

The Book of Isaiah

Trusting God More #20

Some of the outlines are taken from Melissa Spoelstra's book, *Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting More*.

Review of the previous Lesson: Chapter 39 (the latter verses) and beginning of chapter 40.

Opening Discussion: Why do you think God hates idols? Refer to Exodus 20:2-3. Think about substituting some man made for a living God!

Isaiah 40 (continued). Read verse 12 again. We left there on last week. This verse reminds us of the omnipotence of God. It speaks of the greatness of God as Creator. Here is God speaking to His people who are in exile, and He reminds them of who He is.

Read 13-14. God speaks to us about the greatest of his wisdom. Remember the advice given in Proverbs 4:5-9. The next time you think about grumbling or complaining think about this verse in Isaiah. When we really think about the wisdom, the power, and the glory of God, our complaints should subside. We ought to literally want to hide our faces from God.

Read verse 15. God reminds of us His vastness and the significance of the nations. He called the nations a "drop in the bucket and small dust." Do you think he was referring to Babylon? Yes, He was. The greatest nations, the most powerful, and the most wicked are seen as a drop in the bucket to God.

Discussion: Have you considered the fact the very thing that is worrying you sick is a "drop in the bucket" to God?

Discussion: Think about what's going on in Israel, Russia and Ukraine. What do you think?

Read verses 16-19.

Everything in these nations could be sacrificed and yet the sacrifice would be inadequate. Only the sacrifice of Jesus (forthcoming) in context would bring God satisfaction. In verse 18, no image of God was permissible (as found in the second commandment). What's the problem with our images of God?

Why does He ask the question in verse 18? In verse 19ff, God reminds them of what had been done in the past. The image was called a god. The next few verses speak to idols.

In verses 25-30, God speaks about His holiness and His greatness. Pay close attention to 28-31. Now, read verse 31 below.

Isaiah 40:31-³¹ But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

Think about verse 31 deeper considering our conversation about idols. The everlasting God faints neither is He weary. We faint and we become weary, but God does not. Hallelujah! He does not get tired. He does not have to be replaced or exchanged. How does this compare to idols?

What should we do after having read those verses? We should change our minds about God! Hear the progression in verse 31. We hear the opposites...progressing from walking to running... mount up with wings...

What is the promise to those who wait on the Lord?
What would renewed strength look like to God's people in captivity?
What does the promise of renewed strength mean to us?

Some have likened verse 31 to 1 John 2:12-14. We find the stages of Christian growth:

- a) The young Christian will mount up as an eagle.
- b) The adult Christian will run.
- c) The mature Christian will walk.

This is important! Don't forget all of this chapter was spoken to a people in exile. God's people were told to wait on God. **What profound message is God speaking to us today in this same verse?**

What do you remember?
What are chapters 1-35 called?
What are chapters 36-39 called?
What are chapters 40-66 called?

Describe Hezekiah's response to two different letters? What about Hezekiah's prayer in chapter 38?

What is the state of the people in verse 40? How does that speak to you today?

We are pausing for a month. Lord willing, we will continue with chapter 4, Chapter forty-one is called the great I WILL chapter of the Bible. Read! Study! Go ahead of our study!

Lord willing, we will meet on August 14, 2024.