

Let's Worship God

23rd-28th September 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 51:17-23 - The Cup of Jehovah's Wrath

In verse 17 we have a call to the people to wake up. It is Jehovah who calls them to do so. They must rouse from sin and rise up from the slop of filth and pollution that sin always brings. They must rouse from the fainting of hopelessness and despondency. They knew that Jehovah had quite rightly been angered with them, and because of their sin had come a cup of wrath in God's fatherly displeasure. Israel's sin had provoked all this. It was their horrible wickedness. It is no wonder then, that she thinks there is no hope.

As Jerusalem rather struggles to her feet, God says here, in verses 17 through 20, that she has no earthly help. There is no one to help her, no one to care for her, no one to show her any love. They had no strength to walk, no strength even to stand these sinners in Zion. Double calamity has come upon them. None of this is bad luck. None of these things come from mindless chance. All has happened because God has designed it and has actively willed it. God wills difficulty for His people in order for a greater good for them, just like medicine. It has been His will to drive His people to see that sin is not that which brings happiness. No, sin brings misery. Only holiness brings happiness.

But now, in God's kindness, He takes this cup of fatherly displeasure from them, and He makes it over to the wicked. We see this in verses 21 through 23. Though all sorts of things happen, God never ultimately casts off His people. He remains in covenant with them. In verse 22, He is careful to speak to them in His covenant name. God here shows that He defends His people. He is the advocate. Jehovah gets rid of His people's afflictions in the proper time. And as we see here, those who seek the downfall of the church shall themselves fall by God's plan. The ungodly seek the destruction, the everlasting destruction of God's people, the destruction of Christ's kingdom. But these who seek to destroy the godly are by King Jesus destroyed themselves, and the people of God are brought through safely.

Question

1. What does God promise in these verses?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God always does what is best.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

Praise: Psalm 137- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 52:1-6 - Jehovah Delivers His People

Israel, here in this portion of Isaiah, is pictured like a woman sprawled out on the ground, all muddy and torn and just rather lying there. God is saying, 'Wake up because I have hope for you, and I will make a big change here.' Now, the state in which God's people are when He calls them to awake is that of bondage. They've been in bondage to conquerors. And they are and shall be in bondage to that greatest and cruelest of masters, sin. But the new state to which Jehovah calls them is that of beauty and of being lifted up. They are weak when He calls them. But He gives them strength instead of that weakness. They're lying there in the dust. But He gives to them robes of splendor to wear. They have had too much of the unclean being among them and leading them off into sin. But now they are Jerusalem, the holy city, and that holiness is a gift of God. We see here that God has done it all.

In verse 3, they had sold themselves for nothing. They thought they were getting great gain by selling themselves off, by estranging themselves from their God, but they got nothing. Sin will promise you so much, but it's worth nothing. God delivers them without any money. In fact, the deliverance that we need, and the deliverance that any sinner needs, is far beyond the price of money. There is not enough money in the universe to buy back one soul. For God, the price was almost unbelievably high. To rescue His people, He determined that He must give His own Son, Who died that His people might live. But for His people, what is the price that they pay? They can do nothing. They have nothing. In fact, they owe everything. How can they be right with God? Only through Jesus, Who makes the payment at the cross.

Jehovah graciously promises other deliverance as well. In verse 4 He speaks of deliverance from foreign lands. We see that these foolish enemies in verse 5 are ones who do all kinds of terrible things. When people in high places bring the people of God to wail, and when they begin to talk reproachfully about the living and true God, God pays attention, and God works revenge. In verse 6 we have the greatest promise. The people shall know God not merely about God. They shall find their joy and fulfillment in Him. They shall see every one of His promises coming true.

Questions

1. What does sin promise?
2. What was the price of your salvation?

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

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

Praise: Psalm 138 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 52:7 - Beautiful Feet

The feet spoken of here are beautiful, not because of the way they look, but because of the function that they do. They get the messenger to those desperate for good news. Here we are seeing words to the people of Judah and Jerusalem, of good news coming after terrible, terrible discipline. It is the messenger of the covenant, the herald of God with good news. And what a blessing it is to have even today, these heralds of God with good news, who come sent by God with good news for sinners. The good news is that a Saviour has come. He has brought righteousness with His life. He has paid for His people by yielding His life. He has bought forgiveness by His death. He has brought immortality by His resurrection. He has made a full and free redemption of sinners. He invites any and all to come to Him, no matter the scale of their sin. This is good news for those who despaired of ever being right with God.

We think of peace as maybe an end to a war. No longer is God at war. God's wrath is quenched. There is peace with God. He has peace with us, and we with Him. We now have peace of conscience. We have peace with one another. We have peace in our hearts, as we trust in His good providence toward us, in all our needs in this life.

This messenger brings good news of happiness, of salvation. He brings news of justification - our being declared righteous for Christ's sake. There is adoption, where you who have been the slaves of the devil are now made the beloved adopted children of the Father in heaven. There's sanctification, the promise and the work of God within you when you're in Christ, making you more and more holy, setting you apart from sin, setting you apart to be special and consecrated to God. There's the promise of being glorified and without sin at all after we die, and the promise of the resurrection. We could sum it up by saying good tidings of a full salvation, and a free salvation, and a restoration to things. In fact, far better than a restoration, for our end shall be better than it would have been had Adam never sinned.

How do we know that this will happen? It is God who is ruling over all things. And for you who are in Him, this is good news indeed, for nothing can happen to you, absolutely nothing, but will end up for your good. The enemies of God are not ultimately in charge, and their rebellion against God will fail because our God reigns.

Question

1. What is the good news?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks and pray for your minister.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

Praise: Psalm 139 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 52:8-10 - Great Joy

Now we look at the reaction of those who are excited to see the messenger. There have been many watchers on the wall, looking for the King, the Lord Jesus Christ - Abraham, Moses, David, and many others. There were others who, when Jesus actually came, saw Him not from afar, but they had been looking for Him - Mary, the wise men, Simeon, Anna, and others. Was it not joy for these watchmen on the wall? And all these agreed. Jesus Himself said in Luke 24:44 that the law, the prophets, and the psalms, all speak of Him. They all agree, and they are united in their testimony to the people of His coming and His working.

As the people of God hear the singing and rejoicing coming down from the walls above them, and as they hear the content of what the true watchmen are saying, it brings them delight as well. When sin is replaced with holiness, when guilt is removed and righteousness established, when death had been hanging over their heads, and now life, and that abundantly, is promised to them, how can they not joy, who were without God in the world, and now have a Father in heaven who has adopted them to be His very children? They see what they are and have been, and what God brings about in His grace. Jehovah alone can raise Jerusalem from this wasteland. He alone in grace does raise her from the dust, and the grime, and the destruction, and desolation. What joy this ought to bring us, children of God.

Verse 10 is a picture of God's almighty power to deliver, and His willingness in the covenant of grace to do so. For His people who are without power, without strength, without ability; He who has all power, strength, and ability, for their sake, does it. All the earth sees it. All nations come under His rule. They may resist, but their resistance shall be broken. We must look to Him who shall yet deliver us. He has promised, and He shall accomplish it.

Questions

1. Who were some of the people looking to the coming of Christ?
2. Why should we rejoice?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all that Christ has done.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

Praise: Psalm 140 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 52:11-12 - Depart

Here in verses eleven and twelve, it's time for the people of God to depart, to leave. One thing this looks toward is 200 years from when Isaiah writes, when the people are being told, your time of exile in Babylon for your sins is over and done with. It's time to be leaving Babylon. Leave that country, leave that culture, leave that way of thinking of things. It's time to leave all that behind. It is time to leave for home.

We look beyond this fulfilment to a greater deliverance. Christ is calling His people forth from something far worse than an exile under man. He is calling them forth from an exile that has been since Adam ate of the forbidden fruit, and they were exiled from the garden, exiled from fellowship with God, exiled from life itself. Yes, they were given over to a cruel taskmaster, that of sin. Jesus is calling His people to depart from the sin surrounding them. People are called forth from their playing around with the world. They're called forth from their laziness in taking up His cross and following Him. As we've seen so often, when there's a call away from something, there's a call to something. We are to seek to be entirely different from the world. Maybe you are having a hard time pulling up your roots in the world. You are battling sin and feeling discouraged. Take heart. When Jesus calls, He always brings a person out. Sin shall not have dominion over you. Keep fighting. You're in the process of departing. You're not stuck there. Jesus is bringing you out.

Verse 12 tells us this is a triumphant departure. We can read in Ezra how it was that the king of Persia sent out a command to all his empire saying that the Jews were to go home. No one was to hinder them. Everyone was to help them. They went home triumphantly. So it is now for those who depart from sin as individuals, as families, as the church of Jesus Christ. Christ leads people out by His Word, as it is faithfully preached, as it is truly taught. He sends His Spirit, who takes the Word and takes the benefits of Christ's work as our Saviour, and applies the Word and the works to sinners' hearts, making those who had been dead to be alive again. He leads us out of our exile, and we depart for the heavenly kingdom. He is both in front of us and behind us, guiding us and protecting us all along the way. And no matter how difficult the course may be, no matter how rough the road, He gets us over it.

Question

1. What does God call us to do as His people?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that you would leave sin in your life behind.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

Praise: Psalm 141- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 52:13-15 - Behold!

God here is saying, 'Behold my servant'. For a long time, God had been showing His Saviour. He told Adam and Eve that He would give someone who would crush the Serpent in Genesis 3:15. Then He made a covering for them. An animal had to die, that their sins would be covered. That is a picture of Jesus Christ. His blood had to be shed, His life had to be ended, that we would have our sins covered by Him, and they would look to Him, they would behold Him. So this looking to the servant goes way back. But there have been many additions since, many more times for the people of God to look to Him. Every time the prophets would speak, they would be speaking one way or another about Jesus. The tabernacle, and the temple, and the sacrifices, all were pictures of Christ. Behold God's Servant, the One Who did all that His Father commanded to bring about His glory, the One Who has done all in order to save His people from their sin. Look to Him. Look away from yourself. Look away from what you claim are your good deeds and your respectability. Look away from other things that would allure you. Look away from other idols. Look to Him who has provided all to deliver you from your sin. Look to Him, and He shall satisfy.

How does the servant save His people? He does all that He has planned in eternity, does all that His Father told Him to do wisely, completely, and sufficiently. For His people's deliverance and His Father's glory, He lived exactly as He should from the moment of His birth to the time of His death at the cross. He did go through humiliation. Things became harder and harder for Him as He went through them without sin. They got harder and harder until He came to the cross. And that is where it was hardest yet, where He was to the point that, He who knew no sin was made sin for us. From humiliation all the way to the grave, He now is exalted, raised with that resurrection body, then in His ascension, He rose up into heaven. He is ruling over all things. Someday all nations shall be yielded to Him. Someday the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea.

Questions

1. What are some ways God pointed to Jesus in the Old Testament?
2. How has Christ been exalted?

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

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Isaiah 52:7

Praise: Psalm 142 - 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!**

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