Propitiation (HSL: **Optional Reading:** 1 John 2)

C. Purchase (**Optional Reading:** Revelation 5)

- Regeneration
- Repentance
- Faith
- Forgiveness of sins

- Justification
- Reconciliation
- (Spiritual) Adoption
- Sanctification (ownership, progress in holiness, ministry with power)
- Preservation (through perseverance)
- Glorification

**D. *The Ultimate Purchased Thing: Planting!***

- Life BC: Planted in Adam, in the flesh, under the Law, under condemnation, ***under wrath***, in danger of EP (HSL: **John 3; Eph. 2**)
- Effectual Calling/Holy Transfer: The Arm of the Lord is revealed, leading to holy transfer (HSL: Is. 53:1; Col. 1:13)
- Life AD: Planted in Christ: *God's face of wrath is forever turned away (Heb. 12)*
- Life AD: Planted in Christ: *God's face of love is forever turned towards (HSL: Matt. 3:17; John 17:25-26; Eph. 1:20, 2:6: seated in the heavenlies)*

*Righteous Father, the world did not know you; but I knew you, and these have come to know that you sent me. <sup>26</sup> Moreover, I made your name known to them; and I will continue to make it known, so that the love with which you loved me may be in them, and I in them.”—John 17*

- **Conclusion:** *Through the outreach of the Arm of the LORD our heavenly Father has lifted his chosen, regenerate, repentant, believing, justified, reconciled, and adopted people out of the First Adam, placed them securely in the Last Adam, and therefore planted them—once and for all, eternally and immutably—before the face of His infinite love*

**VII. SOME INEXPRESSIBLY WONDERFUL THINGS THAT THIGS MEANS FOR THE SAINTS**

**A. Life *Coram Deo* (HSL)**

**B. Life as our Lord walked before His Father (HSL: Psalm 16; Acts 2)**

**C. The key to Christian Flourishing and Ministry (Reading: Isaiah 12)**

**D. The key to victory in spiritual warfare (HSL: Revelation 12; 2 Cor. 3; Heb. 12)**

**E. The key to steadfastness in the dark night of the soul: the fellowship of his sufferings (HSL)**

**F. Closing Illustration: Little Orphan Anne of Green Gables**

**G. Closing Lyrics from Hymn: (Reading: Hearts Unfold Like Flowers Before Thee!)**

**H. Closing Prayer**