

Let's Worship God

12th-17th August 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 44:1-5 - Israel Lives!

In verses 1-2 we have encouragement from the LORD. This encouragement goes to Jacob, God's servant. This is a picture of Christ, the Servant Messiah, but also of the believing remnant. This remnant is also called Israel, the chosen. This encouragement comes from the LORD, Who claims Israel, and Who has not rejected her utterly. He is a willing Saviour. He has created His people, and no power in heaven or earth can stop or restrain Him from doing what He determines. This encouragement comes from Him Who promises help and the removal of all causes for fear.

In verse 3 we see life and refreshment from the pouring out of water. Water gives life, restoring the desert land. Water refreshes, ending wilt and waste. Water cleanses, flushing away pollutants. Water is poured out in abundance upon the thirsty land. This pouring out is significant of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. The Spirit applies the work of Christ's accomplished redemption. He now indwells believers and works in them, in addition to working through them and upon them as He did in Old Testament times.

In verses 4-5 we see new life in new times. This refers not only to Old Testament Israel, but to the Gentiles as well. The growth will be lush and large, completely removing the desert dryness. The nations will come into covenant with God in Christ. To do so, they must be united to the Covenant Head, Christ Himself, God's Mediatorial King. Whenever we come to Communion, we renew the same Covenant vows that we see the nations swearing in verse 5.

Questions

1. What does verse 3 look ahead to?
2. What is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that the nations would come to covenant with the Lord.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. Isaiah 44:2

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 4 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 44:6-9 - The Only God There Is

In these verses we're looking again at the fact that Jehovah is the only God in contrast with the idols that are out there in the world. God is saying to the people again, 'Put your trust in Me. Set your love upon Me, and set aside these other things upon which you've put your love and your commitment.'

In verse 6 we see God saying, 'See who I am.' And then in verses 7-8 we see God saying, 'Look at what I am doing. Pay attention to what I am doing. I am the only God there is.' He is the One who is putting down His and Judah's enemies, including those worst enemies, sin and Satan. God is almighty. He can do what He says. We do not have a God Who makes all kinds of empty boasts. No, this great God is almighty. He is the Redeemer, the One Who buys back. We have sold ourselves to Satan; God redeems us to Himself. The price that we must pay, due to sin, is taken on by Jesus Christ Himself. He is the First and the Last. He is eternal. There is no other God. And there is no one else who can save us from the consequences of sin, who can save us from difficulty, who can save us from hardship, who can save us from ourselves.

Now this only God, what does He do? Jehovah is the God Who acts and speaks. No other god does this. He tells us what He will do, and then He brings it to pass, speaking of the significance afterward. It is not that somehow God is merely looking ahead, it is that He actively brings about all things for His glory's sake. All this shows that there is no other god. He can be and must be trusted then, for His Word is true. His promises are firm, and His purposes of grace are unchangeable.

We read in verse 9 that those who make an image, are all useless, and their precious things shall not profit. The sad truth is that the worshippers become like those idols. They are witnesses to themselves. Their testimonies are lies, and their words are worthless. Turn away, then, from worshipping and serving anything else. Turn to the only God there is in and through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Questions

1. What do we learn about God in these verses?
2. How do idolaters become like what they worship?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God reveals truth to us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. Isaiah 44:2

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 5 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 44:10-20 - What Am I Doing?

The picture here is of a man who takes a log, cuts it in two, and burns half in the fire. He warms himself by it. He bakes up some food. And the other part of it, the very same log that he has just cut up, that he has just now used, that he has shown his power over, he bows down to it as the one who has power over him. It's ridiculous. But it's the way people are. And they don't stop to think, 'What am I doing? What is the matter with me?' Someone who would do such a thing as this, even all his friends would be ashamed. How can mere men make a God? No idol can possibly be more powerful than its maker. And actually, it's less so. Far less so. What, with all this time and effort that the blacksmith is spending working on this idol, you'd think his false God would be kind and helpful to him. But it can't be. It can't take care of his hunger or his thirst. A woodworker is taking all this time and trouble and difficulty to make an idol out of wood to look just like another person. And instead of man being made in the image of God, this idol is being made in the image of man.

An idol is any false god, anything to whom you give your heart and make the centre of your life. It doesn't have to be made of iron or steel, or wood, or gold. It can be an idea. Idols are created to serve and please man. Idols are created to keep him from the true God. Idols serve to reassure man that his fallen nature isn't really all that bad. Man likes these false gods that don't have a lot of power, because ultimately, man idolizes himself. Ultimately, man is his own god, and with false gods he can have power over them. He makes them, and he influences them.

They who are making and worshipping idols can't see how stupid they really are. We read this in verse 18. God has shut their eyes so that they cannot see, and their hearts so that they cannot understand. Those who take these idols and worship them are eating ashes. They have a deceived heart, a dead heart, a heart filled with sin. And one like this cannot deliver his soul. He cannot save himself. There is no hope within himself. What can deliver his soul? Only the living and true God and the Saviour Whom He has sent.

Questions

1. Why are idols so foolish?
2. What is an idol?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for the salvation of the people living around us.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. Isaiah 44:2

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 6 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 44:21-23 - Remembered in Grace

In verse 21, God calls upon us to remember something in the past, something in the very immediate past, as well as farther back. The immediate past is -- the words that He had just spoken through Isaiah about the foolishness of these idol worshippers. The people of God are told to remember, so they don't go and follow the folly. God in His kindness calls the remnant His servant. What a humbling thing this must have been to them. How could God call them His servants? Because God has set His love upon them from eternity. We go on to read in this verse that God remembers something else. He remembers that they are His servant, but He remembers that He has created them in the covenant of grace. They're the people from whom and to whom would be coming the Messiah. They've not remembered Him, His grace, His redemption, but He has not forgotten them. His love cannot be ended, or erased, or just tossed aside. No, it is from eternity in Jesus Christ and shall be to eternity. We can come to Him again and again with the sins we struggle with because He will not forget us. He does not forget His love. Believer, you can never be forgotten. Remember your sin and folly. But remember that you are safe in Jesus, remembered in the covenant, remembered in the Saviour who has fulfilled that covenant.

We see in verse 22 that we are saved by grace alone. Sin, like a fierce storm, separates us from God and brings destruction and misery. But God says, 'Those big, dark, thick, frightening clouds, I sweep away'. Only Christ can deal with this cloud. Only He can deal with our sin. And that is exactly what He does. He redeems us. He makes sure the price of our guilt is paid for. He scatters the storm of our sin, and the warmth of fellowship with our Father washes over us now.

Do you remember when the truth of the gospel hit home? Were you not filled with joy? And is not such news worthy of praise? It is a joy to all of creation. We see here in verse 23, the mountains and the forests giving Him praise. Be part of this joy!

Questions

1. What does God tell us to remember?
2. How does God deal with our sin?

Prayer Points

1. Give praise to God for the salvation you have in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. Isaiah 44:2

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 7 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 44:24-28 - Sovereign LORD

First, in verse 24, we see Him as Creator and Re-Creator. Jehovah takes sinners and buys them back from their sin. He delivers them, He rescues them. He saves them. He is the Redeemer. Secondly, in contrast to Him, we see the idols in verses 25 and 26. These idols fail. They claim to have wise men with them, and these speak and they read signs, but what does God do with them? He frustrates them altogether. The point of this is that, time and again, those who say that we shall follow after other and better things are wicked fools, and their way fails every single time.

The last verses look ahead to new life in the time of not only deliverance by Cyrus, but they look beyond to the days of the great Redeemer's coming. Cyrus gave the word and people went back and built everything back up again. You can read about that in Ezra, in Nehemiah, and in the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. But significantly, we are the New Testament Zion. We are the true Jerusalem, the church of Jesus Christ. And He is building us up from the nations. Now this seems impossible, doesn't it? It would seem impossible to people in Isaiah's day who saw that the general moral course of those who professed to be the people of God was on a down-slope, and a pretty decided one at that. They could see how things were going. And they could see that, humanly speaking, there was no way to turn it around. Kind of sounds familiar, doesn't it? But God has said here, 'I am the mighty one who does mighty things. I can do this. I can re-create, I can restore, and I shall do so for my people, for Israel.' He is the One Who in the past brought about His promises. Despite humanly impossible obstacles, God led His people into the place of His promise. And that is what He says here, 'I will yet do it again.' This God who created all things, this God who made a way for His people at the Red Sea and through the Jordan, this God who stays with His people by covenant and redeems them from their sin, is the same God today. And the promises for His people are being fulfilled today. Just as they lived in a time when things were falling apart, so it seems we do today. But in the midst of all that decline and in the midst of that moral failure, God gave His Word, saying, 'I will rebuild. I will build my church.' -- words that Jesus uses in Matthew 16:18. That same God of His covenant people is the same God of His covenant people today. 'I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'

Question

1. What promises do we have in these verses?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's promise to build His Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. Isaiah 44:2

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 8 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 45:1-7 - Sovereign Deliverer

God is speaking of that which would be happening in a couple of hundred years in great detail. But beyond Cyrus, God is preparing the people to be thinking of a far greater Deliverer to come. He gives them an intermediate sort of prophecy in great detail to encourage them to see that He brings to pass all things. All things happen by the word of His power. And the word of His promise certainly comes true, unlike the idols. So in the first three verses here we see God bringing deliverance for His people through Cyrus.

Why would God do this? Verse 4 tells us that it is for the sake of the people of God that God brings about the destruction of nations and the rising up of other ones. Babylon is destroyed. Why? For the sake of the people of God. And for the sake of the people of God, another nation is raised up high. People of God, look at this -- King Jesus rules and He brings about mighty things. God put it in Cyrus' heart to bless the people by ending their exile and giving them the ability, humanly speaking, to rebuild God's house. Jesus was ordering all events so that His church and kingdom were advanced. This is what He still does.

God gives deliverance for the sake of His people. But as wonderful as that is, marvelous as that is, that's not the ultimate reason. That's only part of something greater still which we look at in verses 5-7. What God seeks in all things is His own glory. It is God's glory that He has as His top priority, His highest end, His highest reason, His highest goal for all things. And by His delivering His people, God glorifies Himself and shows that there is no other. In fact, in delivering His people, His Name is shown forth; His glory is displayed to the nations. He will yet show forth His glory upon you. One way or another. I ask you, which shall it be? Will He get His glory in and through you? Will He delight to hear your praise, or will He show it for you, His power and might, His justice, His holiness, His righteousness and truth? Will He get glory *through* you or get His glory *on* you?

Questions

1. Why does God destroy one nation and raise up another?
2. What is God's ultimate goal?

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

Thus says the LORD who made you, who formed you from the womb and will help you: Fear not, O Jacob my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. Isaiah 44:2

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 9 - 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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