Sermon 10: God's Triumph over the Kingdom of Darkness: Isaiah 14:12-16

Text: Isaiah 14:12-16 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms

Introduction:

- **Background and setting**
  - The first major Messianic Isaiah prophecy was written early in Ahaz's reign, when the kings of Syria and the Northern Kingdom formed an alliance to fight against Jerusalem.
  - God sent Isaiah to Ahaz to encourage him as he faced this daunting alliance.
  - The threat would not last, and the Northern Kingdom would be conquered by another great empire, Assyria, which would completely annihilate Ephraim 65 years later.
  - This prophecy took place about 15 years later, which was the year Ahaz died.
  - When Isaiah prophesied Babylon's humiliation, they were not yet a direct threat to Judah.
  - This shows us that these prophecies were meant to reach beyond their immediate audience.
  - 30 years later, near the end of Hezekiah's reign, God warned him that Babylon was an immanent threat and would brutalize Jerusalem.
  - Despite Isaiah's ministry within 150 years, Judah would also be conquered, the temple and Jerusalem left in ruins, and the people killed or uprooted into Babylon for 70 years.

Summary: God is Sovereign over everything and will visibly demonstrate His absolute authority over every realm for all eternity.
Proposition: We must learn to rest in His sovereignty.

Truth 1: Rest in His future Kingdom:

- **Chapters 11-12 describe Israel's Eschatological future:**
- **These chapters were meant to bring comfort to people living through chaos and spiritual compromise.**

    - **Chapter 11:**
        - **Christ will come from Jesse's lineage and be a righteous King: 11:1** "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots…"
        - **God will establish His Kingdom and reverse the curse: 11:6, 9** "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid…a little child shall lead them… the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD…"
        - **God will re-establish His people and the nations will seek Christ: 11:10** "In that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious…"
    - **Chapter 12: God's people will glory in Christ their Savior and King: 12:2-4** "God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation. Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation. And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted…"
- **These same promises are reaffirmed in Revelation to people living through chaos in the first century: 20:1-6** "And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years…"
    - Satan will be bound.
    - God's people will participate in Christ's Kingdom.
    - This period will last 1,000 years.

Truth 2: Rest in His hand over history: 14:1-11

- **Wrestling with injustice:**

    - Someone might say, that's great, but what about right now.
    - Every generation faced new threats from rising empires.
    - Syria and Assyria were real threats and the people wondered if God would deal with their injustices and pride.
    - Babylon was not yet a threat, but eventually it would become a serious threat.
- **God's answer:**
    - **Isaiah 11-23** describes God's promised judgment upon at least 11 different nations.
    - **Isaiah 13-14** focusses on His judgment upon Babylon.
    - **He will cast them down like he cast down Sodom and Gomorrah: 13:19** "Babylon, the glory of kingdoms, the beauty of the Chaldees' excellency, shall be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah…"
    - **He will have mercy on His people: 14:1** "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.
    - **He will reverse their humiliating circumstances and give them rest: 14:3** And it shall come to pass in the day that the LORD shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to serve,
    - **He will make an example of their oppressors: 14:4-6** That thou shalt take up this proverb against the king of Babylon, and say, How hath the oppressor ceased! the golden city ceased! The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth.
    - **Other nations will also enjoy rest from this enemy: 14:7** "The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet…"
    - **They will marvel at how quickly the Babylonians would be humbled: 14:10-11** "All they shall speak and say unto thee, Art thou also become weak as we? art thou become like unto us? Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee…"

Truth 3: Rest in His decisive triumph over evil: 14:12-16

- **Wrestling with the rise and extent of evil:**
    - How did these people become so powerful?
    - Why were they so vicious?
    - What was the ultimate cause of their atrocities?
    - Satan was working behind the scenes.

- **Isaiah pulled back the curtain to expose more information:**
- **This revelation shows the full extent of God's sovereignty and how He will ultimately triumph over evil:**
    - **A new person is introduced in the context: 14:12** "How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning!"
    - **He actively weakened the nations: 14:12** "Which didst weaken the nations!"
    - **He hates God and longs to overthrow God's rightful reign: 14:13-14** "Hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High…"
    - **He will be brought down to hell: 14:15** "Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell…"
    - **He will be scoffed at, though he disrupted mighty nations: 14:16** "Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms…"
- **Ezekiel 28:12-17**
    - **The Prince was proud but will be brought down: 28:2, 8** "Say unto the prince of Tyrus…Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God…They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die…"
    - **The king was proud and would be brought down: 28:12-13** "Take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus…"
    - **He was present in Eden: 28:12-13** "Full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty…in Eden the garden of God…"
    - **He was created by God with great beauty 28:13** "Every precious stone was thy covering…the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created…"
    - **He was an anointed cherub who rebelled against God's purpose for his existence: 28:14-17** "Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God…Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee…thou hast sinned…Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness…"
    - **He will be judged: 28:17-19** "I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee…I will bring

thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more…"

- **All creation, without exception is under His rule.**

Application:

- We must live like we believe God is sovereign over all.
- We must read history and current events through the lens of God's sovereignty.
- We must rest in His sovereign care:
  - Be calm when life is uncertain and confusing.
  - Be faithful to fulfil your duties no matter the challenges.
  - Celebrate His careful, kind providence.
- **The words of Nebuchadnezzar articulate this truth so powerfully: Daniel 4:34-35, 37** His "Dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation: And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou… his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase…"