

Let's Worship God

25th-30th November 2024

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 61:1-2 - The Broken-Hearted Healed

Jesus read these verses in his home congregation there in Nazareth. He then said, "Today this is fulfilled in your hearing." In other words, I am the One Who does this. Heartbreaks come into the world because of sin. There is illness, there is pain, losing loved ones, grief over our own sins or the sins of others. There is also heartbreak that is for those who have not come to Christ yet. It is the sort of person who, by the work of the Holy Spirit, has come to wake up a bit, spiritually. He comes to see that God is very real. The conscience within tells him that he is in trouble. Now this last heartbreak can go two ways. It can bring about remorse and despair if it only happens to a natural heart that is not changed. In 2nd Corinthians 7:10, the apostle Paul calls it a sorrow that leads to death. However, he also spoke of a sorrow that led to life. This happens by God's grace, when God uses it to bring about, not remorse, but repentance. Not despair, but faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This one who then believes receives healing from that heartbreak.

Liberty is what we receive by our Lord Jesus Christ. This is tied in with the seven year sabbatical year when those who had sold themselves, or their families, into indentured servanthood would be freed, and their debt considered cancelled. Furthermore, they were sent out with provisions. Our Lord Jesus Christ not only died to pay off our sin at the cross, He lived a righteous life in order that His people might be given righteousness. Verse 2 is tied in with the Jubilee year, the 50th year, in which not only were the captives and indentured servants set free, but there was a greater liberation - land that had been sold out of the family was returned to the family, and people could return home. Our home in the garden was ruined, our hearts were ruined. And our wider home of this earth has been, as Paul teaches in Romans 8, in groaning and in suffering since this time. Our Lord Jesus Christ is our jubilee year. It is because of His life, His death, His resurrection, that home we come.

Jesus is also preaching the day of vengeance of our God. Are you refusing to go to Christ? Then the day of vengeance is looming! You cannot escape it once it comes upon you. What shall you do? Though God means vengeance upon all who will not yield to Him, He through his Son proclaims mercy to any and to all who will abandon their rebellion, abandon their hatred toward Him, and who will go to Him for mercy and forgiveness in Jesus Christ!

Question

1. What promises do we have in these verses?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ heals the broken hearted.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isaiah 61:1

Praise: Psalm 41 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 61:2-3 - Beauty For Ashes

We all have griefs and hardships in this world. There's an even greater mourning, however, that only comes to some people. That is mourning over sin and shame, mourning that comes when the Spirit begins to work upon them, and they are convicted of their sin. There's even mourning for those who, by grace, have already looked to Jesus and lived. There is much we see in our own lives that grieves us. We also mourn over the carelessness and lukewarmness of other believers or churches. We grieve over the hatred of our Christ by the world. But Christ proclaims comfort for all who mourn. He is the One to Whom we must look if we will have any comfort in this life or eternity. For you who are miserable and mourning sinners, from this covenant of redemption comes what Peter calls great and precious promises of forgiveness and new life. For the believer, you have the assurance that all will work for your good. You who are discouraged by your remaining sin, God has given to us an assurance in Romans 6:14 that sin shall not have dominion over you. As you grieve also over all the faithlessness within the Church of Jesus Christ and all the enemies outside, you must look to Christ for comfort, Who says in Matthew 16:18, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Further, not only do we have many promises, but Christ has given us another Comforter to bring to us His words. This other Comforter, the Holy Spirit, lives within us and is empowering us to be holy, giving us comfort, and weaning us away from that which makes for a mournful life.

It may well be that God, through Isaiah, was looking ahead to the destruction of Jerusalem. They were grieving because of the destruction, grieving because of the sin that had led to this, grieving at the temporary triumph of the wicked. At times we, too, feel like this. Jesus says here in Isaiah 61 that He has come to give beauty for ashes. The word for beauty in Hebrew is a diadem or a little coronet. It's a special crown that itself is beautiful and makes a person who wears it look beautiful. Jesus promises here a beauty or a coronet traded for ashes. What does this have to say for those who are yet in their sins? Turn away from these things that merely come to ashes. Turn to Jesus Christ who promises an everlasting crown. There shall yet be, for the people of God, beauty for ashes. Let us be putting our hope and our joy and our trust there!

Question

1. What has Christ come to do?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ comforts those who mourn.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isaiah 61:1

Praise: Psalm 42 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 61:4-6 - Rebuilding Old Ruins

Those whom the Lord Jesus has delivered will be used by God to do wonderful things. They will be rebuilding the old ruins. In verses 5-6 we have a picture of the one people of God working together. Some Jews and some Gentiles but bound together as one people of God. Isaiah is being allowed by God to look ahead a couple of hundred years when Jerusalem will lay in ruins because of the work of the Babylonians, or even further to the destruction by the Romans. But we must remember that we're looking in the wider context at the days of Messiah. We're looking at the wreckage of the people of God. Paul describes this in Romans 9-11. In Romans 11 you have a changed picture from this glorious building falling into wreckage, changed to the olive tree which, because of unbelief, experiences branches snapped off and new ones from a wild tree grafted in, but the ones that were broken off shall be, by God's grace, grafted back in again. It's like a ruined building being restored. We shouldn't just apply this to the wreckage of Israel, but the wreckage of humanity and of man's societies and cultures that try to live without God. The individual has this wreckage. The seeds of death are in every one of us. The mind loves foolishness. The heart chases after idols. What hope is there? Our Lord Jesus has come. And how does it work out? The ruin, the destruction, the sad, sad effects of sin are not the end of the story. God is gracious. God is merciful. God is kind, God is loving. He is good. During eternity He made a plan of salvation, and He had a Savior to come to rebuild the ruins and make us to be part of the City of God. But this isn't so only for us as individuals. This is for us together because we are part of the Church of Jesus Christ. Jesus promised Peter, "I will build my church", and from there all things will be brought under Christ's head. Under the Church the world is being restored. And our King has taught us to pray: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven". Does he command us to pray this so He won't do it? He did not tell us to pray this in vain. Will the earth not be full of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea? (Isaiah 11:9 and Habakkuk 2:14) Jesus is using you for His glory. Trust His promises that He's doing so. Trust His assurance here that He is doing so!

Question

1. What does God work through to build His kingdom.

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is at work.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isaiah 61:1

Praise: Psalm 43 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 61:7 - Abundant Grace

In these verses we see shame and confusion that the people had brought upon themselves, and then, in grace, our Lord Jesus giving to these ones honour and joy. Shame is a consciousness, an awareness that you've done something wrong. Man's attempt to cover his own shame is utterly ineffective. Sin brings shame, and it does so not only for individual sinners, but for societies as well.

Verse 7 also uses the word dishonour or confusion. Confusion in this sense is bringing someone to where they don't know what to do. Everything is in disorder, everything is in disarray, and one thing can't be told from another. Sin brings back confusion. People don't know what is right and what's wrong, what is true and what is false, what is good and what is evil. This sort of confusion is an aspect of judgment itself. Society says, we will not have King Jesus rule over us, and God sends confusion upon them. Sin and rebellion do not bring honour. They do not bring joy. They do not bring clarity so that suddenly you're understanding things far better now. Sin and rebellion bring shame, and they bring confusion.

How can God here speak of some receiving honour and joy? These are just the opposite of shame and confusion. How can this be? There is honour and joy because Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1Tim 1:15). Because of this covenant love, this everlasting grace, there's a promise of not only honour to those who deserve shame, but of double honour, far more than the dishonour and shame deserved. How can God do this? It is because Christ lives and dies in the place of sinners, going Himself to shame at the accursed cross, going Himself to the place of dishonour, where He who knew no sin was made sin for us in order that we His people may be raised up from shame into honour and joy. This is the only hope for sinners and for societies. How can we do anything but joy when we know new life, when we know forgiveness of our sin, complete and entire? How can we but joy when we have the gift of the indwelling Spirit? How can we not but rejoice when we have assurance? I am saved, I am kept, I am held in my Jesus' hand and He shall not let me go!

Question

1. How is confusion a judgement?

Prayer Points

1. Rejoice in what God has done for you.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isaiah 61:1

Praise: Psalm 44 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 61:8-9 - Restoration

God loves fairness. God loves justice. God hates hypocrisy. In fact, He hates sin of any sort. And that's very, very bad news for anyone and everyone who thinks that somehow he on his own can stand before God in judgment, for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rm 3:23), and the payoff for sin is death (Rm 6:23) -- any sin. But if you are justified, God says you are not guilty of your sin. Why? Because you never did it? No, you were justified because Christ did do what was righteous in your place, and He paid off the penalty you would have to take. A covenant was made, a path of redemption, where Jesus was sent by His Father to live in the place of sinners, to die in the place of sinners, to be raised victoriously on the third day, from there to ascend to heaven, where he would remain the Mediator for His people, and Who would continue to reign over all things for the sake of his church (Eph 1:21-23). Everyone who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved, have their sin forgiven, be adopted as a child of God, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit dwelling in them. This constitutes our personal restoration. For we personally were wrecked. We couldn't work for God. We were horrible, broken down, rusted, nasty. God in kindness has restored us.

In verse nine, then, we see a further restoration, not on an individual level, but corporately together as the people of God. And here we see again Jewish believers and Gentile believers restored one to another. No longer shall the broken off branches of the olive tree lie upon the ground as Paul speaks of in Romans 11. No, they shall be honourably restored to being part of the people of God, as God opens their eyes and allows them to see Who the Messiah is. The Gentiles have already been grafted in, by grace. And, contrary to nature, as we see in Romans 11, the Jews, the natural branches are being grafted back in. The nations, even those outside, not incorporated into the people of God, shall be forced to say that they have been blessed by the Lord. There shall be honour and joy!

Question

1. How can we be justified?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for the way Christ is building His Church.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.
Isaiah 61:1

Praise: Psalm 45 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 61:10-11 - The Garden of God

Verse 10 is a response, from the people of God, to everything He has done. In verse 11 we see a picture of life springing up. This is a good summary of the promises that Jesus preaches to us, of the promises Jesus accomplishes for us, and of the joy and the blessing which we receive in Him. The ground spoken of here should perhaps remind us of the parable of the sower that Jesus speaks in Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8. The ground there was that which, in a way, determined what would happen to the seed. Could the ground make itself to be a different way than it was? The ground is what it is. It can do nothing to change itself. The heart of man can do nothing to change itself. God puts the seed of new life in Jesus Christ within us, He makes our dead hearts, our old hearts, to live. The first thing these new hearts do is look. They look to Jesus Christ, and they look away from their sin. Just like the soil brings forth life and brings forth beauty, then that which God has made to be fruitful brings forth the bud. It comes to pleasant, green and delightful harvest in the field. And it does in our lives as well.

We have a special garden here. The old garden was ruined by sin. From the old garden, we and our first parents were kicked out. But now we are brought in again to a new garden established by the same Gardener. It is all the work of our God in Jesus Christ. Jehovah causes righteousness and praise to spring forth. The righteousness comes from Someone else, but it sets us apart as God's special treasure and delight. The life of holiness, which is worked into us by the Holy Spirit, comes forth as praise from our lips and praise to God in our lives as we live before people. How does God bring this about? Jesus has lived in our place. Jesus has died in our place and died with a death that was sufficient. It was enough to pay off everything we owe to God because of our sin. Our righteousness is not of ourselves. All over the world the garden grows. Not only do the plants within it grow up, but the garden grows in size to cover all the world.

To you who are in Jesus Christ -- you may at times be very discouraged with the way your life is, but your life is growing in Jesus Christ. You have not come to the full fruit yet. To those who are not in Christ, is there any hope for you? Yes, there is. Cry out to Jesus Christ to save you from your sin. You will be put into the garden of God!

Question

1. What does God do in the life of the believer?

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

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound. Isaiah 61:1

Praise: Psalm 46 - 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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