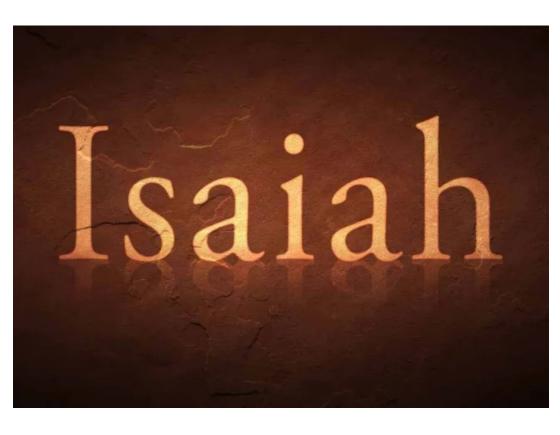
Let's Worship God

19th - 24th August 2024 Isaiah





Monday - Isaiah 45:8 - Rain Down Righteousness

This whole chapter is talking about deliverance, rescue, and salvation. On one level, it's looking at Cyrus, the king of the Persians, who would come along in a few hundred years. But on another level, it is very much looking to the coming of the Christ and deliverance and delight in Him.

In order to expect deliverance, there must be righteousness. What is righteousness? Righteousness is being innocent before the law of God. When God measures us according to the standard of His Word, righteousness is something that you and I, of ourselves; do not have. We are born in sin. And we have just multiplied things by our own sins. Righteousness cannot come from ourselves. Yet righteousness is what we need for deliverance. Where will we find righteousness? It must come from someplace else. Righteousness must come down from above, given by God Himself in Christ. Our Lord Jesus Christ has come from the heavens. He came to take on the full nature of man, to live righteously, perfectly, in the place of His people. He came, so that to the cross and to the grave He might go, bearing the guilt of our sin. He substituted His righteousness for our guilt. And now He has returned to heaven. But from heaven, even as He promised, He showered down, poured down, blessing; for He sent the Holy Spirit. We, by God's grace, have Him, the Holy Spirit, indwelling us.

This salvation brought by God will fill the earth. The earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea. God, and God alone, has done this. To God, and to God alone, should be given the glory. Has God and His grace rained down upon you? And has His Spirit been poured out upon you because of what Jesus has done for sinners? Well, then rejoice if this has happened. We can pray this, that there will be a great raining down, a great pouring out of God's spirit on people round about us and throughout our land and all lands. For God has promised that He should bring it. Let us be praying that He will rain down righteousness!

Questions

- 1. Where does righteousness come from?
- 2. What does God promise about the nations?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that God would reign down righteousness on the earth.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 10 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Tuesday - Isaiah 45:9-13 - God's Sovereign Will

We read here in these verses about God's sovereign will exercised in the deliverance of His people. The first thing we look at in verses 9-10 is where God talks about what a foolish thing it is to strive with Him. God, through Isaiah, says, "Shall the clay say to him who forms it, 'What are you making?'" It's not saying this out of curiosity. It's more like the clay is saying, "What in the world do you think you're doing, potter? I know better what's good for me." Unbelievers often strive with God. They will try to say that God has no idea what in the world He is doing. They will say they can get along without God. Sadly, even believers all too often strive with God. The Christian life is often difficult, and there are times when we are going in a way that we think is best, and God blocks our way. We can be tempted to say, "God, what are you doing? Why are you blocking this?" It doesn't do unbelievers any good to do this, and it doesn't do Christians any good. God is in control. And for us to fight against that is folly. He will, believer, do that which is good for you. He will glorify Himself in and through you, believer. He calls upon us to stop fighting with Him.

In verse 11 God kindly stoops down and says, 'Ask me. Don't try to put confidence in your own wisdom or understanding. No, ask me of things to come concerning my Son.' We can plead God's promises to Him. We can ask, even in a sense command, Him to be faithful to His promises that He might bring them to pass in the world, in the church, and in our lives.

In verses 12-13 we see that He has the power and the ability to fulfill all things. God shows this great power in His creation. God, for His own glorious, holy, righteous purposes, raises up Cyrus to deliver His people from the proud Babylonians. He is the One who set the Jews free. He is the one who donated all kinds of money and materials to help with the building of the temple and, later on, the walls of Jerusalem. But beyond Cyrus would come a greater deliverer still - the Lord Jesus Christ. He paid off the curse, paid off the penalty that your sin and mine deserved, believer. He has built up a city which is composed of living stones -- that is each believer. We were slaves of sin. We were slaves of the devil. But He has let us go free, and we have had to pay no price whatsoever!

Questions

- 1. Why is it foolish to fight with God?
- 2. How is Cyrus a picture of Christ?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the salvation of family and friends.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 11 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Wednesday - Isaiah 45:14 - National Submission to Christ

First, let's note that this is the Word of God. These are not mere guesses of people of what will happen. This is the Word of God. Therefore it cannot have any mistakes, and any predictions must be certain to come to pass. Secondly, it says, "Thus says the LORD". It is the covenant name of God. It comes in the covenant of grace, and it is therefore a word of comfort and blessing to those truly in covenant with Him. Thirdly, we must remember that all this chapter is looking beyond Cyrus to Jesus Christ and deliverance from sin, and death, and hell.

The different nations mentioned here represent all nations, and not merely individuals within the nations, but this is talking about the nations themselves. It is these nations, these cultures, these peoples who come in submission. This was implied by Jesus Christ in the great commission at the end of Matthew's Gospel. Jesus says that we must disciple the nations. We must seek that nations come to serve the Lord Jesus Christ. They shall come over in chains, and they will bow down to you. There's a sort of compulsion here. They'd been slaves to sin. They had been captive to Satan. And now they are drawn, drawn to Jehovah. As these nations are drawn in, they find that it is a drawing to blessing. They forsake their idols. They get rid of their rebellion against Zion's king. And they come in confession that the living and true God is the only One. How does such a thing happen? Only by the work of the Spirit of God. As it is for individuals, so it is for nations. They cannot change themselves. We can't change our hearts. But God, the Holy Spirit, can. As He takes the benefits that Christ has purchased with His life, death, and resurrection, and applies those benefits to people, to families, to nations -- they are transformed. Captives and slaves are gotten by swords of steel. But these captives of Jesus Christ, these servants of the Master, are brought in by the sword of God's Word. The Spirit of God works to save individuals. He works to revive the church of Jesus Christ in lands where it is planted. And He works to transform and reform societies so that they are lined up no longer with different and varying idolatries, but so that they are lined up with the Bible. This isn't the flattery of prophets, this is the Word of God, and as such, it will happen!

Questions

- 1. Why do we know the promise in this verse will happen?
- 2. What does Jesus tell us to do at the end of the book of Matthew?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon the nations.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 12 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Thursday - Isaiah 45:15-17 - The Hidden Revealed

We've just seen God speaking through Isaiah to tell of the salvation of nations as they yield allegiance to the Mediatorial King. Such a thing, humanly speaking, would be thought incredible, and many would think in unbelief that not even God could do such a thing. Yet, He works in ways not seen, and shows not His hand until the right time. He then displays all the wonders of His wisdom, power, and glory. Such is seen in the deliverance of sinners, a thing unknown to the nations and peoples until the Gospel came to them in the time of Christ. Such is seen in the deliverance of those lost in folly, in futility, in sin, whether they be individuals, societies, or nations. There are times when even believers think that they cannot see Him, and feel abandoned. Nonetheless, He is with them, and far nearer than they think or feel. As we'll see soon, no one truly seeks Him in vain. Perhaps He has been hidden to you all along. He reveals Himself to you now in His Word and by His Son. See now your sin, and see His rescue! Believe on Jesus and live.

The idols and their worshippers filled the nations then and fill them now. They think that they shall have gods that they can control, can understand, can appease, and that their own wills and desires shall come to pass. They think they shall be esteemed, they shall have the riches, they shall have the abundance, they shall have the power, they shall have the homage of all around! All, of course, who look to anyone or anything to give meaning, to give morals, to give happiness, other than the living and true Triune God are idolaters. This is even though their god is invisible and immaterial. This is even though their idol may be an idea. These idols only lead eventually to shame and to death!

In contrast to verse 16, we have promises here in verse 17 to the true Israel of God. They shall be saved by the LORD, God in the Covenant of Grace, secured by His Covenant Head, the Lord Jesus Christ. It was, is, and shall be an everlasting salvation. It is not probationary and liable to failure on the part of God or man; it is not one limited to this life or to the life to come; it is not subject to decay or to revocation. It is secured by Christ's person and work once and for all time and eternity!

Questions

- 1. What should we do if we feel like God is hiding Himself from us?
- 2. Why is idolatry foolish?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that God will never leave His people.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 13 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Friday - Isaiah 45:18-19 - God Reveals Himself

In Isaiah's day, God was hidden, and He had intentionally done that. He had kept His people separate from the world, and the world from His people. But there was to be a time when He who hid Himself from the world would be gloriously shown forth. We see Him revealing Himself to the world as the God who creates in verse 18. The glory, the beauty, the splendor of the earth about us is all, as He says here, created by Him, arranged by Him, maintained by His hand. That is an encouragement to us to remind us that what He has said, He is able to do. He did not create it in vain. All was done with a purpose. And it continues that way. In God's everlasting eternal purposes there has been a plan to redeem a people to Himself. Who else has done such things? God has done all this, and there is no other.

This God who creates is also the God who speaks. God reveals Himself in what He says and what He does. What He does sets the context for what He speaks. And what He speaks gives the interpretation and meaning of what He does. We are always to interpret God's works by God's word and not the other way around. To his people, God has given a revelation of Himself in a far more glorious way than in the creation. He has given us a revelation in His Word of all that we need to know for life and godliness. He has not spoken in secret.

We saw in verse 18 that He said He did not create the universe in vain. And here's something else that He has not done in vain. He has not said to the people of God, He has not said to his children, 'Seek me in vain'. The believer may experience times, limited times, where, because of the believer's own sin, or, like in the case of Job, because of some other good purpose of God, it seems like God has abandoned him. But the believer must take this to heart that God never has said to His people, 'Seek me in vain'. If you're caught in some sort of sin, a black cloud of God's fatherly displeasure may blot out your sight of Him for a time. It may be that you come to a point of mere despair because you think that God is turning all things against you. You may be tempted by the devil speaking in your ear to think, 'He must not want me. He must not care for me'. It's a lie. God never did, never does, never will say, 'Seek me in vain'. He is the God who saves. He will be found. Jesus Himself says, 'I will not cast you out.' Believe on Him, and you shall find, indeed, that your seeking is not in vain!

Question

1. What does creation tell us about God?

Prayer Points

- 1. Give thanks that God promises to be found by those who truly seek Him.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 14 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.



Saturday - Isaiah 45:20-21 - Let's Talk

Again, our context here demands that we look far beyond deliverance from Babylon, to the great deliverance from a far greater Enemy in a more distant time - the deliverance of the nations from idolatry and sin by the Gospel of Christ. These, then, are they whom God invites, or perhaps demands, to come to speak to Him and to hear Him. Note that God does not say to stay away. He goes to them, and He calls them to Himself in their sin, to deliver them from their sin. See how they are characterised - as those who are spiritually blinded, ignorant, and foolish. What could they be thinking, to trust in some wooden thing that hasn't power even to move itself? Yet, God calls such to come to Him to set forth their case.

God invites, yes, commands, yes, defies the nations to bring forth their case. He knows it cannot stand. Their gods, that cannot stand or move, cannot show that they even know the past or future. They cannot interpret it or bring things to pass. They could not then, cannot now, and never shall be able to. Even should they band together, they are all resting upon nonsense, so all should and shall fall. Their conspiring together will prosper no further than the nations in Psalm 2 coming together against the Mediatorial King.

In the second part of verse 21 it is time for those nations and peoples to listen. Their own time of talking has been a total failure. None of the gods of the nations have been able to declare anything, let alone do anything. They lead only to destruction and death. In contrast Jehovah has created all and sustains all. He is the One Who shows Himself holy. He is the covenant God. He is the One Who, in Christ, is both just and justifier of those who have faith in Jesus (Romans 3:26)!

Questions

- 1. How are the idols described?
- 2. How does God describe Himself?

Prayer Points

- 1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of $\operatorname{\mathsf{God}}\nolimits\text{'s}$ Word tomorrow.
- 2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
- 3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." Isaiah 45:22

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 15 - 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.