



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Isaiah Sermon Series

Supports Session 1: God Confronts

Sermon Title: "The Life and Times of Isaiah" (Isaiah 1:1)

Connection to Isaiah 1

Isaiah 1:1 serves as an introduction to the Book of Isaiah. Isaiah reveals how the human race has fallen into sin, how the human race continues to rebel against God, and how God judges sin but offers a way of escape through the Suffering Servant. (This sounds a lot like the Gospels and Romans.) God's Suffering Servant is not only going to deal with sin, He is going to establish a new heaven and a new earth. (This sounds a lot like Revelation.) No wonder Isaiah has been referred to as a "miniature Bible."

Introduction/Opening

One of the greatest strengths of Superman was his x-ray vision. X-ray vision endowed Superman with the ability to see what others could not. Isaiah was not Superman, but his vision helps us see what we could not normally see. Isaiah was given a glimpse of what was going on behind the scenes in history. We see kingdoms that come and go, but Isaiah's vision allows us to see the one true God that stands behind all these kings and kingdoms. In Isaiah 1:1, we get introduced to the prophet who received this vision and the world in which he lived and ministered.

Outline

1. How does the Book of Isaiah come to us? (1a)
 - a) What is a vision?
 - i. A vision is not a trance or unconscious experience.
 - ii. A vision is designed to give the prophet and the people a new perspective on the world that they inhabited.
 - b) How is this vision a singular vision?
 - i. Isaiah's vision is a compilation of his career as a prophet.
 - ii. Isaiah's vision begins with a historical Jerusalem that was corrupt (1:8).
 - iii. Isaiah's vision concludes with a New Jerusalem that is the delight of the whole earth (65:17-19).
2. Who was Isaiah? (1b)
 - a) Isaiah's name means "the Lord saves."
 - b) Isaiah's call into prophetic ministry
 - i. Chapters 1-5 describe the world that Isaiah would be called to minister in.
 - ii. Chapter 6 contains Isaiah's call into prophetic ministry.

c) Isaiah's identity

- i. Isaiah was married to a prophetess (8:3).
- ii. Isaiah was a man of purpose; His passions included but were not limited to God's glory, God's Son, God's people, and God's Word.
- iii. Isaiah was a man of passion. This passion is seen as suffering, like Christ's passion. According to tradition, Isaiah was sawn into pieces (Heb. 11:37).

3. When does Isaiah minister and to whom does he minister? (1c)

a) Isaiah's historical background

- i. Isaiah ministered through the reigns of four kings of Judah that began approximately in 740 BC and reigned through 680 BC.
- ii. This sixty-year time period is included in 2 Kings 15-20.

b) Isaiah's dysfunctional audience

- i. They trusted themselves/their ethnicity.
- ii. They trusted their religion.
- iii. They trusted their idols.
- iv. They trusted their military.
- v. They trusted their alliances.
- vi. They trusted their kings.

c.) Isaiah's alternative: Trust the God who will send the Suffering Servant.

Conclusion

Isaiah's message hits us over the head like a hammer. Isaiah's life challenges us to look beyond the world that we see and see the invisible world that is every bit as real as the physical world that we see. Isaiah calls us to abandon trust in anything that we can see or control and to put all our trust in the God who has revealed Himself to us in His Word and to trust His agent of deliverance, Jesus.

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