

Isaiah 15-17 – 9 November 2023

“My Heart Shall Cry Out”

Introduction

*In chap 13-23, God has Isaiah address mostly the foreign nations that have influenced Israel

*It's appropriate that 'judgement should begin at the house of God' (I Pet 4:17), but it doesn't end there!

*Isaiah is told to give these prophecies (hard messages) to many foreign nations

*But why record these if they're not going to deliver them to these nations?

*To remind Israel that God is just & won't let others get away w/ their wickedness

*Additionally, these messages show God's heart to save & bring righteousness to ALL people

*Life is all about building relationships

Today we'll hear the “burdens” given to Moab & Syria and we'll see 3 times relationships change

1st Time: When self-focus breaks relationships

(Chap 15) – *Burden to Moab*

Intro – A full composite sketch of God’s Word to Moab is recorded here, Jer 48, Eze 25, & Amos 2)

Read Chap 15:1a

1. God told Israel don’t destroy them, they’re family (Deut 2:9) thru Abe’s nephew Lot
2. Moab hated Israel under King Balak (Balaam) & under King Eglon at the times of Judge Ehud
3. Saul & David controlled Moab (David probably for respect for family Ruth)

Read Vs 1b-3

1. So these 6 places all areas in Moab are being sacked by the invaders, which is the Assyrians
2. This Nebo is Mt Nebo where Moses viewed the Promised Land from
3. They went to their high places & found no help
4. Here we have the signs of mourning
 - a. ‘Baldness’ – they would shave in mourning
 - b. “Sackcloth” & open “wailing”

5. Jer 48:11 tells us why they're judged
 - a. They've settled for the comfortable life
 - b. Never helping others

Read Vs 4

1. Heshbon & Elealeh means from the N to the S, or the entire country

Read Vs 5

1. The Moabites are having to flee from their city's destruction into neighboring Edomite cities
2. Zoar is where Lot lived when he & daughters fled in northern Edom
3. Notice that it's the Lord's heart that cries out
 - a. Read Eze 33:11

Read Vs 6-9

1. So even the resources in Moab are destroyed
2. You say, 'Well, just seeking to live in isolated comfort isn't that bad a thing, is it?'
 - a. We were created to be relationship beings
 - b. Read Gal 6:2 – Bear one another's burdens

2nd Time: When mutual aid restores human relationships (Chap 16)

Read Chap 16:1-2

1. Moab in her distress is told to send a lamb peace offering to Israel wanting to dwell w/ them
2. Restored relationship with God & His people is what's needed

Read Vs 3-4

1. So God's response to Moab is two-fold
 - a. Moab should turn & begin doing justly
 - b. And let God's outcasts dwell with them
2. The one giving help may be the very one that needs the help later & vis versa
3. I believe vs 4 will not happen until ½ way thru the Tribulation at the Abomination of Desolation (Read Matt 24:15-21, Dan 9:27 & Rev 12:6, 13-14)
 - a. Read Dan 11:41 speaks of Edom, Moab & some of Ammon escaping Anti-Christ's control
 - b. Sela, known today as Petra will house Israel fleeing from the Anti-Christ

- c. Read Zec 14:4-5 speaks of Jesus coming there to gather back Israel from their hiding!

Read Vs 5

1. So Jesus our Savior & Israel's comes to bring about perfect righteousness, Amen!

Read Vs 6-11

1. Israel rejects Moab coming to living amongst them as refugees – good idea
2. As vs 6 says, Moab is known for their pride and will not change their ways
 - a. Read Zep 2:8-10 says Moab's pride keep them from helping anyone else

Read Vs 12

1. The high places were their places of worship
 - a. "There are no atheists in foxholes"
 - b. They will find no help in their false god

Read Vs 13-14

1. This very specific prophecy is that w/i 3 years Moab is laid low by Sargon of Assyria in 722 BC

3rd Time: When humble acceptance restores Divine relationship (Chap 17) – *Burden to Syria*

Read Chap 17:1

1. Damascus, Syria's capital, will no longer be a city
 - a. Certainly, Assyria conquered them, but not as described here - this seems to yet be coming

Read Vs 2-6

1. Even the Syrian territory surrounding it shall become wiped out yet not entirely
 - a. There will yet be limited fruit production
2. “The fortress shall cease from Ephraim” – The Golan Heights is always contented for
 - a. As Golan Heights fall to Assyria, even Israel can't control this area
 - b. Will these become staging areas for Iran or Gog?

Read Vs 7-9

1. The response to Syria's destruction is to turn to God AND Jesus
 - a. “His Maker” – reminds us he's talking to Gentiles & not to Israel (would say the LORD)

- b. “Holy One of Israel” – is Jesus the Messiah
2. This’s evidence that this event isn’t their conquering by Assyria but a yet future destruction, now that Messiah is reveal, for them to turn to

Read Vs 10-11

1. 100 years before Isaiah, Elisha the prophet spread the Gospel to Syria thru Naaman the Syrian that was healed of his leprosy
2. But Syria is seen now as rejecting the Gospel & have turned back to dumb idols
 - a. Pleasant plants is probably a reference to the Adonis Gardens
3. The sin is forgetting the Lord
 - a. Satan doesn’t need to make us evil; he just wants us to ignore God (that gave us all things)

Read Vs 12-14

1. Not the warning to even the nations that come against Israel & Syria that ‘you’ll get yours’ also
2. All those that meet out injustice and all levels will have their judgement day

Conclusion

So these are burdens or heavy messages not just because they'll bring heart ache to the nations but b/c they bring heart ache to God for broken relationship

1. **Watch out that self-focus doesn't creep in and ruin relationships**
 - a. Independence may seem fine but as the Parables of the Talents shows, we can't just keep our talent, we must use it to bless others
2. **Restore our earthly relationship by seeks to comfort and aid others**
 - a. There's always a way to show ourselves available to help others
3. **Restore our heavenly relationship by humbly accepting God's offer of forgiveness**
 - a. There is hell to pay for our evil deeds!
 - b. But as Christians, we thank God that it's been paid for at the cross of Jesus!

Title of msg is b/c Jesus cries out for broken relationship, but also on the cross as He restored relationship!