

Notes & Quotes – September 20, 2009

Isaiah...Where is the Hope?

Isaiah 61

Book of Isaiah...

- I. Messages of Judgment (ch. 1-39)
- II. Messages of Comfort (ch. 40-55)
- III. Messages of Hope (ch. 56-66)

Isaiah 61:1-3

1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

700 years before Jesus' birth, Isaiah wrote this text that Jesus quoted and applied to himself in Luke 4

“There you are, standing at a window watching oak leaves flutter down from the dark boughs, and without warning your whole body fills with a longing for something you can't name, something you've lost but never had, that you're nostalgic for yet don't remember. You sense a joy so huge it breaks you, a sorrow so deep it cleanses you...Groaning is the lexicon and grammar of our *dis*-location, our sense of being in the wrong place. It is our mother tongue, the speech we fall back on when we can't recall the words to speak in earth language, that foreign tongue we're trying to learn to speak fluently but keep garbling.” – Mark Buchanan

holy groaning = longing for home, longing for things to be as they should be

2 Corinthians 5:2

Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling,

Isaiah groaned awaiting the Messiah's first entry; we groan awaiting His second.

“Hope is the ability to hear the music of the future and the faith to dance to it in the present.”

– St. Augustine

“The spiritual journey requires intense concentration on God's point of view...this concentration will cause an intense narrowing of all our interests on earth, and an immense broadening of our interests in heaven.” – Jonathan Edwards