

Let's Worship God

4th-9th December 2023

Isaiah



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Monday - Isaiah 7:10-16 - The Sign of Immanuel

After promising Ahaz, and those with him, that the plots against them from Syria and the northern kingdom of Israel would fail, Jehovah graciously offers a sign to Ahaz to confirm and strengthen his faith. Ahaz rudely, stupidly, wickedly, refuses to obey, as we see here in verse 12. He claims he doesn't want to be presumptuous. It is not presumptuous to take a sign given by God, it is obedience.

For the sake of the remnant in all times, for the sake of His own glory, God gives the sign anyway. We see here the promise of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ. Jesus is called Immanuel. That means 'God with us'. The whole temple, right there in Jerusalem, right there in the middle of the country. was a picture of God dwelling in the midst of his people. But it was merely a picture of that which Jesus would be in His own person and still is. So as 'God with us' was to come of the House of David, the House of David would be preserved. The people of Syria would not ultimately triumph. There would be no destruction, for God's promise had to come true. So it did! I believe that verses 15-16 are referring to Shear-jashub, Isaiah's son who was with him when he met Ahaz. His name means 'a remnant shall return'. While he's still eating the equivalent of baby food, while he is still developing a full consciousness of good and evil, before that comes to pass, before he's done with the baby food, the threat shall be over. And so it happened. God fulfilled his promise.

By the power of God, by the working of the Holy Spirit, the virgin did conceive, and she bore a Son whose name is Immanuel, and His name is Jesus which means 'Jehovah saves'. 'For', said Gabriel, 'He shall save His people from their sin.' So He has done. This sign of the coming of Messiah is a sign not merely for Ahaz. It is a sign for the people of God. Not just then, but for now as well. He has come. He is coming again. And in between, He works all things after the counsel of His will. Why? For the sake of his people, whom He loves, and for the sake of his Father, whom He loves.

Questions

1. What sign does God give Ahaz?
2. How is Jesus 'God with us'?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God has kept His promise in sending His Son.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14b

Praise: Psalm 77 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 7:17-20 - Whistling For Judgement

Beginning at verse 17, God announces that just after the short term deliverance there will be long term horror. The judgment to come upon the backsliding and apostate nation will not be easy, and it will not be short. All of Judah will be overrun by the Assyrians. Jerusalem itself will barely be saved. Then, as Assyria goes off in decline, Babylon will grow. The people were taken away for generations. They remained under the dominion of the Babylonians, then the Persians, then the Greeks, and then the Romans, until the coming of Jesus, whom they rejected. Finally they were destroyed once and for all by the Romans.

God whistles for the Assyrians, who come in like bees and the Egyptians, who come in like flies. They cover the area. At God's call, we see God's people left desolate. In verse 20, we have a picture of a man who's a prisoner, stripped naked and shaved from head to foot. It's a picture of shame. The land of promise will be shaved of its inhabitants, shaved of its prosperity. All of this comes to pass through the design of God. None of this is outside of God's control. God actively brings disaster on people. This goes against the sensibilities of many. This is not the kind of God they want. They don't want a God, for example, who in His providence causes a truck to fall apart, flinging pieces, one of which, catches a six year old kid and kills him. 'God didn't cause that to happen', they say. Who did? 'It was just chance.' You mean, I have not a God to whom I can pray to protect me from that? I have not a God who uses this somehow for good purposes? I have a God who is helpless with such things? Now, there's something scary! We may not understand why God would cause such a thing to happen. But we do know, that it somehow glorifies Him and brings about eternal good in some way.

How is God glorified by the destruction of His temple? How is God glorified by the exile of His people? Why does God do this? Even the remnant must go through difficulty. But God gets them through the difficulty, making them more holy through it, while using the ungodly pagans to rid the Church of hypocrites and apostates.

Questions

1. What does Isaiah prophesy here?
2. What do we know for sure about everything God does?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would cling to the truth that God does everything right.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14b

Praise: Psalm 78 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 7:21-25 - Hard Discipline

For those who, forsake the Lord, life gets much worse, not better. We see the destruction of the flocks and herds in verse 21. There are so few animals, and even fewer people. There is not enough livestock around for eating beef and mutton, and there are not enough people around to be clearing the field. No, they have to eat what they can find and what they can gather, because all the formerly productive ground is overgrown.

All this is a picture of the judgment of God. Why didn't God punish the pagans? Well, He did. Assyria came to an end. Babylon came to an end, the Persians came to an end, Alexander the Great and then the countries that came off his empire came to an end. Rome came to an end. But not only does God put an end to the pagans, he puts an end to the hypocrites and those who profess to be the people of God, while at the same time defying His Word, defying His Christ, and exalting the ways and the thoughts of this world. A better question for you and for me to ask than 'why does God let this happen?' is 'why doesn't it happen to you and to me?' For in our honest moments, we can see that we as individuals have followed after other gods. Maybe not a Dagon or a Baal, and we haven't made up calves of gold. But there are other things you have lived for, haven't you? There are other things that you've made more important than God and His Word. Let us be learning more what a horrible thing our sin is. As individuals, let us turn. Let us pray and labour for the church to turn. Let us be seeking the turning of our entire society from its worship of individual liberty, of choice, of individual sovereignty. Let us be labouring to see a society yielded to Jesus. May it be that we will not need hard discipline. May it be rather that we labour for Jesus and be used by Him to bring not a temporary but long-term revival in ourselves, in our families, in the church of Jesus Christ, and in our land.

Questions

1. What is one of the purposes of this judgement on Judah?
2. What idols might we have in our lives?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would turn from the idols we have made in our lives.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14b

Praise: Psalm 79 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 8:1-8 - The Coming Flood

We have a picture here of another flood, a destructive flood, a destroying flood of Assyrian power. God commands Isaiah to prophesy, and to have it written and recorded. The people of Judah were afraid. The King of Judah was afraid. But instead of looking to Jehovah, instead of looking to King Jesus, they looked to Assyria, and God basically said 'I'm going to destroy Syria's power, I'm going to destroy Israel's power. Don't look anywhere else, look to me.' But King Ahaz said, 'No, I will not do that.' God basically said, 'Okay, if you're going to look to Assyria, Assyria you shall get, but it's not going to be what you were really wanting.' Isaiah's son's name will be Maher-shal-lah-hash-baz which means quick to the spoil, fast to the prey. Before this little boy can say my father, or before it can say my mother, the riches of Damascus in Syria, and the spoil of Samaria in Israel, will be taken away by the king of Assyria. In the names of these two sons of Isaiah and his wife we have the prophesy that a remnant shall return, and that judgment will come swiftly through Assyria.

Overall the line of David's house had been merciful and godly kings; at least in comparison with those in Syria and Israel. Time after time, every single king of Israel, of the Northern Kingdom, was characterized by Scripture as evil. But the people of Syria and the people of the Northern Kingdom thought that sinful usurpers were better than David. These people refuse the waters of Shiloah that flow softly, that's speaking of ultimately Jehovah, but particularly the one whom he had sent, David and his family, and they are glad to have wicked men set over them. So the Lord brings up over them the waters of the river. This is speaking of the king of Assyria. He will not stay where he belongs. He will flood everywhere; he will go over all his banks. He will pass through Judah. The people in Syria, the people in Israel will be destroyed. But because Judah is following much the same course as these wicked ones, in following her current wicked king, she too will have hardship. For Israel and for Syria the flood will go up over their heads; for Judah, at least at this time, only up to the neck.

Questions

1. What was the meaning of the name of Isaiah's son?
2. What nation would come in like a flood?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would look to God in time of trouble.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14b

Praise: Psalm 80 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 8:9-10 - Grace

In verses 9-10 God has moved Isaiah to talk to someone else. No longer is he speaking to Judah. No longer is he speaking to Ahaz. No longer is he speaking about them, or about Syria, or about Israel. Now he is speaking of those whom he had called the river, the nation far away, the king and the land of Assyria. We end this section with judgment prophesied upon Assyria.

They are making intensive and extensive preparation. They seek wisdom, they consult together, and then they say, 'It's all ready, everything's going to work fine.' But all will end up in vain, and their alliance will be shattered into splinters. Their preparations will be scattered, their attempts will fail, and all this will lead to their own ruin.

God deals with the sin of his professed people even more severely than with the world. If this is the case, then why will God not totally destroy Judah? Why will God save Judah despite her terrible wickedness? For the same reason He does this for His people today, as we see in Jeremiah 31:3, 'I have loved thee with an everlasting love, therefore, with mercy have I called thee.' We also read Paul saying far later in Romans 5:20 that where sin abounds grace abounds even more. God is faithful even though his people are not. This ought to be a help to us in the midst of our own difficulties today. We profess to be His people as the church of Jesus Christ. Yet look at our own sinfulness and look at our own wickedness. Why does God put up with us? Why does God keep us? Because He loves us. Amid our trials, amid our difficulties, and amid our own unfaithfulness, we continue to have promises that we will never be forsaken, never be abandoned. God will bring us through. The flood shall be drained, and the earth shall be filled, not with a flood of the wicked, but with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Questions

1. What will happen to Assyria?
2. Why is God gracious to His church?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the love God has for His church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14b

Praise: Psalm 81 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 8:11-15 - Fear the LORD, Not Man

If we fear the Lord, if we have proper godly fear toward Jehovah, there is blessing. The ungodly cannot understand this. They have a fear of God. But it is an entirely different thing than the fear of God that the godly have. The ungodly frequently try to deny the existence or the attributes of Jehovah. They will seek to make in their own minds a different God who is easier to deal with. Deep down, of course, the ungodly know Jehovah. This is clearly taught in Psalm 19 and Romans 1. But it is a knowledge that they do their very best to suppress. They hate this holy God who is different from them, and at the same time they are terrified of Him. For they know that His judgment hangs over them and they cannot escape Him.

That is not the kind of fear that God is saying to us, His people, that we must have. If you are in Jesus Christ, you've been given a new heart. How does this godly heart respond to the God who has given it? It responds in a sort of fear also. What we mean here is godly reverence, awe, and respect that leads to adoration, worship, trust, and love. This fear has an admiration of God's holiness. It has a desire after it, a longing for it. One of the biggest things restraining me from sin is not the fear of some sort of punishment. It is the fear of losing this joy in the Lord, even temporarily, of having my relationship with my Father and my Creator somehow with a big dark cloud in between. That is the kind of fear that is being spoken of here by God through Isaiah. This fear does not push away the believer. It draws the believer in so that the fear of God, the name of God, is to him a sanctuary. That is a place of God's presence, of His holiness, of His protection.

When we fear man, we get trouble, we end up crushed and destroyed. Fear of man drives out fear of God. But when the new heart is given, when revival comes to the Church, when reformation comes to a society, it is then that by the power of God alone, good fear drives out bad. For where the fear of the Lord is, fear of man is gone.

Question

1. What fear of God does the unbeliever have?
2. What fear of God does the believer have?

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, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
Isaiah 7:14b

Praise: Psalm 82 - 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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