

Lev. XXV. 1-4. In that day, ^{shall} this song be sung &
Wreck & ruin, Exile & poverty. Slavery & suffering
had come to Israel. It is dif. perhaps impossible
for us to realize what Captivity & Slavery meant
to the Jews. We know very well its cause.
Being Gods people - peculiarly favored, with truth
& light, with manifestations of his presence
& revelations of his will, enjoying his peculiar
favor & blessing. They virtually forgot him
yielded to the pagan inf. about them.
Sought to be like other nations. Sought after
their gods. & corrupted themselves with
their idolatres. Though they kept up the
forms of worship - yet their hearts se
After repeated warnings, they were given
over to their enemies. & carried away into
captivity. It was not a race of barbarians
without refined feelings. who had never known
any thing better. but cultured refined
men & women - driven from homes of
luxury. to be driven as cattle - beaten
insulted. enslaved. with their life only
given. & that a prey. Driven - barefoot & un-
covered. across the deserts, over the Mt. away
to the Euphrates. to be slaves or subject
the best they could. The land was utterly
emptied. & the exiles in utter poverty - I re- dwell
upon this, in much of the two preceding Chaps.
Poverty to these people meant much more to
the people than to us.

To the Jew - poverty, & exile, must - more than
misfortune, more than the absence of necessities
More even than the oppression & pain inflicted
by the oppressor - it meant the displeasure of
God. The Greek Stoic could look upon these
things with indifference - but the Jew had a
conscience - and he recognized that these
things came to him because of sin.
It was because of the conscience of the
Jew that God was able to transform these
things, into spiritual conditions of blessed
rep. His poverty, his heart hunger, his
home-sickness, his hunger after divine favor
into elements of great moral excellence -
Until poverty - became poverty of spirit.
Heart hunger - home sickness & desire for
divine favor, real longing for pardon
and spiritual worship - & divine communion
arose. Until as they hung their harps upon
the willows, & cried "how can we sing 'be-
cause I for got thee?" And when these outward con-
ditions were made spiritual, conditions
they were prepared to be led back to the home
& worship, from whence they came - & to
more spiritual things - for the temple was
to be the center of their life as never before.
And now Is. sees them returning from their
captivity, to find a home again, in & about
Jerusalem - at & near the altars of God. But in &
through it all, he sees, spiritual things, Righteousness, Peace & safety in
the love & favor of God -

Is. looks through the local - and the typical and
sees the general & universal - that man is at home
on the bosom of God. &c. - It is with this fact before
him, absorbing him filling him, that he utters
these words, In that day shall this song be
sung in the land of Judah We have a strong city
Salvation will God appoint for walls & bulwarks.
This is a personal song. No body can sing it
but an inhabitant. "We have!" It is the song of
experience. A song is valuable only as it is
the breath of the heart. Song as a performance
is an empty sound. a gusty thing. A hired
singer, ^{in the house of the Lord} whose eye is on the pay he is to get for
the performance. &c. This song wells up from
the heart. A child who don't know a note of
music can sing it. An old man whose voice
has grown thin &c. An old lady with possibly a
a broken squeaky voice &c. It is an exp. - it is melody
in the heart. sets the nerves tingling. &c.

There are a few things in this song I desire to call
attention to. The city of God, the dwelling place
of Gods people - is a place of safety, ^{plenty} & plenty.

I desire to emphasize - who they are, who dwell
in the city of God. Open ye the gates that the righteous
nation, which keepeth the truth, may enter in.

The way back from Babylon to Jerusalem was
a way of righteousness. Deserts had to be passed
wildernesses gone through, hostile tribes to be passed
but as the prophet looked at it, he saw righteous
which made the way possible. As he saw them
go out because of sin. Sin burdened - the way
peevish with sin. Scourged on by sin so now he
saw them returning, because of righteousness, their very

4
Justice was right ^{to} ~~rep.~~ Righteousness on their brow
in their hearts. they seem winged with right-
speaking of this return - so intense was the
moral state of it that - he said, ^{and in his own shall} & the way & c
The way to the dwelling place of Gods people is a
way of holiness. I mean to their dwelling place
down here. The New Jerusalem which ~~is~~
^{fulfills the prophecy of}
~~that~~ the typical Jerusalem - Came down from
God out of heaven. I may not tell how high
it reaches. but one thing I know. Its twelve
foundations which bear the names of the 12 ap-
ostles laid down here. Its pearl gates open to hun-
dreds down here. The branches of the tree of
life spread out over human souls down
here. That river - & c. That face the light of which
turns the sun into darkness & c. That overmastering
statement of no temple to worship in, that the
Lord God Almighty & the Lamb are the temple
of it, is true down here - & c

This city is something more than locality, it
is state. It is so living in them, that, locality
& conditions, make little difference, & c -

The entrance is a way of holiness - Men say
must I then be holy to be a Christian
Men ask it as though - they feared to be holy
as if it was something they could not brook
something they could scarcely put up with.

Requiring something of them that they could
not pay - to be holy. It is a normal thing
for a Christian to be holy. God is holy.
his law. his gospel. his blood - his spirt & c
His people & c The abode of Gods people
is in the Holy City. Washed in the blood
nourished by the holy life of Jesus & I do not mean
studying & c - I mean you eat his very life - He is
the tree of life. It has been said John drunk of his leaves

One of the features of ⁵this dwelling place of the saints
this city of God is the wealth of its provisions. It says
in this same prophecy. in this connection - "In this
Mt. shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast"
This is put over against the poverty of the captivity
which was so much deeper than the hunger for
bread. A hunger for pardon - for home for God.
An Arctic explorer was asked whether he & his com-
-rades, suffered much from the pangs of hunger during
the months of slow starvation to which they were
exposed. Ans. No. we lost them in the sense of
abandonment. in the feeling that our country
was had abandoned & forgotten us. It was not
till we were rescued & looked into human
faces. that we felt how hungry we were.
So with lost humanity. there is a poverty
of soul. a hunger - longing of spirit. after inf.
things that swallow up all other need.
outward need is but as the weeds of the
heart's widowhood. Over against this is the
divine supply. It is of God - it is God. His
favor - his love - his presence, which makes
all other conditions blessed - Provisions palaces
Winter, Spring time. The place of exile, home - and
would turn hell into heaven -
The Wines on the Lees, the oldest, choicest, richest wines
is the hearts blood of the Lamb of God - the inf. love of
God - put into the wine prep. of incarnation & distilled
for men. It is the manifestation of the inf. love of God
to a low road - to its redeeming - O Love - Love - Love
But things - the best things under or above the heavens
are for Gods redeemed children. Chas Wesley
"I was a heaven below" - "I was all the day long" - "O the redemption"

One of the foremost utterances of this text, if not the foremost
is safety. Great Walls & mighty Bulwarks, Riches are
of little value, if the enemy may come in at any moment
& dispossess us. The reason we have heard times
is because men feel there is an enemy abroad
who will dispossess us &c. The fear of all the Kingdoms
that is the life with earthly things - makes me care
so little for them, there is an enemy &c -
But ^{know the pris- of devils love} what is of little value - unless I can keep them
If I am likely to be dispossessed of them tomorrow.
This is a great question & it is emphasized by
the conditions of things.

What is the strength of the Church, if an
individual soul. We say of such a Church
it is a very strong Church. In what does its
strength consist. It is a very large Church -
The largest in the city, &c. It has a great deal
of wealth. There are several millionaires in it.
There is a great deal of culture & they seek the
most cultured & brilliant preachers, & you
ought to see what a brilliant assembly
it is. Their magnificent place. You ought to
have heard the eloquent sermon on "The
inherent nobility of manhood" some little
things about him that were not altogether
beautiful - but these would slough off under
the development of the nobler part of his
nature - I never went home from Church
feeling so comfortable, &c - You ought to see
that brilliant audience on a Sunday
night, as they had that concert &c -
The common ideas of the strength of a Church is
Members - Wealth, & Culture

Far be it from me, to unqualifiedly condemn
any of these + They all may be very desirable
under certain conditions. I wish for more
men & women to spread scriptural holiness
I wish for money &c. For more men and
women of the best ability &c. ^{Pray for the Lord}
But there are not what God has appointed
for to ~~be~~ the strength of the Church - Sal-
vation hath God appointed for Walls &c -
What is salvation - appointed - but a saved
people - what is a saved people - but a
people made holy through the blood of
the Lamb - &c. Salvation is the Walls of strength
& power in Gods Church + Salvation does not
need great numbers to be strong for the
soul trusts in the Lord & in the Lord Jehovah is
everlasting strength. Gideons army, reduced
to 300 - with the power of God was invincible
What was it that made the powerful tribes of the
Land - fear & tremble - &c because they had heard
that God was with them. Johnathan & his army
The bulwark of this city is something more
than its walls of strength - Defense often
means aggressiveness - The Navy of Gr Britain
is the bulwark of the nation - Often by
thundering at the gates of a city a 1000
miles away - The Holy Ghost is our
bulwark - And it is an aggressive force