

Let's Worship God

9th-14th December 2024

Isaiah



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Monday - Isaiah 63:1-6 - The Victorious King

Isaiah sees this One before him, and the sight is overwhelming. He sees Him coming from afar and up from the country of Edom and from its capital city at the time, Bozrah. Edom is another name for Esau, and the children of Esau hated the children of Jacob. This prophecy is a living picture of all wicked lands, all wicked societies that hate Zion. This is a picture of the victorious King returning from victory over all the wicked nations. His garments are bright and dazzling. He travels in the greatness of His strength. He has been the victor over all of His enemies. Who is this great victor? He is the One Who speaks in righteousness. All His words are perfect. All of them are completely true and right. The Lord Jesus Christ is not only the One Who speaks righteousness, He is the One Who gives righteousness to sinners. He is the One Who is righteous in their place. He's mighty to save. To the wicked He is strong to smite. But for his chosen ones, for His beloved, He is mighty to save (Hosea 6:1)!

The blood of the nations whom Christ has conquered is on His garments. So why has He done this? He has done so because of vengeance. It is for God the Creator, Who is offended by and rebelled against by the wicked. But there is more still. The nations have attacked the bride of Christ. Christ has come to protect Her. He has come to avenge His beloved bride, His church. He has done so, as we see in verse five, to bring salvation or deliverance for His people whom He loves. His victorious warfare He has pursued with anger and fury, as we see in verse 4. He pursues till it's done.

This is what Jesus does – destroy His enemies by conquest. The Church is not commissioned to do that. She is sent out to destroy by conversion. And the sword she is given is that of the Word of God. That is how we go on the offense. Jesus, however, can, and does, use all sorts of things to bring about the destruction of the wicked. He destroys people and societies that will not acknowledge the Him. It is Jesus who brings that about. This is why He alone gets the glory here. We're the recipients of the blessing of the victory, but He is the victorious king. He Who is strong to smite is also strong to save. Have you come to see that you're in great danger? Don't despair. Call out to Him to forgive you, and you shall be forgiven and be brought in!

Question

1. Who is the King described here.

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is a victorious King.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:9

Praise: Psalm 53 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 63:7-8 - Adopted By Grace

Verse 7 is a verse of thanksgiving for mercy in the covenant of God. Mercy says, 'I know you deserve this, but I'm going to not give it to you'. You can never change yourself. You are a sinner in God's sight. And if all you are hoping for at the time of your death is for God to be fair to you, you are doomed because Hell is your fair portion. You need mercy. Fairness is death. You need God's mercy. You need to know His love and kindness. You need to find out if there be any grace from Him. Even believers continue to need God's mercy. Not that we are unforgiven, but we still do the most amazing, horrible, and foolish things sometimes. We continue to need God's mercy because left to ourselves, we'll fall down again. We need ongoing mercy, ongoing grace, ongoing loving-kindness, because we can't even sustain ourselves. Jesus takes care of every single one of our needs in this life, and our needs for the life to come. All this is ours through Him Who has made covenant, Who has said, "I will be your God and you shall be my people". Our Lord Jesus lived that we might have His life on our credit. He died in order that the punishment of our sin might be paid for. This leads to praise and thanks to the God of mercy.

Verse 8 speaks of God's adoption. It's an act of the free grace of God. We are counted as His children. We receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Our Father in heaven knows everything that happens to us, whether it is pleasant or difficult, and it is all brought about by a mind, a heart, a hand of love, to fit us to be more like Christ, and to love Him more and more. We're admitted to all the liberties and privileges of the sons of God. We have the Word preached and read. We have access to the Father through prayer. We have the promises that He's given to us. We are heirs of all those promises. It's because of the Father's love set upon us eternally that we are adopted as His children. It's because the Son came for us, and lived, and died, and was raised. It's because of the application of that Mediatorial Person and work of Jesus to us by the Holy Spirit that we have this adoption and all that comes with it!

Questions

1. What is mercy?
2. What does it mean to be adopted into God's family.

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks for all the blessings of adoption.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:9

Praise: Psalm 54 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 63:9-13 - Saved by Another

Verse 9 looks at all the affliction of Israel up to this time. In God's love and pity He determines to deliver them. The great deliverance from Egypt was surpassed by an even greater one for the true Israel of God who had a Saviour Who came in love to deliver them. The "angel of his presence" in this verse refers back to the "angel of God" that was in the pillar of cloud and fire in Exodus 14:19. This is Jesus, the Messenger of God's Presence, the One Who brings salvation. His affliction in our affliction looks not just to the sacrifice of the lamb at Passover but refers to Christ's death on the cross. His love and pity pushed Him to lay aside His glory and His presence with His Father, to live, to die for sinners, and to redeem them from slavery to sin. He bears long with them in their sin, and He carries them all the way to the Land of Promise.

Verse 10 speaks of the Israel after the flesh, those part of Israel but who had no redeemed heart, and who responded to God with rebellion and wickedness, grieving the Holy Spirit. (Some people think the Holy Spirit is a force not a Person, but this verse shows He is a Person, because a force cannot be grieved.) God turns against this Israel after the flesh with many judgments. Many of Israel in the flesh perished miserably and in astonishing ways. The Israel of God endured hardship and difficulty too. Yet in all this, God held them, kept them, and used the discipline to make them godlier.

In verses 11-13 the faithful remnant are looking back and seeing that God wonderfully did deliver His people. They are looking at Exodus 14 and 15, the deliverance of the people from Pharaoh's armies and their joy and rejoicing there on the far side of the sea. It's very useful for God's people to remember God's former mercies, knowing that God does not change. His mercies in the past really do secure His mercies in the present and His mercies in the future. He is the same God with the same holy, gracious, and good character. He shepherds His people, He sends His Holy Spirit. This good God Who does wonders of goodness, this covenant God is the One Who loves His people. He is willing to save His people. He is able to save them to the uttermost because this good God, this covenant God, is the mighty One who is powerful to save!

Question

1. What things do these verses tell us about Christ?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that Christ is willing and able to save.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:9

Praise: Psalm 55 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 63:14 - He Leads His People

In verse 14 we see that God leads His people in His goodness. He leads them despite their stubbornness. He leads them, protects them, takes them, and blesses them. The picture we have here is of some animal, maybe a sheep going down into the shelter of a valley on a hot, dry day. This is just a picture of the fact that God's people are led into safety. They have rest in Jesus Christ. Just like in the valley, as the beast was kept safe by the Spirit of God, Israel was kept safe by her faithful shepherd and Saviour, while she obeyed. He is saying here He would always care for them, and He has always and shall always care for us. He's our strong, safe place.

The purpose for all this goodness is God's own glory. He's glorified in the praises and thanks of His people. When we see His goodness given to us, even in the midst of what seems to others perhaps to be a desert, we give Him praise and thanks. He's glorified in showing His goodness, while at the same time dealing justly and rightly with sin in and through the person and work of the Lord Jesus!

Questions

1. What is the picture in this verse?
2. What is God's purpose in everything He does.

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God leads us in the right way.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:9

Praise: Psalm 56 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 63:15-16 - Where Are You, God?

The next 19 verses are verses of pleading from the repentant remnant of Israel. We start out with near despair and fear of having been abandoned. It's as though Isaiah fears that God is paying no attention anymore. At one time the people of God were blessed by His goodness. Even when they sinned, He brought them to repentance. He delivered them in wonderful ways. But it doesn't seem to be happening anymore. They were almost fearing that there was no mercy left for them. They were considering Him who must look down upon them. But even that was rather a disquieting thought. For they were seeing their terrible character. These are truly people of faith, but they are weak, and they have stumbled badly. They are not unbelievers, but how low they are! The Spirit of God, however, is getting their attention.

God is zealous for His people because He loves them and has loved them forever. God is strong. The people of God know that. The problem is this: We don't see His deliverance happening. The forces of idolatry, the forces of wickedness, just seem to be getting worse and worse. The people of God are saying 'we don't see Jehovah acting forcefully, zealously, according to His holy will.' And we have no strength to put off our enemies, no strength to change ourselves. We can't even deal with our own sin. The people of God wonder, are God's mercies restrained? Has God rejected us? For the believer, this is the worst thing possible, if such a thing could happen.

So -- is God no longer willing to save? Is the yearning of Christ's heart gone for us? Have we offended past the point of no return? These are not really the words of a reprobate person or of a reprobate people. This is the heart agony of a tender soul in deep repentance over sin, doubting, but by God's grace in Christ, hanging, holding, hoping beyond hope onto Christ. This is the agony of God's people of the Church, under discipline, not rejection, under purification, not being tossed aside. For you see that although the remnant were agonizing over all of this, they were running after God, not running from Him. And that can only happen by saving grace. They were pursuing their God, their Redeemer, their Father, Whom they called 'our Father' in verse 16. They continue to call Him that. Such a thing is impossible for unbelievers. All this was good evidence that the remnant was still indeed the true people of God and could expect God's evident favour. He would yet show it. They would yet see his zeal and strength.

Question

1. What are the people concerned about?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:9

Praise: Psalm 57 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 63:17-19 - Straying Sheep

It can be a fearsome thing, a possibility dreaded by God's people, believers, when they have sinned greatly and are awakened to their failure. So it is with these of Judah and Jerusalem. They had sinned greatly, and their shame was heavy upon them. They wondered that their Father would let them go so far, but so He does sometimes. It allows His people to see their own hearts, to see how far from complete their sanctification is, and their constant need to be depending upon the blood of Christ and upon the indwelling Spirit of God!

Verse 18 tells us of the final disaster brought about by the sin of God's people. All that God had blessed them with was gone. What was it that God's people had possessed for a little while? First, It was the land, a place of special blessing, and in the midst of which God dwelt. Specifically the Temple is mentioned, which was the most precious thing that the Israel of God had. There it was that their redemption, and their Redeemer, were all portrayed by the the priests, the sacrifices and offerings, the holy days and feasts, and all the Temple ceremonies. And they look to it as shamefully destroyed. At the time that Isaiah wrote this, the people still had the land and the Temple, but this prophecy looks way ahead. There would be nothing left to them that spoke of God's favour, God's covenant, God's promises - except His Word written and His Word become flesh in Christ, if only they would heed them! Christ is their inheritance, and in Him is all the fulfillment of the promise of the land, the seed, and the everlasting blessing to the nations.

In verse 19 the remnant sees that the wreckage extends to their own witness. They were to be a witness to the nations of God's holiness, God's grace, and God's wisdom (Deuteronomy 4:5-8). Yet, in the nation's turning away, again and again, they became like the nations around, or worse. Thus it was that God treated them like the nations around, although they were His. The godly were grieved with the sin all about, and were crying for mercy and for strength to repent. Their need was, and is, as it is for all sinners, to believe in Christ, who does and who will have mercy upon those who come to Him in faith and repentance.

Question

1. Why does God permit His people to stray?

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

In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Isaiah 63:9

Praise: Psalm 58 - 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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