

Let's Worship God

20th - 25th November 2023

Isaiah



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Monday - Isaiah 5:24-30 - The Vineyard Destroyed

We see here what is to come upon the vineyard, what is to come upon Judah and Jerusalem. We start out as the fire devours the stubble. Nothing stands before the flame. The judgment is further lined out in a picture of another kind of plant, perhaps a grapevine. It is rotten at the root, and it dies off. The other picture here is of the little blossoms. If the root rots and it all dies, then the flowers turn into dust. God's judgement is so fearsome that the hills and mountains tremble before it. The enemy armies come swiftly. They're ready to do God's task, ready to bring judgment upon this wicked vineyard. God compares them to lions. Isaiah then moves from the roaring of lions to the roaring of the sea. Like a tsunami the water grabs them. That is what this destruction from afar will be like.

When did this happen for Judah and Jerusalem? They had recently been warned with an earthquake. Later on, they were warned far more strongly when the Assyrians nearly overwhelmed them, they were warned with great defeat by the Babylonians, and shortly afterward, the kingdom of Judah was destroyed. The people weren't, but they were carried off for a time by the Babylonians. After a couple of generations, they were allowed back. But then finally, after the people as a whole rejected Jesus, they were destroyed under the leadership of Rome in AD 70. So what is God referring to? All of these to some degree, culminating in the destruction in AD 70. No one has yet sadly delivered the Jews from what happened to them under the Roman Empire nearly 2000 years ago. None has come, and none shall until the day that Jesus brings them, as we read in Romans 11, to look upon Him and live. What about the people who were truly the people of God, the remnant that God often speaks of through Isaiah and other prophets? Let's be sure that through this afflicting discipline, all the true people of God were kept safe and secure, although thousands fell around them.

Questions

1. What pictures does Isaiah use to warn the people?
2. What judgements did God send upon the people of Judah.

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would listen to God's warnings.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
Isaiah 6:3b

Praise: Psalm 71 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 6:1-4 - Isaiah's Vision

We now look at what appears to be Isaiah's calling to be a prophet. What does Isaiah see? He sees Jehovah, high and lifted up on his throne. In John 12:41, John says that Isaiah here sees Jesus. Jesus is Jehovah, He is the God-man. Where is it that this vision happens? It is in the temple. The temple is a picture of the church of Jesus Christ. In Old Testament times we have types and shadows; the sacrifices are a picture and a foreshadowing of Jesus' sacrifice at the cross. The priests are living pictures of Jesus, the great high priest. The temple is a picture of the people of God of all ages. Here is a picture of Jesus being in the midst of His people, God with us, Immanuel.

What else did Isaiah see? He saw God's attendants, the seraphim, the burning ones, that's what the word means. They burn with zeal and love for God. They are attending Jehovah of Hosts, attending King Jesus, praising His glory. It is praise like that of the four living creatures that we read about in Revelation 4:8. Here is an attitude of utter humility, yet utter praise and adoration. This is exactly the worshipful attitude that you and I should be cultivating. Praise is eternal. It shall only get greater. It shall only be perfected. Christian, is it not your delight to praise God? Is it not your delight to know Him? Isn't it your grief that you can't do it enough? Isn't it your hope that you shall? The seraphim delighted in contemplating God's glorious holiness, and they can't get enough.

Lastly, Isaiah sees fearful things. The foundations of the building shake. Maybe this is a reminder to the people of the earthquake that had happened during King Uzziah's reign. The house is shaken because God is displeased with sin. The house is filled with smoke, filled with God's special presence there.

Questions

1. What does Isaiah see?
2. What do the seraphim teach us about what our worship should be like?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would worship God with humility and praise.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
Isaiah 6:3b

Praise: Psalm 72 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 6:5-7 - Isaiah's Call

Isaiah is stunned and terrified in response to this glorious vision. Imagine if someone led you along blindfolded to the very edge of a cliff. They took off your blindfold and suddenly you could see where you were. How frightening! Isaiah, in a manner of speaking, has had the blindfold taken away, and he sees his place. He's a man of unclean lips, and he dwells in the midst of a people of unclean lips. He is a sinner, a great sinner. He is personally a sinner, and he is covenantally in with a sinful people. But it's worse yet, because he is also before the Holy One. Jehovah Jesus is incontestably sovereign, irresistibly powerful, and blindingly holy. What a place for a sinner to be!

Yet Isaiah receives comfort by the remission of his sin. The burning coal isn't there to hurt him. It isn't there to burn him. It is there to heal him and to clean him. Where does it come from? The coal is from the altar there, the altar of sacrifice, which is looking forward to Christ's sacrifice under the burning wrath of His Father. This is a picture of Christ going through everything there at the cross, so that sinners will be saved, will be delivered from the judgment of the Father, that the burning will not come to them, but to Him. That's what this pictures.

Do you ever cry over your sin? Does it cause you grief that the One who has loved you from eternity you treat in such a way? Unbelievers don't have that grief. But Jesus has cleansed away all our pollution by taking it upon Himself. He has cleansed it away just as this coal cleanses away Isaiah. It is not because Isaiah has deserved it. No. Isaiah himself confesses he deserves destruction. What does he get? He gets mercy. He gets grace. Here's the assurance for you, Christian, Jesus' body has been broken, that yours might be resurrected. Jesus' blood has been shed and His life brought to an end, that yours might be eternal.

Questions

1. What is Isaiah's response to this vision?
2. What does the burning coal represent?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
Isaiah 6:3b

Praise: Psalm 73 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 6:8-13 - Isaiah's Commission

Who issues the call here in verse 8? This is not something Isaiah takes on himself. Jesus, in His glory, issues the call. To go on behalf of God to sinful men demands courage, zeal, love, wisdom, and knowledge. All these things are needed. But only Christ can so equip that man. So He does. When first faced with the glorious Christ, there on His throne, Isaiah was almost scared to death. But now, since he has forgiveness of his sin and fellowship with the triune God through the glorious Christ, he is bold and he is ready. He's willing to go, whatever the terms of the call. He doesn't even know what God wants him to do. He has no conditions whatsoever. He is confident now that he is received and accepted in the blood of Jesus Christ; he is ready to go. And that is how it is for us. When we know God's calling upon our life, we're ready to go.

The call is a sad and depressing one. It is to be a message unheeded and not understood. Utter ruin will come due to war and pestilence, exile and scattering. Spiritual judgments have temporal consequences. And it can happen again to any nation, any denomination, any professed Christian who makes the statement, 'Oh, I am God's child' and refuses to repent under sin.

Now, thankfully, as we see in verse 13, a remnant is preserved. What's to happen with that remnant? They will return, as we read here in verse 13, to godliness and prosperity. They will go through affliction and trouble, but even during that, they will be like certain kinds of trees that, when you cut them down, new sprouts come out. They are the core of the new people of God. They are people like Anna and Simeon, or Joseph and Mary, or the shepherds around Bethlehem. They are people like Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. They are like the 3,000 souls saved by the grace of God through the preaching at Pentecost. They are the new trunk of the New Testament Church in which we live today.

Questions

1. How does Isaiah respond to Christ's call?
2. What happens to the remnant?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would be ready and willing to work for the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
Isaiah 6:3b

Praise: Psalm 74 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 7:1-4 - Some Time Later

Chapter 7 is some years after chapter 6. It is in the year that King Uzziah dies that Isaiah is called by God to be His prophet. Uzziah has been a godly king for the most part, and he has a long reign. He's cleaned out all the idolatrous stuff in the temple. Uzziah becomes proud. He goes into the temple to offer incense in the holy place. Only the priests are allowed in there at any time. God judges him with leprosy for the rest of his life. Although he is the king, he does not effectively rule for the last years of his life, his son Jotham does. You can read about Jotham in 2 Kings and in 2 Chronicles. He is a godly man, too. Jotham begets Ahaz. Ahaz is a wicked king. As soon as he can, he throws away all the stuff that his grandfather and father have done, and goes to follow after idols. God brings the beginning of disaster upon Ahaz and upon the people who all too eagerly follow him. Ahaz's son is Hezekiah who is very much like Uzziah - godly, until near the end of his life. He becomes proud, and it is a downfall. He then is the father of Manasseh, the longest reigning king in Judah, and the most wicked of all, until God, near the end of his life, makes a miraculous turnaround in him. Isaiah prophesies in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and into Manasseh's reign. The tradition is that Manasseh has Isaiah killed, has him cut apart with a saw. We don't know if this is really the case.

Why are the kings of Syria and Israel attacking Jerusalem? Why are they trying to put a new king there? A new threat is arising to the north and to the east, what is soon to be a great empire, that of Assyria. So the countries that thought themselves to be targets of Assyria are seeking to band together individually. They cannot take on Assyria. Assyria is too powerful. But together they might be able to hold things off. So Syria and Israel come together, but Judah doesn't want to join them. So they want to take Jerusalem, and put someone on the throne who will help them.

Questions

1. Who are the kings after Uzziah?
2. Why do Syria and Israel join together?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the covenant children of the congregation.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
Isaiah 6:3b

Praise: Psalm 75 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 7:1-9 - Kindness to the Unfaithful

Ahaz should be looking to Jehovah, but he goes on to idolatry. You can read about this in 2 Kings 15 and 2 Chronicles 27. There is terrible defeat for Judah: 120,000 men lost, 200,000 of older men and women and children rounded up and taken to the land of Israel to be sold into slavery. It says here in Isaiah that they go up to Jerusalem to make war against it, but cannot prevail against it. That sounds like a contradiction to what we read in Kings and Chronicles. It isn't at all. The big goal is not to take prisoners. The big goal is not to defeat the army of Judah. The goal is to bring about regime change. The goal is to take Jerusalem and install their own men in the place of power. In this they utterly fail. So there is no contradiction here.

Ahaz is a descendant of David. It is because of that, that God does not entirely destroy Judah for David's sake. God sends his prophet to offer God's help if there will be faith and repentance. The people of Judah cannot stand up straight against the wind of fear and terror that this news of an alliance of Israel and Syria brings. They need God's help. They need God's grace. They're under great distress. They are trusting in idols and in themselves. Suddenly events change, and they are rightly afraid that the idols and their own strength cannot deliver them from Israel and Syria. However, deliverance is promised to them despite what the people and Ahaz deserve. Because God is a gracious God, and God remembers his covenant. God does not send only Isaiah to the king, but his son with him, Shear-jashub, whose name means 'a remnant shall return.' He is a living promise from God.

God's Word concludes in verse 9 with a demand that if you will not believe, surely you will not be established. It is a demand for faith and repentance. This demand is made to those who claim to be the people of God but have fallen so far away. He calls you to repent of sin, gives you the promise of restoration if you will return, and calls you to faith in and submission to the Lord Jesus Christ.

Question

1. What does God promise Ahaz?
2. What does God demand from the 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

"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"
Isaiah 6:3b

Praise: Psalm 76 - 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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