

Let's Worship God

29th July - 3rd August 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 41:11-16 - Tearing Down and Building Up

In verses 11-12 we see that the nations were angry against the people of God. Why? *Because they were the people of God.* The wicked sinners cannot get at God, so they seek to attack the people of God. But the wicked will be ashamed and disgraced. They shall be as nothing, and they shall die. For the people to whom Isaiah was writing, they could look back to what had just occurred to the Assyrian army. God destroyed 185,000 soldiers in a night. All sorts of powers that resist King Jesus shall be brought to nothing.

The image in verses 13-14 is of a little child, Israel, scared and clinging tightly to his father's hand – the father to whom he looks for protection, the father to whom he looks for care. And the father will not let go of that little one, will he? God is honest with his people. They of themselves are lowly and powerless. All our hope is founded in God, in Jesus Christ, and not in ourselves. And God says to us worms, fear not.

God often tears down the wicked by pulling them away from their wickedness, pulling them into His kingdom, and pulling them from death into life. He does this through the gospel, by the Spirit working upon them, transforming and changing them. The imagery here is of a harvest and harvest equipment which cuts down the grain and beats it. The chaff and the straw that are left really are thrown away or frequently burned. But at the harvest, what else do you have besides chaff? The whole point of the harvest is the precious grain that is brought forth. So God uses His people to cut down the mountains and beat them small, using them to remove every obstacle to the gospel. God uses them to winnow out those who are destined for destruction. But in the thrashing and in the winnowing, while those others are blown away and set for burning, there is something at the feet. There is this growing pile of something which is golden and precious, the wheat that's being harvested and thrashed out. Here is this mighty mound of the precious, the saved, the redeemed. The wicked indeed are destroyed. But the godly are built up and strengthened as the gospel goes forth. Harvest time is going on. You are living proof of it. The mountains are partway through being thrashed. God is harvesting and building His church, tearing down the wicked and building up the godly.

Questions

1. What could the people of Isaiah's day look at as evidence of the power of God?
2. How is God's harvest going on today?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would bring in a mighty harvest in our country.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3

Praise: Psalm 110 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 41:17-20 - God Provides In Small Situations

Here in these verses, God gives further assurance and promise to His people. Is there thirst? God has provision for this. God knows your needs. Just as he knew the needs of the thirsty here, the ones who were frightened and desperate for something to drink, God knows our needs. He provides them in the best way and time. Even when, humanly speaking, things are absolutely desperate, things are absolutely outside of our control. When we are tempted to despair, when we are tempted to doubt His care and love, He shows his ability. He shows his willingness. He shows that He can and does deliver His people.

God is speaking not merely of our outward needs. But He is speaking of spiritual and eternal needs as well. Water is frequently a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Just as our bodies cannot long live without water, our souls cannot live without the Holy Spirit. We must be cleansed from our sin, and water is a picture of both forgiveness and cleansing from sin. Perhaps you have been desperately thirsty to know the living and true God. Your soul is withered by sin within you, and you are feeling crushed by the guilt. God provides water. In fact, He has provided a person who is the living water, our Lord Jesus Christ (John 4).

We have a lush picture of God's provision in verse 19. Here, where there had been nothing but unrelieved dryness and deadness, there is a verdant forest. This is a picture of the conversion of the nations, but also of the change in a believer. God can make you no longer dead, dry, and desolate. He will make you green, He will make you live, He will make you thrive. For His glory, you shall be lush and green, even though all around you it may be rocky, dry, and dusty.

Why does God give life in the desert? We read in verse 20 that it is so we may see and know, consider and understand. We come to see Jehovah more clearly and know His ways better. And as we see Him and know Him more and more, how can we but love Him more? We see that He is the one, the only one, on whom we both may and must trust in every and all circumstances.

Questions

1. What is water a picture of?
2. How does God change a believer?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3

Praise: Psalm 111 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 41:21-29 - More On Idols

Why would God have us to look at the topic of idols again? It must be that God's people continue to need this topic addressed. We continue to have temptation to go off to idols of one sort or another. An idol is anything that is as important or more important to you than the living and true God as He reveals Himself in the Scripture. We tend to think of idols as these things made out of wood, stone, gold, or silver. But anything that gets in the way of, or even stands alongside of God in our hearts is an idol. Anything that is seen to have our greatest allegiance is an idol. It can be something so very simple. It can be our hobby. It can be our work. It can be respectability. It can be our family or friends.

We see a very good description in verses 21-24 of what the idols then and idols now are able to do. Or maybe we could put it more appropriately, what they cannot do. God challenges them to show that they have any knowledge or ability to do anything, but they can't. Why is that? They are dead. There's nothing to them. And those who choose them are those who are under a curse, and God hates them.

In contrast to these dead, useless idols, in verses 25-29 we have Jehovah, the God of the covenant, the living and true God. We see what He can and does do. He is the one who brings in this conqueror. This could be looking somewhat to Cyrus the great conqueror from Persia. But more likely in view, is a greater king than Cyrus, whose sway is over a far greater area.

In contrast to the idols who can say nothing, Jehovah is the one who declares all things. Verse 27 is speaking of the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the one who has brought to fulfillment all the promises of God (Luke 4:16). In verse 28 God is speaking of the lands of the nations of the Gentiles who have no light in them. That is the way it is wherever Christ is perhaps ignored or even actively rebelled against. Without the king, the prophet, the priest, the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no one to help for anyone. Darkness cannot be penetrated. Life is hopeless and vain without the living God and Jesus Christ, whom He has sent.

Questions

1. Why does God talk about idols so much?
2. What is an idol?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would be watchful against having idols in our life.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3

Praise: Psalm 112 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 42:1-4 - Messiah the Servant

We are to behold, to look right at, to stare at this one whom God presents before us, His servant. Who is the servant? He is the Messiah, the Christ (Matthew 12:15-21). What do we learn about Him here? First, He is upheld by God. In fact, he is the God-man. He has all the power and ability of God. And since His Father upholds Him, it is obvious that God is willing to sustain all His work. God the Father is delighted at the outcome of Christ's life, and death, and resurrection. God the Father puts His Spirit upon Him. He brings justice to the Gentiles and judgement to the nations. He reigns over them all as God's mediatorial king.

How does He teach? He was not boisterous, noisy, militant. Rather, the sword He used was the sword of the Spirit, His Word. He spoke His Word. He gave proper interpretation of His word, and He made His word to go into the hearts of some. He continues to have His Word go into the hearts of many. Even today He speaks firmly, though quietly. He speaks, and the dead live.

Some think that where their lives have been broken and bruised, He will just tear them and cast them away. How very sad. For we read these words here, and they are repeated in Matthew's gospel, that the bruised reed, He will not break, the little spark at the end of a candle wick, he will not quench. Jesus is kind, is merciful, is gracious. Perhaps the Holy Spirit has brought you an awareness of your sin, and your heart is so frightened. You see yourself as being utterly unworthy of Christ's attention or care, and surely He must think the same, but He does not. And He says to you, 'Come to me. I've come to seek and to save the lost.'

We read in verse 4 that He will not fail nor be discouraged. You cannot be too broken and bruised for Him. He suffered far more than you and I. His will was unbreakable, and the glow of His love was unquenchable.

Lastly, we read here, the coastland shall wait for His law. God is saying His Word will go to the ends of the earth, so that people know the living and true God, all to God's glory and delight.

Questions

1. What promises do we have here?
2. What do these verses tell us about Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the love of Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3

Praise: Psalm 113 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 42:5-9 - Messiah, Sent of God

In verse 5 we see the Servant's God. At the beginning of the chapter, we were told to look. Now we must listen. The one speaking to us is God. There is no other. He is the one who has created all the heavenly realm. He has created all the earth and that which comes from it. He is the one who made man, the crown of Creation. This one who has created all this, the heavens and earth, and man in particular, this one who has shown His mighty power, is a covenant God who saves to Himself a people.

Verses 6-7 show us the Servant's Goal. God must be holy. God must uphold righteousness. God must be just. It is in His holy and unchanging nature. So how can He be just and a justifier, as Paul speaks of in Romans 3:26, of those who believe on Jesus Christ? And here is the good news of the gospel! God has sent His only begotten Son, to add to His divine nature a human nature as well. He came and lived a perfect life in order to be the perfect sacrifice, in order to be the perfect sacrificing priest, and in order to purchase righteousness for you and for me. In other words, He lived in our place, and then He died in our place, offering His own self as the perfect lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world. And there at the cross He endured all that His people deserve. He accomplished righteousness for His people. He brings light to the nations. He has done this by giving new hearts to receive Him and new spiritual eyes to see. He brings liberty to unbelievers shackled in sin, breaking apart their bonds so that they are free to serve Him and His Father. And here is where we come to the Servant's ultimate goal. The Servant's ultimate goal is not the salvation of a people. It's a very high one. But it is not the ultimate. The ultimate goal of the Servant is the glory of His Father, whom He has loved with an everlasting and absolutely perfect love. And does it not glorify the Father when blind, deaf, stupid, foolish, wicked, disgusting sinners like you and me are brought to hear, to see, to believe, to live and love in righteousness and holiness? Does that not give glory?

How can we be assured that this will come about? We see that in verses 8 and 9. Jehovah declares that He has the authority to do this and is absolutely willing to do this. He has spoken, and He has acted. God brought forth His Servant. God strengthened Him to accomplish His goal. God will deliver you.

Questions

1. What is the good news of the Gospel?
2. What was the ultimate goal of Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that your life would give glory to God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3

Praise: Psalm 114 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 42:10-17 - A Song of Praise

This passage starts out 'Sing to the Lord a new song', just like in Psalm 96. Isaiah is looking forward to the day of Christ's coming. All the promises, all the anticipation is brought to fulfillment in Christ. All the peoples should praise Him, and all the peoples would praise Him. You are living fulfillment of this! In this new song the gospel is going to the sea and to the coastlands. It's going all over the world. What is Kedar? These are Arabs. These are peoples descended from Ishmael. Here is a particular promise of the Arabs praising Jehovah in Christ. Here is a great promise that all peoples shall yet praise.

What's the cause of this joyful praise? In verses 13 through 15 we see God's powerful works. Here we see God, powerful to smite the wicked, powerful to judge those who rebel against him, mighty, at the same time, to save and deliver His people. The joyful praise that Isaiah is moved to, the joyful praise that the nations shall give, is joy in God's triumph over His enemies. He brings about this destruction, this triumph, both by conquest and conversion. Conversion leads to the end of rebellion and the triumph of King Jesus. But sometimes God allows people, individuals and societies, to continue in their rebellion, and then God has His ways of bringing them down and humiliating them. God goes to war against His enemies. We see this here in these verses. We read here in these verses that to some extent God was patient before the coming of His Servant. But no more. The wicked who seemed to prosper, the wicked who seemed unconquerable, invincible, are turned upside down, smashed and crushed.

God is also gracious to His people. We see this in verses 16-17. To sinners and Gentiles, Jesus provides light and the sight to see it. He does this to those trapped in darkness. He provides a way of salvation in and through His broken body and shed blood. They could not get to God. But now He has made the way. He is the way. Idolaters will receive shame and be overturned, as we see in verse 17. But the godly will have light and the way.

Questions

1. Who is called to praise God?
2. Why are they praising God?

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 bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. Isaiah 42:3

Praise: Psalm 115 - 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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