

Let's Worship God

30th Dec. - 4th Jan. 2025

Isaiah



Isaiah

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Monday - Isaiah 66:1-4 - God's Dwelling Place

God is looking and telling the people of changes that will be happening in New Testament days, which has been the big context of Isaiah since chapter 40. God is emphasising that the Temple does not contain Him. God is everywhere. The Temple and its ceremonies were pointing forward to the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ. But once the real came, the pictures, the forms, and shadows and types, were not only unnecessary, but dangerous and were taken away. There is now a new High Priest. There is now a once and for all new sacrifice at the cross. There is a new Temple. It's the true Church of Jesus Christ. The final Temple is now the place of God's rest. The place of His rest is the Church for whom Jesus Christ has died.

All of creation is made by God. Creation shows God's glory, majesty, wisdom, and power. All is maintained and worked together by His continuous care for His glory and the good of His people. God's dwelling place is with the godly heart, the heart that once was dead but that He has made new. He who has this new heart that God gives, hates sin and fights against it. The new heart sees its entire inability to please God. Full dependence upon Jesus marks this one with whom God delights to dwell. He trembles at God's Word, not in terror, but in awe, in joy and in desire for it. Is this your heart?

In verses 3 and 4 the picture is of people going through certain kinds of sacrifices. And God is obviously angry about that. These sacrifices and offerings were something that God Himself commanded. So we might think, what's the problem? We see time and time again throughout the Scripture that the mere outward performance of these things is an abomination to God. These were always to be accompanied with faith. The sacrifices and the priests all pointed forward to the Person and work of Jesus Christ. But these people trusted the sacrifices instead of trusting the One of Whom these sacrifices pictured. At the same time, they continued on in their other sin. These people think everything is wonderful because they've killed a bull, but because their heart is not right with God, because they are still in their sin, it's just as if they were a murderer of a person. We see here in the second part of verse three, and all through verse four, they wanted to go on and enjoy life. They rejected God. They loved to do evil. They would not listen!

Question

1. What was wrong with the sacrifices the people offered?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that God dwells with His people.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. Isaiah 66:23

Praise: Psalm 71 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Tuesday - Isaiah 66:5-9 - The Godly Delivered

Verse 5 ultimately looks forward from Isaiah's day to the coming and the rejection of our Lord Jesus Christ. He was hated, cast out, and put to death by His brethren, the Jews, but Jesus triumphed over all His enemies, delivering His people and working victory for them. And, as they hated Jesus, so they hate His followers. But deliverance shall come. Rescue shall come. Sin, the greatest enemy, is smashed. The last enemy, death, is defeated. And all the other enemies are in the hand of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is now God's king over all things.

The language in verse 6 is very vivid. There is crying out from the city. It is not the yells of the Assyrians outside the city, as happened in Isaiah's own day. Rather it's the terror and horror of those in the city as happened in A.D. 70 immediately before the Romans came in and destroyed everything. God ended the Temple and the sacrifices. All was destroyed by their rightful king Whom they rejected. God is faithful to His promises to His people and protects them. No matter how the wicked prosper for a time, they will be brought low.

Who is the "she" in verse 7? It is the Church. Christ is the Head and Husband of the Church, yet from her He comes (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 54:1; Galatians 4:26; Revelation 12:1-5). The picture is of a woman who knows she is soon to give birth, but it still happens quite suddenly. So it happened with the coming of Christ - He was generally expected by the godly (see Simeon and Anna in the Temple in Luke 2), but still arrived without great fanfare or general alert.

Verse 8 reminds us of Acts 2. In the space of a day the New Testament form of the Church came to be. No longer was it principally of the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, but this was the start of it being of all nations.

God assures us in verse 9 that He will not bring to birth and then abandon. Christ's commission to His people in Matthew 28:18-20 will come to pass. He shall exercise His power and authority to bring it about through us, His people. Let us joyfully pray and work, then, knowing that although it may look to be a day of small things to us, Christ is honoured by it, Christ honours us in it, and Christ is using and will use our labour to build His Church (Matthew 16:18).

Question

1. What does God promise in verse 9?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. Isaiah 66:23

Praise: Psalm 72 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Wednesday - Isaiah 66:10-14 - Rejoice With Jerusalem

The words of verse 10 are addressed to those who love the Church. All who are the true Israel of God love her in her trials and in her triumphs that her Lord brings to her to purify her. Jesus, her Lord and Husband, loves her. He does not reject her or merely put up with her. So, Christian, when you mourn for the Church in her difficulty from within and without, know that a time of gladness and unspeakable joy for and in her shall come in good time.

The Church is not only the Bride of Christ, but the mother of believers as we see in verse 11. She it is who loves us, who cares for us, who feeds us. What do we receive of her? What blessings do we have in her? We have the means of grace given out in the preaching of the Word of God, the sacraments, and prayer. We have a covenant community to support us and our children and to help us walk together in newness of life, with the assurance of everlasting communion and fellowship in and with the saints and with Jesus Himself. We have the blessing of church discipline to help us grow in holiness. We have shepherds and servants (elders and deacons) to be helps to our faith. We have God-directed worship which, in and through Christ, we are assured is accepted by and delighted in by Him. All the blessing the Church receives from her Husband, all the love and joy, all the beauty and glory, are ours as we are in communion with her, as we are in union and communion with Christ.

Verse 12 is a promise to the Church that Jehovah gives peace. We, being justified by faith, have peace with God. We have peace with one another in the Church. We have increasing peace and contentment with God's providence and our future. There is the guarantee of an everlasting home with our Father. This peace is like a river. It will not dry up. It is unstoppable and abundant. It is extensive in its reach, flowing through many nations, gaining strength. It brings life, abundance, joy, and healing to those sick with sin and grief.

It is in the Church that we receive our comfort. Through her we receive the good news of the Gospel. These are sure promises that are partly fulfilled now, and will yet be fully brought to pass. As we experience now some of the promised blessing we rejoice! God's hand is a good hand for us who are His. His hand is a sovereign hand upon those who hate Him!

Question

1. What promises are in these verses?

Prayer Points

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

Memory Verse

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. Isaiah 66:23

Praise: Psalm 73 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Thursday - Isaiah 66:15-18 - Glory in Judgement

In verses 15-16 we see God's caring for His people by destroying their enemies. This is a promise for those who have been oppressed and grieved by the wicked. But for the ungodly, these are threats! Those who hate the people of God often have much power, much strength, much cleverness. They often seem to have much momentum as well, things seem to be going their way. But One is coming to destroy wickedness once and for all. He comes with fire in these verses. Fire can and does purify. And that's what the fire of Christ's coming in judgment does. It purifies His people. It cleanses away the corruption and filth of those who claim to be His people, but are not. Fire warms and encourages. Fire in the Scripture is sometimes a picture of God's Holy Spirit who warms us and enlivens us. Fire also brings agonizing and utter destruction. This is a picture of the curse upon the wicked. The final end for those who are wicked is exactly a lake of fire we see in Revelation 20:10, 15.

The ones mentioned in verse 17 seemingly take great pains to be "holy" and "set apart". But what are they set apart for? They are set apart to idols and to wickedness, to false religion. They are following the word of someone else and defying the Word of God. What is the end of these people? They will be utterly destroyed.

Verse 18 speaks of judgment upon Israel after the flesh, the hypocrites. God knows all about them. God knows all their sin. He judges this sinfulness. He judges fairly. He judges understandingly. He judges truly and righteously. There is no appeal from Him. This is the case for judgment for all peoples, then and now. But these verses are particularly focused on the falsely professing, Israel after the flesh. Jehovah declares that this justice shall not happen in some dark corner or in secret proceedings in order to protect unrepentant Israel. Rather, He brings all nations that they may see and fear. It will be a judgement that brings Him glory. This happened in A.D. 70 where nations from all over were there at the siege and the destruction of Jerusalem. And nations all over the civilized world certainly heard about it. This is that which Paul speaks of in Romans 11 with his word picture of the olive tree. Branches are being snapped off because of unbelief. Meanwhile, branches from wild and uncultivated olive trees are also being grafted into the root and stalk of the olive tree of God. That's what's going on here. The nations not only see, but they are brought to believe!

Question

1. What do we learn about God's judgement in these verses?

Prayer Points

1. Give thanks that the day of the wicked will have an end.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. Isaiah 66:23

Praise: Psalm 74 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Friday - Isaiah 66:19-21 - Glory in Salvation

What is the sign that God refers to in verse 19? This is Jesus Christ Himself. Those who did believe upon Him were sent forth, even as He told them to go forth in what we think of as the Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. We see it beginning with the preaching of the Gospel by Peter at Pentecost in Acts 2, where these nations were all gathered, and all of them in their different languages, heard the praises of God. Much of Acts is an account of Paul's missionary journeys to distant lands. The places mentioned in verse 19 are places that are far away and to the Israelites, mysterious. They know there is something out there, but no Israelite has seen them. These lands, on the other hand, way out there, have never heard of the living and true God. They have never heard of the Son whom He will send. But they shall. God's glory will be declared among the Gentiles. God's people went forth as God, through Isaiah, said they would. They went forth as Jesus commanded them to do. They spoke of sin. They preached Christ and Him crucified. They spoke of Him as resurrected, having fully accomplished salvation for His people, as Paul did in Acts chapter 17. And they spoke of Him as ascended to glory. They declared to sinners that there was deliverance for them and peace with God. God was glorified, sinners were saved, and many from the nations were and are being led into life in Jesus Christ. We have the promise here, and we'll see it in the next couple of verses, that people will come. They did. They did on Pentecost. They did on many other occasions. They will come as we tell people of Jesus Christ. Salvation has come to the nations. And we're all living examples of that.

We see in verse 20 the result of this sending. There is a mighty river of conversions, people streaming out of the nations. They are in Christ, they are children of God, they are brothers to those who are the true Israel of God. They are an offering to the Lord, consecrated in heart to God. They are borne along over bad roads and good, safely through any barrier. They are going to Jerusalem, and their King is in their midst.

In verse 21 Isaiah is looking to New Testament days where the priests do not do the work of sacrifice, but tell of the person and work of Christ. They are the elders of the Church, who teach and intercede for the people. The Levites of old helped the priesthood, even as the deacons today help the elders and help the people in their need and in their use of temporal things to the glory of God!

Question

1. What does Jesus command His Church to do?

Prayer Points

1. Pray that as you reach out with the Gospel many would come to Christ.
2. Use prayer points from your congregation.
3. Pray for family matters.

Memory Verse

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. Isaiah 66:23

Praise: Psalm 75 - See www.rpglobalalliance.org for Psalm tune helps.

Isaiah

Saturday - Isaiah 66:22-24 - Glorious Promises of God

In a very real way, we are already in the new heavens and the new earth! First, as we've been seeing, the Gentiles are taken into the church of Jesus Christ. In a new heaven and new earth, the gospel is for all the world. Secondly, no longer is redemption promised. Redemption is accomplished, and we no longer need the types and symbols pointing us to a coming redemption. All of this is the way it shall be until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. Then there will be one more change. Then there will be consummation. Then there will be resurrection for us all. And our salvation, which has now started, shall be completed. All of us who are in Jesus Christ have certain aspects of our salvation already. We had dead hearts that are now made alive. We all have saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. We are the children of God. What else is there? Well, if you're in Jesus Christ, you're still fighting sin. You have yet to be perfected and fitted fully for glory.

We see closing worship and adoration of God for His goodness in verse 23, and for His justice in verse 24. When we talk about God's goodness, we are talking about His grace, His mercy, His kindness, and love. The Spirit enables Isaiah to see a vast number of people coming from all nations, worshipping and adoring God for His goodness to the children of men. We're in that group of people. We once again are living fulfilment of prophecy. And the worship and the adoration that, even now we give, is puny compared to what it shall be. And the joy we shall have is called unspeakable and full of glory by Peter in 1st Peter 1:18.

The picture in verse 24 is of people of a city taking a walk outside of the city to a horrible place. It's a picture of hell where everything is rotten, everything is burning, everything stinks, everything's horrible. No one knows anyone. There is no hope for anyone there. What a strange way to close this book. Why would God have Isaiah write this? To warn those who still will not give up their sin and turn to Jesus, and because it shows His righteousness, holiness, justice, and truth. We see God's goodness to all his people. We see the destruction of all their enemies. And we see the glory of God. And that's how the book ends. Jesus wins!

Many thanks to Rev. Phil Pockras of Belle Center, Ohio, RPCNA for these notes. You can listen to the sermons they were taken from on sermonaudio.

Question

1. How does this book of Isaiah end?

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

From new moon to new moon, and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD. Isaiah 66:23

Praise: Psalm 76 - 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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