

Let's Worship God

26th-31st August 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 45:22-25 - Look to Me

After all this grand chapter, we come to this conclusion -- rather a summing up of sorts. Jehovah God has shown His glory in many ways and contrasted it with the impotence of the idols. He now says, "Look to me and be saved, all you ends of earth." He speaks now to all these lands filled with those who are in spiritual darkness. He now speaks kindly, graciously, inviting them to look to Him for salvation, to look to His Saviour Whom He provides. "For I am God and there is no other, there is no salvation in any one or anything else."

He goes on to say, "I have sworn by myself". Here we see covenant faithfulness. When it comes to the promise of almighty God, when it comes to the good news that Christ Jesus has come into the world to save sinners, it is not too good to be true. He says, "I have sworn by myself. It is my settled purpose, my settled holy declaration."

This God declares further that all whom He has chosen, all whom He calls to Himself, shall be in submission to Himself. Every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath. All shall be in submission to Him one way or another. Many there are who have responded and who do respond, and who shall yet respond: "I wa guilty, but in the Lord I have righteousness. I was weak and helpless. Yes, I was dead in my trespasses and sins. But in the Lord I have strength."

In verse 25, all the descendants of Israel shall be justified and glory. This is referring to the people of God, the true Israel. In Jesus, their Saviour, is justification. All who believe in Him have their sins forgiven completely and totally. Have you ever been oppressed with a sense of your guilt? Have you ever feared that God, if He dealt justly with you, might cast you into hell? And do you grieve, longing for a relationship with Him? Do not run away. Look to Jesus Christ. Then you shall experience the glory, the wonder, the splendor of having that great weight fall off your back that threatened to sink you into hell. Look to him and you shall glory.

Questions

1. What does God call the people to do?
2. What does it mean that God has sworn by Himself?

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

"Even to your old age I am he, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." Isaiah 46:4

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 16 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 46:1-4 - The Gods of the World

We see here particularly exhortation to the people of the nations to forsake their idols, to forsake the things that they have made with their hands or with their imaginations, and turn to the living and true God. We see the contrast of the gods of the world with the living and true God. In the first two verses, we see the vanity, the uselessness of the gods of the world. These Babylonian gods Bel and Nebo can't even keep themselves in the same place. Left to themselves, they fall over. If they need to be taken somewhere for a celebration, they're put on a cart, pulled along by some oxen or carried by some beast. If the idol be heavy, it is a burden to the poor beast. All this work, all this effort, all this labour is for something that can't even take care of itself, let alone its worshippers. Instead of being a great help and blessing, it's an exhausting burden. And all idols are this way; they always bring disappointment and death. In the gods of the world, there is no mercy. There is no grace. It's really a tyranny. Why do the people of this world seek for idols? Why do they go to all this great effort for nothing? Because scarier to them and heavier to them is their weight of guilt before the living and true God, before Jehovah, whom they hate. The Lord Jesus Christ offers Himself as the relief and rest to burdened sinners and idolaters.

These rich looking gods, heavy and burdensome and useless, must be carried about by their worshippers and can do no good. But in contrast to this, Jehovah God, in grace, carries us. We can say through old age, He bears us up. Bel and Nebo can't bear themselves up. We who are in Christ Jesus, we who have God for our Father, must listen to no other. Though many try to entice us, God alone speaks and God alone carries us, sustains us, and carries us through. No false god can do this. We may have problems in this life, things that make us hurt, things that make us sad, things that make us scared sometimes. God will never abandon us, even to our old age. Let us look to Him and to Him alone, for there is no other.

Questions

1. Why are idols so foolish?
2. What does God promise in these verses?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

“Even to your old age I am he, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” Isaiah 46:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 17 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 46:5-13 - The Comparison

Look around and compare - there is none like Jehovah. Open your eyes and hearts to Him (v.5)!

Verses 6-7 describe the different idols. Much of this is like what was said in verses 1-2. Notice how much effort and resources idolaters waste then and now. The idols do nothing - useful or otherwise.

The true God shines forth in verses 8-13 - give heed! He has been tested by His past doings - verses 8-9. Can He not, will He not work now? He shows His will is sovereign and effective in verses 10-11. He shows this especially in bringing righteousness in Christ to many in all the nations (verses 12-13).

Questions

1. What do idols waste?
2. Why is it helpful to look at what God has done in the past?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

“Even to your old age I am he, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” Isaiah 46:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 18 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 47:1-6 - The Destruction of the Ungodly

We look here at the effect of judgment on Babylon. The ungodly are often honoured. In Isaiah's day, the kingdom of Babylon was gaining in honour. But as we read here, back in those days, and ever since, and even now, they come to disgrace and contempt. King Jesus allows them for a time to be at ease. King Jesus allows them for a time to sit in the seat of power. But they will be cast down to sit in the dust, as we see in verse one. King Jesus allows them for a time to have a worldly and temporary glory. But we read in verses 2-3 that they shall be shamed. No longer are they exalted, no longer are they glorious. No longer are they ones to whom others bow. No, they bow over the milling equipment. They are left, at best, in rags, and totally at the mercy of their masters.

How do we know that such a thing could happen to wicked, powerful nations, then and today, that seem to be ranged against Christ and against His church? In the last half of verse three and in verse four we see that God's every intention is to vindicate His people, to take vengeance for His people's sake. There is no one who can get away from Him, no one who can find a secret hideout. There is no one who can buy Him off. Upon the wicked, there's no pity, there's no compassion, there is no mercy. God toward the wicked is just, utterly just. And God is fair, giving them no more than they deserve, and at the same time, giving them no less than they deserve.

On the other hand, there are those upon whom God has decided to be merciful, to be gracious to. It's not that His justice is relaxed. No, for justice is fully satisfied by Jesus taking their place, living in their place to give them righteousness, dying in their place to take away the debt from their sin, and then raised from the dead, having accomplished it all.

In verse six we see the reason for this destruction to come upon Babylon. God's people were unfaithful, and so that provoked God's heavy discipline. God used Babylon to discipline His people. But Babylon, instead of seeking the glory of God, sought its own glory. Babylon ended up being cruel and harsh in many ways, afflicting even the elderly, which God hates. Babylon would go far beyond what God revealed to them, and the end would be destruction.

Questions

1. What would happen to Babylon?
2. Why was Babylon destroyed?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for God's care of His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Even to your old age I am he, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." Isaiah 46:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 19 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 47:7-15 - Sins of the Ungodly

These are grim sounding words. But this is what comes upon the ungodly. This is talking about the end of Babylon which would come in 200 years. But as we've seen, there is a bigger context; we are looking at God's deliverance from a far greater evil, the evil of sin. It would be through a great deliverer, the Lord Jesus Christ, that sin would be chased away from the nations.

In verses 7-8 we see pride and self-righteousness. Babylon drives away all thought of any judgment of God for sin. Babylon proudly says, "Nothing can possibly happen to me". However, that is not the case at all. We find this pride, this self assurance, in all sorts of lands and peoples today who assume that all things will continue as they are. But we see throughout history that nations rise and fall, and they will continue to do so until our Lord Jesus comes back. Babylon is setting herself up in the throne of God. She is saying of King Jesus, "I will not have this man to reign over me." This is a viewpoint of nations all over the place, even in our own day. God not only gave power to Babylon but gave Babylon great riches. And we see the misuse of this affluence in verses 7-8. They are enslaved to pleasure and ease; righteousness and holiness must be tossed out the window.

In verses nine and ten, we see what comes of all the misuse of power, riches, and influence - the loss of children and widowhood. Both will happen, and all at once. The reason for this is that they trusted in their wickedness instead of yielding in repentance to King Jesus. They thought they had wisdom and knowledge. But instead of giving glory to God, they thought of themselves and trusted in themselves as the ones who would deliver themselves.

We see Babylon's folly in verses 11-13. They are trusting in something that God hates, divination and astrology, and yet, it can tell them nothing.

In verses 14-15 we see that those who defy king Jesus will burn up like stubble in an unstoppable fire. All those who had been doing business with Babylon and bringing in riches, when trouble came, didn't try to help. They just got out of the way, like people running away from a fire. Sins of the ungodly bring judgment. It is trusting in the Saviour and the King that brings life.

Question

1. How does Babylon act?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would put our trust in Jesus and not in ourselves.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Even to your old age I am he, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save." Isaiah 46:4

Praise: Psalm 119: Part 20 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 48:1-2 - Unworthy Called Ones

In these two verses we have the unworthy called ones. Jehovah acknowledges that they look to Him formally in the covenant of grace. And what does that mean? They call upon Him in the covenant of grace to look upon them and to judge them and to bring them to discipline if there be need. Now for the godly, the true Israel of God, this is a heartfelt desire. Are you in Jesus Christ, and does this not ring true in your life? Do you not desire to be Christlike? Do you not wish for an end to sin in your life? We read here that they make mention of Him. That is, they speak about Him one to another. This is something that we who are Christians do often, do we not? We delight to speak of the things of God, don't we? And it says here that the people of Israel lean or rest upon Him, at least outwardly. They seem to see that their trust cannot be in riches. They fly away. Their trust cannot be in their health, because that can fail. Their trust is not ultimately in their own strength, for they find that it becomes weak. There is no trust in anything ultimately, but in looking to Jehovah through His only begotten son, the Lord Jesus Christ. There in verse two, they are called, or they call themselves by the holy city. The holy city was the place where the king dwelt, the king who was the covenant head of his people, the king who protected them, the king who saved them from their enemies, even as our mediatorial King delivers us from far greater enemies, and from the greatest enemy of all, our own sin.

But there were many, sadly, who did all this merely in an outward fashion. There were many in Isaiah's day, and there are many today, who profess to be believers whose religious exercises are fake. Outwardly they may look good. Outwardly they may believe they are spiritual, but they are fake and hypocritical. And God makes this quite clear here. They do not do all this in truth. It's not done from the heart. If you've been acting religiously, and that's all there is to it, the blessings of being in covenant with God are not for you, but they may be. If you will turn to Jesus, forsake your fakery, turn away from your treason, turn to Jesus Christ, put your trust in him, He will give you the blessing of being His.

Questions

1. What are signs of being a Christian?
2. What was wrong with the people described here?

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

“Even to your old age I am he, and to grey hairs I will carry you. I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and will save.” Isaiah 46:4

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 21 - 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.

If you have any queries please contact - rpchurchscotland@gmail.com