

Let's Worship God

15th-20th January 2024

Isaiah



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Monday - Isaiah 16:1-6 - Hope for Moab's Remnant

In these first five verses here, after the terrible destruction that we looked at last week in chapter 15, there is a glimmer of hope. The Moabites are given some advice in verses 1-2 because they don't know what to do. Through His prophet here, God tells them to come, not to run from Judah and her God, for He is the one who brings to pass all this disaster upon them, and He is the one who will have mercy for these Moabites who believe on Him and repent. They are urged to listen to God, urged to come to Him. "Hide the outcasts. Do not betray him who escapes." Here is how they shall be treated by the godly in Judah. They shall find safety there. They shall find deliverance there. And as we see here, apparently a remnant does heed.

These people, moved by the spirit of God, throw themselves on the judgment of God's people, pleading for mercy from them, and they receive a merciful, hopeful word in verse 5. Who is the one sitting on the throne? Just around the time that Isaiah was writing was the beginning of the rule of Hezekiah. Was that who was being looked at? Well, perhaps in a way, but there is One Who is far beyond Hezekiah, One related to Hezekiah, One Who is a descendant of Hezekiah. But this King is One Who will reign completely and sinlessly and eternally in love and faithfulness. He will end oppression and bring judgment and justice. He will end evil and bring in righteousness. He is the King over all nations. We are speaking of Jesus!

But we see here that there are not many. Most of the people will not heed the Word of God. They are very proud. They depend upon themselves. Why do they do this? What is the matter with them? Consider how you were until, in sovereign grace, God came to you. God sent His Holy Spirit upon you and changed your dead heart. You, in and of yourself, are no better than these wicked Moabites who run away – not run to Jehovah, not run to Jesus for redemption, for renewal, and for forgiveness. No. They run away. And so would you. So did you until your heart was changed by sovereign grace.

Questions

1. What advice does God give the Moabites?
2. Why do so many refuse to listen to God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would change the dead hearts of the people around us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 17:7

Praise: Psalm 113 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 16:7-14 - Moab's Choice

We see all kinds of destruction here in verses 7-11. We see the fortresses destroyed. We see the fields just wasting away. Everyone is crying. Gladness, as we read in verse 10, is taken away. So is joy. Moab's destruction is so overwhelming, so terrible, that even the godly prophet Isaiah is grieving for her. The way of the sinner is hard (Proverbs 13:15), and it can be hard to watch.

Then we go down to verse 12 to see something repeated from chapter 15. The Moabite idols are altogether useless. But people love idols. They did in that time. They still do today. There are all kinds of things that they will give their lives to, all kinds of things that they will commit their hearts to, to avoid the living and true God. The idols, though, can do nothing. Going to these idols takes the place of going to the only real help there is. God ends in verses 13 and 14 with the assurance of the certainty of His Word - all this is really and truly going to happen.

What does all this have to do with you? First, King Jesus reigns over all nations. Now all nations have the obligation to turn away from their pride, from their self-sufficiency, from their other idols, and to turn to covenant with and serve the King Whom God has set upon His holy hill. A further lesson is this: God's word shall certainly prevail. Lastly, nothing happens by chance, nothing happens by luck. Nothing happens outside the will of God.

The choice before Moab to submit to Christ or to die in their pride is the same choice before you, and before our society, and before all the nations of the earth. There is hope, real hope, real deliverance for any and all who turn from their sin, who turn from whatever it is they're depending upon, and turn to Jesus Christ. The other choice is to run away proudly, to depend upon yourself. That has a certain end as well, an absolutely assured result - destruction. You will either choose for Jesus Christ or you will not. And you cannot say, 'oh, well, I won't go either way.' Not to come to Christ is to deny Him. What will be your choice?

Questions

1. Why do people love idols?
2. What choice was before Moab?

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

In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 17:7

Praise: Psalm 114 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 17 - Pagans, Apostates, and a Remnant

In verses 1-5, we see judgment on the pagans, Syria; and the apostates, Israel. The time is coming, and soon, says God, when Damascus (the capital of Syria) will be so quiet and ruined instead of a strong, bustling, fortified city. At verse 3, at least temporarily, we transition into looking not only to pagans but to apostates. The fortress will also cease from Ephraim, the strongest and leading tribe of the northern kingdom. The remnant of Syria will be like the glory of the children of Israel. What does that mean? What was the glory of Israel? Well, it was temporal strength, temporal might, temporal power, temporal wealth, but all that was about to be destroyed. We read about that more in verses 4-5. At the time or shortly before the time that Isaiah was writing here, there had been great strength for Israel, but they had been trusting in idols. They'd grown up and they'd gotten big and wide and powerful, just like a wide and fruitful field full of wheat. But God was sending somebody to mow them down. God had made them grow like grain, but they had rejected Him. Thus judgment and destruction were before them, and they would come by the hand of the Assyrians.

Now, in the middle of all this, there is a remnant spoken of here in verses 6-8. The picture here is of a few left from this crop of cut down apostates. This remnant looked to Jehovah and looked to the promised Saviour who would come. The remnant today continues to look to Him and His accomplished work.

Syria and Israel would be destroyed by the Assyrian. But as we've seen in other places in Isaiah and in other places in God's Word, those whom God sends to discipline His people are then destroyed by Him. That's what we see in verses 9-14, the destruction of the destroyers. God protects his people in ways the world cannot believe, the world cannot expect. Christ deals with pagans. He deals with apostates. But He knows how to deal with, to find, to protect, and to build up the remnant, too.

Questions

1. What happened to the pagans and the apostates?
2. What happened to the remnant?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's perfect wisdom.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 17:7

Praise: Psalm 115- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 18 - Cush Called

Cush is the modern day country of Sudan. It is a land that is full of life and buzzing with insects. We read here that it is a land of sailors on the ocean and on the Nile, the divided river. At the modern day city of Khartoum in Sudan, the Nile river splits in two, and there are two main rivers that divide the land just at that point, the White Nile and the Blue Nile. We also see here that it's called a land of naturally strong people. The Lord has blessed this land with many good things.

God is calling to Cush, at least here, and they must pay attention. We read here in verse three, that He lifts up a banner on the mountains, and a trumpet is blown, and they hear it. This is significant of the bringing of the gospel to these lands and to Cush in particular. Jesus is the Lord, our banner, and the trumpet is a picture of the gospel going forth, sent by and through the ministers of God's Word.

In verses 4-6, we see what appears to be great catastrophe. At the time that Isaiah is writing this, it is a time of fast growth and a fast gaining of power for the empire of Assyria. God would be using it to break many other nations. But as we see here in verse 5, when it looks like things are at their peak, when it looks like Assyria is unstoppable, a time of disaster comes. In verse six, we see the desolation of Assyria. God destroyed them and ended them.

Now, what has this to do with Cush? The Assyrians had been threatening to come down into Cush, but they never got there. God cut them down before this could even happen. It is then that we read what we have here in these last two verses, which is a response of faith. God works in them and brings them to give offerings as a picture of their consecration to Him. Cush is one among many nations with whom God deals in grace. This must be an encouragement to us. God has a people, and He shall bring them to Himself. When we speak to others about Jesus Christ, and when we seek to bring all things under Jesus Christ, our efforts aren't in vain. Through us God shall be bringing individuals, families, and nations to know His King Whom He has set upon Zion's hill.

Questions

1. What happens to Assyria?
2. What happens to Cush?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is bringing nations to Himself.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 17:7

Praise: Psalm 116 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 19:1-22 - A Prophecy on Egypt

First, in chapter 19:1-17 we see that Egypt's wisdom is judged. The Egyptians were known for their clever people and for their wise counsellors. They claimed their wisdom came from their many gods. But these many gods, as we see here in verse 1, are shown by God to be absolutely powerless. Secondly, we see Egypt's wise men fall into folly (verses 3, 14). They have no more cleverness, no more ability to think straight. All that they counsel ends up in foolishness. Secondly, we see God's judgment upon Egypt's civil peace. God frightens the brave armies. He destroys the morale of their soldiers (verse 16). In verse 14, He brings about dissension. In verse 2, He sets Egyptians against Egyptians. Thirdly, there's also judgment upon Egypt's natural strengths, especially the Nile River. Food becomes scarce because the crops dry up.

God then in verses 18-25 speaks of the redemption of Egypt. Verse 18 is speaking of an overwhelming coming of the people of Egypt into covenant with Jehovah God through His Son, the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a way of saying five out of every six people or five out of every six cities will come - nearly all people. Not everyone. There is not perfection in this world, not in our own Christian lives, not in the transformations of societies, until Jesus comes again. But before that time, Egypt will be overwhelmingly, characteristically, a Christian society.

When God saves us He begins to transform our thoughts, hearts, words, and deeds. So it happens here. In verse 21 there is a change of thought and heart. The sacrifices and offerings were pictures of the person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a picture of the Egyptians yielded to the Lord Jesus Christ by grace. There is a covenant of love, a covenant of commitment between them. Secondly, there is a change in their words (verse 18). They will speak the language of Canaan, that is, they will speak the language of the people that are up there where the Canaanites used to be, the language of the people who call on the name of the LORD. And they are crying to God in their distress, not their false gods, as we see in verse 20 and verse 22. Thirdly, there's a change in their deeds. They give themselves in covenant to God (verse 18). They receive the covenant Saviour that God gives them, the Lord Jesus Christ (verse 20). They come and worship the only living and true God (verses 19-21).

Questions

1. What judgement will God bring on Egypt?
2. How will God change Egypt's thoughts, hearts, words, and deeds.

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is bringing all nations to Himself.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel.
Isaiah 17:7

Praise: Psalm 117- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 19: 23-20:6 - Peace and Judgement

What comes about because of this change in Egypt that we spoke of yesterday? Well, we could sum it up by saying peace in verses 23 through 25. This reflects what Paul later wrote in Romans 5:1 where he said that since we are justified by grace, we have peace with God. These societies that had been wicked, who had been destructive to the people of God, are brought into the people of God. Israel and Egypt and Assyria together are a picture of all nations coming together in Christ. It has come to pass in some ways and will come to pass more and more fully.

Historically, what happened? Well, what happened was the Egyptians did not turn at this point. And the people that professed to be the people of God continued to trust in Egypt at this point. So God brought great destruction upon Egypt. We see that in chapter 20. This was in the same year that the Assyrians came and destroyed Israel, the northern kingdom. They came and nearly did so with Judah, and they went on through and attacked the Egyptians as well. This judgment that was to come upon them would be great. These people, as they persisted in their sin, would earn shame from it. That's what sin brings eventually.

There was only one hope for Judah. There was only one hope for Egypt and Cush. Only one hope for Assyria. And there is only one hope for any who look for deliverance. It is not in worldly wisdom. It is not in depending upon natural strength or military power. The only hope for deliverance, for individuals, for families, for nations, is to look to the Lord Jesus Christ, and to yield to Him Whom God has set upon His holy hill. When a nation, when a people does this, then there is deliverance and then there is hope.

Question

1. What does sin always bring?
2. What is the only hope for sinners?

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

In that day man will look to his Maker, and his eyes will look on the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 17:7

Praise: Psalm 118 - 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!**

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If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com