

Let's Worship God

16th-21st September 2024

Isaiah



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Monday - Isaiah 50:1-3 - The Need for the Saviour

The sad fact is that believers stray. When we are separated away from God, it is we who have left Him, not He, us. And that is primarily being spoken of here. Have we been cast off by God? Has he just said, "Well, I'm tired of my people?" No, it's not that way at all. Is there a separation? Well, then, who moved? God says, "You have been very wicked in your sin, but I have not cut off covenant with you. You have betrayed the covenant in many ways, but I have been faithful to it and to you. So if you're claiming that I've divorced you, if you're claiming that I got rid of you, come up with the paper of divorce. I cannot, I will not, ever go back on my promise, never will go back on my covenant with my people, for it is secured in the blood of my Son."

God owns all things. He does not have to sell off his children. He has not cast off his children. Therefore He can bring them back to Himself anytime He desires. So what has sent away the wife? What has taken captive the children? It is their sin that has them as prisoners. It's sin that has led them all away, sin that has degraded them. It is because of the sin of the people of God, not God saying, "Well, I'm tired of you. I'm getting rid of you."

Verse 2 is a picture of a man who has been away for a while. He comes home expecting that his wife and children will be ready for him. But there is nobody there. His wife has abandoned him. It is not that God has not abandoned His bride or His children. Rather, it's His people who have abandoned Him. And sadly, this is what we do whenever we yield to sin.

Is God unable to do anything about this? He has power to save. His hand is not shortened. He can rescue His people from their sin. He can bring them to safety from the danger of their iniquity. He has sent One to redeem and save. In verse three, he reminds Judah and Jerusalem of His power in the sea and in the air. And as we read this, we ought to be thinking, oh, these are things that remind us of God's deliverance of His people in Egypt. God was able to deliver His people from their bondage, their slavery to the Egyptians. Long ago, God had that power, and He has shown it again in our Saviour, many years after Isaiah wrote this.

Question

1. Who has done the leaving in these verses?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is mighty to save.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Praise: Psalm 131- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 50:4-9 - The Willing Saviour

God is able to deliver from the greatest enemies of this life and the greatest enemy of all: sin. But is He willing? In these verses God is showing forth a willing Saviour. First, we see in verses four and five that He is a willing preacher. Jesus had the mouth taught of His Father. He did not use merely His own words. Jesus Himself says so in John 7:15-17. He was given the words, He was given the teaching. But not only does He speak the Word of God, He is the Word of God. We see also in verse five that not only is His mouth open to declare God's praises and to show forth His will, but His ear is open to the Father. And it is because of that He speaks what He is told. He speaks of God's holiness, He speaks of man's sinfulness, He speaks of God's justice, He speaks of God's grace, and He speaks of the fulfilling of all of it in His own Person and work. Let us thank Jesus for being our willing preacher, our willing **Prophet**.

In verses six and seven we see He is the willing sufferer. Look what He had to bear through much of His life, that agony that He endured in Gethsemane, the false trial, the physical and spiritual abuse that He had from the hands of the Jews and the Romans, His agony on the cross and His shameful death. He willingly, He determinedly went, knowing what was coming, knowing what was ahead. He went to endure the wrath of His father, not for anything that He had done, but because He willingly took upon Himself the guilt of all His people and the wrath due to it. This is our willing sufferer, our willing **Priest**.

In verses eight and nine we have the willing conqueror. His strength and power is exercised to deliver us from our strong enemy of sin. He is above all nations. He reigns over all. For God has made Him His King, as the Mediator, as the God-man. No one can condemn Him. There is no one who can contend with Him. All who seek to destroy Him and His people are utter failures. He is the willing conqueror who has come to rescue us and to save, and who brings all things under Himself. He is indeed our willing conqueror, our willing **King**.

Questions

1. How is Christ a willing preacher?
2. How was Christ a willing sufferer?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for Christ's willingness to save.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Praise: Psalm 132 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 50:10-11 - Life and Death

Verse 10 speaks to believers, those who have been trusting in and on the Saviour by God's grace, but they have darkness. In God's good providence, believers have difficult times. They have affliction with their neighbours or with others. They go through physical difficulties. Things can be very dark, sometimes downright scary. There can be worry and concern. You can be tempted to think: "Why is God doing this to me?" You may be enduring darkness spiritually. There are many to whom Satan comes, and he whispers in their ear: "How can God love you?" And you begin to doubt. There can be financial difficulties too. Why do these things happen? Well, sometimes believers sin. It's sometimes the effect of those sins or the sins of the church, as a whole, that bring them low. Or there are times when we just don't know why it happens, as in Job's case. But we have the assurance in God's Word that believers are never cast away altogether. What is the solution? Where is there help for the believer who is in dark times? It's here in verse 10: "Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God." Trust in Him who has sent the Prophet to speak to you when all is darkness and silence. Trust in Him who has sent the Priest to atone for you, and who is even now interceding for you. Trust in the King to deliver you, even though you feel like you are in a prison with darkness that can be felt. Trust in Him when the dark times come. The Saviour is the light of the world. Trust in Him who does all things well.

There were many others in Judah and Jerusalem who professed to be the Lord's, but who were trusting in other things. We sadly know many of those in the world. Then there are those who are perhaps more honest. They want nothing to do with the Church of Jesus Christ. Verse 11 is an entirely different proposition for these who think: "I can take care of things myself". They seek to get a little light, what light they can from what they themselves can think up or do. They'll shake the fist in God's face. They'll say, "I'll show you". And onward they try to go. The sad fact is that whatever they bring forth leads to oppression and further darkness and death. What light are you trusting in? Are you trusting in the light of your own strength, your own wisdom, your own efforts to get you through the darkness? Or do you see that there is no hope in anything, anyone but Jesus?

Question

1. What should believers do in dark times?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Praise: Psalm 133 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 51:1-6 - The Great Salvation To Come

The great salvation to come is the subject here. Those who have the light of the world, though they be in personal darkness, have here a word of great encouragement. By His grace, they seek the Lord, and this word is for them. It's for you, people of God, you who have been enabled to see Jesus, the light of the world. Just like a statue can't make itself magically appear, but a sculptor must carve it out, Abraham and Sarah were brought forth by God's sovereign grace, and to them strong promises were made. God in His goodness called Abraham out of a pit of sin, and He gave them promises that continue to stand today. This same God is both able and willing to save his people. These are past mercies that are historical facts.

In verse three, we look at the future. The future, humanly speaking, for Judah and Jerusalem looks rather grim. The spiritual state of the people was bleak. But God says here, it will not be that way forever. Just as in the past, I rescued in mercy Abraham and Sarah from their idolatry, so I will comfort Zion. I will make her wilderness like Eden, and the desert like the garden of the Lord. Past mercies from Him who does not change guarantee mercies to come. It's because of God's faithfulness to His covenant, it's because of His past action that the future is assured. Here is the guarantee of restoration, and a restoration that is a marvelous one. It guarantees a day where there is no sin, no darkness, no death. It is a restoration that shall come through the Lord Jesus Christ who will restore all things to their unfallen state and to the glory of His Father.

In verses four to six we see that the mercies will not be merely for Judah and Jerusalem, not merely for Israel, but for all the peoples of the lands. We see in verse four the law going to the nations. And as the law goes out to them, it is really the going forth of the gospel to them. They shall trust in Him who fulfilled the law for all who come to Him in faith. The heavens and earth shall pass away, but the promise here of mercy to the nations in Jesus Christ shall not pass away. Mercy shall go forth to the nations. Mercy shall go forth to the ends of the earth.

Question

1. What are the promises of these verses?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the gospel will go out to the nations.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Praise: Psalm 134 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 51:7-10 - Do Not Be Afraid

God says first: 'Listen to me. This is important. I want you to grasp hold of it.' To whom is He speaking? He's speaking to true believers. What does he say about them? First, they know righteousness. Righteousness is being innocent toward God's law. The only way we can have true righteousness -- and we need righteousness to make ourselves right with God -- is by having it as a gift from someone else. That Someone else is the Lord Jesus Christ. It's received by faith. These people have new hearts, and they love and delight in the law of God. Their Saviour exhorts them here not to fear the reproach of men, people who seek to destroy them and tear them down. Man is like grass, like a flower of the field. He grows up, and then he's cut down. Don't fear him. For there is One Who loves you and holds you as precious, Who will uphold you, and will come to deliver. These ones that seem so powerful, so mighty, seem as if they're going to always be there, and they shall prevail, are like a wool sweater eaten by moths. God does this in all sorts of ways where mighty empires and mighty men that people thought would stand forever and perhaps engulf them are gone. Our God has not changed, nor have His ways, His power, His might, His grace, and His kindness to His people. They never change.

Why does Isaiah call on God to awake? We might say it is holy boldness on Isaiah's part. Sometimes when we are very discouraged, and when we have been waiting long for a blessing from God, it can seem as though God is asleep. It can seem as though He can't or won't hear us. Jesus encourages us in the story about the unjust judge, the story about the widow who persisted, to keep on praying with the assurance that God does hear us, and He will act in the proper time. The one who is called upon to awake will do such, and He has done. He heard the cries of His people in Egypt long ago. And at the right time, He acted. Egypt is sometimes called Rahab, the serpent. It is God who cut them to pieces in many ways through the ten plagues that He sent. He dried up the sea, so the people could go through. This God who did all that, delivers us the same. The greatest enemy of all He has defeated, and that is sin. The last enemy is assured of destruction, and that is death. What is man that we should be afraid of him? Our Lord Jesus Christ reigned in Isaiah's day, and He reigns in ours.

Question

1. Why should we not be afraid of men?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is reigning over all things.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Praise: Psalm 135- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 51:11-16 - Fear Not!

We see here in verse twelve that it is Jehovah Himself Who comforts, and He does it emphatically. He's wanting to make it very, very evident that this is His gracious and kind work, through the Redeemer Who is to come, of comforting His people. It is not somebody trying just to make the best of a bad situation. It is Jehovah Who comforts. And how does He do this? Well, first, He gives comfort by these very words of verse 11. God's people don't need come sneaking in. No, they come in in triumph and in joy. It was because of sin the people were exiled to Babylon. But the very fact that they are coming, singing with joy and with gladness, reflects the fact that they receive forgiveness and redemption by sovereign grace that leads them back to their land. But even more this is looking to the coming of the everlasting Zion. This is looking to coming to a place and a time where there is everlasting joy, sorrow and sighing fleeing away entirely. And by God's grace, we are all closer to it than once we were. The bride of Christ is closer to the day of her wedding than she has been before.

Difficulty was ahead. We read about that in verse twelve. Yet they were told not to yield to fear or despair. We have the same adversaries, the same apparent dangers, and the same strong Deliverer. In His right time, He shall conquer and vindicate us. It's all too easy to see forces of oppression before us. However, when we look at them, as God is saying there in verse 13, we forget Him Who has created all things. We must confess that we don't understand why He allows things to happen the way they do in particular. But we do know that He allows nothing outside of His plan. What we do know and what He calls on us to remember is, first, that He's entirely able to deliver His people. There's no lack of strength, no lack of power, no lack of ability. He is able to deliver us from every oppression and every difficulty. He can deliver us from threats from the outside, from threats on the inside, and from threats within ourselves. Christ is not only able to deliver, but altogether willing. His hand is not forced. It is not done grudgingly. He delights to deliver from death.

What are the results of the rescue? God gives us His Word and makes it dwell in our hearts. We are covered and shielded from God's wrath and curse. God is bringing about the new heavens and earth, establishing us in the heavenly Zion.

Question

1. What is the problem when we look at the enemies around us?

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

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 51:11

Praise: Psalm 136 - 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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