

Let's Worship God

18th-23rd December 2023

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 9:8-12 - Arrogant Israel

In these verses we see the northern kingdom of Israel, which for the most part had long ago departed from Jehovah, arrogantly defying God. In kindness, in mercy, God still speaks to them and warns them of judgement before it even happens.

Israel's response is in verses 9-10. God's threatened judgment is treated arrogantly and contemptuously. What are they saying here? 'God will knock down our brick buildings. We'll show him. We'll cut stone. God can't knock them down. He's going to cut down all our sycamore trees. We'll put in better. We'll put in these great cedar trees with their strong wood. We'll show God.' Children, do you think this a wise move on the part of these Israelites? Isn't this stupid? Isn't this foolish? Isn't this wicked? The heart of this people is so very hard! Their blasphemy is so great that they think they can be stronger than God. What foolishness. What wickedness. But how often such folly happens, even today!

God's judgment will work, and we see this in verses 11-12. Rezin is the king of the country of Syria. He has been friends with the king of Israel, but it will end. God will use the wicked things of man to bring about his own judgment, and to show forth his glory. Assyria comes and destroys the land of Syria (2 Kings 16), and they kill Rezin. Then Syria becomes part of a group of nations that come against Israel. Moved along by God they devour Israel with an open mouth.

The people's sin has been so great that one judgment doesn't do the job. Their attitude is so hateful and hardened that they are still arrogant and defiant. So despite all that He has done, God is not finished with them. How foolish of us when we continue in sin. May God be gracious to us and give us conviction of sin; may we be turned from being arrogant and willful to being godly.

Questions

1. How does Israel respond to God's warning?
2. How will God judge Israel?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would grow in humility and obedience.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the might God. Isaiah 10:21

Praise: Psalm 89 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 9:13-21 - Abundant Sin In the Land

In verses 13 through 17 of chapter nine, we see that the first sin described here is trust in man. God commands Israel to turn from wickedness, and to turn to Himself and to godliness. But the people won't. They turn away from God, and they try to trust in man, which is an age-old sin, whether it be trust in other people or trust in self. It is a false worship. It is worshiping the power of man, instead of worshiping the living and true God through Jesus Christ. So what do they do? They look at the elders and the honorable. They look at the leaders of the people. They turn to these to be a wall for them against the judgments of God. They turn to them to justify themselves. These do them no good; instead they do harm because they turn the people from God. None will escape who will not turn to Jehovah. How timely this sounds! Today we have all kinds of people who tell us what's will happen in the future if we do not follow after their prescriptions for good. If we do not do what they say, all kinds of terrible things will come to pass. Instead of looking to Christ, instead of our society turning to Him, what do we do? We trust in man.

God's anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still because there are more problems. Gross wickedness abounds, as we see here in verses 18-21. Wickedness burns as the fire. Sin is a terrible thing. The devil makes you try to think it is fun. The devil makes you try to think that it will do you good. But it won't. Sin is a fiery wickedness that won't be put out. Sin ends up devouring you. It is never satisfied. The judgment that God speaks of here in these verses is wonderfully appropriate because sin is raging within them. The land and the people themselves are destroyed by their own sin. The people's needs cannot be satisfied because they won't do anything but try to take care of their lusts. They destroy themselves. They don't need to have Assyria come in. They can be destroyed all by themselves. The people just began to fall apart. The kingdom began to fall apart. How often this happens. How it must happen where Jesus Christ is not reigning.

Questions

1. How does our nation trust in man instead of God?
2. How does sin deceive us?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for help to put sin to death.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the might God. Isaiah 10:21

Praise: Psalm 90 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 10:1-4 - A Hand Stretched Out

We see here, in the beginning of chapter ten, that oppression abounds. We read about the nature of this sin of oppression here. It's making unjust laws that call the evil good and good evil. Why do the wicked want to do this? The aim of this oppression is to remove the rights of the poor, as we see here in these first four verses, as defined by God's Word, and to get more and more power and more and more wealth, and to grind down the powerless in order to exalt themselves. What will come of all this oppression? What's the end of the sin? We see here a day of reckoning, a day of judgment, a day of making things right. Disaster will come and they will have no place to escape it, no place of safety, no one to help.

God is not satisfied until and unless all is paid for. His hand is stretched out still. What hope is there? What hope is there for any sinner? What hope is there for any sinful society, people, culture, nation? For must we not acknowledge that God, by rights, might justly destroy us? But in the councils of eternity, God wanted to show that He was holy, and righteous, and just, that he could not stand sin. He wanted to show His love, mercy, kindness, and grace. So in that council of eternity, God decided to save to Himself a people. So when Jesus came to earth, He lived perfectly. He was and is God's priest. But He offered His own blood. There at the cross, God's anger was not turned away, but His hand was stretched out still until Jesus paid to the last. It was then that the anger of God was ended. It was then that his hand rested. If you are in Jesus Christ, there is no longer any anger to be turned away. It was turned away by your Saviour there at the cross, who bore it Himself. A hand is stretched out, but it's not in judgment. It is a Father taking hold and drawing you in, His beloved child. Chapter 10 verse 4 is not the end of the story. The wicked are destroyed, but so is sin. And the wonderful grace of God is that which ends up shining forth.

Questions

1. What will come of oppression?
2. Who has perfectly satisfied God's judgement?

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

A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the might God. Isaiah 10:21

Praise: Psalm 91 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 10:5-19 - Woe To Oppressors

Assyria is at the height of its power, the height of its prestige. But it is God who has made Assyria to be strong and powerful. All oppressors are tools of God that He uses to purify His people. The true people of God are absolutely safe. They may have hard times to go through. True believers in the day when the Assyrians attacked had the same experiences as the wicked ones around them. True believers in other times have shared the difficulties that the wicked have gone through. But there have been two different results. The wicked in Isaiah's time and the wicked in our time, when the oppressor comes, particularly the hypocrites are shown for what they are. The hypocrites end up destroyed, and God's people end up purified in time and in eternity.

Though Assyria is doing God's work, that's not what Assyria is conscious of or intending to do. 'I'm a king of kings,' says the king of Assyria. He had conquered cities. He had enlarged his dominion. He'd gotten himself rich. And he thought he did it all by himself. In verses 10-11, he brags about what he will do. He utters blasphemy, calling Jehovah just another idol, claiming that the idols of the nations were better. And as he had conquered others, how could Judah and Jerusalem possibly hold out. At the time Isaiah wrote this, none of this had happened yet. But that's exactly what happens later in 2 Kings 19 and 20, and 2 Chronicles 32.

God shows this boasting to be absurd. When God is done with Assyria, Assyria will be destroyed. In verses 15 through 19, God also decrees and prophesies Assyria's complete inability fully to conquer Judah and Jerusalem. The one who will end up destroyed is Assyria. God himself will do the destruction. What will this destruction be like? It will be like a plague. You can read about it in 2 Kings 19.

We must remember that though God sends oppressors, they can go no further than He intends. They may plan for your destruction. God plans for your salvation and for your deliverance. There may be hard times in between, but God shall bring you through them. Do not fear the oppressor, though the oppressor may be given much power, for He is only given that power by your Father in heaven.

Questions

1. Who gave Assyria power?
2. What happens to Assyria when it tries to destroy Judah?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is in control of all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. Isaiah 10:21

Praise: Psalm 92 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 10:20-27 - A Remnant

Those who truly were the people of God, those who were looking to him for deliverance, those who, through the words of the prophets and through the working of the priests in the temple, were looking ahead to the One Whom God would send to take away their sin, they would be preserved, and they would be called a remnant. These people that we see here in verses 20- 22 had escaped the corruption of the professed people of God. They'd thrown away all confidence in themselves. They'd thrown away all confidence in their so-called outward strength or their inward strength, because they saw that they had none. By God's grace, they were no longer holding on to the things that the rest of the people did. They weren't looking for deliverance by means of idols. They weren't looking for deliverance by means of other military powers. They weren't looking for deliverance by their own cleverness. No, they, by God's grace, had returned to Him. They were now looking to the One Who would come. They were looking to Jesus.

Now, most of the people were not believers, sadly, and they were destroyed. But God preserved a true people of His through all the Assyrian invasion, and in time to come, through the persecution under Manasseh and the revival in the days of Josiah. He preserved them through their exile to Babylon and brought them back and made them thrive back in the land and in Persia as well.

What is God sending the Assyrian with? A sword? No, it is a rod. And there's a big difference. For the rod is for correction. It will be used to beat out the wickedness, and it will be used by God to turn the hearts of the remnant to himself. So those who are the remnant are told it will hurt, but it's going to bless. It's will hurt, but it will not destroy. A sword will be used, but not with you. The destroyer will be destroyed, as has happened before.

Questions

1. Who are the remnant?
2. How is a rod different from a sword?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God will continue to preserve His remnant.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the might God. Isaiah 10:21

Praise: Psalm 93 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 10:28-34 - A Remnant Preserved

We see the terror of destruction in verses 28-34. This is a description, years before, of how the Assyrians would invade -- and this is exactly the way they came. Isaiah, by the inspiration of God's Spirit, was able to see what would happen later in his life when the Assyrians came down. You see the terror and the fright and the horror of the coming down of the Assyrians here as they destroy these villages as they are coming through, until suddenly they appear before the walls of Jerusalem. It looks like nothing can stop them. Everything in their path gets run over. They seem to be invincible. But as we see in verses 33 and 34, Assyria can only shake its fist. Do you remember what happened when all the great Assyrian armies were camped outside of Jerusalem? They had big, bold words. King Sennacherib's main general had all kinds of mouthiness to give against Jehovah, trying to frighten the people, trying to make them surrender. And how much of an attack were they able to make against Jerusalem? They did nothing! We have no historical record of Jerusalem having a single stone flung at it, a single spear thrown at it, a single arrow shot at it. Because by the next morning, the vast army was all dead. How did God do that? We don't know. But what He has told us is that when the time comes, He can and does destroy the wicked and deliver his people.

Much of the Church of Jesus Christ has been unfaithful, sadly. It is because of this that the nations are rebelling in wickedness and seek to destroy her. It looks very scary indeed. God then in Isaiah's time, and God now in our time, continues to preserve a remnant, by His grace. God continues to preserve you, and He continues to lift you up on high and to deliver you from the oppressor. God will bring you through more glorious, more wonderful, more godly than ever before. You, by his grace, are part of His remnant -- lived for, died for, resurrected for by the Lord Jesus. Deliverance, though it may be taking a little while, is certain and sure in Christ.

Question

1. What happened to the Assyrian army?
2. Why can we be encouraged?

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

A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the might God. Isaiah 10:21

Praise: Psalm 94 - 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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