

Let's Worship God

1st-6th April 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 33:1-4 - Disaster in the Land

At this point, the long-threatened first wave of judgement, under the Assyrians, was now coming in upon Judah in the early days of Hezekiah. Only chapters 34 and 35 come between us and the historical account in chapters 36-39 of the disaster and deliverance.

Now, instead of addressing Israel and Judah through Isaiah, God addresses Assyria. Assyria is reproved for treachery to those who trusted it, and for plundering those who did not disturb it (v.1). The nation and people did this to many lands. Though they'd been warned before, and an earlier generation had repented by means of Jonah's preaching, they'd returned to their wicked ways.

God's people are truly distressed and frightened, but their faith is not gone. In their trouble, they call upon their covenant God in verse 2. They look to Him for salvation and deliverance.

In verses 3-4, we see God, through Isaiah, speaking of what He shall do with the Assyrians, which was shortly all fulfilled as we shall see in chapters 36-38!

Questions

1. Who is the Lord addressing here?
2. What do God's people do when they are afraid?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would look to the Lord in our fears and worries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. Isaiah 33:2

Praise: Psalm 8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 33:5-9 - Israel's Only Hope

Christ, Israel's only hope, is the One exalted. He alone would bring about the deliverance, as we see in chapter 38. To Him alone should have gone the glory, and as we'll see in chapter 39, He is jealous of that glory. He alone fills Zion and all the earth with true justice and righteousness. Others may claim to bring social justice and hope and change, but it always turns to oppression, tyranny, suffering, and death. Still others may have other solutions they label "conservative", but if all they are is the same humanism from a different direction, the destination is the same. People cannot trust in political parties or secular solutions. From God alone comes the wisdom and knowledge necessary to a happy commonwealth. The true treasure of Israel and any other land is not its gold, its forests, its fields, its mines, its people, its glowing factories, its industrial might, its fearsome military - it is submission to God's King.

Israel, at this point, still had to learn this. So, they indulge in vain hope, which always leads to disaster. This is so easy to do, even in our own day! Trust in Egypt had brought bitter disappointment, and now Assyria was on the move, even as had been threatened by God for years. What could the people do? We will see.

Questions

1. Who is Israel's only hope?
2. What is the true treasure of a nation?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our nation would turn back to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. Isaiah 33:2

Praise: Psalm 9 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 33:10 - God Rises Up

These verses describe the destruction of the enemies of God. The Assyrians were told trouble would come upon them because of the trouble they were about to be bringing upon Israel. Now we see who Israel's true deliverer is. In verse ten, we see Jehovah arising. Nothing that happens is apart from God's control. There is nothing that God forgot to think about. This is an incredibly comforting thought.

We've been looking at prophecies of punishment and discipline for the people of God for chapters and chapters. God allows difficulty; God, in fact, designs particular afflictions to fall. For the wicked, these afflictions are unto their destruction. For the godly, affliction is unto their purification, their sanctification. Often people undergo all sorts of affliction at the hands of those who are worse than they. It's dismaying to believers when God uses the ungodly to discipline them. But we see throughout Scripture and through history that this is a common way God uses to rid himself of hypocrites. So he uses these Assyrians.

The Assyrians were terribly wicked as a society. They worshipped false gods. They worshipped power and pleasure. But God used them against His own people. The Israelites said we have the Temple here in our midst. We have God's Law; we have the priests. How could God do this to us? We are so tempted ourselves to think that way. We, in our own day, must see that if God is using the ungodly against us, it is to bring us forth after affliction, in greater happiness, greater usefulness, and greater glory reflected back to Him.

Assyria, as we see in several places in Scripture, is expressly said by God to be His instrument to be disciplining Israel and Judah. But that's not what Assyria thinks. Assyria does not attempt to devour Judah in order to glorify Jehovah. They want the land, the riches, the prestige, the power. God sought to use them for good. They themselves sought to do evil. And because the evil Assyrians sought to satisfy their own lusts, God, at the right time, arises to judge the wicked for their ungodliness.

Questions

1. What is the purpose of affliction for the godly?
2. Why will the Assyrians be punished?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would see the good in our afflictions.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. Isaiah 33:2

Praise: Psalm 10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 33:11-12- Israel's Deliverance

Everyone thought that Assyria was invincible. And as we shall see, the Assyrians even thought this about themselves. They were saying to themselves, 'we will bring forth a mighty empire that shall live for the ages. And from this mighty empire, we, and our children, and our children's children shall have wealth, and power, and fame throughout the ages.' But Jehovah speaks in verse 11, 'you shall conceive chaff, you shall give birth to stubble. And then your breath, as fire, shall devour you.' All this work, all this labor, all this effort, all this sacrifice, brings forth not a burgeoning empire; all their work comes out as chaff. How often it is that God takes the plans and schemes of the wicked to be the means of their destruction. The Assyrians were so strong. But God said they would be as the burnings of lime. What do you have left after you put limestone in a hot fire for a while? It's not a big, heavy, strong rock, just white powder. All the fearsome thorns, the sharpness of the Assyrians, are cut up by God and swiftly destroyed. When God arises, He is the one who is invincible.

The enemies of God and of His people are still the same way, and our God is still the same way. Men are still the same way. We are still prone to do stupid and foolish things. And there are times when our Father must discipline us, and so He brings upon His people difficulty and affliction, and in time we cry out for deliverance. We get sick and tired, not only of the affliction, but of the sin. We don't complain merely of the hardship we are under, but we weep at the offense and the filth of our sin against God. And we cry out for deliverance not only from our enemies roundabout us, not only from the troubles and afflictions that come upon us. We confess that justly they are there, but we cry out because we are so disgusted and sick and tired of our sin. And shall these things never end? Yes, they shall. People of God, you have a Father in heaven who loves you far, far more, infinitely more, than the most loving earthly father. And He will not suffer things to happen any further than you need. But a day will come when you shall hear. It's all gone. You've been delivered. And now forevermore all is well.

Questions

1. What did Assyria think of themselves?
2. Will we struggle with sin forever?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for forgiveness and eternal life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. Isaiah 33:2

Praise: Psalm 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 33:13-14 - A Zion Sinner

We see here that God speaks not only to those far away, but He speaks to those who are near (verse 13). Who are these people? The Assyrians are the ones who are far off, at least the main ones at this point, although that would have application to all peoples who are not acknowledging King Jesus. But those who are near are those who claim to be the people of God. They say, 'we worship Jehovah, and we kind of like Baal, too. We worship Jehovah, but that must not keep us from sound business practices, that must not keep us from our pleasures. But we worship Jehovah.'

We go on to read in verse 14, the sinners in Zion are afraid. What a terrible thing to be. A Zion sinner, a Jerusalem sinner. Now, what is this? A Zion sinner is someone who knows about God, but he doesn't know God. He thinks everything is fine. He knows about God, but he does not know Him enough to want to change his life. He hears the Word from time to time. He maybe goes through a form of prayer. He acts very religiously. But as the apostle Paul said, he has the form of godliness without the power of it.

Are you a Zion sinner? Going through the motions does not cut it. It will not save you. You need not merely to know about God, for the devils know about God, and they know a lot more about Him than you do. They hate and are terrified of God. There is no living relationship with Him. How about you? Maybe you have been baptized. Maybe you are a communicant member of the congregation, but do you know Jesus Christ? Have you by the Spirit of God been brought to see that you are a helpless and desperate sinner? Have you by God's grace been enabled to see that there is no hope within you, and there is nothing in you to commend you to God? Have you seen Jesus as He is offered to sinners in the Scripture? Have you seen that His perfect life is given, that sinners may live? Have you seen His death on the cross as that which paid off the guilt and penalty of sin? Have you seen His victorious resurrection? Have you heard and responded to His call to come to Him? If you have, you are no Zion sinner, you are a saint.

Questions

1. Who are those who are near?
2. What is a Zion sinner?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would bring people to see their need of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. Isaiah 33:2

Praise: Psalm 12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 33:14-16 - Sinners and Saints in Zion

These people in verse 14 were those who played around with other gods and did all kinds of wretched things. And suddenly they see that they're in trouble. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? This leads to verse 15 which describes the way that the truly godly man is more and more characterized. The godly man has a new heart. It's given by God. And this new heart, this new life, expresses itself in new ways (2 Corinthians 5:17). It lives out this way in love to God in Christ.

But verse 15 is also talking about someone who is this way all the time. How can we stand before God? We, whose every so-called good thought, word, and deed still has a measure of sin with it. Is there any hope at all? We must look to Jesus Christ, whose life was perfect in righteousness before the law, whose life was holy unto the Lord and separate from sin, as we read in Hebrews 7:26. He was and is the perfect High Priest. And because of his absolute perfection, He was able, as that High Priest, to offer Himself as the perfect victim, who atoned perfectly for sin (John 1:29). In our place He lived. His account is put to ours, just as Adam's was put to ours. He only is the way, the truth and the life.

What happens to the sinners in Zion? Everlasting burnings, devouring fire. What happens to the saints in Zion? We see this in verse 16. God here guarantees that the godly will be given protection and provision. All the things that we need, God will provide. God promises that He will give protection to His people even when tough times are happening. He shall give us protection and provision in this life as far as it will glorify Him, and absolutely in Heaven.

So, friends, what sort are you? Are you a sinner in Zion? Or are you, by God's grace, a saint in Zion? If you, by God's grace, are a saint in Zion, then give Him thanks, and give Him praise, for it is all of His work, and it is all to His glory. If you are a sinner, what shall you do? Well, the one who saves sinners says, come to me. Throw yourself upon the mercy of Jesus. You shall find that though you had been a Jerusalem sinner, you are now forevermore a citizen of the celestial city.

Questions

1. Who is the perfect one to whom we must look?
2. What does God promise His people?

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

O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. Isaiah 33:2

Praise: Psalm 13 - 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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