

Isaiah 11-12 – 26 October 2023

“The Savior’s Relational Work”

Introduction

*Tonight, we finish the opening section of the Book of Isaiah – Chapters 1-12 – The charges against Judah

*Thru it all, Isaiah’s wanting them to see...there’s a kingdom coming...there’s a Messiah, a Savior coming

*Isaiah is the Evangelical Prophet b/c he spends time on the bad news & then transitions to the good news!

*As this 1st section closes, Isaiah focuses on the relational work of the Messiah to come

*Religion focuses on rules, tasks, what to do

*Jesus came to restore relationship – this focuses us on who God is & what He’s done to bridge the gap

*Which would you prefer?

A home in which all tasks are done perfectly but the people are indifferent to each other or...

A home in which you are perfectly loved by all

Today let’s look at 4 aspects of the relational work of Jesus Christ our Messiah & Savior

1st Aspect: He's perfectly God & man (Chap 11:1-5)

Read Chap 11:1

1. Chap 10 closed w/ imagery of Israel's leaders being cut down to the stump like corrupt trees
2. This is the predicted coming of Messiah thru the lineage of David's father Jesse
3. The line of David's descendants has fallen in holiness and will fall into complete insignificance
 - a. Yet Messiah later shoots up from it
 - i. Read Isa 53:2
 - b. He'll shoot up from insignificance to restore holiness (Read Zec 6:12-13)
 - c. If any doubt who this is Read Rev 22:16

Read Vs 2

Seems to be description of 7-fold Holy Spirit of God as mentioned in Rev (1:4, 3:1, 4:5, & 5:6)

- a. Not that the H.S. is 7 different things, just simply described in 7 ways

1. Spirit of the LORD – Not spirit of man or of an angel (good or bad), but the Spirit of God Himself
 - a. In Luke 9:55 disciples were of spirit of man
 - b. Jesus speaks of unclean spirits from hell
 - c. The Branch, Jesus, will be empowered directly from God – so too for Christians!
2. Spirit of Wisdom – The people marveled at Jesus' wisdom (Read Matt 13:54)
 - a. H.S. enables us to apply truth to our circumstances in way God would (I Cor 2:4-7)
3. Spirit of Understanding – Jesus could discern truth from a hypocrite (Read John 2:24, 13:11)
 - a. Spirit of God works thru the Word of God to grow our discernment (Heb 5:14)
4. Spirit of Counsel – Advice, a plan, way forward
 - a. Solomon made great counsel, & Jesus said He was 'greater than Solomon' in Luke 11:31
 - b. H.S. leads us to the path to take (Mar 13:11)
5. Spirit of Might – Jesus is mighty in word/deed
 - a. Read Luke 24:19 – Call angels at arrest?
 - b. H.S. strengthens us w/ might in the inner person (Eph 3:16)

6. Spirit of Knowledge – Jesus knows everything
(Read John 16:30)
 - a. Holy Spirit leads us toward all truth (John 16:13)
7. Spirit of the Fear of the Lord – Jesus knew His role, came to do will of God (Read Luke 22:42)
 - a. We “submit ourselves one to another in the fear of God” (Eph 5:21)
8. Jesus had the fulness of the Spirit
 - a. Read John 3:34
 - b. For us, the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, etc.) is the results of walking in this 7-fold Spirit!

Read Vs 3-5

1. Messiah will judge w/ perfect character & integrity thru the affairs of life
2. No better example of vs 5 then picture we're given of His Second Coming (Read Rev 19:11)
3. Is this our desire to be faithful and true?

2nd Aspect: He restores unity to all creation (Chap 11:6-10)

Read Chap 11:6-7

1. Natural 'survival instincts' of the animal kingdom will be replaced w/ 'relational instincts'
 - a. No longer strive to survive, but we'll thrive
2. The harmony isn't just between animals, but a child will lead them – harmony w/ all of creation
 - a. Read Rom 8:18-22

Read Vs 8-9

1. The kingdom will be so great b/c it's a world-wide kingdom without any rival or alternative
2. It's ruled by Messiah with the 'peer pressure' of a godly world system!
 - a. Satan is cast into the bottomless pit
 - b. Not pressured toward evil, but toward good
 - c. Millenium will prove our problem has always been our own flesh

Read Vs 10

1. Paul quotes this in Rom (15:12) as showing God's salvation has always been for ALL people
2. His plan is to bring all people rest, rest from sin

3rd Aspect: He never gives up on His beloved (Chap 11:11-16)

Read Chap 11:11-12

1. The Day of the Lord is described as the day of Israel's second regathering (1st was after Babylon)
 - a. Began in the mid-1800s with the thought
 - b. Continued in 1948 w/ birth of the State
 - c. But even now: only 7 of 14 mil Jews in land
 - d. W/ war today, many Jews are returning
 - e. Matt 24:31 – speaks of totality of their return during the Tribulation

Read Vs 13

1. For 100s of years leading into Isaiah's day, Israel has been divided into 2 separate nations – this prophesies their reunification
 - a. Read Ezekiel 37:16-17 – order (chap 34-39)
 - b. Read Jer 3:17-18 – It's happening now

Read Vs 14-16

1. No nation can oppose the regathering of Israel
2. God will expedite Israel's regathering; nothing can oppose the govt of Messiah

4th Aspect: He did the work to restore us (Chap 12:1-6)

Read Chap 11:1

1. Praise God – We were separated, but you brought me near by Messiah

Read Vs 2-3

1. Salvation is based on trusting God
2. We trust Him to be the truth (rock) & our joy (life & sustainment)
3. Name Jesus means – Jehovah is my salvation

Read Vs 4-5

1. Salvation has come b/c of what's He's done, not anything to do with what we've done
2. What is our response? To talk & boast of Him!

Read Vs 6

1. Maybe greatest part of salvation is God w/ us!
2. Restored to having daily communion w/ God!

Conclusion

So Christianity isn't a religion, but it's to KNOW God

1. **He's in perfect union w/ God & man b/c He is God & man**
2. **He's goal is to restore unity to all creation**
3. **He'll never give up on His loved ones**
4. **He Himself did the work to restore us to His side for all time**

Man's effort and false religion is...

A process of getting thru this life

A set of rigid rules

An attempt at earning eternal life

...and it's all centered on man, that constantly fails

Yet Christianity is...

A person, to know a person

Who is the Way, the Truth and the Life...Himself!

Get to know Him...and you have it all!