

Let's Worship God

15th-20th April 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 34:1-4 - Judgement on Earth and in the Heavens

Chapters 34-35 speak of judgment on wicked nations and the deliverance of the godly, either at the resurrection of Christ and the going forth of the Gospel, or else the end of all things. See here that all nations are called. All are responsible before the Mediatorial King, not just the outward and inward covenant people. Particularly, the ones called here are the nations who reject Him. God makes sure that all pay attention to Him, and what He is about to bring about.

The Lord is angry, is furious, against all these nations and against all their armies. Despite all their cleverness, their intrigues, their alliances and confederacies, their diplomacy, and even the military power that overawes mere man, God will destroy them. None can stand before Him when He acts. The destruction is so great, and the death is so overwhelming, that the bodies lay out rotting. There are not enough left to bury all the broken bodies. In fact, the blood is such a flood that it melts the hills, as a mudslide from a hillside soaked by drenching rains.

Christ's enemies are not mere enemies of flesh. Often He, and we His people, strive with those who are powerful in spiritual realms. The picture of the sky rolling up and the stars falling like leaves and fruit makes us think of the autumn, of life ending into the cold death of winter, a winter that shall never end for those evil spiritual powers. Whether they be earthly or spiritual, whether they be strong, clever, and allied with many to help, there are none who can stand against Christ. Whatever and whoever arrays against Him and us shall fall ignobly and certainly.

Questions

1. Who is responsible before God?
2. Can any stop God's plan?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that our nation would repent.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it for ever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it. Isaiah 34:17

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

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 34:5-7 - An Appeasing Sacrifice

We see the judgment in three different pictures, three different aspects. In verses 5-7, we see that His judgment is like an appeasing sacrifice. In verses 8-10, it's like a purifying fire. And then lastly, in verses 11-15, it is like dissolution.

In the Bible, sacrifice appeases God. Not the sacrifice of bulls and goats, but by the blood of Jesus Christ. The bulls, the goats, the pigeons, the sheep, were merely pictures of Christ's atoning work at the Cross. God is appeased because the guilt of sin must be paid for. And it must be paid for with blood. The blood of Jesus Christ was shed to appease God. God had said, "I will be glad to take his blood instead of the blood of my people." And Jesus said, "I shall be pleased to give my blood, that my people for whom I die, might not die, but rather live forever."

We see here that the destruction and the judgment of nations is, in a way, like an appeasing sacrifice. It is Jehovah who brings the sacrifice. The goats and the sheep represent the common people who will be involved in the destruction. The oxen and the bulls represent those who are the rich people, the powerful people, the noble people, the princes and kings. All of them shall be sacrificed by God. All of them shall be led unto death. It's a revolting image here, but it's revolting because the consequences of sin are revolting. When temptation is coming upon you, when temptation attempts to entice you, it looks good. It looks like it will be fun. It looks like it will feel good. It never looks revolting, but it is, and its results always are.

Now, God speaks particularly of the Edomites. Is this only about the country and the people of Edom? No. For just as these animals represent the peoples, small and insignificant, large and powerful, so Edom represents all the nations of the world who will not submit to King Jesus. Now, Edom would indeed have its destruction in this world, but it is also a picture of the judgment of all nations.

Questions

1. How is God appeased?
2. Whom does Edom represent?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would see how revolting our sin is.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it for ever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it. Isaiah 34:17

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

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 34:8-10 - A Purifying Fire

Here is an image of purifying fire in verses 8-10. The first thing we see is that there is a reason for what God is doing. There is a reason that something needs purification. Jehovah has vengeance against the wickedness that offends His holy nature. But it's not only that; He has retribution against the wicked for the persecution of the bride of Christ in particular.

The whole land is now burning, and black smoke is going up. If you've ever seen pitch or tar burning, you know that is what happens. And if you've ever seen sulfur or smelled sulfur burning, you know there's quite a smell to it. This all signifies the unpleasant consequences of sin. But the flame itself, the pitch and the sulfur being burned up and consumed, is a picture of the purifying from sin going on here. That is what God's judgment brings. This purification isn't just for a little area. God is making this purification all over because the sin is all over, and the purification must go on forever. The consequences of sin go on forever and ever and ever and ever and ever. To sin against the infinitely good brings infinite guilt, and mere creatures cannot take on the consequences, the punishment for infinite evil. They can't take it all at once. In fact, they never can finish it up because it keeps on going. And so they must undergo the purification, in a manner of speaking, on and on and on and on forever. The pollution of their sin in defying God's Christ, their pollution in sinfully seeking to molest the bride of Christ, the pollution of it, the vile-ness of it, makes an indelible stain. As I say, sin against infinite good requires infinite purification and justice.

Questions

1. What is this burning a picture of?
2. Why do the consequences of sin last forever?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it for ever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it. Isaiah 34:17

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

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 34:11-15 - Dissolution

We see in verses 11-15 that when God's judgment comes upon the nations that will not take Christ as their king, dissolution occurs. There is no nation there anymore. In fact, there aren't any people there anymore, just wild creatures. From the high to the low, the people have disappeared. There had been strong forts, nice houses, beautiful and impressive palaces. Now there are weeds growing out of the walls, and plants in the cracks in the floor.

The living and true God does these things upon the wicked. He does so in this life, and He does everlastingly upon the wicked. Back in those days, God destroyed them, as He has done with Edom, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Alexander the Great, Rome, and as He continues to do with wicked nations today. Each nation, each grand empire that came along doubtlessly thought, 'We've gotten too sophisticated for God to be able to do this to us. We have gotten too powerful for God to be able to do this to us. We have gotten to the point where our scientific advances have enabled us to establish that there is no God anyway, so why should we serve Him?' And every time, God has brought them to nothing. God is perfectly able, easily able, overnight, to wreck this nation for its refusal to yield to Jesus Christ, for its refusal to govern according to God's Word. It's been a mercy so far that God has not done so.

If God so deals with nations, does He not deal with individuals in the same way? Of course He does. How should you escape? Will you continue to defy the Lord Jesus Christ? I speak not only to nations and to individuals, but I would also speak to the professing Church of Jesus Christ. For much of what we have been looking at here in Isaiah has been addressed to those who were the Israel of the flesh, not the Israel of God. Destruction came upon them, too. To nations, to the professed Church of Jesus Christ, to any individual who may be reading this, believe on the king, the king of nations, the king of the church, the rightful king of your heart. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. Repent of your sin. Cry out to Him who saves, that you might be saved.

Questions

1. What happens when God judges the nations?
2. Does God still work this way today?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would bring the nations to repent.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it for ever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it. Isaiah 34:17

Praise: Psalm 23 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 34:16-17 - An Assured Judgement

We're looking at a theme of judgment and of redemption that we find in this and the next chapter -- judgment upon those who will not have Christ as their king. But it is redemption and rescue for His people. It's like a coin with two sides. And as we come to the end of this first side of the coin here in chapter 34, the judgment upon the wicked, we have the summary of it here in these two verses.

This is an assured judgment. It certainly shall happen. We can see from history that it happened. But even before the history came along, it was certain because the mouth of the Lord said so. If God says it, it certainly shall come to pass. The lesson for us, of course, is that all that God has said for us most certainly shall come to pass. The promised destruction upon all the enemies of Jesus Christ shall certainly happen because the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

When we see great and terrible enemies with their weapons that are continually becoming more and more sophisticated and more and more fearsome, we can be tempted to think, how can there be any hope for the people of God? How can there be any hope that the wicked, that the mighty ones, the strong ones of this earth shall be brought to nothing? How can there be any hope that king Jesus shall complete his reign? Well, friends, the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. It will certainly come to pass. His plan and purpose is something that is certain. Whatever He promises, He fulfills it utterly, completely, fully.

The judgments here are also assured because the Spirit of the Lord shall bring them to pass. He is the One Whom the Father sends to be doing the will of the Father and the Son. He always brings about the plan of God. He always brings about the purposes that are given to Him. He works sovereignly within individual sinners, and upon great groups of people. He brings about the change of cultures. He brings about the transformation of societies. And sometimes in marvellous and rapid ways.

Questions

1. Why is this an assured judgement?
2. Who will bring it about?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God's Word is sure and certain.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it for ever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it. Isaiah 34:17

Praise: Psalm 24 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 34:16-17 - An Effective Judgement

Not only is the judgment of these verses an assured judgment, it's an effectual judgment. It's a judgment that actually brings about what it promises. The picture here is of a conquering king who has taken the land away from his enemies. Perhaps it is land that was taken from his own people at one time, when an ancestor was weakened. But now he conquers back the land, and he drives out the enemy who have usurped it. And what does he do? He assigns the land to his people. He has surveyors out there marking exactly where each person gets their land. The land isn't just left empty, the land isn't left just desolate. No, the conquering king goes in there and divides it up and brings it effectually under his rule.

This judgment is long term as well. It's not just a quick, passing thing. In truth, that's the way it has been for Edom. Gradually Edom was destroyed. And the description we have here of what their land would look like is the way their land does look like today. Nobody lives there now. A few people come around to visit the ruins of their cities. The application here is for all the nations, all the peoples, all the societies and cultures of earth who will not have king Jesus to reign over them. They, in their day, may come to great power, they may attain to grand achievements. But they who hate Jesus, as we see in Proverbs 8:36, love death, and death is what eventually comes. All the accomplishments of these grand cultures will be in vain, and their influence will be dead and empty. Only that which is increasingly given over to the reign of God's king, the Lord Jesus Christ, will survive and thrive.

So people of God, do not yield to despair. It's easy to do by times. But people of God, hope on. Your labour in Christ is not in vain. Vindication and victory shall come, as we shall be seeing in chapter 35. The promises cannot fail. Move on, then, in hope.

Questions

1. What is the only thing that will last?
2. Why do we have reason to hope?

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

He has cast the lot for them; his hand has portioned it out to them with the line; they shall possess it for ever; from generation to generation they shall dwell in it. Isaiah 34:17

Praise: Psalm 25 - 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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