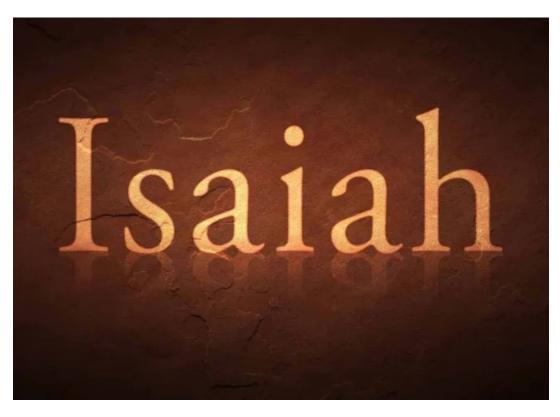
Let's Worship God

11th-16th March 2024 Isaiah





Monday - Isaiah 30:1-3 - Looking to Egypt

We've been looking in the past several chapters at the folly of the main part of Israel. Not the remnant who actually knew God, not the remnant who did have, by God's grace, circumcised hearts. We're primarily looking at a people who were circumcised in their bodies, and that was all. Who maybe in their good times went through a show of allegiance to Jehovah, who outwardly went through the motions and did them well, or did them properly anyway, and who said the right things and did the right things, but their hearts really weren't in it. And we saw how God had threatened them short term, medium term, and long term with judgment, but that a time was coming when there would be a people given over to Himself, adopted children of Jacob, who would be indeed circumcised in the heart, but that meanwhile, all the plots, all the schemes of those who were in power in Israel and Judah, would actually come to nothing.

The people are multiplying sin and its judgment to themselves. They are trusting in Egypt. So often people urge onto the church that which is not really godliness. It's worldly expediency. Now, they will call it common sense. They will call it keeping up with the times. They will call it being relevant. They will make it sound so very persuasive. But it's truly worldly expediency in the work and ministry of the church. Though it seems to make sense, though it goes along with the ways of the world around us, whatever it is that is suggested, whatever it is that is urged, cannot possibly succeed, and it leads only to folly and sometimes painful correction from King Jesus, the head and king of the church. This worldly expediency is just the same as going down and seeking the help of Egypt.

Questions

- 1. Who did the people look to for help?
- 2. Why was this wrong?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that we would look to Jesus in all that we do.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15a

Praise: Psalm 140 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - Isaiah 30:4-7 - Misplaced Hope

In verses 4 and 5, we see that these leaders put out all sorts of effort, time, and money to send an ambassador to Egypt, when Jehovah was right there in their midst, right there to be consulted with. God said, you can put all this effort into seeking their help, but they will be no help to you. They will end up being a hindrance to you. Which is exactly as it turned out. And that's exactly what always happens whenever the people of God try to go with worldly ideas, worldly ways, and worldly alliances. We are not called people of God to make these alliances. We are to have communion with Christ and with one another. That is where our hope should be. That is where our trust should be. Not misplaced in wicked people, but in God's Word.

In verses 6 and 7 we see the punishment for folly. We see that there would be woe and sadness from all this plotting, not help and joy. They're making all sorts of trouble for themselves in trying to get through the desert, through Sinai, through a land that is characterized by these terrible lions and these nasty snakes. Ultimately all the arduous labour would be for nothing. Instead of putting their hope and their trust in their covenant God, instead of seeking to be His and seeking Him to be theirs through the blood of the One who would come, they put their hope in the flesh. They put their hope in the ways of man. And that hope, as it always does, disappointed them utterly and completely. They'd be abandoned by the Egyptians and by the God whom they had forsaken. They'd end up alone and destroyed.

That's the way it always ends for those who abandon King Jesus for their own folly -- then and now. What must we do to avoid this horrific end? We must be born again. We must know the Lord Jesus Christ. And then we as individuals and as families, as a congregation, as the church of Jesus Christ in this land and throughout the world, must seek radically to be yielded to the Word of God. We must increasingly seek to place our hope, our trust, into the Mediatorial Person and the finished Work of the Lord Jesus Christ. That is the only place where there is guaranteed help. That is the only place where our trust will not be betrayed. That is a hope that faileth not. That is a hope that abides in this life and everlastingly.

Questions

1. What happened to all their efforts to get help from Egypt?

2. Where must we place our hope?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that we can place our hope in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15a

Praise: Psalm 141 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - Isaiah 30:8-14 - Rejecting God's Word

These who had already been called rebellious children in verse 1 are here labelled as such again. They took the name of God, they claimed to be His, and went through the outward motions, just as people today claim the name of Christ, claim to be His, and go through some sort of outward motions. Since they have rejected God, He wants it recorded so that all ages may see how He deals with such. He destroyed such people before – Assyria, Babylon, and especially Rome in A.D. 70. We have already noted that there are those who are only Israel after the flesh, circumcised in body but not in heart, and the true Israel of God, by His grace circumcised in heart (Deuteronomy 10:16; 30:6; Colossians 2:11-12). King Jesus even now notes who is His. He tells of how He will deal with His people, and lying children, in His parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew 25.

One distinguishing feature of the "lying children" in this passage is their rejection of the Word of God. These in Isaiah's time despised and condemned God's Word. It was not what they wanted to hear, and thus they told him to shut up and get out. This continues today! How often we have groups of people that call themselves Christians, but they refuse to submit to God's Word. They will take from it or add to it in all sorts of ways, and speak of the Holy Spirit leading through the spirit of the times. They will look to psychology, to sociology, to Marxist economics, to the fads and intellectual hobbies of the day, but pompously they reject the Word of God. Rather, they continue to trust in oppression and perversity, like we say in Isaiah 28:14. As they swell out with their pride and apparent power, they are like an unstable stone wall holding back a hillside, perhaps. The more the wall swells out, the closer it is to bursting and destruction, the very end of these lying "children". The other picture of their destruction is like that of a clay pot or pitcher, absolute-ly shattered into tiny shards; none big enough to even rest a coal or two in, none big enough to have a drink of water in it. (Psalm 2)

Questions

1. Why were the people called "lying children"?

2. What had they rejected?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15a

Praise: Psalm 142- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - Isaiah 30:15-17 - Rejecting God's Grace

Again (we saw this before in Isaiah 28:12-13), God offers grace to them. He shows them and offers them the way of rest and peace, as Jesus so offered, for example, in Matthew 11:28-30. Trust in Him who is "Jehovah Saves"! Trust and return and be quiet in Him, and there shall be rest! However, Israel after the flesh, and all who are still lost in Adam, run from God, run from His grace, deny any need, and seek safety in their own way that will keep them from any (as they want to believe) obligation to their Creator.

As the saying goes, be careful what you wish for! They wish to flee, so flee they shall! They wish to go quickly, so quickly they shall go at the hands of those who would be instruments of God's judgment. They would not be able to stand as we see in the last verse, and would be nearly entirely destroyed. Only a very obvious remnant would be left, a remnant who would by their very existence testify to the justice, holiness, righteousness, truthfulness, and power of God, and their own astonishing folly.

Questions

- 1. What did God offer to this people?
- 2. How did they respond?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that there is rest and salvation in Christ.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15a

Praise: Psalm 143 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - Isaiah 30:18-22 - Spiritual Restoration

In verses 18 to 19, we begin to see God's desire to bless His people, the true Israel of God. God shows forth His glory, He shows forth His grace, and we His own shall see it and give Him praise. We read that as these people and as we cry, our Father pityingly hears us. He saves us and He wipes away each tear. That is the promise for all believers.

We see in verses 20-22 a promise for the true Israel of God, of spiritual restoration. We read here in verse 20 that the people of God were outwardly still going to have difficult times: The bread of adversity, the water of affliction. But God gives a promise of something wonderful here. He gives the promise of something that will sustain and bless them. And that is that even though there will be the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, yet they shall have a feast of the Word of God. It is so very difficult to be in a place where the Word of God is not purely taught. Many of our brothers and sisters experience this. But God promises here that his people shall have the pure teaching of the Word of God. Furthermore, in verse 21 God is saying He will be speaking to His people to be telling them, to be showing them, to be guiding them. He will keep them on the pathway of life. He will keep them from error on either the right hand or the left.

We go on to read that He moves in the hearts of His people. He's given them new hearts. So with these new hearts, what do they do? Well, these new hearts are godly hearts. So they live in godly ways. Whatever moved them before, whatever was their joy, whatever was their delight, whatever it was that captivated their old stony hearts is now a hateful, disgusting thing. We read here about their idols that they loved so much that they made expensive coverings of silver for them. And the idols themselves have been made out of gold. And now they don't want any of it anymore. That is what happens with us as God spiritually restores us. People of God cast aside all their precious idols.

Questions

- 1. What promises does God give here?
- 2. What do people do with their idols when they have new hearts?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that we would cast our idols away.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15a Praise: Psalm 144 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - Isaiah 30:23-26 - Grace to the Remnant

We see in verses 23 through 26 the removal of the curse, the effect of the Fall that we read about in Genesis 3. Where there is godliness characterizing an individual, a family, a society, the effects of the curse begin to be lifted. First, he talks about the rain. The abundant rain is promised, which is a great blessing in a semi-arid land. With rain comes life. It could well be that this looks to a spiritual promise as well. For all through Scripture, we see the outpouring and sprinkling down of the Holy Spirit in fullness on His people.

Because of the sufficient rain, there are good crop yields. And so we read here of feeding and blessing for man and beast. There's plenty to eat. It's good tasting stuff. See, we have some of the lifting of the curse of Genesis 3 here, where Adam and Eve were told that the ground would be cursed, and it would bring forth weeds and thorns. But now as the people are spiritually renewed and restored, the ground brings forth good things to God's glory.

We see the abundant waters spoken of here in verse 25. This is just as much a blessing as the rain. Abundant waters, which also may look perhaps to the waters flowing out of Eden back before the Fall. Or the waters flowing from the temple of Ezekiel 47:1-12. And the river of the water of life in Revelation 22:1-5. We see here at the end of verse 25, the destruction that is coming of the enemies of God. Just as they destroyed the hypocritical Israel, so they themselves should be destroyed.

Lastly, we see the brightness of the new day that is coming, where the moon will be as bright as the sun. That really is perhaps looking to heavenly days, when all our enemies shall be entirely destroyed, when we shall have all things finally, completely, and everlastingly restored. The picture we have here is a day that is bright and light. It's pure. It's brilliant. It's glorious. That is the blessing that God has promised. This is the removing of the curse, when darkness should be doomed and all the blackness of sin should be erased. These are the promises for all the elect of God, all the circumcised in heart, all the chosen by the Father, all those who are found in the second Adam, and who have the faith of Abraham, who are in union and communion with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What is promised in these verses?

2. What will Heaven be like?

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

For thus said the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel, "In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and in trust shall be your strength." Isaiah 30:15a

Praise: Psalm 145 - 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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