

Introduction

1. This chapter wonderful for free offer of pardon.
2. This pardon is -
 - a. free
 - b. for the worst
 - c. abundant
3. But men's difficulty is to believe it.
 So in our TEXT God shows we need to have no doubts because he is far above us:

1. THE GOD WHO HERE SPEAKS IS VASTLY ABOVE US

- 1) The fear is: "How could God pardon me with all my oceans of sins?"
ILLUSTRATION: J. Edwards
- 2) Satan's lie is that God will not pardon us – so God here reminds us of his greatness:
- 3) Let us recall how exalted God is:
 - (i) He is in heaven: we upon earth:
Consider: "The blessed and only Potentate..." / "A glorious high throne..." / "The high and lofty One..." / "In him we live..." / The beginning and end of the Lord's Prayer / The end of Romans 11.
Consider: our small body and mind! "Our thoughts are not his....!"
 - (ii) The mystery of His Godhead:
 The essence / Persons / Internal Works / Attributes: Moral – Intellectual – Transcendental.
Consider: man, who is dust / grass / wind / vanity / a worm / like a flower that fades!
 - (iii) The power of God and his Intelligence
 Look at creation / all in six days / look at history – the rise

and fall of empires – the fulfilment of EVERY PROMISE (especially Genesis 3:15).

APPLICATION: Which promise of God ever failed?

2. THE BIBLE SHOWS THAT GOD'S THOUGHTS AND WAYS ARE INFINITELY ABOVE OURS

- 1) Look at the way he permitted sin to begin in heaven itself! Satan's pride – his fall – the angelic apostasy – their becoming devils.
OBSERVE: We would have thought this permitting of sin unwise and catastrophic. But God allowed it for wise and good reasons: TEXT
- 2) The fall of the human race: the Covenant of Works – Adam's special headship – the shame and misery that followed: sin – condemnation – death – hell for millions.
OBSERVE: We must not quarrel with God's ways – they are far above us and far wiser than we.
- 3) God's dealings with His people Israel:
 The Exodus was triumphant – but then 40 years of humbling and discipline till they learnt great lessons –
 - (i) their own rebelliousness
 - (ii) God's faithfulness
 - (iii) the hatred of their enemiesOBSERVE: Is it not so with us too – God has left sin in us for wise reasons – lets us suffer and puts us through trials (Ps. 66) – before we come to glory.
- 4) The "strange" way in which Christ came into this world and fulfilled his mission
 The virgin-birth (even Joseph at first ignorant) – born in a stable – poor home – brothers and sisters did not believe in him – silent years from 12-30 – "no form or beauty" – hated by Pharisees, etc. – crucified.
OBSERVE: Are God's ways not far above ours?

3. HOW DOES THIS TRUTH HELP US?

- 1) If God's ways are so far above us, we must not –
 - (i) quarrel with his personal dealings with us
 - (ii) be surprised when God's ways are surprising ("O fools and slow of heart..." – the resurrection!!)
 - (iii) panic when life takes strange turns:
ILLUSTRATION: Job: lost almost all and got it back.
OBSERVE: God turned his captivity when he was content not to know why.

- 2) If God's ways are so great, then let us look to him to fulfil all his great promises: e.g. "The earth shall be filled... / the Jews one day converted to Christ / every elect sinner saved.
OBSERVE: "Post-Christian Age"! "Realised Eschatology"! Every syllable will be true!

- 3) Let us be busy in doing God's will even if we are tempted to think we are seeing no fruit.
ILLUSTRATION: A.W. Pink's strange ministry.

- 4) Believe God can save the worst of sinners and soften the hardest of hearts: "Is not my word – hammer?"

CONCLUSION

Our duty in UK just now is to go on particularly crying out to God:

ILLUSTRATION: battering-ram

PSALM

44: 1 – 6

44: 14 – 17

44: 22 – 26