

Let's Worship God

18th-23rd March 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 30:27-29 - Rescue From The Enemy

In verses 27 and 28, we see Jehovah coming to judge. He's dealing with two different groups of people. For His own people there is grace, there is mercy, there is kindness, there is love. But to those who resist him, who persist in their own sin, there is His justice. And the judge comes to enforce that justice. He describes Himself here in verse 27 as being full of wrath. This is an aspect of God that people in our world do not like. God is gracious, He is loving, He is merciful. And at the same time, He's holy. He is righteous. He is just, He is fair, and He hates, He loathes sin, for sin is opposed to all His holy nature. And ultimately, for those who will hold onto their sin, He hates them (Psalm 5). In His wrath here He is like an overflowing stream. He is overwhelming like a flood. We see here as well that he sifts the nation and throws the bad away. He deals with the nations as one would with a horse with a bridle and bit, He leads them where they want to go, because with their sinful hearts, what they want is to get away from God. What they want is to proceed further into sin. What they want is ultimately to be as far away from God as they can be.

As the Lord comes to judge, He has a word of assurance for His people in verse 29. Those who are circumsised in heart, the remnant, rejoice because they are about to be delivered. They are about to be saved. They are about to be rescued from the wicked. The rejoicing here is reminiscent of the joy that the people had back in Exodus 12 at the Passover. There were some who were looking to something beyond the blood of an earthly lamb, to one who had been promised long before. They looked to one who would come whose blood would be shed, whose body would be broken, who would bring deliverance, and who would Himself bring them from death unto life. They had saving faith in that one. And of course they rejoiced.

Questions

1. Why does God hate sin?
2. Why are God's people rejoicing?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.
Isaiah 31:6

Praise: Psalm 146 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 30:30-33 - A Place of Burning

In verses 30-33, we see God's deeds of anger. God has a fierce love for His people, a fierce love for His own holiness, a fierce love for His own glory, a fierce anger against all that seeks to harm His people, a fierce anger against all that oppose His holiness and glory. So in what He is about to do, God will show forth His glory. This is His highest aim, at least in His creation, to show forth His glory. Now, we tend to think it's all about us. It isn't. All is for God's glory and enjoyment. We have all sorts of questions asked of us, why God might or might not do all sorts of things. And the short answer is one which Christians ought to understand. He does them for His own glory. That is His highest goal in all His work of creation, of redemption, and of providence.

By the power of His voice, He speaks forth destruction in His wrath. We have a picture here of a violent thunderstorm. It's scary, and it's powerful, but it's only a little picture of God's wrath and His destruction. Assyria particularly is mentioned here. It was a foreshadowing, in a way, of what God would do. God would bring them in as a flood, and they would destroy the northern kingdom of Israel and nearly do so with Judah. But then God would destroy them in a place prepared for them, in the valley of Tophet, outside the walls of Jerusalem. So it was that the greatest military and economic power on the earth at that time was humbled in a night, and the bodies of 185,000 heavily armed troops were burned in the valley where, earlier on, other burning had gone on. That valley was a place of burning, of uncleanness. It had been a place of horror, because there it was that the people earlier on had gone through the worship of Molech. This is the end of all those who rebel against King Jesus. This is the end of all those who will not have Him to reign over them. This is the end: Fiery destruction that goes on forever.

Will you cry out to One to save you, to deliver you, to rescue you? Will you seek to One who will take the penalty of sin on your behalf? Will you cry out to Jesus Christ to save you? And to the church of Jesus Christ: will you turn from your infatuation with the ways of the world? Will you turn from seeking to be conformed to it? Will you not seek transformation?

Questions

1. What is God's ultimate goal?
2. How did God deliver His people from the Assyrians?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is glorified in saving sinners.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.
Isaiah 31:6

Praise: Psalm 147 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 31:1 - Wrong Trust

Trust in the right thing is good. But foolish trust in something that will not hold you up leads to problems. The people of Judah, the people who claimed to be the people of God, were trusting in others who could not hold them up. In verse 1 we see they trusted in natural power and wisdom. Egypt did have military strength. They were, at the time that this was written, one of the two great superpowers in that part of the world -they and Assyria. They had a lot of military power. They were renowned for wonderful horses. But not only was Egypt known for its military power, it was also known for worldly wisdom and cleverness. They looked like ones you would naturally trust. They looked like ones you would naturally defer to for strength and wisdom. Judah thought maybe they could learn some things from them, maybe they could get some things from them, maybe they could benefit by being like them. They were rejecting their God in order to turn to others.

That is what the church of Jesus Christ thinks even today. They see that the world is thinking one way, and they want to get in tune with the world. They think, "How shall we win the world if we do not think in their categories, if we do not relate to them?" To accommodate the Word of God, to accommodate the gospel to a pagan culture, is no good.

God had flat-out forbidden the people to return to Egypt, and particularly to be getting horses, lest they be seduced back (Deuteronomy 17:16). Here is the problem: Too much trust in what looks like power in the world. Too much trust in what looks like the wisdom of the world. Instead of looking to the holy one of Israel, instead of seeking Jehovah.

Questions

1. What were the people trusting in?
2. Why was this wrong?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would trust in the Word of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.
Isaiah 31:6

Praise: Psalm 148- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 31:2-3 - Foolish Trust

There is a supernatural power and wisdom which it is wisdom to take hold of and folly to forsake. In what could be seen as outright sarcasm, God speaks to Judah through Isaiah to mention that He has some wisdom too in the beginning of verse two. The people of God should have been looking to His Word. The people of God should have been looking to His wondrous works. They should have been looking to the types, shadows, and forms that were there in their midst at the temple in Jerusalem. These things pointed to the full deliverance from every enemy in the Redeemer Who would come and the work He would do - the Lord Jesus Christ. The church even yet needs to be looking to God's inerrant, infallible, and fully sufficient Word, for there is power and wisdom that it is foolish to forsake.

God can destroy the wicked and does do so, whether they be the nations or the hypocrites among His own professed people. And He not only has the wisdom to figure out how to do this, but He also has the power to bring it about. He had already shattered the power of Egypt in years past. Despite all this, which the people knew in the back of their heads, those professing to be His people completely ignored Him. They didn't ask for His help. They didn't read or study His Word. They did not rely upon promises, they did not consult Him, did not put their confidence in Him.

What comes to the wicked nations upon whom too often the people of God put their trust? What happens to the wicked to whom all too often the church looks to today? What happens to false believers who trust in these things? When we put our trust in wickedness and when we ignore and flat-out refuse to trust in God, then there is destruction. Foolishness of this sort brings consequences. It did back then. It does now.

Questions

1. Where has God shown us His wisdom?
2. What happens when we put out trust in the wrong things?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put our trust in God's Word.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.
Isaiah 31:6

Praise: Psalm 149 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 31:4-5 - The Lion

In contrast to the foolishness of the people of God putting their trust and their faith in the might and the wisdom of Egypt, we see here God telling them, 'Trust in me, trust in the Lord, trust in Jehovah.' We see this in verses 4 and 5. Trust in Him, Who, first, is a strong lion. Despite the fact that the people of Judah and Jerusalem had rejected Him and had gone for the strength of Egypt, the strength of man, because they did not want to trust in Him; though they had been very faithless toward Jehovah; He is the God of covenant. And so, though Israel strays from him, though Judah tries to go its own way, God and His everlasting love will not let go, nor will He ever let go of His people. His people are like little children being held by their parents' hands, who try to squirm free, who try to break loose, when their parents are trying to keep them from a danger, a very attractive danger perhaps, when they would run to that which would endanger them. God is strong and brave and fierce. And though all the enemies of God and of His people range themselves like shepherds trying to chase off a lion, He is not bothered. He holds on to his prey, the wicked, and destroys them. God would keep His people from being enticed by Egypt. He would fiercely protect them as the lion. He would defend them against Assyria and all the enemies of His true people. He would do that. It was his will to do so, and He could do so. There is no lion like Him - the lion of the tribe of Judah, the Lord Jesus Christ. The greatest multitude could not and cannot withstand him. The greatest military powers of the ancient world fell before him, and they continue to do so today.

He is not only a lion, but He is a mighty bird. God is like a parent eagle, shielding the helpless, fighting for and protecting His people, fighting against and driving off the enemy. They were to trust in this great eagle. And we are too - Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today, and forever. Jesus remains our strong king. Jesus remains our lion and our eagle. Jesus remains the one in whom we may and must trust.

Questions

1. How is God like a lion?
2. What will God do for His people?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's covenant love and faithfulness.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.
Isaiah 31:6

Praise: Psalm 150 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 31:6-9 - Trust in Jehovah

These who had not put their trust in him, but rather in Egypt or had put their trust in other things, were called to repent. Why? Because ultimately, putting trust in anyone or anything else than the triune God through Jesus Christ is idolatry. We think of idols as being little statues made of gold and silver, or clay, or carved wood. But there are all sorts of things that even long ago and still today entice our hearts away from full allegiance, full commitment to Jehovah.

We read here in verses 8 and 9 that if they wouldn't repent, God would force them to repentance with shame. God yet claims Jerusalem. And He says, 'if you people will not put your trust in me, I will return you to myself. I will keep hold of you. I will drag you back, and I will make you ashamed by showing you that it is not by the sword of man, not by the military force of Egypt, or anything you can muster together. I will deliver from Assyria.' And that's exactly what God did. For a little time, at least outwardly, Judah turned to God. God would bring them to repentance. They would see that He, not their allies, not their idols, He is the one who drove away the Assyrians. And in fact, by His grace, He reserved to Himself many who were not merely Israel after the flesh, but who were the true Israel of God. They were strengthened, even though they went through the same affliction. Doubtless some of the true Israel of God died in the Assyrian invasion. Many of the true Israel of God were trapped inside Jerusalem during the Assyrian siege. They went through the desperate thirst; they went through the deepening hunger. They went through the fear and the terror. But God used it to make them more godly. God used it to make them more holy. God used it to further their bonds of trust in Him. It's a certainty that if you're in Jesus Christ, you will have trouble. You are not delivered from trouble. What you are delivered from is lasting trouble, everlasting trouble. You can continue to trust in the Lord as you repent of your sin more and more, as you more and more fully turn to Jesus Christ, with the assurance that you are being fitted for heaven.

Questions

1. What are the people told to do?
2. How does God use trouble in the believer's life?

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

Turn to him from whom people have deeply revolted, O children of Israel.

Isaiah 31:6

Praise: Psalm 1 - 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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