

DAY 207 – THE LORD WILL COME TO SAVE

Isaiah 34-36

Baruch 3-4

Proverbs 11:21-24

*Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." – Isaiah 35:3-4*

Isaiah 34 warns of the wrath of the Lord on Edom, against the nations other than Israel. God is saying that He is not here just to judge His people. He is here to stop their enemies. Such a powerful statement to remember! God fights for us!

In the Bible, we have heard the word 'wilderness' quite a number of times. In Scripture, wilderness refers to a bad thing whereas in our world today, it often refers to a peaceful, quiet place in which to escape from the stresses of life. But in Isaiah 34, wilderness is dangerous and uncivilized. So, when a city changes to a wilderness, it is not a good thing!

The arrival of the Lord is an important message from the prophets. Does it fill you with excitement and hope or does it fill you with fear and dread? Do you have an image of God as a stern disciplinarian or do you see God as a loving and generous father? Have you been living as God wants you to live? Or have you been walking away from God rather than towards Him? Pray today for God to help you to see Him in a way that fills you with hope and joy. Be prepared and ready for His arrival! Know that you have kept Jesus at the center of your life and in everything, you have prayed and inquired of the Lord.

Baruch is such a lovely book to read. He is so filled with hope and encouragement. *"Take courage, my children, and cry to God, for you will be remembered by him who brought this upon you. For just as you planned to go astray from God, return with tenfold zeal to seek him."* – (Baruch 4:27-28) Such beautiful words to pause and ponder. What a message for those who were in exile in Babylon! Imagine, living in that despair and yearning to return home, and hearing Baruch's words. You would memorize them and keep them in your heart, trusting God and walking with Him regardless of who you were with and where you were living. Let the power and the wonder and the hope of Scripture settle in your heart today – wherever you are.

*"Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do."*

*– Pope St. John XXIII*