

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 30

Title: A Man More Precious

Scripture: Isaiah 13

Date: 5-24-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

**Isaiah 13: 1: The burden of Babylon, which Isaiah the son of Amoz did see.**

In the day when God judges this world in righteousness by the Man, Christ Jesus—he being the perfection of holiness—every sinner will come one of two ways. **Acts 17:31: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.**

You will either come bearing the light and easy yoke of faith in Christ. It is light and easy because the awesome weight of the government of God's just judgment toward you fell upon Christ's shoulder. For the believer, because Christ suffered at Calvary, he has born judgment on your behalf. **Col 2:10: And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.** His word of declaration, says, **1 Jo 4:17: Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world."**

Or you will come before God, trusting in something you have done. Trusting your decision for Christ, trusting your act of believing, expecting to be favored for your many wonderful works, for how you laid the burden of the law on others and cast out those devils who did not measure up, expecting to be received because of the assurance you have by regarding in yourself some act of obedience to God. Oh, the weight—the indescribable, unimaginable weight--of the holy, eternal judgment of God shall rest squarely on your own shoulder. You yourself will spend all eternity and never satisfy the justice that Christ satisfied at Calvary on behalf of all God's elect.

Our text this morning declares to you what you can expect if you come to God bearing the weight yourself. In Isaiah chapters 11 and 12, the Spirit of God declared the salvation of the Lord's people by Christ Jesus the Lord. Now beginning in Isaiah 13, Isaiah looks ahead to the destruction of that godless city Babylon and her king. Throughout the scriptures, Babylon is representative of all false religion. (Rev. 13 or 18:1-8). This prophecy is of God's wrath upon all who despise the light of the gospel and choose the path of evil -

We will begin with a key verse in this chapter

**Isaiah 13: 12: I will make a man more precious than fine gold: even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. (Is 24: 1-2; 5-6.)**

## **I. NO MAN**

The LORD God declares in the plainest language that in the day of his fierce wrath it shall be clear to you: that you, and every sinner around you alike, is a worm and no man. Now, you have heard it said many times. You have heard me say it. You have read it in God's word, that you are no man to come to God in yourself.

**Jeremiah 4: 22: For my people *is* foolish, they have not known me; they *are* sottish children, and they have none understanding: they *are* wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge...25: I beheld, and, lo, *there was* no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled.**

**Jeremiah 8:6: I hearkened and heard, *but* they spake not aright: no man repented him of his wickedness, saying, What have I done? every one turned to his course, as the horse rusheth into the battle.**

**Lamentations 4:4: The tongue of the sucking child cleaveth to the roof of his mouth for thirst: the young children ask bread, *and* no man breaketh *it* unto them.**

**Romans 3: 10: As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12: They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.**

Yet, though you have heard it, many of you have never laid it to heart. You are like those scoffers in Jeremiah's day who said, "Oh, he's always so harsh. He's always speaking of sin. He's always saying burden, burden, burden! All he ever says is we are sinners and we need Christ Jesus." They would laugh at Jeremiah or harden themselves saying, "What is the burden you have for us today?" The LORD told Jeremiah to say, **Jeremiah 23: 33: And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What *is* the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD.**

They loved to hear their false prophets because the message of the false prophet made them all warm and fuzzy inside. But the Lord said this: **Jeremiah 6: 13: For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one dealeth falsely. 14: They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace. 15: Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that* I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.**

A. First, learn that you who trust in the will of man shall be destroyed by the will of man.

**Isaiah 13: 2: Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles.**

We saw in chapter 11 that the Ensign for the believer is Christ. That is not the banner spoken of here. This is the LORD's command to his enemies the Medes and Persians to go in and destroy his enemies the Babylonians. Be sure you get this now: the Medes and Persians were as much the enemies of God as the Babylonian's. But the thrice holy God declares to us here that wicked sinners, who boast of their will, are the instruments he uses to destroy his enemies. All God has to do to use you to destroy others just like you is allow you to exercise the will in which prize as being so valuable to you.

God did this not by infusing sin into his enemies. That would be contrary to God's pure and holy nature. God merely let his enemies perform what was already in their own hearts'. He in no way changed their will but merely allowed them to perform their will. Therefore his enemies are still without excuse for the sinfulness of their action and God is not at all the author of sin

**Proverbs 16:4: The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.**

**Psalm 76:10: Surely the wrath of man shall praise thee: the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain.**

**Exodus 15:3: The LORD *is* a man of war: the LORD *is* his name.**

Here in our text, the LORD, the Man of war gives his command to his armies in the earth. (vv3-5)

Let's see this in the new testament: Don't let the language confuse you, every one mentioned here is: Satan, false religion represented by Babylon the great whore; the horns are kings of the earth and inhabitants of the earth who have been made drunk with wine of fornication—free will, claiming believers are yet under the law, philosophy, all the man-made religions of the world, vile God-haters—they are all Babylon. So everyone we see here are the enemies of God. Now listen to what God does with them: **Revelation 17: 1: And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: 2: With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication. 3: So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. 4: And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: 5: And upon her forehead *was* a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. 6: And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great**

admiration. 7: And the angel said unto me, Wherefore didst thou marvel? **I will tell thee the mystery of the woman, and of the beast that carrieth her, which hath the seven heads and ten horns.** 8: The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. 9: And here is the mind which hath wisdom. [Here is wisdom!] **The seven heads are seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.** [just as America has risen to be a superpower in the world so Babylon in our text was a high mountain until God unleashed his enemies to go and destroy it. This is telling us how God will turn all the great mountains of Satan and false religion—men and women--over to destroy itself.] **14 : These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.** **15: And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.** **16: And the ten horns which thou sawest upon the beast,** [now understand that the ten horns are just as much the enemies of God as the beast and the harlot-Babylon who rides upon the beast. Just as the Medes and Persians were the enemies of God like the Babylonians. But listen to this:] **these shall hate the whore, and shall make her desolate and naked, and shall eat her flesh, and burn her with fire.** [why would those who are enemies of God destroy those who are enemies of God?] **17: For God hath put in their hearts to fulfil his will, and to agree, and give their kingdom unto the beast, until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

Illustrations on the positive side:

The Lord allowed Joseph's brother's to sell him into Egypt—their sin did it, but God allowed it because it meant the birth and salvation of those chosen children which God promised Abraham he would save around 400 years before.

Likewise, the crucifixion of Christ, the Son of God, was done with wicked hands, by the determinate council and foreknowledge of God because it meant the salvation of the people he agreed to save from all eternity.

Lesson: God raised up faithful men during the protestant reformation who opposed the great harlot of Roman Catholicism. But in our day, most take the believer right back under the yoke of the law, and the false prophets who do so are no more than little popes wearing the disguise of reformers. But even now, our God is using his enemies--satan and wicked men and women--to execute his judgment upon his enemies. God is not at all at fault for doing so nor guilty of any charges. All God does is remove his restraining hand to allow men to perform the will which man so loves to boast of--**until the words of God shall be fulfilled.**

Ultimately, in the day of God's wrath, when God removes his hand of restraint from all wicked men and women, the tormenting, gnashing of teeth in hell will be the unrestrained will of man.

Illustration: 5'o'clock traffic. Think of evil thoughts you think toward others and the evil you do not even realize others think of you. Now think of them being able to do exactly what is in their hearts to you and you to them. The very will of man which sinners love to boast in will be the very punishment of hell. **Isaiah 13: 6: Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.**

B. In the day of God's judgment, you shall be made to know that NO MAN, NO SINNER, is able to bear up under the burden of God's judgment.

You trusted the work of your hands. You found assurance from the opinion of your own deceitful, heart (v7--**all hands, faint; every heart, melts.**)

In your lifetime, you proved you truly never feared God. Your food--your life--was *your* works of righteousness; you were full of laughter and mirth all your days in this earth; you never travailed over your sin. In another place in Isaiah 57: 10 the Spirit of God says, **Thou art wearied in the greatness of thy way; yet saidst thou not, There is no hope: thou hast found the life of thine hand; therefore thou wast not grieved.** (But listen to Is 13: 8.)

Throughout your days, you heard God call the self-righteous: "evil", "proud", "arrogant", "haughty." You read in God's word that he hates the look of the proud, the workers of iniquity, but you refused to be brought low. In that day it will be only you to blame. (v11)

C. In that day, no man who comes outside of Christ shall be exempt from bearing the burden of justice—(vv9, 11--Not every man in the world for some were put in Christ before the world began, some were in Christ at Calvary, some are in Christ the Sanctuary by the power of the Holy Spirit working in them--those who believe on Christ have found that their sin has been put away as far as the east is from the west—but for those who shall come into judgment outside of Christ.)

D. There will be no safety in numbers in that day (vv13-15.)

E. There will be no mercy in that day (vv16-18.)

F. The judgment of God shall be full and final--these wild beasts are a description of you and all who shall remain when God has removed you (vv19-22.)

**Isaiah 13: 12: I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir. IN THAT DAY OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT YOU SHALL BEHOLD THAT YOU INDEED ARE A WORM AND NO MAN. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE THAT SHALL BE MADE KNOWN IN THAT DAY!**

## II. A MAN

**Isaiah 13: 12: I will make A Man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.**

As you are made to see that you and all sinners like you are no man, God promises there is A MAN which he shall make appear to you as more precious than gold.

A. In order for eternal justice to be satisfied, all the wrath that we hear of in this chapter was born on the shoulder of A MAN, Christ Jesus the Lord. He bore it for all those who are made to trust him alone.

The LORD, the Man of war, gave the charge to all his enemies to unleash their fury upon Christ Jesus the Son of God (v3-5; shouting--crucify him! Crucify him!) **Acts 4: 27: For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together, 28: For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.**

Read verse 6--The day our Savior bore judgment for his people on the cross was truly the day this world was judged. **John 12: 31: Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.**

Verses 7-9 speaks of what all who come to God outside of Christ must bear, but this also describes what the Man, Christ Jesus bore in perfect faithfulness as the substitute of his people and the righteous servant of God. **Psalm 22: 1: My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me...11: Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. 12: Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. 13: They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. 14: I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. 15: My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. 16: For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. 17: I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. 18: They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture. 19: But be not thou far from me, O LORD: O my strength, haste thee to help me. 20: Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog. 21: Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns.**

B. Christ the Light shall appear as he is before all men in that day.

In that great day, when the Son of Man shall appear in all the radiance of his glory we read: **Isaiah 13: 10: For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.**

The stars, the sun, the moon are all the lights of nature. Therefore, in the day when God shall judge you in righteousness by Christ Jesus, all those works you performed--that light which you right now consider to be great light--shall be like these lights of nature. The light of your righteousness beside Christ the Light shall prove you to have no light at all. You will

understand fully what the Lord Jesus meant when he said, **Matthew 6:23:...If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!**

In that day, the Lord shall make A MAN--Christ Jesus--more precious than fine gold; even A MAN than the golden wedge of Ophir.

- His blood--though you counted his blood common--universally shed for all men--unable to save unless you by your fickle will made it effectual for you--in that day the LORD shall declare the blood of Christ is truly precious--you will behold Christ and Christ alone purged his people of their sin and not you.
- His Righteousness--you counted it a common thing, as common as dirt so you tread him under foot all your days, but in that day the LORD shall declare the righteousness of Christ is more precious than the golden wedge of Ophir.
- His Gospel--you could take it or leave it, always had something better to do, never committed yourself to his church, to hear the words of eternal life--but in that day the LORD shall declare to you that Christ Jesus is the Word of Life, you shall behold just how precious this gospel of Christ really was.
- His Intercession--you thought you needed no priest, needed no one to present you to God, but in that day, as you see Christ Jesus the Lord undertaking for his saints while you stand all alone you will see just how precious the Intercessor really is.

**Isaiah 13: 12: I will make a man more precious than fine gold; even a man than the golden wedge of Ophir.**

**Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11: And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

C. But for you, brethren, who have cast all your care on Christ Jesus the Lord, you shall behold just how precious Christ truly is and has been to you as well.

**Isaiah 14: 1: For the LORD will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and set them in their own land: and the strangers shall be joined with them, and they shall cleave to the house of Jacob.** Now turn over to Revelation 18: 20-24; 19: 1-7

**APPLICATION: THE DAY WE HAVE DESCRIBED HERE WILL BE THE DAY OF JUDGMENT but NOW IS THE DAY OF SALVATION. DO YOU BELIEVE GOD?**

**Isaiah 55: 6-7; 8: 12-14.**