



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Isaiah Sermon Series

Supports Session 4: God Reigns

Sermon Title: "God's Rule Over the Nations" (Isaiah 13–20)

Connection to Isaiah 23

Chapters 13-23 of Isaiah have one big idea: God rules over the nations. It's a pattern that emerges that we sketch in this sermon. We will not get bogged down with the details of each chapter, but we will look at the pattern that emerges that gives context for Isaiah 23.

Introduction/Opening

We want order instead of chaos. We want purpose instead of pointlessness. We want justice instead of injustice. We look at the world around us, and we scratch our heads and wonder why. Remember, Isaiah is a vision designed to let us see what we cannot see with the naked eye. So what is really going on in Isaiah's day? On one level it looks as if Judah's neighbors and enemies have the upper hand and Judah is just caught up in the whims of the powers that be. Isaiah wants us to know that the nations are not in charge, God is!

Outline

1. The Divine Dilemma Concerning Justice

- a) Expressions that point to our expectation and view of justice:
 - i. I cannot believe in a God who allows suffering.
 - ii. If God was all powerful, He would stop suffering.
 - iii. If God was all loving, He would stop evil.
- b) We want to live in a just world.
 - i. The world that we live in appears to be unjust.
 - ii. Will there be ultimate justice or not?

2. The Divine Enforcement of Justice

- a) The Day of the Lord points to justice being exacted.
- b) The Day of the Lord in Isaiah 13 and Babylon
 - i. The Day of Lord in regard to Babylon in Isaiah's lifetime (Isa. 13:1)
 - ii. The Day of Lord and God's intervention in history against Babylon (Isa. 13:17)
 - iii. The Day of the Lord in relation to the whole world (Isa. 13:11,13)
 - iv. The Day of the Lord in relation to future and symbolic Babylon (Rev. 18)
- c) The Day of the Lord has an immediate fulfillment in the world as Isaiah knew it, and there is an ultimate fulfillment of the Day of the Lord at the end of history as we know it.
 - i. Evil and the nations are out of our control, but they are not out of God's control.

3. The Divine Truths Concerning God's Interaction with the Nations

a) The Big Idea: God is not a tribal god; God is the God of the nations

b) The Big Purpose

- i. Isaiah wants God's people to look at their neighbors and know that they are not worthy of their trust, God is (14:28-29).
- ii. Isaiah wants God's people to look at their enemies and not fear them, but to trust God (Isaiah 14:24-27).

c) The Big Response to a Big God

- i. Humility before the God who reigns; pride is all over the downfall of the nations (examples of Babylon and Moab in 14:13-15; 16:5-6).
- ii. Worship the God who reigns (14:24-27)
- iii. Trust the God who reigns (17:7-8; 19:25)

Conclusion

Evil and suffering are a part of the world that we live in. Evil and suffering and the powers that lie behind them are not out of God's control. God is sovereign over the nations, and God will enforce justice over nations. You can reject God, but that does not change the reality of who God is. The proper response to God is one of humility, worship, and trust. When we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, we will be exalted (1 Peter 5:6-7). Assyria, Babylon, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Israel, Cush, and Egypt are not gods, God is! Look to Him and trust His Son and you will have a faith that will overcome the world (1 John 5:4) because Christ has overcome the world (John 16:33).

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