

Sunday, May 3, 2020

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

78. From Foreigner to Family – Isaiah 56:1-12

Intro: Isaiah 56-66 form the 5th and final section of the vision of Isaiah. In the previous section (chapter 40-55) we saw the promise of rescue from Babylonian captivity through Cyrus and the redemption of God's people from sin by the Suffering Servant. Now in this final section we see encouragement during inner inadequacies and outer oppression to pray and hold on to God's promises, confidently expecting the eternal glory of the new creation that is coming. So for now, we wait and we hope – looking for the coming of the anointed Conqueror.

This morning, in chapter 56, we find the church where it is – today! Looking back at the once-for-all redemption accomplished at Calvary and awaiting a final divine act which will rescue God's people finally and forever from sin, failure, and opposition.

- I. The International House of Prayer – vs. 1-8
 - A. Present Command for Future Promise (vs. 1)
 1. Do what is right because My righteous will soon be revealed
 2. Future, full righteousness will be seen in the deliverance of God's people – salvation
 3. Pursue justice and righteousness – seek the Lord – Isa. 55:6; Psa. 40:16; Amos 5:4; Zeph. 2:3
 - B. Keep Justice and Do Righteousness (vs. 2)
 1. Blessed is the man resting in the Lord
 2. While you wait, obey His Word and imitate His character – Eph. 5:1-2
 3. Keep doing this – justice, righteousness
 4. What sent them into exile? Sin, typified by defiling the Sabbath – obeying my desires and not God's commands – Jer. 17:19-27; Ezek. 20:12, 20; 22:8, 26
 5. We are to preserve the identity and the purity of the people of God, otherwise there is nothing for anyone to join and no good reason for seeking to do so
 - C. None Excluded from Blessings (vs. 3-7)
 1. A foreigner fears rejection
 2. A eunuch cannot say he doesn't belong
 3. No one is excluded – God's people include those of every nation and does not reject anyone according to birth, defect, deformity, or even prior idolatry – Eph. 2:14, 17-19
 4. Join and keep – persistent pursuit of holy living is our evidence of belonging to the Lord
 5. Hold fast My covenant – get a grip on – take His promises seriously and live accordingly
 6. A name not cut off – even without descendants we will see a family name that goes on
 7. Foreigners join/choose devotion to the Lord – Ruth 1:16-18; 2:11-12; 2 Sam. 15:19-22
 8. Welcome to the family – Psa. 43:3-4
 9. My house (family) will be called a house of prayer for all nations – 1 Kings 8:41-44; Mark 11:17 – enjoyment of the Lord's presence and fellowship
 - D. The Gathered People (vs. 8) – the blessing yet to come
 1. The Sovereign Lord Declares
 2. He will gather the scattered of Israel and then others (foreigners, eunuchs) to be His gathered people
 3. Gathered by the same sovereign Lord to become one gathered people – Col. 3:10-11
- II. Irresponsible, Intoxicated Leaders – vs. 9-12 – Quote #1
 - A. A Feast for the Beasts – invited to the palace (vs. 9)
 - B. Watchmen (vs. 10) – Ezek. 33:6
 1. To guard from external danger
 2. Blind – they cannot see to warn others

3. Ignorant – **they do not know** (lack knowledge) – Hosea 4:6
 4. Mute dogs – cannot bark to warn
 5. Greedy dogs – never have enough – **they do not know satisfaction**
- C. Shepherds (vs. 11) – 1 Peter 5:1-4
1. To care for internal needs
 2. They cannot understand – **they do not know discernment** – no sensitivity to the true needs of the flock
 3. They turn to follow gain – self-serving
 4. They are wholly absorbed in seeking to serve themselves – self-obsessed
- D. Condemned for Complacency (vs. 12)
1. No threat today, we are safe – Jer. 6:14-15
 2. Let's get drunk, tomorrow will be even better, so no need to be ready to get up and defend/warn – 1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8; 2:6
 3. What could possibly go wrong? – Zeph. 1:12; Rev. 3:16-21

Quote #1 – “The idea that all that matters is policy and not the private lives of leaders finds no support. Private wrong and public right do not co-exist.” – AJ Motyer, Commentary on Isaiah