

Let's Worship God

6th-11th May 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 38:1-3 - Crying to the Lord

It's important to get our chronology of this chapter straight. It looks like this is something that happened after God had destroyed the Assyrians, but that is not quite right. This happened at the same time. While the Assyrians were attacking, we see Hezekiah having his own problems. He's deadly sick. You can read about this more in 2 Kings 20 and in 2 Chronicles 32. We don't know exactly what he had. But in this situation, like in all our diseases, God is in complete control.

The timing, humanly speaking, was horrible. The Assyrians were invading. And Isaiah must go to him and tell him, 'You're going to die.' As a godly man, as the godly king, Hezekiah was disturbed not only at the end of his own life, but what would come to the people of God? What would come to those who were his to protect and his to shepherd? So it was that Hezekiah wept. He was concerned for the glory of God. He was concerned for the people of God. His weeping here was of much the same nature as our Lord Jesus weeping over Jerusalem shortly before His death. Hezekiah's response was not a wrong one. He didn't attempt to defy God's Word, but submitted to it. He did not reject God, nor did he think God had rejected him. He went to this God who had said, wind up your affairs, get them in order because you're going to die. He went to this God in faith, knowing Him through the covenant of grace, knowing Him through the One Who was the Mediatorial King and Who would come someday. He went to God, reminding God of his gracious working in his life.

It is always good for us, friends, to have our affairs in order before God. We are going to die. Hebrews 9:27 tells us that it is appointed unto man once to die, and after that the judgment. If you're in Jesus, of course you're safe. You're entirely safe. But my point is this, we must be ready. And how do we have our affairs in order? By making sure that we are in Jesus Christ; that we're right with God; that we have asked Jesus to save us from our sin. And then that we are seeking, as we're empowered by the Holy Spirit, to be living for Him more and more, and to be seeking to be using all that He's given us for His glory.

Questions

1. What does Isaiah tell Hezekiah?
2. What does Hezekiah do?

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

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. Isaiah 38:17

Praise: Psalm 38 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 38:4-22 - God's Response

God responds to this prayer and he does so immediately. We read in 2 Kings 20:4 that Isaiah wasn't even out the front door of the palace when God spoke to him and told him to return to Hezekiah. By this word Hezekiah is encouraged and assured. Wouldn't you be? You've just been praying for a few minutes? And here's the knock on the door again! And it's Isaiah again who says, 'Just in the few moments you have been praying, God's Word has come to me, and He says, you have 15 more years, and I will protect my people, I will protect my city. I will allow you to see deliverance. I will allow you to see salvation. I will allow you to see victory.'

We read in verse 22 Hezekiah had said, 'What is the sign that I should go up to the house of the Lord?' And you can again read this in 2 Kings 20 and 2 Chronicles 32. Isaiah had been told to say, 'What do you want? The sun to move forward in the sky faster or go backward.' And Hezekiah said, 'It's no big deal for God to make it go the same direction. Let's have it go backwards.' And so the sun went that way a wee bit!

Notice something else here: God healed Hezekiah not directly, but through means as we read in verse 21. God can work without medicine. God can work without surgeons. God can work without doctors. And sometimes He works even despite them. But usually He works through them. And we are presumptuous not to use the means that God has given us.

Questions

1. How does God respond to Hezekiah's prayer?
2. What was the sign that Hezekiah would recover?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those dealing with health problems in the congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.
Isaiah 38:17

Praise: Psalm 39 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 38:9-22 - A Poem Of Praise

Hezekiah sees the real source of his illness. It is not something that is random. It comes from the hand of God. And because it does, he can confidently go to that One and seek out healing. He knows to Whom he must go. Hezekiah was able to see that the illness brought good to him. Now, certainly it glorified God, didn't it? But it brought good to him, as God promises in His Word to all believers. He learned humility. For a while, anyway. We'll see more about that in the next chapter. He learned some further dependence upon Jehovah. It blessed him and made him more godly. Friends, anything that makes us more Christ-like, anything that gives us more humility before our covenant God, is a good thing, no matter how uncomfortable it might be. Anything that draws us nearer to Him in prayer is a good thing.

Hezekiah had great promises in God's Word. And he knew of the covenant of grace and knew something of the One Who would come. We know far more and have a far fuller revelation of Him. So in the midst of our trials and difficulties, we can glorify God in Jesus Christ by going to Him, trusting in Him, depending upon Him. God's grace showed through in His love to Hezekiah, His forgiveness that Hezekiah mentions right here, and the life that He gave. It was not only a life in this world which did have to come to an end, but a life that would go on forever. God's grace gave that to him. For these things Hezekiah praised Him and drew nearer to Him.

God in grace raised Hezekiah to life. But let's make sure that we understand that it's ultimately not because of the goodness of Hezekiah, and it's not because of what he did or didn't do. It was because God has raised Jesus Christ from the dead. He went to a far greater depth than ever Hezekiah did. He went to a far deeper humiliation. Hezekiah was spared death at this point, but Jesus went on through death in order that His people might be given everlasting life; but because He paid the penalty of sin to the last penny, death could no longer hold Him. By His life, and death, and resurrection He has redeemed all those for whom He has lived, and died, and been resurrected. Because of that, the people of God live. Because of that, Hezekiah and each one of you in Jesus Christ shall have redemption and raising from death unto life.

Questions

1. What did Hezekiah see about His illness?
2. How can we have eternal life?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.
Isaiah 38:17

Praise: Psalm 40 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 39:1-2 - Pride

Here in chapter 39, we see something rather sad, but all too familiar to us, because it's something that happens all too frequently in our own lives. Thing after thing God had done for Hezekiah and for the people of Judah, just as in many ways He does for you, believer. And what happened? Sadly, Hezekiah fell. We would hardly be able to believe this if we didn't see the same pattern in our own lives, where God deals so graciously and so kindly with us.

God does withdraw some of His special grace to believers sometimes in order to show what's in their hearts. Now, does He need to know? No, He knows very well. He knows the heart of Hezekiah. He knows the remaining sin within us far better than we do. When we do something disappointing to God and dismaying to ourselves, it's sometimes a great surprise to us, but it is not to our Father in heaven. But the amazing thing is this, that from eternity, having known all this, He has loved us, and to eternity He loves us still. We forsake him, but never in the covenant of grace, never in Jesus Christ does He abandon us. God withdraws His special grace from Hezekiah, and He allows the temptation to come in, temptation that really was there in Hezekiah's own heart, in order to reveal to us and to Hezekiah the remaining sin and the remaining need to rely upon Christ's Mediatorial Person, His finished work at the cross. That's why God reveals these sins. That's why God reveals to us the remaining corruption, not to discover something He doesn't already know, but to discover something we don't already know.

What was discovered in Hezekiah's heart? It was pride. As we read in 2 Kings 20:12-19 and 2 Chronicles 32, and as we see here in Isaiah 39, it becomes very apparent that he lost track of how it was he'd recovered from his deadly illness. He'd lost track of how the Assyrian army had been destroyed. Hezekiah was proud of his power, was proud of his ability, his own riches. What he was forgetting about was that all that he had, and all that he did had come from the gracious hand of Jehovah. How awful. How could he do such a thing? That's what we're tempted to think until we remember our own pathetic forgetting. How sadly normal this is for believers to do at times.

Questions

1. What pattern in Hezekiah do we see in our own lives?
2. Why does God sometimes allow temptation to come in?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be putting sin to death.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back.
Isaiah 38:17

Praise: Psalm 41 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 39:1-7 - Fall

We read here that some emissaries came from the far away land of Babylon. Babylon was a huge city with possibly a million people, and even it had not been able to stand up against the Assyrians. But now that God had broken the power of the Assyrians, not only had Judah and Jerusalem been saved, but some of the outside parts of the Assyrian empire were breaking loose too, including Babylon and the area around that great city.

It is at this time that the pride lurking around quietly within Hezekiah's heart was allowed to break forth. The disease of pride was in there, in Hezekiah's heart. And now, at the time of temptation, it shows up. He displayed all his wealth; all the weapons that he had; all of his military power. Everything he had, he showed to these men from Babylon. In fact, there was nothing that he had that he kept from them. Do you read here anything about him saying anything about God? All he did was show off. All this was a fatal mistake. He was not looking to Jehovah himself, let alone pointing the Babylonians to Him.

After they left, Isaiah went to Hezekiah with only a couple of simple questions. 'Where are these guys from, and what did they want?' 'Well, they wanted to congratulate me.' 'And what have they seen that you own?' 'Well, everything.' 'Well, there's a word from God I have for you. Everything you have will go to Babylon. And not just your gold and your silver and your precious jewels, but that which is most precious of all. They who are of the house and line of David. Your own sons will come, and then they shall go to Babylon. Some will not be able to have any more children. At least part of the line of David will end.' What a terrible thing. And what a rebuke. This was God's Word. God's Word that there would be an even greater disaster than the Assyrians, coming from these Babylonians who seemed so very friendly.

Questions

1. How does Hezekiah show his pride?
2. What is the punishment?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put the sin of pride to death.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. Isaiah 38:17

Praise: Psalm 42 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 39:5-8 - Repentance

Hezekiah failed, and sadly, the people of God failed too. Because when his son Manasseh came to the throne he was a very wicked king, and the people of Judah went right along with him in his wickedness. What a wonderful thing it is that we can look beyond Hezekiah. We can look beyond, in fact, any earthly king and any earthly power. Psalm 146 says 'put no confidence in princes'. We don't depend on them ultimately for our help. We depend upon Jehovah. We depend upon Jesus Christ. The sad fact is you and I fall too. You and I fail to be doing what we should in Jesus Christ. But God is gracious. And though our sin abounds, grace even more abounds.

By God's grace in Hezekiah's heart, the rebuke worked. You can see it more fully in 2 Chronicles 32:26. Real and true repentance came about by the Spirit working through His Word pronounced by Isaiah. And so it was that the judgment didn't come. At the time of Hezekiah's sin, God graciously postponed the judgment, and not just by years, He did it by generations. God kindly deals with you if you are in Jesus Christ.

All this was a terrible affliction for Hezekiah. But when we are afflicted, may God enable us to use this affliction in a proper, godly way. Let us see that it is from the hand of God. And let us see that it is made first to display the remaining sin within us, and then to display the great grace of God, not only in forgiving it, but in taking it away and transforming us, making us more like Jesus Christ. Affliction comes to us from the hand of our heavenly Father, specially tailored, specially suited for us. Affliction gets rid of the sin, gets rid of the rust, you might call it, gets rid of all that nasty stuff. But the grace and godliness He's put in us by His indwelling Holy Spirit is brightened all the more.

Questions

1. In whom should we put our trust?
2. How was God gracious to Hezekiah?

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

Behold, it was for my welfare that I had great bitterness; but in love you have delivered my life from the pit of destruction, for you have cast all my sins behind your back. Isaiah 38:17

Praise: Psalm 43 - 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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If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com