

Let's Worship God

2nd-7th September 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 48:3-8 - Prophecies For The Unworthy

We've seen that the people of God, the ones who professed to be His, were in very many ways unworthy. God in His goodness, God in His kindness to His people, gives them prophecies. We see in verses 3-5 prophecies in the past. Every single thing that God prophesied, every single thing that He promised to His people, came to pass. All this, of course, shows God's sovereign power. He is able to do all things that He has determined. Further, it shows God's sovereign knowledge and wisdom, for He is not only able, but He knows how to bring all this to pass, and in a way that shows His glory and is consistent with His holy nature.

Why was it that God uttered these prophecies to these people? Why didn't He just bring them to pass? Well, He explains here in these verses, particularly in verses four and five. The people, had God not said anything, would have sought glory for themselves and claimed that all was done by their hand. They were obstinate. They didn't want to bow down to God. They didn't want to listen to God. They would make up gods that they liked better than the living and true God, gods who were more easy to manage and get control over than Jehovah, and they would follow after the nations and give all glory and credit to these fake gods.

God goes on to speak to the people in verses six through eight. He wants to keep them from saying, 'I knew that. I knew that.' No, you didn't. God confounds the pride of man, and He acts unlike the utterly powerless idols that can't even keep themselves standing up straight.

Often enough, because of things going on in the world or things going on in your own life, you are discouraged. But this same God who has fulfilled all His promises, the same God who has brought to pass all these prophecies, has not taken back a single promise from you or His church. But as He said in Isaiah's day, so it is still the case. He brings His will to pass in an instant, in ways and in manners unlooked for. Do not despair. Yes, you're unworthy. Yes, you deserve much less, but it does not depend upon you – and thank God that it doesn't. All is *in* Jesus. All has been earned by Jesus. All shall be brought to pass *through* Jesus.

Questions

1. What does prophecy tell us about God?
2. What can encourage us when we look at things God has done in the past?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

“Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;” Isaiah 48:18

Praise: Psalm 119:Part 22 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 48:9-11 - God's Mercy for the Unworthy

We see in these verses God's mercy for the unworthy, for even those who were of the Israel of God, even those who were the remnant, and even the true church of Jesus Christ today must confess and have been brought by the Holy Spirit to see that they were unworthy both in Isaiah's time, and that they are unworthy today.

In verse 9, we see God's goal set forth here. We see why it is that God extends mercy. God's love is not based on who we are or what we have. Good thing, isn't it? For what we are is despicable sinners. And what do we have, spiritually speaking? We are bankrupt. It is because God is loving and merciful and gracious and kind that there is any hope at all. He says here that He does all for His name's sake. He does all for His praise. It's for this reason then, and this alone, that He restrains himself, and He deals not with us as we have offended. He has made covenant promises that all judicial punishment has been laid upon the Saviour Whom He has provided.

God says here in verse 9 that He restrains His anger. But a time has just been in the days of Isaiah where there was great affliction. Though God stopped the Assyrians, it was hard, and an even more powerful pagan power was coming. If God's will restrain His anger, and if punishment has been put upon Jesus, why this affliction? That's what God's people said. And do not people say that today? Why does God allow this to happen? We see in verse 10 that God causes difficulty, pain, and affliction for His people. God says here that He's refined us. He's tested us in the furnace of affliction. Yet we have the assurance, friends, as God's people did of old, that God is being glorified, and He has wise, holy, and good reasons for our affliction, and that we shall in and by His grace in Christ get less of the affliction than we deserve, more of blessing than we do not deserve, and more Christ-likeness.

In verse 11 we see again that God does this for His own sake, for the sake of His holy name. He will not, as He says here, allow His name to be polluted by the heathen, gloating over His supposed weakness. And so our affliction cannot, will not, go on forever. Nothing has ever been able to assail successfully the Church of Jesus Christ, nor will He allow anyone else to share His glory, be they people, angels, idols, or any other creature.

Questions

1. What is God's goal?
2. Why does God bring affliction into the life of the believer?

Prayer Points

1. Pray for those in the congregation who are afflicted will ill health.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;” Isaiah 48:18

Praise: Psalm 120 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 48:12-16 - Jesus Frees His People

Here we see God declaring that there is One coming Who shall free His people. In verse 12 God does not say: 'Go away. I've had enough of you.' No, He says to a people who yet have sin, He says to these who are truly His, He says to these whom He has loved from eternity, 'Listen to me'. Here, in Isaiah's day, it is just the same as it is in our day, when God says, 'Listen'; those who are His, whether they have been dead in sin or not, heed. He calls them to listen, and He calls them, calls you, His own. We are His possession. We are His precious ones. We are loved by Him. What a wonderful thing to think about for Christians who see themselves, quite properly, as so weak, and so cold, and so sinful! Be assured, the love you wish you had for Christ is nothing compared to the love which He has for you, a love which has known you through and through, a love which has seen everything about you and has been set upon you nonetheless by the God who does not change.

Even as there is a great enemy in Babylon who will be destroyed through the king of Persia, Cyrus, in a far greater way, there is a great enemy, sin, which will be destroyed by a far greater deliverer, the King of kings, the Lord Jesus Christ. We see Him clearly portrayed in verse 12. Jesus is called the First and Last in many places in the Bible but especially in Revelation. Jesus is King of His people. In verse 13 God speaks of the fact that Jesus has made all things. Jesus' reach is vast, His plan is wise, and He is powerful. He uses all things for the sake of His people, whom He loves. He can make all things obey Him. What wise men of the nations have been able to do any of this? Jehovah loves His Christ, and that is why He loves you, believer, because you are united to Him by faith in His Person and in His Work.

Powerful nations are nothing before the One Who is able to deliver His people. When God says that there is to be an end of wickedness, there is to be freedom for My people, Christ is the One Who brings it to pass. Jesus is able to do all. Jesus in that day freed His people; Jesus in our day continues to do so.

Questions

1. Who is described in these verses?
2. Why can we have confidence in Christ?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

“Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;” Isaiah 48:18

Praise: Psalm 121 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 48:17 - I Am The LORD

God's names reflect something of His character. His name, LORD, or Jehovah, refers to the fact that He is eternal, everlasting, and unchanging. It is related to the Hebrew verb meaning 'I am'. He changes not. God is a God of covenant. He stoops to man, binding man to Himself and He to man in a gracious way. When God shows His glory to Moses, He calls Himself LORD or Jehovah, and says, "The LORD, the LORD, a God, merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and fourth generation." (Exodus 34:6-7) That is the name of the LORD. That is all in the covenant of grace.

When God says He is the LORD your God, this should remind us of the start of the Ten Commandments. He's talking about the fact that He is delivering them and shall yet deliver them for His sake, not for theirs, for His own glory, out of His grace.

He is the Redeemer. In Israel's day, if you had lost something like your land or your house because you were bankrupt, one related to you could buy it back for you. Christ is our Redeemer, for we have bankrupted ourselves. We owe God an infinity for the sin that we have committed against Him, and we have nothing to give to Him. But one comes, Immanuel -- God with us. For He is of us. He is truly God and truly man, the Mediator. He comes, not with silver, not with gold, but with His blood and His body, He has redeemed us, bought back life and light, and made us to be the children of God.

He is the Holy One of Israel. He is utterly set apart from his creation, and utterly opposed to sin. His very name, Jesus, means Jehovah saves. How do we get that salvation? We do what He says. And He says, 'Call on me. Come to me'. Believe on Him as the one whom God sent to save, to rescue, to deliver.

The Holy Spirit who now lives within us makes us to be more and more like Jesus. Through His Word we learn more and more of God's holiness and our own sin and inability. We learn more and more of the glory of His redemption, and we come to see how His promises are great and precious. He gives us a desire for holiness. He leads His people out of the deadly way of trusting in anything else but the Lord their God. God gives this all to us in Jesus.

Question

1. What is the meaning of some of these names of God?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the Holy Spirit leads us through the Word.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

"Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;" Isaiah 48:18

Praise: Psalm 122 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 48:18-22 - Blessing and Freedom

What are some of these promised things in these verses for the people of God? We see here peace like a river. When we are justified by faith, we have that peace with God (Romans 5:1). This peace is bought for us, bought at the price of Christ's broken body and shed blood. Then we see the promise here of righteousness, like the waves of the sea. If one is righteous before the law, one is innocent. The opposite of this is being guilty. Jesus, by His perfect life on our account, has given us His righteousness, and at the cross died for our guilt. The waves and the depths of Christ's righteousness overwhelms the mountain of guilt that you or I may have piled up when we come to Him, confessing our sins, and seeking His forgiveness. For those who are not truly the people of God, who may claim to be Christians, but have no saving knowledge of Christ, these promises are not for them.

God does bring deliverance. And here is the promise that God would deliver the people some 200 years later from Babylon. Here is the call for them to flee from the land of their affliction, their land of their exile, and flee to Him, to true freedom in Him, as we see in verses 20 through 22. Babylon is also a type of this world. 200 years from when these verses were written, it would be that Babylon would no longer be able to hold the people of God. In the same manner as with the coming of Jesus Christ, the world can no longer hold the people of God captive. The gates of Hell cannot stand up against Jesus Christ, against His Church. It's high time to flee, to flee from bondage and flee to freedom in Jesus. God's people must yet be fleeing from that which keeps them from Christ and His Word. What is the freedom that we are given? What is the freedom to which we are delivered in order to go forth to proclaim to the end of the earth? For believers, there is freedom from sin and wickedness, and freedom to live in joy and in peace, in contentment, in Christ. But the chapter ends with a warning to hypocrites -- these blessings, this freedom is not for them. They're the enemies of Christ and shall receive the justice that their wickedness demands.

Questions

1. What blessings are promised here?
2. What should we flee from?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would tell others of the freedom in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

“Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;” Isaiah 48:18

Praise: Psalm 123 - See www.rpgglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 49:1-3 - God's Servant for the Nations

We will look now directly to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of the clearest prophecies of Christ's coming will be in these next few chapters. Who is this of Whom this passage speaks? Is it Isaiah? Well, as we continue through the rest of the chapter, we can see it can't possibly be – Isaiah never did these things. It is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Saviour not only for Israel, He is the Saviour for the nations. And this is why He calls out to them here in verse one. Why do we need to listen? Why do we need such a deliverer and such a Saviour? Who can make us right with God? Well, the only one who can is the Lord Jesus Christ, who became a real man. He was eternally God and continues to be. He became a man as well, and that's what He continues to be.

God did not merely call Him, but He was prepared as well. Throughout the Scripture we see the Word of God identified as a sword, and in verse 2 we see this sword again. Not only does his mouth become a sharp sword, but in the shadow of God's hand He has been hidden and made like a polished arrow. In the Old Testament He was, in a sense, hidden and only revealed to Israel by means of the prophets and by the types and shadows. And like an arrow Jesus pierces the hearts of enemies (Psalm 45). Some He conquers, some He brings to conversion. Every one of us who are in Jesus Christ have had our old hearts, our hard hearts, our cold hearts, our hearts of stone, our hearts of sin, our hearts of death pierced.

We see in verse 3 that He is commissioned by God. His commission is to glorify God. And how does He do that? By saving His people from their sin and destroying the wicked. At one time, Israel was the name of the one who struggled with God for the blessing (Genesis 32:24-32). How appropriate that this One should be also named Israel. He is the One who, far more than Jacob, struggles with God there at the cross and prevails. He struggles and does not let go, unlike you and I would have done. He struggles and He prevails, and He brings a blessing not for Himself, for the people whom He has loved from and into eternity.

Questions

1. How is Jesus like an arrow?
2. How is Jesus like Jacob?

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

“Oh that you had paid attention to my commandments! Then your peace would have been like a river, and your righteousness like the waves of the sea;” Isaiah 48:18

Praise: Psalm 124 - 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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