

Riches in Darkness

Have you ever walked through a season so difficult, you feared your faith might crumble?

We have seen sufferings in all levels. We also deal with other major issues. Cancer ravages our families, a diagnosis of a debilitating disease can devastate loved ones, divorce shatters everyone involved, constant pain pulls us down.

Background of Isaiah 40 to 45

As Daniel was studying the scroll of Isaiah, he discovered that Isaiah predicted 200 years in advance that a Persian king named Cyrus would liberate the Jews from captivity and then bring them back to Israel. Daniel also realised that Israel's captivity under the Babylonians were completed.

So, Daniel then took the scroll of Isaiah to the reigning king, who was King Cyrus, to show him that his name had been recorded in Scripture about two centuries earlier.

As Daniel unveiled the prophecy, it shocked Cyrus to the core of his being but this gave him the confidence in liberating the Jews from their exile and return the Jews to the land of Israel and announce the rebuilding of Solomon's Temple.

And on the exact day Cyrus issued this decree, his soldiers back in Babylon, unearthed vast amounts of silver and gold that the king of Babylon had hidden under the Euphrates River!

Incredible riches came out of heartbreaking captivity, just like God promised.

Isaiah 45:1-3 – *“Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held—to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut: ‘I will go before you and make the crooked places straight; I will grntebreak in pieces the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron. I will give you the treasures of darkness and hidden riches of secret places, that you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.*

There are many things we can discover as we unearth these treasures:

- **That He knows us and calls us by our name**

The Lord said to Cyrus in Isaiah 45:3b *“That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel.”*

We are fully known to Him!

- **That we need to act in faith to get these treasures**

Like Cyrus, God wants us **to claim His blessings by acting in faith.**

- **That everything God does has a purpose**

There is no accident in God and nothing God does is without purpose. His purpose for rewarding Cyrus was to reveal Himself as the true and living God.

- **That our eyes have to be open to the things that would otherwise remain unseen**

When God says He will “give us the treasures of darkness and wealth stored in secret places,” it means God wants us to open our eyes to the things that would otherwise remain unseen, so we can claim what would otherwise remain unclaimed.

▪ **That treasures are stored in darkness**

The “treasures of darkness” are stored in darkness, of all places! And the “wealth of secret places” are hidden in secret places, of all locations!

**God is not trying to hide treasures from us;
He is hiding them for us!**

This applies to every hurting person, every broken person, regardless of who we are, irrespective of how bleak or unrighteous our past was, because He knows:

- that life is difficult for everyone at times
- that pain is a regular companion for many
- that Christians are not exempt from affliction
- that we would constantly need His help to survive our ordeals in life

- **That God has invaded and has complete control of darkness**

God is huge and powerful, and He can intervene in our darkness in ways only an all-powerful God can do.

- **That it is okay if others do not understand what we are going through**

Our darkness is not to be understood by everyone, so it is perfectly fine.

Exodus 20:21 talks about darkness when it said this, *‘And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.’*

- **That we can worship Him in the darkness**

The God who calls us by name has hidden riches in our suffering and darkness. He can intervene in our darkness, and he will be close to us in that darkness. This should lead us to praise Him. What we know about God leads us to worship.

- **That God is our treasure in darkness**

He is our treasure in darkness!

God is always in the darkness that we go through in life. When it comes to dark times, we come to realise that our greatest treasure is God, and then all other treasures follow.

Are you experiencing a time of darkness?

Acts 17:27b (MsgB) declares, “... *so we could see after God, and not just grope around in the dark but actually find him. He doesn't play hide-and-seek with us. He's not remote; he's near.*”

What we know leads us to worship Him.