

Let's Worship God

18th-23rd November 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

Isaiah

Monday - Isaiah 60:4-7 - Salvation to the East

This entire prophecy is about the coming of the nations to God in Christ. Some commentators have thought that the sons and daughters here are the remaining Israelites, scattered by exile in Assyria and later (in Isaiah's day) the Babylonians. Let's remember, though, that place after place in Scripture, Old and New Testaments, teach that the nations would be incorporated into the people of God. The reaction of the people of God is radiant joy and exaltation. They know that this happens only by grace, in and through King Jesus.

These nations come over the sea, from afar, and bring their wealth in consecrating all to the honour and glory of the Redeemer. As well, as from the sea, come camel loads over land, caravans of wealth and splendour. These are from the east and somewhat south, as we see their names. The names are very important! All these people are descendants of Ishmael and Midian. They lived then, and their descendants now, in Arabia (Middle East). Thus, we have a promise here of the destruction of Islam, not by the sword of steel, but by the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God!

They bring all their wealth consecrated to God. They bring their flocks for sacrifice. This looks ahead to their trusting, not in sheep or goats, but to the once-for-all shed blood of Christ. This, especially, glorifies the House of God. Now, in the days of the apostles the Gospel went to the Arabs. Paul preached in Arabia, as he tells the Galatians in Galatians 1:17. There were, and are, some professedly Christian Arabs, though few are Evangelical. Most are now followers of the false religion of Islam. This is what glorifies the House of God's glory, the Church. It is there that God's House is full of trophies of His grace. He triumphs in grace by bringing dead sinners to life, and those in darkness into dazzling light. He does so because He delights to have mercy, to Arabs and to many others, like you and me.

Questions

1. What promises do we have in these verses?
2. What does God delight to do?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God is saving people throughout the world.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

They shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 60:14b

Praise: Psalm 35 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 60:8-9 - Salvation to the West

The question is being asked: 'Who are these people that are coming in?' The prophet, at least, and perhaps the whole people of God, really don't know who or what or how this happens to be. They have not understood very well that God, for His glorious sake, will be bringing in people from all over the world. As they see it happening, they are in amazement at the overwhelming coming in of the nations. It's unexpected because humanly speaking, such a thing is impossible. Such a thing could not happen. Not with hard hearts, not with dead hearts, not with cultures formed by those with dead hearts. It only comes about because it is by the gracious will and power of God turning the hearts of the peoples to His Christ.

This coming in is portrayed here being unexpected, swift, huge, and brought about by God alone. God brings them in just as homing pigeons fly swiftly, unguided by human intent, to their homes. These are peoples coming in, drawn by the Gospel. These are people coming in swiftly, unexpectedly, in huge numbers. It's all brought about by God himself. This is something the likes of which none of us have ever seen in church history. There have been times of limited fulfillment of this. We think of them as true Holy Spirit revival times. Such a scene would have been there at Pentecost and other times when there are great influxes of people. The apostles would have seen things like this. There have been other revivals where people in huge numbers swiftly had their hearts turned and came to Christ. It happened as missionaries first went to the lands of Europe. It happened in the time of the Reformation. It happened in subsequent times as well. Our own nation has gone through revivals of this sort. But it has never been this entire worldwide flocking. Yet we are told in Romans chapter 11 that there is a fullness of Gentiles yet to come in at which time the Jews should be converted as well.

Where are these particular ones coming from? These are coming from the coastlands. Where is Tarshish? It is the far west end of the Mediterranean. This is looking out to northern Africa, Europe, and to the isles beyond. It is the lands to the west, to all of Europe, to the Americas, to the lands beyond the seas. From there people shall come. They devote themselves, all they are and all they have, to the kingdom of God!

Question

1. Where are these people coming from?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the gospel came to our countries.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

They shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 60:14b

Praise: Psalm 36 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 60:10-12 - The City of God

God interrupts things here, just for a moment, to stop looking at peoples from different directions, to look at what they are going to -- the city of God. What we're talking about is not a literal city, but it is a picture of the church of Jesus Christ of all ages, all the elect of God. Christ is now in the midst of His church, and He is building His city round about. We are part of that new Jerusalem, although we are now covered with tarps, we are now behind scaffolding. The true beauty of it is not yet seen. But a time is coming when it shall be seen.

There was a partial fulfillment of verse 10 when King Cyrus freed the people from Babylon, sending them home with his royal protection and riches, so that the people could and would rebuild the Temple. But Isaiah was privileged to see that a far greater fulfillment is intended. The nations would come, and they have come, though not to the degree which they shall someday. They shall gladly devote all their energies and wealth for the privilege of building up the Church of Jesus Christ. They build the walls of the city of God. They build the walls of her who is the bride of Christ. They build it with numbers of people, huge numbers yet to be, who will come to Jesus Christ. They will be made, of course, into living stones and they build up the new Temple in power and glory as they bring all things under Him, as they are enabled and empowered by Him. Smiting will have happened to them in a moment of wrath. But God in favour, God in mercy brings life to them.

In this city the gates are never shut as we see in verse 11. Of what is this a picture? Some commentators say it is a picture of peace. The city is safe and secure. But there's more than that. It is open all the time so that all can come in. It's constantly open so that from it the gospel may go forth to the east, the south, the west, and the north. This is a picture of not just a few straggling in, but of many by God's grace coming in joyfully to the triumph, to the exaltation of our God.

What of those who will not come? We see them mentioned in verse 12. All these shall be ruined if they do not turn. Outside there is darkness, outside there is destruction. Come into the city of God!

Question

1. What is this city of God like?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that many people would be brought into the city of God.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

They shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 60:14b

Praise: Psalm 37 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 60:13 - Salvation to the North

Today we look to the north, salvation to the north. We see the glory of Lebanon spoken of here, and it's a particular sort of glory. It is the glory of its beautiful, and mighty, and well perfumed forests. What is significant in the heart and in the thought of the Israelite, when he thinks of the direction of the north? He might well think of these beautiful, awesome forests. But that would not be all. There was awe with the thoughts of the nations who had come down from the north. From the north had come raiding bands, sometimes of those who would pillage and destroy, who would rape the women, who would kidnap the children and leave the husbands and fathers dead with only a reek of smoke. Syrians, Assyrians, Babylonians, Greeks, and Romans all came from the north. Yet it is from the north, from Lebanon, that glory would come.

What's the significance of these trees? Time and again, the people of God are signified by trees (Psalm 1, 92; Romans 11). Trees are also pictures of covenant, such as in the garden of Eden with the tree of knowledge of good and evil and tree of life, blessings or cursings for keeping the covenant of works. There are a variety of trees listed here. They're perhaps significant of different callings and gifts in the membership of the body of Christ. Just as one kind of tree varies in shape, varies in bark, varies in leaf and in fruit, so do the people of God with their different gifts, their different providential upbringings, their different abilities and temperaments, all used together in the New Testament Temple of God of which they are a part. Each of you, as these trees, have your own beauty. Each of you has your own excellence. Each of you has your own usefulness for the people of God, the church of Jesus Christ. And when you are gone, we are the poorer, and when you come, we are enriched.

He says right here why it is that He brings these trees, the glory of Lebanon, the glory from the north, to His house. They are here for beauty, for delight, for pleasure. Whose pleasure? God's! Imagine this: Peoples from the north, the marauders, the murderers, the wicked ones, the heathen, who knew not God, who were separated from Him because of their sin, are brought by Him and changed into those who are beautiful, changed into those who are received with delight by the God of all the earth. This great and glorious God has this Temple as His footstool. He makes you people of God, as the trees of this forest, to dwell together in holiness and in unity and in beauty together!

Question

1. What do the trees symbolise?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for your brothers and sisters in Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

They shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 60:14b

Praise: Psalm 38 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 60:14-18 - Blessings on God's People

From the four directions, people from the nations shall come and be part of the people of God. Some of these are former oppressors. They, whose fathers hated, oppressed, and sought to destroy the people of God, come to give honour and submission to Him Who is in the midst of His people, the Lord Jesus Christ.

At the time of Isaiah's writing, Jerusalem was not a place of joy, and it would only get worse, due to the sin of the people. We might think of the ruins of Jerusalem that lay there for years until the end of the Exile, or of the ruins after AD 70 when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem. However, God, in Christ, has brought and is bringing many into His people from the nations round about, and shall return the Jews, as Paul teaches in Romans 11. In those days no longer will people ignore or scorn the people of God. Rather they shall throng in, and joy shall replace hatred and scorn.

People of many nations will come in through the preaching of the gospel. Those of high degree, as kings and queens, shall lovingly nourish and protect the Church, serving Jesus in their official capacity. It is all done by, through, and for the Redeemer.

In verse 17 we see a long string of substitutions - better for worse. The best that Israel has had would be far surpassed by that which would come. Jesus has come, His work is accomplished, His gospel goes forth and transforms the nations, so that the riches of the people of God are far more than that of old.

The overseers are the elders of the church. They preach and teach the gospel of peace, they promote peace among the brethren, and they bear the fruit of the Spirit which is peace. The taskmasters are the magistrates, the civil rulers. The promise here is of rulers that lovingly nourish and protect the people of God. They rule not for riches or power. Rather, they seek to do what is right, good, and true according to God's Word, the standard of righteousness. They are properly submitted to the King of kings.

In verse 18, God's precious people, so often oppressed and persecuted, sometimes due to their sin, have a promise of better things. The walls are a salvation that cannot be breached and cannot be wrecked. It is strong, immovable, and firm because it is secured by the finished work of Jesus Christ, once for all, at the cross. It does not depend on us. The gates, where the gospel goes in and out, are praise -- praise from new hearts, praise to the God of grace who has saved!

Question

1. What blessings are listed here?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that God would build His church in a mighty way.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

They shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 60:14b

Praise: Psalm 39 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 60:19-22 - The Final Triumph

These verses remind us of Revelation 21-22. They look to a time that is not yet, but is surely coming. What is this light? It is the very presence of God in the midst of His people, in the person of His Son, Who is the Light of the world. No longer shall there be clouds intervening due to sin in us, His people. No longer shall there be Fatherly frowns, or the needed discipline from the King. Rather, in full delight shall the full Godhead beam down upon us. We ourselves shall know Him even as we are known. All that keeps us from knowing Him -- our remaining weakness of body, our limited minds, our all too easily swayed emotions and desires, all effects of sin -- shall be gone, replaced by our glorious resurrection bodies and glorified souls. It is then that we shall no longer glory in riches, in power, in beauty, or in any other creature. Sun, moon, or any other created thing will be as nothing to us. Having the full and unimpeded presence of God, in Christ, in our midst shall be all our delight.

In verse 19 we are talking about the natural sun and moon. In verse 20 the sun and moon are pictures of the Light of life, our Saviour and Redeemer. A time will come when no longer shall there be danger and persecution. No longer shall the pull of fear paralyse us. No longer, as we see in Revelation 21:1-4, shall there be anything that darkens, discourages, damages, or destroys. There is no night (Revelation 22:5)!

In verse 21 we have the promise of the seed, the innumerable multitude, and all righteous. They will be, and now are, found in Him Who is the LORD our righteousness. He is the only way of righteousness since we have none of our own. It is they who inherit the earth forever. They are from every nation, baptised into Christ. How does all this come about? Is it by man's will? No, it is by God's sovereign planting. We have no room for boasting. All the glory is to the Triune God.

Shall this be only a small remnant? Are there few that shall be saved? Few there would be from Israel in Isaiah's day and in Jesus' day. Yet we see here a promise of far more. The promise is that even the least one shall become, by the Lord's sovereign working, a vast number. There may be but a few believers in a people, a culture, a society, but Jehovah shall make it a nation; a nation serving Christ the King. How shall this happen? By the work of Jehovah Himself. He is the God of the covenant of grace. He is strong to save. When shall this happen? In the Lord's timing.

Question

1. What description of heaven do we have 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

They shall call you the City of the LORD, the Zion of the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 60:14b

Praise: Psalm 40 - 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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