

Evangelism Series – teaching #2 Themes of Salvation in the Book of Isaiah

The Condition, the Cleansing & the Call

The uniqueness of Isaiah

- 675 B.C.
- A shadow of the entire Bible – 66 Chapter (Bible has 66 books). 39 Chapters concerning judgment & warning (39 O.T. books). 27 chapters form a book of comfort with a proclamation announcing a new day (correlating to the 27 N.T. chapters).
- Isaiah is three dimensional - To understand and get the most out of Isaiah we must understand “Kingdom theology”.

The issue of Zion

A stone that will skip three times – Isaiah saw all three (without understanding this it becomes confusing).

- Physical Zion restored – Book of Nehemiah & the Old covenant.
- Spiritual Zion – The Kingdom has come on earth Isaiah 61 will be fulfilled three times (New Covenant in Christ)
- Eternal Zion – The Kingdom is yet to come - Heaven

Isaiah 61 - will be fulfilled three times.

¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
² to proclaim the year of the LORD’S favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness
instead of mourning,
and a garment of praise
instead of a spirit of despair.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD

for the display of his splendor.

⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins and restore the places long devastated; they will renew the ruined cities that have been devastated for generations.

1. Nehemiah
2. Luke 4 – It was Jesus' missional statement.
3. A picture painted in Revelations 21 of heaven. "No more tears no more pain – all is restored."

The Condition, the Cleansing & the Call

The Condition

Six Conditions that stop evangelism:

Isaiah 1

¹ These visions concerning Judah and Jerusalem came to Isaiah son of Amoz during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah--all kings of Judah. ²Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! This is what the LORD says: "The children I raised and cared for have turned against me. ³Even the animals--the donkey and the ox--know their owner and appreciate his care, but not my people Israel. No matter what I do for them, they still do not understand."

1. People have turned against God because they do not understand his heart towards them. (vs. 1-3)
 - Even the donkeys & oxen know their master but man is ignorant.

⁴Oh, what a sinful nation they are! They are loaded down with a burden of guilt. They are evil and corrupt children who have turned away from the LORD. They have despised the Holy One of Israel, cutting themselves off from his help. ⁵Why do you continue to invite punishment? Must you rebel forever? Your head is injured, and your heart is sick. ⁶You are sick from head to foot--covered with bruises, welts, and infected wounds--without any ointments or bandages. ⁷Your country lies in ruins, and your cities are burned. As you watch, foreigners plunder your fields and destroy everything they see. ⁸Jerusalem [*Zion*] stands abandoned like a watchman's shelter in a vineyard or field after the harvest is over. It is as helpless as a city under siege. ⁹If the LORD Almighty had not spared a few of us, we would have been wiped out as completely as Sodom and Gomorrah.

2. People have entered into lives of sin, they have become loaded down with the burden of guilt – they are wounded and have allowed the enemy to plunder their land and have become an immoral society. (vs. 4-9)

¹⁰Listen to the LORD, you leaders of Israel! Listen to the law of our God, people of Israel. You act just like the rulers and people of Sodom and Gomorrah. ¹¹"I am sick of your sacrifices," says the LORD. "Don't bring me any more burnt offerings! I don't want the fat from your rams or other animals. I don't want to see the blood from your offerings of bulls and rams and goats. ¹²Why do you keep parading through my courts with your worthless sacrifices? ¹³The incense you bring me is a stench in my nostrils! Your celebrations of the new moon and the Sabbath day, and your special days for fasting--even your most pious meetings--are

all sinful and false. I want nothing more to do with them. ¹⁴I hate all your festivals and sacrifices. I cannot stand the sight of them! ¹⁵From now on, when you lift up your hands in prayer, I will refuse to look. Even though you offer many prayers, I will not listen. For your hands are covered with the blood of your innocent victims. ¹⁶Wash yourselves and be clean! Let me no longer see your evil deeds. Give up your wicked ways. ¹⁷Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the orphan. Fight for the rights of widows.

3. People have become religious and have missed the point of God's purpose for his church. (vs. 10-17)
- Seek justice
 - Help the oppressed.
 - Defend the orphan & fight for the widow.
 - Matthew 9:10-13 – Jesus questioned for eating with sinners – “Healthy people don't need a doctor, sick people do. Now go and learn the meaning of this scripture: ‘I want you to be merciful; I don't want your sacrifices.’ For I have come to call sinners, not those who think they are already good enough.”

¹⁸“Come now, let us argue this out,” says the LORD. “No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool. ¹⁹If you will only obey me and let me help you, then you will have plenty to eat. ²⁰But if you keep turning away and refusing to listen, you will be destroyed by your enemies. I, the LORD, have spoken!”

4. People have missed the ready and available provision of God. (vs. 18-20)

Evangelism is ultimately all about heaven!

Isaiah sees a picture of heaven – “the Kingdom to come”.

- Analogy – “Into the West” Spielberg's TNT production – The buffalo jump.

Isaiah 2

¹This is another vision that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

²In the last days, the Temple of the LORD in Jerusalem will become the most important place on earth.

People from all over the world will go there to worship. ³Many nations will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the Temple of the God of Israel. There he will teach us his ways, so that we may obey him.” For in those days the LORD's teaching and his word will go out from Jerusalem.

⁴The LORD will settle international disputes. All the nations will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. All wars will stop, and military training will come to an end.

5. People have lost an eternal view of heaven. (2:1-4)

Isaiah 6

⁹But tell my people this: ‘You will hear my words, but you will not understand. You will see what I do, but you will not perceive its meaning.’ ¹⁰Harden the hearts of these people. Close their ears, and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn to me for healing.”

John 12

³⁷But despite all the miraculous signs he had done, most of the people did not believe in him. ³⁸This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted: "Lord, who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal his saving power?"

³⁹But the people couldn't believe, for as Isaiah also said,

⁴⁰"The Lord has blinded their eyes
and hardened their hearts--
so their eyes cannot see,
and their hearts cannot understand,
and they cannot turn to me
and let me heal them."

⁴¹Isaiah was referring to Jesus when he made this prediction, because he was given a vision of the Messiah's glory

6. People have a fatal heart condition – their hearts have become hardened. (6:9-10)

The cleansing – A pure heart and authentic faith that the message is true.

Isaiah 6 - Isaiah's Cleansing and Call

¹In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. ²Hovering around him were mighty seraphim (*angels*), each with six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with the remaining two they flew. ³In a great chorus they sang, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty! The whole earth is filled with his glory!"

⁴The glorious singing shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire sanctuary was filled with smoke. (*A picture of God's greatness, awe & holiness*) ⁵Then I said, "My destruction is sealed, for I am a sinful man and a member of a sinful race. Yet I have seen the King, the LORD Almighty!" ⁶Then one of the seraphim flew over to the altar, and he picked up a burning coal with a pair of tongs. ⁷He touched my lips with it and said, "See, this coal has touched your lips. Now your guilt is removed, and your sins are forgiven."

⁸Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Lord, I'll go! Send me."

The call to God's people – "Who will go?"

The response – "Here am I send me!"

- How long? All the way to the end. All the way until people finally get it.
- A picture of The Man From Snowy River. (Julia Pickerell – Columbus Vineyard)

ZION NOTES

John 12 The triumphal entry

¹²The next day (*5 days before Passover*) the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. ¹³They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the King of Israel!”

¹⁴Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written,

¹⁵ “Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion;
see, your king is coming,
seated on a donkey’s colt.”

¹⁶At first his disciples did not understand all this. Only after Jesus was glorified did they realize that these things had been written about him and that they had done these things to him.

¹⁷Now the crowd that was with him when he called Lazarus from the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to spread the word. ¹⁸Many people, because they had heard that he had given this miraculous sign, went out to meet him. ¹⁹So the Pharisees said to one another, “See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!”

Zion is established 1003B.C. = David captures Jerusalem and establishes his residence on its hill, David brings the Ark of the old covenant to the tabernacle with worship and it is forever referred to as Zion.

2 Samuel 5

⁴David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. ⁵In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

⁶The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, “You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off.” They thought, “David cannot get in here.” ⁷Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David.

2 Samuel 6

So David went down and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obed-Edom to the City of David with rejoicing... ¹⁴David, wearing a linen ephod, danced before the LORD with all his might, ¹⁵while he and the entire house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

Davidic covenant established

Psalm 2

⁶ “I have installed my King
on Zion, my holy hill.”...

and I will make the nations your inheritance,
the ends of the earth your possession.

Isaiah 9

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

Solomon takes the Ark from Zion to the temple.

The Kingdom is divided and taken into Babylonian captivity for 70 years.

The stone of Zion that is skipping three times:

1. Physical restoration of the Kingdom - Nehemiah
2. Spiritual establishment of the Kingdom – Jesus on the cross – “They Kingdom come they will be done on earth as it is in heaven.”
3. Final Kingdom – heaven

Nehemiah remembers the prophecy of Isaiah and Zechariah.

The restoration of Jerusalem is a physical type and shadow of the spiritual Kingdom to come.

Isaiah 61

- ¹ The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to preach good news to the poor.
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,
- ² to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,
- ³ and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,
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They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD
for the display of his splendor.
- ⁴ They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

This was the missional statement of Jesus in Luke 4

The triumphal entry

His kingdom had come. All of the messianic prophecy of the Old Testament (some 200) had been or were about to be fulfilled especially of the prophet Zechariah.

Zechariah 9 - The messianic proclamation

⁹ Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion!

Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,
righteous and having salvation,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey...

He will proclaim peace to the nations.

His rule will extend from sea to sea
and from the River to the ends of the earth.

¹¹ As for you, because of the blood of my covenant with you,
I will free your prisoners from the waterless pit.

Who is “The virgin daughters of Zion”

Gods chosen people – Jews then - now the bride or church.

A New Covenant was established.

No longer the covenant established on Sinai but the covalent of Zion the Kingdom of God.

Hebrews 12

¹⁸You have not come to a mountain (Mount Sinai) that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” ²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Revelation 14 - Heaven

¹Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion,