

PRAYER MEETING

"THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE"**Introduction**

1. A "restoration prophet" (3) – explain
2. The last O.T. voice —▶ till John Baptist
3. 400 years of silence – till Christ came

1. THE BEHAVIOUR OF THE GODLY REMNANT IN A DARK DAY

- 1) The visible church and the remnant – to be distinguished in all ages:
 - (i) "they are not all Israel"
 - (ii) "the mixed multitude..."
 - (iii) Judges/Kings of O.T.
 - (iv) the 2 tones in the prophets (e.g. Ezekiel 9)
 - (v) So in N.T.: "some of you have not the knowledge of God"
- 2) The key factor: the new birth:
 - (i) love for God
 - (ii) for the brethren
- 3) It was, like ours, a dark day:
 - (i) "Wherein hast thou loved us?"
 - (ii) "I will spread dung..."
 - (iii) "We call the proud happy" (Examples today)
- 4) So, the godly remnant are brought before us:
 - (i) "spake often..."
 - (ii) fellowship in the truth

APPLICATION: We need to love + encourage one another

2. THE COMFORT WHICH GOD GIVES TO THESE GODLY ONES

- 1) Their character is described by God: "feared".
Explain. They "feared" to displease Him / sin against Him

APPLICATION: This is what only the new birth can do: pride is broken / God is their first desire...

- 2) God heard their conversations:
 - (i) they spoke of the evils of their day
 - (ii) longed for Christ to come: (See 4:2,3)
 - (iii) jealous for God's honour

APPLICATION: God loves those who promote spiritual fellowship + heavenly-mindedness.
 - 3) Their names were written in God's Book of Remembrance – to be rewarded at last.
 - 4) They will be jewels in Christ's crown when He comes.
REMEMBER: "Blessed are they that mourn", etc., "Ye are they that have continued with me..."
 - 5) God will show them love as to faithful sons and daughters
ILLUSTRATION: Simeon + Anna; the Shepherds – not the priests or Pharisees.
So many said: "mighty from their seats..."
- 3. THE ETERNAL DIMENSION TO THIS DIFFERENCE**
- 1) v.18: brings in the most serious aspect: in the end – who are the real Christians?
 - 2) There will be great surprises at last: We are here, face to face with the "terrible reality that many in the visible church are not saved at all: 4:1 = to the hypocrites
ILLUSTRATION: When Christ came, recall how He spoke sternly to the Pharisees and gently to the humble believers.
 - 3) **DOCTRINE**: One thing only matters – to get to heaven – to be faithful to God in our life here below

CONCLUSION

1. We may lose buildings

2. But what is that if in the end we get to glory? We need today an Elijah!

PSALM
79: 8 – 11
57: 1 – 4
140: 5 – 8