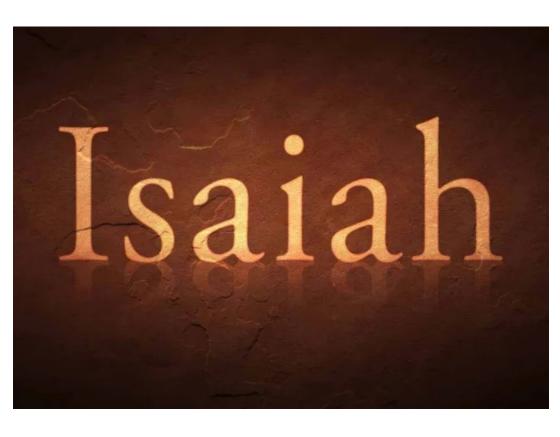
Let's Worship God

11th-16th December 2023 Isaiah





Monday - Isaiah 8:16-18 - The Word of the LORD

We bind up things and we seal them in order to keep them safe. Why would God be sealing up and binding His Word? God's Word does what it's supposed to do for people who are hypocrites, who are apostates, who are heathen. It also does what it's supposed to do for those who are chosen by God, those loved by Him before time, those who eventually become believers. For the first group of people, God's Word is hidden from them. Though perhaps God's Word gets preached to them, it is in order that their eyes may be blinded and their ears brought to deafness because God does not want them to believe. He wants them rather to go on and do what they want. For you believers, the Word was bound for you and sealed for you, kept safe for you. Then it was opened, as were your hearts, as were your eyes, and ears, and mind. You who had a mind clouded and darkened by sin, suddenly you understood; and the heart, which was dead and cold like a stone, why, you found that God had put a new one in there, a heart able to look, to hear, to understand, and to believe.

There's a promise in verse 17. Jehovah can be relied upon. Spiritually speaking, as well as politically and in every other way, things look very dark indeed. Maybe some of us see problems all over the place. What shall we do? We shall wait upon the Lord. We will hope in Him. He will do what is right. All bad things must come to an end. Isaiah relied upon that. And we have the same God.

Isaiah's name means Jehovah will save. In those days, people were saved from their sin by looking forward to one who was spoken of by the prophets, and pictured by the priests and their offerings and the temple. They were saved by putting their trust in one who would someday come and who would be the ultimate sacrifice for sin. They looked forward to the accomplishment which would be brought about by the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The name of Isaiah's one son means a remnant shall return. But the name of his other son is a word of warning and judgment. Both these boys are signs and seals along with their father, of promises made by God. But this verse is not only speaking of Isaiah but of Jesus, and His children - believers. You have the privilege of glorifying God by being a living sign and seal of His work. You are living evidence that He saves.

Questions

- 1. What are the two ways that the Word of God works on people?
- 2. What did Isaiah's name mean?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that you would be a good sign of the work of God.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Praise: Psalm 83 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - Isaiah 8:19-22 - Fear the LORD and not Falsehood

The people are frightened. But instead of turning to the God who is their King, they go to false religion. They want to go to mediums, people who claim they are talking with the spirits of dead people. Isaiah is moved by God to say, why do we go to the dead to take care of the affairs of the living? Why is it that people won't go to the living and true God? What fools they were. But are we any better by nature? No! Like them, were we left to ourselves, we'd drift off into all kinds of evil.

The true standard is found right here in verse 20. The standard for what we must believe, the standard for how we must act is God's Word, the Bible. That is what Isaiah is saying. Don't go to those people who claim they're talking with the dead. Don't go to other foolishness, to other wickedness, to other false religion. Here's where you're going to find help. Here's where you're going to find direction. Here is the standard. It is God's Word, the law and the testimony. It is the only infallible standard. So to it you must go, you must read it, you must hear it, you must study, understand, heed, believe, and obey. Whatever we or anyone else have for doctrine, for discipline, for government and worship in the church of Jesus Christ must come from it either directly, or by what we call good and necessary consequence. We are not allowed to depart to the left hand or to the right. We may neither add to it nor take away from its directions.

What happens if you decide to go after falsehood? If we forsake this standard, things can't possibly go well because we're getting away from reality. There are temporal and spiritual consequences as well. It is sad to see when a society follows after wickedness, and it can drive us to despair. But let us not despair. For although Isaiah is talking a lot about darkness, he has spoken in verse 20 about light. We still have the Bible. And when we get into chapter nine, from the darkness that we have here, suddenly light will break. Brilliantly, stunningly, blessedly Christ rules all.

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

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Praise: Psalm 84 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - Isaiah 9:1-2 - The Coming of the Light

At the time of Isaiah the people of God did not have all the Bible we have. But what they had was enough to tell them that they were sinners, that there was a God who hated sin, that they needed salvation, and that salvation would be coming. There was enough for people to be saved even in those days because they looked forward to One Who was coming.

There was a spiritual darkness in a people who should have been full of light. They were the people whom God had called to be His own, so that they would be a light to the Gentiles, a light to the nations. But they had become darker than the nations around them. Sadly, the darkest area of all for Israel was far to the north, in that which had been apportioned by God to the tribe of Zebulun and the land of Naphthali, what later became known as Galilee of the Gentiles.

But God graciously gives light. It illuminates all, it shows forth all that was hidden in the darkness, but the light heals that land, it brightens it. It makes it to be beautiful again. This prophecy of the light arriving in Galilee, of the Gentiles, was fulfilled by the one who is called the light of the world. Jesus, of course, was born in Judea, in the town of Bethlehem. But you will remember, after his parents took him to Egypt for a few years, that they returned to Galilee to live in Nazareth. Jesus began his ministry there. In fact, He carried out most of His ministry there (Matthew 4:13-16). To these great sinners, to these dark and dismal sinners, God, in grace, sent the light. Thanks be to God that He sends light to dark areas. Where there is sin, where there is folly, where there is wickedness and oppression, God sends His Son.

Are you in darkness? Do you fear that you have been in such a darkness that there is no hope for you, that there is no salvation for you, that there is only darkness and more darkness, forever and ever? Cry out to God to send you light. Cry out to God to give you redemption. Look to Jesus.

Questions

- 1. What had the area of Zebulun and Naphtali become?
- 2. Where did Jesus do most of His ministry?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that God gives light in darkness.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Praise: Psalm 85 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - Isaiah 9:3-5 - Joy

What is the effect of the coming of Him who is the light of the world? Well, first of all, the people of God are enlarged (or multiplied). People will be surrounding the throne of God who have come from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. Secondly, gospel privileges are enlarged. When Jesus came, no longer did people have to rely upon the priests to be their intermediaries. No longer did they have to look for prophets to try to explain things that were still somewhat dim. We no longer have all the rules and regulations that went with a ceremony that was pointing forward to One Who would come. Jesus Christ has accomplished salvation completely and utterly. We have far greater gospel privileges, and not the least is this: the people of God in the day of Isaiah, in fact all the time leading up to Pentecost, had the Spirit of God working upon them and through them. We have those things, too, those works of the Holy Spirit. But we have Him indwelling us. We have Him actually within us, moving us, working on us, praying for us in a way that the Old Testament people of God just didn't have. The people's joy is enlarged. They rejoiced like at harvest time. For after all, as the light comes to the people of darkness, there is a great harvest, isn't there? It is a harvest of souls, so that eventually it's a multitude before the throne of God in the Book of Revelation that can't be numbered. They rejoice as at the plunder. The picture here is when you've had a great battle and the enemy has been destroyed, and you go in and pick up all the plunder.

The Oppressor is removed. Though he looked so mighty, though he looked so powerful, though he looked so strong, though he looked so unbeatable, he is destroyed. The yoke of sin and the yoke of slavery to it is shattered. Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 2:14-15 The enemy maybe fought hard to keep the One Who is the light of the world away. But the end of all his effort is only burning and ashes.

Questions

- 1. How are the people enlarged?
- 2. How do we have greater privileges today than Old Testament believers?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks for all that Christ has done.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Praise: Psalm 86 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 9:6 - Unto Us A Son Is Given

We look at the person of the Son here in verse 6. The One Who is eternal, the One Who is in everlasting fellowship with His Father, comes and becomes flesh. It is not that He stops being God. But He takes to Himself a full human nature. This Son came down from heaven in order to save us. He is raised from the dead gloriously, and upon Him all honor, authority, and rule is placed. There is nothing outside of His control. He is working all things out for the sake of His church.

He is the wonderful One. There are great wonders that Jesus has done and is doing even yet. We think of the miracles that He did. He does other wonderful things as well. He takes dead sinners and makes them live. Here is the greatest wonder of all. Here is what glorifies Him most of all. He's also called the counsellor. He was a counsellor with His Father and with the Spirit, how to deliver us. He is also a counsellor to you. He speaks to you and to your heart through His spirit by means of His Word.

He is the Mighty God. He is mighty before all those spiritual forces of wickedness that we read about in Ephesians 1. He is mighty to deal with sin in your life. He is the mighty God able to save you to the uttermost.

He is the Everlasting Father. There are heretics who do not understand the Trinity, who have grabbed onto this to say that the Father is Jesus. What does this mean if it doesn't mean that? Now, we are children of the Father, but we are Christ's children too. He is the one who has begotten us to a lively hope. He is the one who, by His death, gave us life.

Lastly, He is the Prince of Peace. He is the prince, of course, the Son of God. What about this peace part? Paul writes in Romans 5:1 that we who are justified by faith have peace with God. He brings peace to the world. As hearts are transformed and societies are revolutionized, wars begin to cease. As one is forgiven, one becomes forgiving. Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift.

Questions

- 1. How is Christ mighty?
- 2. How does Christ bring peace?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that Christ is mighty to save.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Praise: Psalm 87 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - Isaiah 9:7 - Everlasting Kingdom

In verse 7 we read of the increase of Christ's government and peace. Other governments of this world have come and gone, but Christ's kingdom is not of this world. It does not use its methods, its strengths, or anything else. The governments of this world have an end. But Christ reigns even now, until he comes again to end all things. It is a kingdom that is increasing. We see this in Matthew 16:18. "I will build my church." It increases in peace. It increases in judgment, and it increases in righteousness. Those who think that eventually evil must triumph in this world mistake what the Scriptures say. No, as Christ reigns, all things are being placed under His feet. All things are being ruled over by Him, and all things should be acknowledging Him. The Son's work cannot fail. Plans of men do that frequently. There are all kinds of unforeseen consequences to their actions. Not so with Jesus Christ. He is, as we've just seen in the previous verse, the mighty God. So He is able to establish and maintain it.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Do you children know what zeal means? When you're zealous about something, you're really excited about it. You're working very hard to bring it about. The Lord Jesus is zealous in the covenant. He is not merely able to do all things, but He is willing to as well. This is the child that is born. This is the Son who is given to us. This one who in His person has brought salvation and in His work who has glorified God.

Let us seek to know Him or to know Him better, and let us seek to serve Him, because His kingdom is good, His kingdom is perfect, His kingdom is joyful, His kingdom is one of peace. Let us give thanks to that Father for giving us such a Son.

Question

- 1. How is Christ's kingdom different from the kingdoms of this world?
- 2. What is Christ willing to do?

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

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Praise: Psalm 88 - 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 by the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Scotland.