

Isaiah 2-3 – 14 September 2023

“Wholly Returning To God Our Father”

Introduction

*In 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

*Key verse of Chap 1 is verse 2 (read it) – God’s children have rebelled against Him

*God longs for them to return to Him as a child would return to a loving father

*See there is a Messiah, a Savior coming – He wants them to experience the blessing of being His

*There is a Kingdom coming in which the Messiah will rule in perfection – He wants them to experience the blessing of being a part of it

First 5 verses of chap 2 introduce us to what the Millennial Kingdom will be like

Read Chap 2:1

1. If “vision” from 1:1 is current condition of Israel, then “word” from 2:1 is promised condition to come

Read Vs 2-3

1. True worship of God will rise above all other false religions at the Temple; in the Millenium
 - a. Jerusalem will become center of the world
 - b. Immediately after it's a stumbling to all
(Read Zec 12:2-3)
 - c. Then they'll all come to worship there
(Read Zec 14:16)
2. Here's a great reference to 'all nations' always being in God's mind to be saved & taught of God
3. These 2 verses are repeated in Mic 4:2-3, the same Spirit that spoke to Isaiah, spoke to Micah

Read Vs 4-5

1. God always invites us to come learn from Him
2. So result of walking in the Lord's teachings is the end of war & strife, yet having great purpose

God want's us all in this kingdom

Today we'll see 3 aspects of returning to God

#1 – Return in Spirit: Forsake vain false gods & humbly receive Jesus (Chap 2:6-22)

Read Chap 2:6

1. God's not against other cultures & custom, but He's against other systems that worship false gods

Read Vs 7

1. God's not against making money, but He's against depending on money as your god

Read Vs 8

1. God's not against hard work, but He's against religious systems of what man can do to earn

Read Vs 9

1. God's not against worship, but He's against worshipping the wrong person
2. The very substance of what we put our effort and very lives into, matters

Read Vs 10-11

1. Read Rev 6:15-17
2. All of chap 2 (see vs 2) is speaking of last days

3. It's a humbling of those that didn't humble themselves before Jesus at the cross
 - a. Humble ourselves into our rightful position under Jesus now, or be humbled then
 - b. Sins will be paid for

Read Vs 12-17

1. Lord of hosts will do it – the Lord of armies
 - a. Psm 24:8 – Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong & mighty, the Lord mighty in battle
2. 'The Lord alone shall be exalted in that day'
 - a. This would be the height of pride; except He deserves to be the exalted One
 - b. Before Him there was no god formed, neither shall there be after Him (Isa 43:10)

Read Vs 18-21

1. They will see that their idols are worthless and can't help them in that day

Read Vs 22

1. The call to sever self from the ways of man
2. Read Eph 5:13-14: Don't live among the dead
3. A person should NEVER become our god

#2 – Return in Mind: Institute & become Godly leaders (Chap 3:1-15)

Read Chap 3:1-4

1. What does Israel & what does the Church need to endure? People like this!
2. Vs two are in charge of the whole organization
 - a. Strong physically, in truth, speaking forth God's Word w/ wisdom of knowledge & experience
3. Vs three are in charge of local people
 - a. Same fruit needed at the local level
4. Children rule; children in strength, truth and in knowing God's Word

Read Vs 5-7

1. An organization so unsupported & vulnerable that no one wants to run it. Why?
2. B/c everyone's in it for themselves instead of for the cause of God's glory
 - a. Serving self is division in diversity
 - b. Serving God is unity in diversity

Read Vs 8-9

1. Read Jer 2:13 – Committed two evils...
2. There is no more conscience against sin
3. Sin is so public; it seems right b/c it's majority
 - a. Read I King 18:17-18 – Wrong troubler

Read Vs 10-11

1. Righteousness has its reward, endure mocking
2. I Pet 3:15-16 – The scoffers will be ashamed

Read Vs 12

1. Weak leadership caused them to dive into all kinds of “new things” rather than using tested path
 - a. Traditional marriage & roles is tried & true
 - b. Traditional 2 genders is tried and true
 - c. Traditional reading of God's Word is tried & true
 - d. Traditional believing Jesus is way of life

Read Vs 13-15

1. Instead of lifting every man up, they're taking from every man they can

#3 – Return in Body: Remove our symbols of pride (Chap 3:16-26)

Read Chap 3:16-24

1. The inward disease of their sin was manifest in their outward appearance
 - a. Prideful, “I can do whatever I want” attitude
 - b. God will ruin all the symbols of their pride
2. Not every calamity is a curse from the Lord, but they can be from the Lord
 - a. If experiencing calamity, first question should be, “Lord have I sinned?”
 - b. If no sin, then pray for closeness to God thru the storm in order to give His glory

Read Vs 25-26

1. So the prophesied seize by the Babylonian army is to come
2. This is the means by which God would judge Judah longing for their humility & repentance

3. We want to be independent from God, doing our own thing, until a larger enemy appears
 - a. Only then do we see that our ways aren't strong enough

Read Vs 4:1

1. Longing to be identified with the symbol of another more pleasant than their state

Conclusion

The Kingdom of our Heavenly Father is coming and He wants us and ALL NATIONS to be a part of it!

This 1,000 Kingdom will be centered in Jerusalem with nothing but peace, lead by the Prince of Peace

He calling to His wandering children “RETURN”

1. **Return in Spirit – Forsake false vain gods & pursue Jesus above all other pursuits**
2. **Return in Mind – Become a godly leader**
3. **Return in Body – Remove our symbols of pride and identify with King Jesus**