

Sermon Notes – October 10, 2021

Review

- Isaiah was a spokesman for God about 2,750 years ago, around the year 740 B.C. His name means, “The Lord is Salvation.”
- Judgment and Hope are two of the major themes. As Isaiah gives his sermons & writings, God’s judgment is about to come. Isaiah looks to the coming Messiah and to future restoration.
- We noted last week that the “literal, historical, grammatical” approach to Bible interpretation means that we read the Bible according to the normal and customary uses of language. That includes recognizing figures of speech and various literary genres.

Today’s text: Isaiah 3:1-4:6

Within this opening section of Isaiah, chapters 2-4 seem to form a single sermon, bracketed by words of hope (2:1-6 and 4:2-6), yet describing details of God’s coming judgment on His sinful people. As we read words of judgment, it is essential that we remember the heart of God through it all: ***“It is not a cruel God who brings those things upon us, and it is not a rejecting God who [sends] us to the fire. Rather it is a loving God who sees no other way to bring us to the place where He can [truly] live in us”*** (Oswalt).

The Consequences Of National Rebellion Are Painful

(3:1-4:1)

- ⇒ The words of judgment here are aimed at a nation, not an individual. Taken together, they are devastating:
- _____ collapse (1)
 - Removal of key leaders (2-3)
 - Inexperienced & reluctant leaders (4, 6-7)
 - An epidemic of _____ & antagonism (5)
 - Open rebellion against God & _____ sin (8-11)
 - Absence of men of character & integrity (12)
 - Leaders who take advantage of those led (13-15)
 - Prosperity enough to flaunt! (16-4:1)

Isaiah 3:1-4:6
God’s Kindness In Acts Of Judgment
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ Interestingly, when these areas are strong in a nation, many feel no need for God, while others view their presence as evidence of God’s _____.

Despite Judgment, God Looks Toward Restoration (4:2-6)

- ⇒ God’s judgment of the sinful nation of Judah is not intended to _____ it forever. Rather, even in judgment, God looks toward future hope.
- ⇒ “The Branch,” is a Messianic term that looks to the coming of Christ (**READ Isaiah 11:1, and Jeremiah 23:5 & 33:15**).
- ⇒ Notice the existence of a believing remnant (v. 3) – survivors left in Jerusalem after the season of judgment. Some see this as taking place in history, and others believe that this is an example of Prophetic Foreshortening, looking ahead to a restored Israel after a coming time of tribulation.
- ⇒ The time of restoration referred to here is reminiscent of God’s protective and glorious presence with Israel during the Exodus.
- ⇒ Clearly, judgment of Judah and Jerusalem does not have the last word. God’s purpose is to _____ and _____, not to ultimately destroy.

Responding to God’s Word in Worship & Obedience

- ⇒ We have been speaking today about God’s judgment of a sinful nation, and we have seen that God’s judgment came with mercy; that is, His intent was corrective and restorative. In a similar way, we saw in Hebrews 12 just recently that when God disciplines us as His children, His purpose is to correct and restore us, not to ruin us! This is mercy indeed! Is there a place in your life that God is at work in His discipline?
- ⇒ As we look at the gospel of Jesus, we see judgment poured out on Jesus as He bore our sins on the cross, and God’s great mercy in offering to us, guilty sinners, forgiveness through Jesus Christ! This is the message of Romans 3:21-26 – in the cross, we see perfect justice and amazing grace! Are you trusting Him as your sin-bearer today?

Community Group Notes

Getting Started

Who in your group has ever gotten a very young puppy? How did the training process go? Did you get any help or ideas from others? Was the process wonderful or awful, and what was the outcome? Would you do it again?

Talking It Through

1. Review the sermon from Sunday: READ Isaiah 3:1-4:6 and remember the main points from Sunday. In summary form, what was this week's sermon about?
2. We began on Sunday by thinking together about good parenting, involving both discipline and abundant grace. Does anyone in the group recall ever hearing those fateful words, "This is going to hurt me more than it's going to hurt you"? Okay, any memorable moments of discipline from your childhood that you're willing to share? What did you do, and what was the outcome of the discipline you received?
3. Browse your sermon notes regarding the description of a nation being judged by God (Isaiah 3). What things about that list strike you the most? Any surprises? Anything missing that you might have expected to be present?
4. What do you see as the difference between God's active judgment, and God allowing natural consequences to take place? Could it be that sometimes judgment involves God withdrawing His protective hand for a season?

5. Is economic prosperity for a nation (or a family) always a sign of God's blessing? Talk it over as a group!

6. Isaiah 4 looks ahead from the judgment predicted by Isaiah to the coming Messiah – the "branch." Have you ever seen a tree growing out of a fallen log or from a stump? What comes to mind when you see things like that? How is that similar to Christ coming to earth from a broken & fallen nation? (You might browse Jeremiah 23:5 and 33:15 again)

Thinking Deeper & Taking It Home

How have you seen God's patience with you? How have you seen God's discipline in your life, remembering that His discipline isn't retribution, but training and correction and re-direction? See Hebrews 12:5-11.

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Time to PRAY

(Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Take time to share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group, and then pray for those needs. Here's a place to list specific prayer needs:

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Worship Next Sunday: October 17, 2021

"Warning! Do Not Despise God's Blessings"

(Isaiah 5:1-30) Pastor Tyler Pease