

Let's Worship God

1st-6th January 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 12:3-6 - The Source of Song and Joy

What is this well? What is the water that's being talked about? This is speaking of Jesus Christ. In John 4 Jesus tells the Samaritan woman that He Himself is the living water. Just as a never failing well. Jesus supplies all our needs, our very physical needs, as well as our spiritual needs. He gives us all that we need for life and for godliness. He brings refreshment to us. He brings renewal.

Jesus, being the never-failing source of our joy, brings forth from our heart a joyful song. In these verses we have praise for God's doings in Jesus Christ. As we look at Christ's doings, the great salvation that He has wrought, at the transformation that He is bringing throughout the earth, we see that His glorious works exalt His name. More and more, He is being shown to be the glorious king over all things. We give thanks for his wonderful deeds and glorify him.

There is not only thanks in these verses for the wonderful things that Christ has done, but also praise for who Jesus is. Even as we who are believers love what Jesus has done for us, most of all we love His Person. He is strong and wise, for He has done great things among the nations. He's glorious. He is the transcendent creator of all things. He is a person of the triune God. He is beyond us, yet he is with us. He is righteous and holy. He is gracious and forgiving.

Jesus is working among the nations, bringing people slowly but surely to Himself. How does He bring the nations to Himself? It's through the preaching of the Gospel to the nations. But it is also through you witnessing to Christ by your life and words. God will use your witness, perhaps alone or perhaps with others, to bring people to Himself who have been chosen by Him, who've been loved by Him before time, for whom Christ died. They will come. There will be those to whom you will speak of the hope that is within you that will come. It's guaranteed sometime, somewhere, somehow, God will use you to save an everlasting soul and to save them utterly, completely for His glory.

Questions

1. Who is the well of our salvation?
2. How does Jesus bring the nations to Himself?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would bring those you know to faith in Him for His glory.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.” Isaiah 12:5

Praise: Psalm 101 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 13:1-5 - An Unlikely Target

God reveals the target for His judgement in these verses, and the target is Babylon. Babylon was a big city. Babylon was a very well defended city. Babylon was an old city. But Babylon was a subject city. At this time, Babylon is totally under the power of the Assyrians. Who was the world power of the day? It was not Babylon. It was Assyria. It was Assyria that, when Isaiah was writing here, was about to destroy the northern kingdom of Israel. It was Assyria that, in a few years, would come in, flooding into Judah and would lap up everything coming up, as the Scripture says, to the neck, but not totally drowning Judah. For God miraculously delivered Jerusalem and Judah, by killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. From that point, Assyrian power quickly fell apart. Shortly afterward, some envoys from Babylon came congratulating Hezekiah on his victory and his prolonged life. And at that time, Babylon and Judah were close friends of each other because they had this common enemy and because a serious power had been seriously broken. Babylon then began throwing off Assyria's yoke. But when Isaiah wrote, all this was some years in the future. Babylon was no power. Why would it be the target? Because God would be raising up Babylon. God would be using Babylon as the rod of His discipline against Judah. For a time, the people would be brought into their exile, and Babylon would be exalted. For a time. But like with so many other nations, God would then judge them for their sin. That's what this is all looking to. God can and does raise up what seems to human minds and hearts the most unlikely people, the most unlikely nation from the most unlikely places. He raises up, and He puts down as well those who seem to be firmly entrenched, those who seem to be so powerful, those who seem to be getting all their own way. He does it all in His time, in His wisdom, and nothing stops Him.

Questions

1. What is the target?
2. Why would this have seemed strange to Isaiah's readers?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.” Isaiah 12:5

Praise: Psalm 102 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 13:1-5 - Mustering Against The Mighty

Whom would Jehovah use as his forces to destroy Babylon? He used another people even less well-known. They were people related to each other, called the Medes and the Persians. They were the ancestors of the people of Iran. At the time that Isaiah wrote this, they were a rather backward, nomadic, and barbarian people. They'd make little raids on the Assyrians from the north, but nobody much worried about them. But in God's hand, they would be raised up to destroy the destroyers of the Assyrians. How unlikely this would seem to contemporaries of Isaiah! But it is nothing to God to be preparing, even 200 years ahead, a people to be raised up to deliver His own people. When the Jews were in exile in Babylon, God brought the Medes and the Persians to destroy Babylon. What happened when the Babylonian power was destroyed? Cyrus gave a decree to return the people of God to their home and to build a new temple.

We see in verse 3 that in a way the Medes and Persians are holy. They are set apart for God's work. Even though their work shall be bloody, even though they themselves will generally be heathen, God would use them. They would be made into mighty warriors. They rejoice in God's triumph, though they don't see it as His triumph, they think it's their own. Lastly, we see in verse 4 that they are large in number, and in verse 5, they're from far away.

Jesus will get whatever He needs from wherever He wishes to bring about the deliverance of His people. What a wonderful encouragement this is for us in the day and in the place in which we live, where we see wickedness so strongly entrenched. Deliverance will come from somewhere. It may be from some place we don't even expect, and from a source we can't imagine. God will use some circumstance, or far more normally a set of circumstances, to work for His people. Let us take heart. Let us give glory to God, for He it is who shall deliver us and who shall bring us to victory.

Questions

1. Who would destroy Babylon?
2. How would this result in deliverance for the Jews?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ can bring help for His church from anywhere.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.” Isaiah 12:5

Praise: Psalm 103 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 13:6-18 - The Mighty Destroyed

Babylon was a big city. Its walls and its fortifications were great. It was thought that no one could get through these defenses. But as big, as powerful, as wonderful a place as it was, it would be destroyed horribly. In verses 6 and 9 this is referred to as the day of the Lord. Whenever something is called the day of the Lord, it is when God's people are delivered. It is when God's people are vindicated. It is when they see their God coming to rescue them and save them. But the day of the Lord is not that way for those who are His enemies, who have oppressed His people.

How horrible would it be? First of all, there'd be no hope for them. In verse 7, all hands will be limp. Every man's heart will melt. In fact, as we see in verse 8, they will be paralyzed by fear. The picture here is of someone frightened to death. Then, as we go on into verse 10, the stars of heaven and their constellations will not give their light. There are many other places where God uses this language to speak of a startling and a cataclysmic judgment. It is symbolic of the fact that these things that we think of as being stable and dependable are not.

We see in verses 11-13 that Babylon's punishment would be what sometimes is called poetic justice. They sought to make themselves high, to exalt themselves against God and his people, and God let them grow up for a time, and then came along and cut them down. It will be harder to find a living person than to find gold, because God will make the destruction so great. Verse 14 describes the people like wild animals in panic, being hunted down. We go on to read, every man will turn to his own people, and everyone will flee to his own land. They won't stop to help Babylon. If they can get away, they will get away. They would experience horror and savagery, as we see in verses 16 and 18 just like what they had done to other nations. All the stuff that they'd stored up, all the fine things that they bought, would be carted off. There will be no rising generation, no young men to be the husbands and fathers. There will be no pity on little children.

Questions

1. What will the destruction be like for Babylon?
2. How had Babylon been proud?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for our nation to be turned back to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.” Isaiah 12:5

Praise: Psalm 104 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 13:19-22 - Desolation

What would happen from this invasion of the Medes and Persians? Complete and utter ruination. Babylon had been a place of wonder and beauty. Its society was the greatest civilization of its day. But even though it had been that way, because of its sin, because of its ultimate hatred of Jehovah, it would be utterly destroyed, just like Sodom and Gomorrah were. And that is what happened. It did not happen suddenly like Sodom and Gomorrah. It took several hundred years, but it was just as thorough. It was just as complete. God says here in verse 20 that it would never be rebuilt, and it hasn't been. People would shun it. Only wild animals would live there, God says.

What in the world does all this have to do with you? It teaches us that there is no power in, on, or of the earth that is bigger than King Jesus. Now for you believers, this should be of great comfort. For there is nothing that can overthrow the church of Jesus Christ. There is nothing that can overthrow you. And it's not that you will merely hang on. You are assured of the victory. We've already seen here in Isaiah that the earth should be filled with the knowledge of the glory of whom? Of Nebuchadnezzar? No, that wasn't it. The earth should be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God, with the knowledge of Jehovah. The day of the Lord is coming. There is one fighting for us. There is one ruling who will bring wicked individuals and societies to destruction. No matter how mighty the enemy looks, no matter how formidable they appear, God shall deliver us, and in the right time, and shall not merely make us to survive, but to have the victory.

Questions

1. What happened after the invasion of the Medes and Persians?
2. What comfort can we take from this chapter?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that no kingdom or society is greater than Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth.” Isaiah 12:5

Praise: Psalm 105 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 14:1-3 - God's People Delivered

Jehovah will have mercy on Jacob, giving Jacob good things it does not deserve and will settle them in their own land. We see this in the return of the exiles. But the land in verse 1 is also a picture of all the world conquered for Jesus Christ. Who are the strangers (sojourners) in verse 1? Particularly Babylonians, but more generally, it's those who previously attacked, destroyed, and exiled the people of God. Those of the nations who would and did carry off the Israelites and the Jews would carry them back, and instead of being oppressors, would joyfully be servants and helpers in the building of the kingdom of God. But it didn't stop in the days when Cyrus decreed that the Jews should go back to their land. For even yet the nations are coming to the Lord Jesus Christ. The promise of the strangers coming in is not only about Babylonians. It's about you. Every one of us in Jesus Christ is a living fulfillment of prophecy.

When God in grace restores the people, they receive rest. The rest does not come because the people do something to earn it. No, the source of the rest is found only in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:1-10). It's a rest from sorrow or pain. Sadness is a consequence of sin. But for the people of God, there is already, and is coming more greatly, a rest from sorrow because sin is covered and the effects of it are removed. There is a rest from fear or turmoil. There is no more fear because sin is forgiven. We're justified by faith alone in Jesus alone. There is peace with God as we come to know Him. We find that He protects us in and through everything that happens. There is rest from bondage or hard service. Jesus has freed, has saved His people from bondage to sin and Satan. He has put us into His service. His yoke is easy, and His burden is light.

Perhaps some of you don't know this but wish you could. You have been thinking, "Why do I have no rest? Why am I constantly tossed about by my guilt and my fears? I am sad because of what I deserve. I am scared of death of what shall come. And, oh, my sin, I cannot escape it. It has me bound in chains that are beyond my ability to undo, that are beyond my strength to break. I have not this deliverance, this joy, and this gladness. Where shall I find it?" Take yourself to Jesus. You may look to Him. You may cry out to Him. You may have deliverance in Him.

Question

1. Who pays the penalty for our sin?
2. How does God become our song?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth." Isaiah 12:5

Praise: Psalm 106 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

The goal of Let's Worship God is to encourage and help you in your worship of God each day.

**God tells us that
Ezra read from
the book of the Law
day after day
and that
the people of God
were filled with joy!**

Let's Worship God is produced
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