

God's Sovereignty Over the Nations

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Isaiah 13-23

March 19, 2023

Snapshot:

God's sovereignty over the nations is seen in His wrath and redemption.

I. God's wrath displays His sovereignty

II. God's wrath displays humanity's sin

III. God's wrath displays His purpose

Group Challenge

[5–10 minutes in the beginning of the group session]

Each member come up with 2–5 names of unbelievers you are wanting to share the Gospel with. Share these names with the group so that you can all be praying for open doors, opportunities, and wisdom to share the gospel with these people. Also, take time to check in on one another about how it is going.

Connect

Why is God's wrath so hard to talk about?

Study

Point 1: God's wrath displays His sovereignty

READ Isaiah 13:1-13; 14:24-27

1) What are some pictures of God that are troubling in these and surrounding verses? What do these verses communicate about God? What do these verses communicate about God's sovereignty? How does Isaiah 13:6–13 describe the “day of the Lord”? Why does this day occur?

2) What do we learn about the Lord in Isaiah 14:24–27? How would the message in Isaiah 14:24–27 help bolster the faith of the people of God under the looming threat of Assyria? How does understanding God's wrath and His sovereignty help you as a Christian today? What caution does this understanding bring?

Point 2: God's wrath displays humanity's sin

READ Isaiah 14:12-16; 16:6, 7

3) What is communicated about the nature of pride, specifically in Isaiah 14:12–14? Why is pride so offensive to God? What is His response? What are ways we see pride show up in the nations around us? What does this passage communicate about the pride of nations? Why should this create an urgency for evangelism and missions? How should this fuel our prayers?

Point 3: God's wrath displays His purpose

READ Isaiah 14:1-3; 19:16-25; 22:5–14

4) Compare the judgment on Babylon (Isaiah 14:22–23) with God's judgment on Israel (Isaiah 10:20-22). How does the extent of judgment differ? What do we learn of God's purpose from that comparison? What do we learn of God's purpose from the passages above?

5) What are the various ways that the nations will be blessed according to Isaiah 19:18–25? What do we learn of God's purpose from this passage?

6) In Isaiah 22:5–14 what does God expect from those in Jerusalem? What does He get from them? What do we learn of God's purpose in this passage?

Pray the passage

Spend some time praying through Isaiah 14:26, 27 and thanking the Lord for His intimate involvement in the world and His perfect purpose for His creation. Spend time acknowledging His sovereignty, praying for our nation and the nations of the world, and the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

Memorize & Meditate

“For the Lord of hosts has purposed, and who will annul it? His hand is stretched out, and who will turn it back?” (Isaiah 14:27)

Preparing for next week

Read: Isaiah 13-14

Ask: questions of the text

Pray: through text, for the pastor as he prepares, for your heart to hear, for the congregation to hear, for all of us to be obedient.