

"THE SWORD AWAKENING"**Introduction**

1. This is an oracle – prophetic statement
2. How can God know future events?
3. The Bible is a treasury of great prophecies

1. THE SWORD – WHAT IT IS HERE

- (i) The Justice of God by which He must punish sin
- God is infinite in justice
 - sooner or later every sin must be punished
 - because sin is that which God hates
- APPLICATION:** It is no kindness to conceal this fact
ILLUSTRATION: birds resting on a high-power cable
- (ii) The Sword was Sleeping for long:
- it did not sleep in the case of sinners
 - but it did in OT for 4000 years
 - the sword never touched believers
- APPLICATION:** God's sword kills the sinner, NOT the saint

2. THE SHEPHERD – WHO HE IS

- (i) He is often found in the Bible
- Psalms 23 and other OT refs.
 - John 10 and NT refs
- APPLICATION:** Recognise here a picture of Christ
- (ii) This picture made clearer here:
- the Shepherd is a "man", like us
 - also God's "Fellow", a divine Person
 - So, here is the God-Man
- APPLICATION:** Christ Himself refers to these very words:
 Matthew 26: 54, 56

3. THE SWORD IS TO AWAKEN

- (i) After 4000 years, the saints' sins are here going to be punished
- (ii) Christ is to suffer for our sins:
- imputation: a transfer of guilt
 - substitution: in our place
 - propitiation: God's wrath appeared
- (iii) Christ here is to be smitten:
- all the sins of all the saints
 - the full penalty of all they deserve
 - physical death
 - and also eternal death tasted
- (iv) The command here is by the Father:
- the only way of pardon
 - a way of forgiveness that is perfect
 - full justice done to God's honour
- APPLICATION:** See how great is God's love

4. THE SHEPHERD – HOW THEY REACT + BENEFIT

- (i) They are scattered – this seen:
- the disciples forsook and fled
 - Peter's failure
- APPLICATION:** The saints have nothing to boast of
- (ii) God's hand of grace + blessing:
- seen on Pentecost
 - seen in OT + NT church
 - seen in all the blessings of the gospel
 - acknowledged forever in glory: Rev. 4-5

CONCLUSION

Hear Christ's invitation in Matthew 23:37

<p>PSALM</p> <p>22: 11 – 18</p> <p>69: 7 – 13</p> <p>69: 31 - 36</p>
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