

Let's Worship God

21st-26th October 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 55:12-13 - Joy To The World

It is the joy and peace that sinners have when they hear and believe the Gospel of grace that we're observing here. The picture is of people led out, not by collar and leash, but with a gentle hand and strong supporting arm, from a place of horror and strife. They are led out to joy and peace. That is exactly what happens to the world as the Gospel goes forth, the Gospel of the Person of the Servant- Saviour and his substitutionary atoning work. Those who trust in Him go out from grief, from pain, from pointlessness. They are led forth from guilt, from shame, from filth, from wrath. None of these shall they ever see again. What a joyful prospect! They are led forth, then, to peace. Being justified by faith in Christ, they have peace with God (Romans 5:1). No more is there any of that which is left behind. Rather, they have God as their loving and everlasting Father, the Saviour as their beloved and loving Husband and Friend, the Holy Spirit as their indwelling life. They have fulfilment, quieted conscience, new love to God and His Word. They have growing confidence that all, in the hands of their Saviour, is being done well in and for them, no matter how uncomfortable at the moment. This is peace, indeed. As all creation was put out of sorts by man's Fall (Genesis 3:17-19; Romans 8:19-22), so all Creation now rejoices together.

In these verses, the view is wide! The joy of the redeemed and their peace transforms them, and nations and societies are transformed, too. We have a picture here of thorns - small, weak, useless, ugly, like man wasted by his fall. Since the Fall, thorns and thistles have come from the fields, and man is marred. But God raises up, by His grace in Christ, those who have been thorns by nature and transforms them to cypresses - tall, stately, strong, and useful. The brier, like the thorn, is changed to that which is beautiful to look on and has a pleasing aroma to it, delighting all around it. There is no sign that this is only for Israel. Rather, it's far as the curse is found. God's name, Jehovah, is exalted and praised. All see that He has done this, and He alone. He is glorified, and He alone.

Questions

1. How do we have peace with God?
2. What is the thorn a picture of?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the joy and peace we have in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56:7b

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

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 56:1-2 - Salvation Is About To Come

God is telling His people, who are already trusting in the One Who will come, that because this One shall come, and He will bring not merely a promised redemption, but an accomplished redemption, that they who are trusting on Him, they who are saved because they trust in Him, they who have new hearts, because they have a new character with that new heart implanted in them by the Holy Spirit, must live that out. Even as God Himself, with His own holy, good character, lives that out in the way He acts toward us; that holy goodness appears in His wonderful works to the children of men. Our new hearts must do the same thing. It is not therefore that we are declared innocent of our sin by our own righteousness, by somehow making up for our sin. What we need to be looking for is His salvation and His righteousness. Only the righteousness of God, given by Him, attained for us by His only begotten son, accomplished by Christ alone for us, imputed by grace alone to us through faith alone, only that brings us to be forgiven, brings us to be declared innocent. The new heart wants to be in conformity to the law of God. It grieves when it is not, but it continues to look to the One Who does give life. It continues to look to Jesus Christ.

The people of Isaiah's day looked forward to the end of the week, when they would have special communion with God, restored by the One Who would come. They looked forward to the end of the week. They looked forward to the coming of the Saviour. We look forward from the first day of the week. We look ahead to working for God's glory during the week with a week that is established upon the Resurrection. We look forward during the week of working for Him until His coming to end all things, even as the week is ended. People that were given new hearts would want to spend time with the people of God, and with the God of His people. That's why God is saying here that this One will keep from defiling the Sabbath. He will keep his hand from doing any evil. He will do this because that's what his heart wants more and more, to have that fellowship with God on God's day. That speaks of a day to come when there shall be nothing but Sabbath. All shall be redeemed, and we will have everlasting perfected fellowship with God and His people in our home to come.

Question

1. What does the new heart want?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that we would grow more in our desire to love and obey God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56:7b

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

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 56:3 - No Disclaimers

Advertising companies often make all kinds of wonderful promises, but then they have these exceptions, these disclaimers - this is good for everybody else, but not for you. Well, there are a couple of classes of people who would have been hearing all these glorious promises that God was giving to His people through His servant Isaiah, and would have strong temptation to think, there's a disclaimer there. Surely this isn't for me. We read about them here in verse three.

The first were foreigners - people from the different nations around Israel. Some of them may have been somewhat acquainted with the laws of the Word of God. They may have known that those who were not circumcised, those who were of other nations, were not allowed in the camp. They were not allowed to partake of the festivals that looked ahead to the person and work of Jesus Christ. It's understandable how these would say, 'The Lord has utterly separated me from His people'.

A second group are those who were the eunuchs. A eunuch is a man who is not able to be a father. So you can maybe see what he means when he says, 'I am a dry tree.' A dead tree has no fruit. The eunuchs were saying, 'I'm no good for anything. There's really no point to my life. I can't be a blessing to anyone'.

But God says to the foreigner and the eunuch, 'Don't say that. You're accepted in My Servant. Don't let such despairing thoughts enter your mind and heart'. There's only one people of God in the Bible, not two. One people, one Israel, one church, taken of all nations, added on, grafted into the stock of the believing Israel of God. There are no disclaimers.

There may be some reading this who think, surely this can't be for me. I've been apart from God for too long. Surely all my life has been a waste. I'm a dry tree, spiritually speaking. You may think you're too bad a sinner. God still says there are no disclaimers. You may have been far from Jesus. You may have indeed been far from his people. Holiness and righteousness may be foreign things to you, indeed. But Jesus calls you now and will receive you. Join yourself to Him. Leave behind all that foreign stuff, that foolishness and sin. Or you may see your past life as being barren and useless. And so it may truly be. But Jesus calls you now, and He will restore to you what you have wasted in your sin. Go to Him for everlasting life. And you will be a blessing to others as God uses you for his glory and you will be a glory to Him.

Question

1. What does it mean that there are no disclaimers?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the way to Christ is open to all.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56:7b

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

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 56:4-8- Once Rejected, Now Accepted

These verses are an expansion of what we looked at yesterday. In verses 4-5 we look at the eunuchs who might have felt useless and defective. You may have an affliction of a physical or some other sort that often keeps you away from everybody else. But God in His grace has provided One Who comes to dwell in you. He puts into you a life bought by Christ's death. He gives to you a life that is assured in His resurrection. He gives to you a day of rejoicing, in fellowship that's anticipated now and will have its completion forevermore in heaven. He puts in you a desire to do as He wills, not as you will, so that more and more you delight in Him who has always and will always delight in you. This is what we see here in verse four. The eunuchs thought themselves cut off, but now they have a day of fellowship with their God. They delight in the resurrection to which the Sabbath was looking ahead. They chose what pleased God. In Isaiah's day, what was it that these eunuchs were fearing? They feared abandonment and loneliness. But they who are in Jesus Christ, are accepted in Christ. They are treasured. They are never left. They are never forsaken. They become the children of God, and they get a name and a place in God's house forevermore.

Secondly, we deal with the foreigners in verses 6-7. Perhaps outwardly they're not allowed to join with the people of God. Inwardly they are brought by God to Himself. And this is why their hearts are changed. This is why they have new desires and new delights. They join themselves to Jehovah. They take Him to be their God even as He has taken them to be His children in and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, Who was yet to come. They love the name of the Lord. They love Who He is. These are the ones who keep from defiling the Sabbath. These are the ones, just like the eunuchs, who hold fast to the covenant. These who were lost, and frightened, and alone, joined themselves to Jehovah in Jesus Christ. He seeks and saves the lost, and He draws the distant ones near to Himself. As you cry out to Him, you will find yourself part of His household, the house of prayer for all people.

Questions

1. What does God promise the eunuchs?
2. What does God promise the foreigners?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ seeks and saves the lost.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56:7b

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

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 56:9-12 - Sleeping Dogs And Abusive Shepherds

God is looking at His people as a flock of sheep, and He is calling for predators to come into the flock in verse 9. Why would He do this? Well, it is to discipline the true Israel of God, but also to expose and judge the hypocrites within, particularly those who are the leaders, who are compared here to useless watchdogs and ones who actually themselves abuse the flock.

Guard dogs are there to guard the sheep and watch for predators. What good are they if they are sleeping? But that's exactly what was going on. Who are these dogs? Why, they are the leaders of the people, the civil leaders and the religious leaders, and they're called on to warn of the approach of the predator. They are charged by God to be guarding the people, but they will have none of it. They sleep, and they allow spiritual enemies within the fold, and they themselves will be the ones to be devoured. King Jesus called in these foreign nations from the fields and forests to destroy the dogs. He brought them in to destroy the abusers. He brought them in to expose and destroy the false sheep.

While the dogs are lazy and useless in warning the people and guarding and protecting the people, they are diligent in another way and wide awake in another way. What is that? In verse 11 you'll see that they're very diligent in protecting their own stuff. They are greedy. They are constantly wanting more and more and more. Sadly, there are leaders of the people in a civil role and in the church role, who are always looking out for "number one." They want to keep their place, their popularity, their power, and their money.

God moves Isaiah to switch from looking at these wicked leaders as being watchdogs to being the shepherds themselves. The basic problem here that God lines out is that they cannot understand. They have no new hearts. They are ungodly themselves. So of course, they cannot understand spiritual things, let alone their spiritual responsibilities. They have no concept of the need to guide and care for the sheep. Their only concern is, what can I get out of this? They saw authority as that which gave them power to raise and keep themselves on top, with no care for those that were supposed to be cared for, except how they could be fleeced and butchered for their own pleasure.

Question

1. How do we have peace with God?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would keep among us good shepherds and faithful watchdogs.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56:7b

Praise: Psalm 15- See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 57:1-2 - Only the Good Die Young

There's an old saying that "only the good die young". The people in Israel had this happening, and would in time see it happen more. Who is the righteous? Well, we would say righteous people like King Josiah who dies an "early" death but it makes no difference to the nation. But ultimately, is this not looking to Jesus Christ? It is because He was righteous before the law that He was not able to be the sacrifice for the sins of His people. And it's because He was the righteous One that His righteousness in the covenant of grace goes on our account. But at the cross so many did not take any of this to heart. Instead they shouted for Him to be crucified and to save Himself. And who are these devout ones but the people of God? We might think of the apostles and other disciples, such as Stephen. They are taken away, some by stoning, some by other persecution, prison, or exile. The bulk of Israel in Jesus' day took none of this to heart.

It's tempting for believers to say to themselves, 'Why would God take away godly ones from the earth while the ungodly party on? Does God love His enemies and hate His children?' Trouble is coming for the wicked. We have read that the wicked are allowed to flourish like grass. But God puts them there for his own glory, and He cuts them down. He takes away His people sometimes that they might not see and experience all the difficulties of the wicked. God pulls them out because He is about to start the mowing. To paraphrase Matthew Henry – Kings bring home their ambassadors right before they declare war.

Those whose hearts have been changed by grace, those for whom Jesus died, experience death. But they enter into peace. We go to our Father's house, the One Who is called the God of peace. We go to Him Who has loved us and given Himself for us, Who has been raised victorious from the dead, Who is called the Prince of Peace. We there have a feeling, the like of which we've never had, of the Spirit who gives peace. And we have fellowship with our fellow saints forever and ever – the children of peace. We may have trouble and we may die young, but we will be going home, going to peace, going to rest.

Questions

1. What does God sometimes take His people out of this world?
2. What do we have to look forward to in Heaven?

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

For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56:7b

Praise: Psalm 16 - 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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