

Let's Worship God

12th-17th February 2024
Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 26:1-2 - How Shall We Enter?

This chapter starts out 'in that day'. What day? In the day that all that was spoken of in chapter 25 comes to pass; all the help and blessing to the people of God and the destruction of the wicked. Judah here sings of the city of God, which is well and strongly founded. That city is the kingdom of which Christ is the king. This city has a strong defence, better than the walls and bulwarks of the world. This city is as strong and safe as He Who is king in Zion can make it. It abides and ever will. Though the system of this world may collapse about us, whether God in common grace delays judgment, or whether He brings judgment upon our land, we have a strong city. It is founded in salvation. Jesus is the walls and bulwarks.

Now, a good question for us to ask is this: How shall we enter such a place? How shall we, who are sinners and enemies, by nature, to God. But we read here, 'open the gates that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in.' Who is this righteous nation? Why, it is the people of God who are made up of all the nations of earth (Hebrews 12:22-24). Jesus has made the way. He Himself is the way (John 14:6). How do we enter? It's only by the grace of God, and by the living, and dying, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus came to live in the place of sinners. He lived a perfect life, not sinning once, to please and glorify His Father in heaven. But there was a covenantal, saving reason why He did so. He did so that, first, He might be the perfect priest and perfect victim there at the cross, without any blemish, any spot, any imperfection at all, the perfect priest offering the perfect sacrifice. But He also lived perfectly so that it would go onto your account, believer, and mine. (Psalm 84) The Father sees us in and through Christ, who continues to intercede for us before the throne of His Father, who pleads His blood and the price He has paid. And He pleads the righteousness that He attained for you in your place. He has lived perfectly, and He has died perfectly, in order that your penalty for sin be paid off and your entrance fee, so to speak, of righteousness might be earned. It's because of that that we who are sinners by nature, in Christ are counted righteous. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Questions

1. Who is the defence of this city?
2. How do we enter this city?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that Christ has done so that we may enter this city.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4
Praise: Psalm 119: Part 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 26:3-4 - A Strong Foundation

In Isaiah's day, there were many situations and problems that seemed overwhelming to the godly. Just like there are situations and problems that we see today that we can be tempted to think could overwhelm us - there are situations in the world, within our country, in our workplaces, in our families, maybe with our own health and well-being, maybe even our own spiritual well-being. These things - they wake us up at night. They make us fretful in the day, or at least tempt us to be this way.

However, as Paul later would write in Romans 5:1-5, the believer has peace with God. This peace with God, through our being justified by faith, through the living, and dying, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, is the basis for all other peace - peace in your own heart about situations, peace between you and others, peace for societies, and nations, and peoples. True peace, characterized by godliness, is based on this most fundamental peace of all, peace with God, because sin has been dealt with and guilt has been atoned for. It is because of that justification that we have assurance that indeed God works all things together for good for those who love Him and who are the called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). It is because of that justification that we have assurance that all things pleasant and unpleasant come from the loving hand of a heavenly Father who does all things well and who loves us far more than we are ever able to understand. As we keep our minds and our hearts fixed onto Who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He has promised - during all kinds of troubles, we find that we trust in Him.

The Lord is the strong foundation for the church. Left to ourselves we go off, oh so easily, to this idol or that idol. Yet the covenant God, the gracious God, the triune God, is our everlasting and our ever-sufficient strength. I don't know if there is anyone reading this who is in rebellion against Christ, who is still saying, "I don't need this Jesus. I'm good enough." But if there be anyone thinking this, all that I have been speaking of is not yours. What is your heritage? Destruction. The city of God shall stand, the heart of the believer shall remain firm, all based upon Jesus Christ. But you have none of that. But this same gracious God commands you to come to Him, no longer to run away, to come to Him in Jesus Christ. And as you enter into Jesus, you enter into this city and receive this peace and this foundation.

Questions

1. What is the basis of all peace?
2. What is the foundation of this city?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the peace we have with God in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 26:5-6 - Calamity

In verses 5 and 6, there is calamity to the proud. Now we know that in Scripture God condemns those who are proud, who think themselves to be high and mighty, who think themselves to have no need of the triune God, no need of any godliness, and they can go and do what they want. Now, as we've been saying, when we think about the exaltation of God's people, and when we think about the destruction of the wicked, we could think of what was going on in Isaiah's day of the breaking of the power of Nineveh and Assyria, even though they seemed to have come to the place of their greatest power and their greatest conquest. As they raised their head up, God chopped it off. Or we could look ahead from Isaiah's day to a later generation and the destruction that came by the Babylonians. But within two generations, Babylon itself was crushed. Ultimately though, as we've seen, what is seen here is the destruction of the power of Satan and what is sometimes called the city of the world or the city of man in the resurrection of Christ, the coming of the new covenant with the people of God, having those from every nation grafted in, as Paul later wrote of in Romans 11.

So often it is that God has allowed the wicked to grow in strength and in pride. This doesn't happen because the proud are stronger than God. This doesn't happen because God does not care. When pride and evil raise up, it is only because God, in His everlasting, holy, and perfect plan has allowed it. He, of course, does not partake of their sin. He allows them to ferment until the time comes for their destruction. God shows, when the wicked rise, when the proud exalt themselves, His own mighty power and glory in their destruction.

In verse 6 it is not the mighty kings that shall step upon the plans and the pretensions of the proud and the mighty. No, it is the feet of the poor, the steps of the needy, even those who are weak, those who are considered by the world to be nothing, but who are the precious ones of the God of heaven. It is they who have the privilege of stomping all over the wicked with a desire to see all brought under the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What are these verses ultimately a prophecy of?
2. Why does God allow the wicked to grow?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would destroy His enemies.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 21 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 26:7-11 - Comfort

The way of the godly man is very different from the high, and proud, wicked ones who are laid low. Rather, they who receive new hearts have more and more of the character of their Father and of their covenant head, the Lord Jesus Christ (Ezekiel 11:19-20; 36:23-26). When we are brought by God's grace to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, several things happen. We are justified and declared upright. And because Jesus took the penalty of our guilt and paid off that guilt there at the cross, all our guilt is judicially done with. But not only that, not only are we forgiven of our sin, but we are also given new hearts. And as we read about just here, hearts that love God and His ways. There is no such thing as a so-called carnal Christian. There is no such thing as a true believer who does not grow in his thought, in his word, and in his deed to be more holy. Because the spirit of God dwells within him. The new heart is beating within him, and more and more, he loves his God. He loves his Saviour. He loves his God's word. He loves his God's law.

Calamity comes again in verses 10-12. Sometimes, in contrast to the godly, the wicked so very often receive all sorts of good things from God. But these kindnesses to the ungodly do not open up their hearts. No, by no means. Rather, the wicked misuse all things in their wickedness (Romans 1:18). The goodness of God, which should lead them to repentance, they reject, just as we read right here. God's fiery judgment eventually and in His best time, brings them once again to calamity.

For the unbeliever reading this, if you see that you've been a fool in your pride and haughtiness, and this God is beginning to look more and more beautiful, even as your way is looking more and more disgusting, there is a way to Him, and that way is the Lord Jesus Christ. Cry out to him for rescue, for deliverance, for salvation, and you will be plucked out of that way that leads to destruction. He will place you in this way unto life. There is an exhortation and an assurance here for the believer as well. The exhortation is to keep in this way, for this is the way of delight. The assurance here is that God shall keep you. The way of holiness is indeed, as you found out, the way to happiness. Sin only leads to misery and to painful discipline. God will keep you if you are in Him. He will keep you, and treasure you, and you will stay in the Way.

Questions

1. What change takes place in the life of a Christian?
2. What assurance does a believer have?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would grow in holiness each day.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 26:12 -Peace With God

In the preceding verses, we saw God's destruction of the wicked. There's an appropriate question that might come to our minds. What makes us any better than they? That's what this verse deals with as we begin to see peace in the midst of difficulty for the people of God. This verse tells us whence peace within comes. The one, the person, the source from where peace comes is Jehovah, the God of the covenant. The Father, Who has, for some reason that glorifies himself, decided to set his love upon His chosen ones, who of themselves were no better than other sinners. Because of the work of the Father, the love of the Father, because of the work and the love of the Son, we have peace. For He it is that in the council of eternity joyfully accepted the task of living, that we might have life, dying, that we might not have guilt and the death that was the penalty of that guilt, and rising, that we might have new life, everlasting life. And then the Spirit in that same council was determined to be the one who would apply the benefits from Christ's life, death, and resurrection to the ones chosen by the Father. He is the one Who comes at the right time to each and every one chosen by the Father; to each and every one lived for, died for, raised again for by the Son, and brings new hearts to them, new life to them, what we sometimes call regeneration. They may have heard about Jesus Christ before, but now in the heart, suddenly they know, they understand, the Spirit gives them faith. They believe. And as we read in Romans 5:1, they're justified by faith, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. And since they're justified by faith, they have peace with God.

Philippians 2:13 says, "It is God who is at work within you, both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Did you exercise your will in coming to Christ? Of course you did! But where did you get that will? Well, we see it right here in Isaiah 26:12, and we see it directly in Philippians 2:13. All is done by Him in grace to undeserving sinners, dead sinners, helpless sinners. That's what we were. That's what many out in the world are that God yet delivers. And so, to Him alone goes the glory. So what makes the difference between these proud ones mentioned in verses 10-11 and us? God's love, God's care, God's action, God's election.

Questions

1. Where does peace come from?
2. How can we have peace with God?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that the triune God has done for you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4

Praise: Psalm 120- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 26:13-15 - Peace from Idols

In verse 13 who are their lords who have ruled over them? It seems to me, in the context here, we're talking more about idols. John Calvin said the human heart is an idol factory. The people here confess their sinful idolatry, a constant temptation to professing believers and the visible church, not just in Old Testament times. By God's grace, these people saw it was time to repent. It was high time to abandon the idols. They needed deliverance. We constantly do as well. And what about these idols? Well, they're dead. They'll not live. They will not rise. We have every confidence -- or should - that if a prayer for deliverance from idols be a heartfelt one, that it's a prayer that the triune God is delighted to answer. If we have a heart that's crying out that way, it's because God has already begun to work in us, and we can be assured He will continue.

Lastly, we see in verse 15, there is not only peace within and deliverance from the dumb idols, there's also peace without, peace on the outside, because God and His grace has purified His people. Because of this work of grace within believers and within Christ's bride, true outward peace and prosperity comes to His people. Those outside are brought in, and the peoples of the world are brought to acknowledge Christ's reign. They are made part of the true Israel of God (Ephesians 2:11-13).

Question

1. What are some idols we can have today?
2. When will there be peace in the world?

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

Trust in the LORD for ever, for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4

Praise: Psalm 121 - 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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