

"CHRIST: OUR SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"**Introduction**

1. Just about the last and final promise of O.T.
2. Those who heard it did not see it
3. It was to come after 400 years

1. WHAT GOD HAS TO SAY TO US ALL MAY BE SUMMARISED IN TWO SENTENCES

- 1) This is obviously the end of the O.T. – we might expect a summary: v.1-3 (two classes here):
 - (i) the proud – do wickedly – the wicked
What will these get? (Burn – Oven – Tread down – ashes)
APPLICATION: God summarises all the Bible's threats
 - (ii) those who "fear my name": believers.
They will "grow up as calves of the stall", i.e.
 - 3 stages of growth
 - fat with spiritual good**APPLICATION:** So God always says (Isa./Christ/Rev. 22)

2. IN LOVE TO HIS OWN DEAR PEOPLE GOD GIVES HERE A RICH PROMISE

- 1) "The sun of righteousness...". Wonderful phrase! Who is it?
 - (i) 3:1: "the Lord..."
 - (ii) 3:1: "my messenger"
 - (iii) 4:5: "Elijah..."
ANSWER: Christ – preceded by John the Baptist (See Matthew 11:12-14).
- 2) How Christ is the "Sun of righteousness".
 - (i) His glory is of Himself: **Illustration:** sun + moon
o we see in: John 1; Transfiguration; Rev. 1.
 - (ii) He lightens all the world. Cp. stars
"The true light..."; "Light of the world"; "All nations blessed"; "The earth...filled".

- (iii) He is in the Heavens for all to see
"Not done in a corner"; "Look unto me.."; "I, if I be lifted up..."; "God so loved the world".

- 3) Christ Gives to Believers what none other can: "Healing in his wings":
 - (i) the healing of our enmity to God
 - (ii) the healing of our fallen nature
 - (iii) the healing of our relations to one another
 - (iv) the healing of our lost hope of heaven

ILLUSTRATION: "Paradise Lost"... and "Regained"!**APPLICATION:** This is what believers get + will get – "you that fear my name"**3. EXPERIENCE TEACHES THAT PEOPLE, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE RELIGIOUS, PAY LITTLE REGARD TO GOD**

- 1) All this information given to those of the O.T. – yet, did they believe it?
 - (i) at Christ's birth: "all Jerusalem troubled"
 - (ii) "Art thou the Christ?" What blindness – the prophets / miracles / Christ's perfect life.
APPLICATION: They crucified the "sun of righteousness" because they did not know him (Acts 13:27).
So Peter also said: Acts 3:14-18
OBSERVE: People cannot plead ignorance – the Bible is full of information – full of Evidence.
- 2) Humanists, etc.: say "No evidence for God". But the evidence is in the Bible - it is HERE in GOD'S BOOK:
 - (i) Isaiah 53
 - (ii) Psalm 22
 - (iii) Zechariah 13:7, etc. It is in my TEXT.
APPLICATION: Do you believe it? Or not?

CONCLUSION

1. Warning to sinners:
 2. Comfort to believers.
- All this will be true at Christ's Return.

PSALM**145²: 9 – 16****146: 5 – 10****149: 1 – 4**