Zephaniah - Commentaries by Henry Allan Ironside

Continual Burnt Offering: Daily Meditations, May 19

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“I will also leave in the midst of thee an afflicted and poor people, and they shall trust in the name of the Lord” — Zephaniah 3:12.

It is the troubled and distressed who find their relief in God. Ofttimes temporal prosperity proves to be a hindrance to spirituality. It need not be so but we are so constituted that when all goes well in this scene and we have abundance of the good things of life we are apt to forget the Giver and be more occupied with His gifts than with Himself. In our afflictions and needy circumstances, if we turn to Him we learn how marvelously He can satisfy our hearts and lift us above the trials of the way.

—J. Denson Smith.

Daily Sacrifice, May 25

“Seek ye the Lord, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought His judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the Lord’s anger”— Zephaniah 2:3.

AS we read this verse we are reminded of our Lord’s words, “Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart.” Meekness is not a characteristic of ruined man who is far more likely to be lifted up in pride than to take a lowly place before God, and yet the place of meekness is the place of blessing; it is the meek who shall inherit the earth. Those who are willing to forego present enjoyment for Christ’s name’s sake find lasting blessing which never can be taken from them. The admonition to seek meekness implies the rarity of this virtue; it is found only in fellowship with Christ.

—Thos. Scott.

Daily Sacrifice, May 24

“Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord’s wrath; but the whole land shall be devoured by the fire of His jealousy: for He shall make even a speedy riddance of all them that dwell in the land”— Zephaniah 1:18.

HOW foolish it is of men to spend their lives heaping up riches which in the day of adversity take wings and fly away! In the day when God arises to shake terribly the earth, of how little value will all those things be that worldlings treasure, and for which they are even willing to risk the loss of their souls! How much it will mean in that day to know the reality of redemption, not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, and to be linked up eternally with the One who shed that blood to redeem us to Himself.

—James M. Gray.