

The Book of Isaiah

Trusting God More #33

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:1 KJV, Comfort ye, Comfort ye my people, saith the Lord."

Review: Isaiah chapter 55.

Chapter 56

Opening Discussion: The church is supposed to be a representation of the temple in the Bible. Do you think when it includes the inclusion of everyone, as God intended, the church is far removed from its primary objective?

Chapter 56 is directed towards the events in the future and to the more practical aspects of life. The emphasis is on ethics. In the first part of the chapter, verses 1-8, we will view the particulars of the kingdom. In the second part of the chapter, verses 9-12, we will review some of the sorry predicaments of Israel during the time of the writing of Isaiah.

Read 1-8

Notice verse 1 speaks to the national salvation of Israel. Read Romans 11:26. Verse 2 refers to the great tribulation and the millennium. The Sabbath refers to an arrangement between God and Israel.

Verse 32. The Gentile, in that day, will not long feel like an outsider because of God's arraignment with Israel; to the contrary, Gentiles are invited to share the blessings of God.

In verses 4-5, **those who had formerly been excluded are not invited to the table**. The law kept them away.

Read verse 7. This is the verse the Lord quoted from when He cleansed the temple the second time (see Matthew 21:13). God intended for the temple to be for all people irrespective of race, tongue, class or condition. Listen to how the kingdom is described in verse 8.

The Shift

Notice in verse 9, the vision shifts from the lofty glory of the future kingdom to how Israel really was then.

Why do you think God/Isaiah shifted?

Did you hear blind watchmen, lazy dogs, dumb dogs, false prophets?

Do you find anything familiar here? Does this sound like us?

Verse 11 continues and describes them as greedy dogs who sought the welfare of their own and not the welfare of everyone else.

Does this sound like us? Wow!

Read verse 12. Considering what you have heard in verses 9-12, How does God offer of salvation sound?

Think about the condition of the world and all that is going on. How does God offer of salvation sound?

Chapter 57

This chapter brings us to the final scene before the coming of the King to set up His kingdom. Therefore, we are looking at eh days of the Great Tribulation.

Discussion: How much do you know about the great tribulation?

Where will the believers be? How important is it for you to know this and to know in whom we believe?

Read Revelation 7:14.

Notice the righteous are removed in verse 1-2. This recaptures 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Revelation 7:14.

Listen how God addressed the wicked in verse 3. Listen to the label given to their mothers.

IN verse 4, God brings an indictment among His people in Israel!

We hear Israel described as the people of God who turned their backs on God. They were idolaters. What do we remember about the subject of idolatry in the previous chapters?

Read verse 6. They worshipped everything EXCEPT the living and true God.

Read verse 7-8. They flaunted their sin publicly.

Discuss verse 9.

Verse 9 has unique interest.

Israel lowered themselves into hell.

They sank so low that paid homage to Satan's representative.