

Let's Worship God

30th Oct. - 4th Nov. 2023

Isaiah



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Monday - Isaiah 1:1 - The Vision of Isaiah

We are going to be studying Isaiah using notes written by Rev. Phil Pockras of the American RP Church.

The name Isaiah means the salvation of the Lord. How appropriate that one with this name speaks about the coming salvation of the Lord. Through Isaiah, God gave knowledge of salvation to his people, prophesying very clearly of the person, work, and redemption that would come through Jesus Christ.

Some say this isn't really a prophecy, and some unknown guy, claiming to be Isaiah, wrote about these things after they'd already happened. No. Only God can enable anyone to see things in this way and to understand what He gives. This is why all the Scripture is called revelation because God reveals it to the prophets and the apostles, so that they can reveal it to us.

The subject of the prophecy is Judah and Jerusalem. God deals with his professed people, to those who are hypocrites and apostates and to the remnant, the true Israel of God, the true Church within Judah and Jerusalem. To them God gives this word. To them God gives instruction. To them God gives reproof and threatening. But as well to them God gives comfort and encouragement.

Isaiah prophesies long and faithfully. He speaks to people of the need to repent and believe upon the One who is coming. But you know that we can preach, we can talk until we are blue in the face, but only God in Christ by His Spirit can give success to the gospel. Does that mean then that we leave aside the preaching? No. This is why Isaiah persisted. For he trusted that the same God who gave the vision, would give to his true people the ability to understand and to receive His Word. Just as Isaiah, you must be praying and laboring for the Gospel. For just as God gave victory to His Word then, so He will give victory to the Word as it is preached today.

Questions

1. What does the name Isaiah mean?
2. What is the subject of this prophecy?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the success of the Gospel.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Isaiah 1:18

Praise: Psalm 47 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 1:2-4 - Forsaking the Lord

Holiness brings happiness. Sin brings misery. We see God talking about the people's sin in verses 2-4. Isaiah calls the creation to look down and be God's witness on what is almost an unbelievable horror. And what is this horrible thing? Those who are God's people have rebelled against Him who has given them life. They have rebelled against Him who has shown them such mercy, such kindness, such grace. Unlike domestic animals who know how to be grateful, who know how to be submissive, know how to obey their human masters, the humans here just go on and do what they want. They go off stupidly into sin.

Verse four is a description of the people's sin. Their sin is something that weighs them down. They are called here an offspring of evildoers. They are children who are not a delight to their Father in heaven, but they bring corruption. They have forsaken the Lord, He who has taken them out of Egypt and brought them into their own land, that they might have fellowship with Him; they have forsaken Him. They've run away. They are given such privileges, and they say, we don't want this. They want to turn away from Him so they can turn to serve idols.

How like the professed church of Christ in our own day! How like our own society today - blessed by God and turning away in order to follow after the idols of popularity, money, power, or whatever. Is this a description of you? Have you been outwardly called? Have you made outward profession? Have you been marked as God's own by your baptism? Yet are you turning away? You want something else. You think you shall find happiness and freedom in another place? I want you to know that God sees this, God knows this, and God will deal with you.

Questions

1. What does sin bring?
2. What have these people done to the Lord?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would pursue holiness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Isaiah 1:18

Praise: Psalm 48 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 1:5-9 - Sin and Misery

Verses 5-9 describe the misery of God's people. It's a picture of a person punished for disobedience. But none of it has brought them to repentance. It's a picture of a child who has been disciplined then puts their hands on their hips, stands back and nearly spits out, 'that didn't hurt'. Sadly, there are people this way, and nations and societies this way. Unless God had been gracious, unless God had been kind, unless God had left them a remnant, what would have happened? They would have been as thoroughly destroyed as the wicked cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

But in the midst of all this wreckage, there is a wee beam of light. The true Israel of God is preserved despite great sin. For sinners who believe on Jesus for that forgiveness and who repent of their sin, and even for apostate societies, there is the promise of deliverance, if they will turn. Everything today seems to be out of control. Is there any hope? Yes. What is needed is God's gracious working in our society, turning away from sin as a society, and turning to Christ. Will such happen in our lifetime? We don't know. It's entirely possible. It is something certainly to be praying and labouring for. God says through Isaiah, as he also says through the prophet Habakkuk, that the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. There is reason to take heart, not to throw in the towel. There is reason to be pressing on and doing the work of the Lord.

Is there anyone reading this who still is in their sin? Maybe you are coming to see that it is a heavy burden; that you are weighed down and being crushed by it. There is great grace for great sinners. Turn to Jesus Christ. For everyone who does so is saved, is delivered, is rescued, is freed, is lightened. Turn to him from your sin, cry out to him to deliver you from it, and misery shall be ended, happiness and joy shall be yours, and you shall see the working of this great covenant God.

Questions

1. How does Christ give us eternal security?
2. What motivates Christ to act to redeem us?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's love for His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Isaiah 1:18

Praise: Psalm 49 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 1:10-15 - Hypocrisy in Worship

It is bad if you worship God in a way differently than He has commanded, even though you have all the sincerity in the world, but it is equally bad if you've got the forms down right, but your heart's not in it. That was the problem here with Israel of old. All their outward attention to worship, and it was done very, very diligently in detail, not forgetting anything, all was done according to the book. God is not objecting to these things in and of themselves. He is objecting to the way they have been abused. Here's the problem that he's having with these sacrifices and offerings, they are supposed to point the people of God to realities that are coming. They do not have value of themselves. The sacrifices are to be pointing these people to the blood of Christ in which they should be trusting. The incense is a picture of the prayers of the people coming before God through, not ultimately a priest of the order of Aaron, but coming through the high priest after the order of Melchizedek, the Lord Jesus Christ. The problem was in all this outward diligence, these people as a whole were polluted and filthy like Sodom and Gomorrah. So their outwardly true worship was not worship in spirit, and therefore it was disgusting to God. What characterized them as a society, as a city, a nation, that said, we are the people of God. What characterized them? Was it holiness? Were they a light before the nations? Oppression and murder characterized them, spiritually speaking. They were both deadly and dead. They thought they could see, but they were blind. All they could see in their spiritual blindness was that outward conformity to rites and to ceremonies, going through a liturgy or something, would somehow magically influence God, would keep him happy, while they did deeds of sin.

Questions

1. What was wrong with the people's worship?
2. What characterised the people?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would worship God from the heart.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Isaiah 1:18

Praise: Psalm 50 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 1:16-20 - Washed from Sin

God, who is merciful, takes the gracious initiative here in these few verses. Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean. Put away the evil of your doings from before my eyes. What is needed? Is it more careful doing what God had said to do? No, they are already being careful about that. What is needed is an entire change of heart. Real, true, and sincere repentance is needed that will show up in holy work. But can they do that? Can they wash themselves and make themselves clean? How can those who are dead and filthy wash themselves? How can someone make themselves to be born again? It is God who washes. You must be born again. But it is done by the Spirit of God. God the merciful, God the gracious, takes filthy sinners and washes them clean. How can He do it? He does it through the One whom He sends, the One to whom the sacrifices and offerings were pointing, the One to whom the priests in their persons and in their work were pointing, the One to whom the temple was pointing, the One that was spoken of by the prophets. It is through Christ, only. Jesus says, I will pay the price for My people and My righteousness shall be to their account.

Have you believed on him? Have you called on Him to save you from your sin? Because if you have not, all your outward religious devotion is filth, just as it was for the professed believers of old. As a result of that faith, are you repentant? Are you living an increasingly changed life? In other words, are you washed? Are you cleaned? Are you by the grace of God, through the doing and dying of Jesus Christ and his resurrection, and through the power of the Spirit, born again? If so, then be diligent to worship according to truth. Be diligent to worship and to live in the Spirit of God and you shall, as the mouth of the Lord has spoken, eat the good of the land here in this life and at the marriage feast of the Lamb.

Questions

1. What does God tell them to do?
2. How can we be born again?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Isaiah 1:18

Praise: Psalm 51 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 1:21-31 - Purified

God has Isaiah use pictures here, first of adultery, then of adulteration. He compares the people of God as being his wife, but she has not been faithful to him. Israel was treating other false gods as though she were married to them as well. But we go from adultery to adulteration. Adulteration means to be taking away from something's purity and mixing it with something else so it's no longer pure. That which had been valuable was being made worthless. To God this whole situation is burdensome. His solution has a twofold aspect. First, against the wicked, there is going to be judgment. Secondly, for the godly, there is restoration. There's a picture here of a hot fire being used to make impurities come to the surface where they can be removed. God will get rid of those who profess to be believers, but are really fake. Then He will see the reflection of His glory in the bright silver of His people. We are afflicted so that our brightness and our reflection of Jesus Christ will come out more wonderfully. God gave the judges, and so He promises to do so again once he has destroyed the wicked. These judges, these counselors, will be used by Him to bring about righteousness.

The ungodly face a terrible destruction. The groves of trees in these verses are one specially set aside for the worship of Asherah, and the gardens are for the worship of Baal. The people look to gods of their own making. But they're about to find that their gods are really no gods at all. Just as the idols are dead, the wicked who worship them, as we see it pictured here, dry up and wither away. All the great work, and all the great power, and all the great strength of the wicked, is just like tinder before a spark; both will burn together and nobody shall be able to put them out. But the true people of God, the Israel of God, shall be purified glorified and be made fit for the use of Jehovah God.

Question

1. What is the purpose of affliction for Christians?
2. Are unbelievers as strong and powerful as they sometimes seem?

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

"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool." Isaiah 1:18

Praise: Psalm 52 - 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
by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

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