

Isaiah 4-6 – 21 September 2023

“They Shall Be Called...Holy”

Introduction

*Chap 1, thru the prophet Isaiah, God began to point out Judah’s *religious hypocrisy*

*Doing all the actions w/o the right attitude

*Doing all the work w/o worship in their heart

*Chap 2-3, they’re reminded *there’s Kingdom coming & He longs for them to return to Him & be in it*

*Now the Lord, thru Isaiah, addresses holiness

*Holy = separate, pure, perfect, different than the rest

*Only God is holy

*People become holy as we become like God

*Human love compels the lover to become like the source of their love – to be made into their image

*But how can we go so far as to be made perfect like only God is perfect?

Today we’ll see 3 actors in the development of our holiness

1st actor is the Branch: The Branch is the connection leading to perfection (Chap 4:2-6)

Read Chap 4:2

1. The branch *initially* pictures Israel
 - a. Isa 2-3 spoke of God's judgement on Israel & His call to them to return
 - b. Now He's continuing further that the branch (of Israel) will once again be glorious
 - i. Turn to Rom 11:11-24 – God primarily is working today thru the Church yet He has plans for Israel
 - c. “Fruit of the earth” becoming good is a pic of the people of the Israel (see Matt 13:44)
2. *Ultimately* there's a Root to this branch (Jesus)
 - a. A specific Branch, that seems common, will shoot up from the family of Jesse's son David
 - i. Read Isa 11:1 & Isa 53:2
 - b. He is the very Vine by which we live & are sustained as His branches (Turn to John 15:1-5)
 - c. This is the very Branch that will return to judge & to restore righteousness (Read Jer 23:5, Jer 33:15 & Zec 6:12-13)

Read Vs 3

1. Read Rom 11:16 – Israel will be seen as holy b/c they will be in Christ
2. “Even every one living” – Read Rom 11:25-26

Read Vs 4

1. The way to eternal life is thru washing
2. Read Tit 3:5-7: Jesus has chosen to wash us so receive it

Read Vs 5-6

1. During Millennial reign of Jesus, He will be a very real presence at all houses by day & night
2. God Himself will be our covering & protection

2nd actor is the vineyard: The vineyard is the inspection of our fruit collection (Chap 5:1-30)

Read Chap 5:1-2

1. God sings of His love for His branches, Israel, yet their response doesn't match His input

2. “Very fruitful hill” – They’ve been planted in a place with great possibilities
3. They’ve been protected & equipped yet they only produce “poison berries”

Read Vs 3-4

1. God asks “how could I have treated you any better than I already have?”
2. Unbelievers today are mad b/c He would even allow that there are things we need protected from
 - a. They can’t see He’s done everything to deliver us from the evil

Read Vs 4-7

1. Natural ‘grapes’ they should have produced were justice & righteousness, yet they only produced the ‘poison berries’ of oppression & mourning
2. Therefore, God will remove His gracious hand

Read Vs 8-10

1. B/c God’s vineyard has rejected returning fruit to Him, so He pronounces 6 woes on them

2. **First woe:** *woe to the greedy land-grabbers*
3. They shall become unproductive

Read Vs 11-12

1. **Second woe:** *woe to those who celebrate everything but God*

Read Vs 13-17

1. They shall be humbled low, even to hell, as God is seen exalted on high
2. See vs 13 & read Hos 4:6 & 6:6: God wants a relationship w/ us based on who He really is

Read Vs 18-19

1. **Third woe:** *woe to the blasphemous that draw sin close, taunting God as if He's impotent*
2. There's no rebuke listed for it is self-evident

Read Vs 20

1. **Fourth woe:** *woe to deceived & upside-down*
2. These are the ones that would convince you sin is actually helpful or necessary (The conceited)

Read Vs 21

1. **Fifth woe:** *woe to those living by their own truth instead by the universal constant of God*
2. They call God judgmental & their way perfect

Read Vs 22-24

1. **Sixth woe:** *woe to the greedy takers who care not for helping others*
2. They will have no lineage & legacy

Read Vs 25

1. This is why the Lord is anger

Read Vs 26-30

1. This is the foretelling the Israel's destruction at the hands of the Babylonians
 - a. Notice description as lions (from Dan 7)
2. I believe the ensign/banner that was raised to Babylonians was King Hezekiah showing them all his treasures some 90 years before Babylon rises to power provoking their flesh to invade Israel
3. Man's sin brings its own destruction upon self

3rd actor is the King: The King is the selection of our holiness direction (Chap 6:1-13)

Read Chap 6:1a

1. When the king died (740BC), Isaiah could have slacked off, but he didn't
 - a. God needed someone & Isaiah was available
2. When the king died, Isaiah saw the real King

Read Vs 1b-4

1. He saw that God is active; real King isn't dead
2. 2/3 of angel's power is use for humility & worship while 1/3 is used for service (good ratio)
3. 'Holy is the Lord' – different than all else
4. 'Glory' is weightiness, substance or worthy as opposed to the "vain" idols meaning worthless

Read Vs 5-8

1. Isaiah's commission is - 'woe', 'lo', & 'go'
2. **Woe** = belief and repentance
 - a. What brought Isaiah's repentance wasn't hell but seeing God for how excellent He is

3. **Lo** = this is to see, come to understand what God has done for you
 - a. Learn of God who takes away our sins
 - b. After belief, behavior changes as we see God
4. **Go** = Activity for the Lord
 - a. This is where we gain a sense of belonging, being active for the Lord
 - b. It has to be in this order

Read Vs 9-10

1. Isaiah's words would richly fill their ears but ultimately do no good in converting souls
2. Why? B/c the people didn't want to know God
 - a. Jesus quotes from Isaiah as His disciples ask Him what the Parable of S & the S meant
 - b. His disciples will grow b/c they asked!

Read Vs 11-13

1. Isaiah's told he'll teach Israel until Babylon comes to destroy them taking into captivity
2. But always the grace, that God prophecies 1/10 part shall return to Israel and continue

Conclusion

So personal holiness; coming apart from the world, being re-made into the image of God

1. **The Branch is the connection leading to perfection**
 - a. He's own righteousness taking us into eternity
2. **The vineyard is the inspection of our fruit collection**
 - a. Now's the time of proving, showing God our loving response to His great forgiveness
3. **The King is the selection of our holiness direction**
 - a. All others that we would cling to will leave us empty & unsatisfied
 - b. King Jesus gives us a new heart with new desires and fills us with His very Holy Spirit