

The Arrogance of Forgetfulness

Isaiah 2.6-5.30

Main Idea

The Lord set Judah/Jerusalem up for complete success, however they squandered their position and chased after worldliness, forgetting the Lord and then bowing down to idols. The Lord would bring judgment for their forgetfulness/arrogance, but He will provide hope to those that repent & believe.

Overview

Forgetfulness leads to Arrogance

- Isaiah 5.1-7, 12-13:
 - They were given everything, and but squandered a Godward life by partying it up, taking little notice of their Maker
 - This reminds us of the same thing in Isaiah said in 1.3
- Isaiah 2.6-8, 3.14-15, 5.8:
 - Enjoying their material wealthy, accumulating things without notice to God
 - Since we were made to worship, this creates space for idols to grow when neglect of God takes root

Arrogance leads to Woe

- “Woe” not only includes the idea of judgment, but also carries with it distress and sorrow
- Because God is Holy He cannot tolerate such idolatry and self indulgence amidst their sin
- 2.9, 12, 13-16-17, 3.1-7, 16-26, 5.15-16
 - The Lord is going to humble the arrogance of them by taking away their “support & supply” or the things they were trusting in apart from the Lord:
 - He would remove their finery and replace them with humble means
 - Most notably, the Lord says He will send them into ‘exile for lack of knowledge’ (5.13)
 - The “lack of knowledge” isn’t a problem of information more so than it is a neglect of the information they have already received (recall they were doing ‘religion’: chap 1)
 - The “lack of knowledge” is not just about information, but affection
- There are seven “Woe’s” (ESV) from chapter 2-5 that indicate the kinds of things, in specificity that were bringing on this Judgment:
 - Woe to those who are unrepentant in their open sin as they also not care for the innocent (Is. 3.9-10, 11)
 - Woe to those that live for partying and intoxication (Is. 5.11-12, 22)
 - Woe to those that lie to others in order to accomplish a lie (Is. 5.18)
 - Woe to those who call what is evil as good and/or call what is good as evil (Is. 5.20)
 - Woe to those that are wise in their own eyes (Is. 5.21)

God Provides Hope in the midst of Woe

- Isaiah 4.2-6: “The Branch” is a reference to the “Branch/Descendant of David” of whom God had made a covenant
 - Isaiah 11.1-5 indicates that a branch will shoot forth from the stump of Jesse (David’s Dad) and HE (it’s a person) will be righteous, etc.: Jesus
- The Branch (Jesus) will be beautiful and righteous and He will wash people & cleanse people from their sin and make them Holy
- The Glory of God will be their shelter: Revelation 7.14-15 (ala Mt. Sinai & Temple)

Questions

Discussion Starter: What is it about worldliness that can be so distracting to godliness? Or to ask it another way, why is godliness enticing to us?

1. Read Isaiah 2.6-8, 3.14-15, 5.8. What was the environment of Judah/Jerusalem like?
2. Read Isaiah 5.1-7, 13. What had the Lord done and how had the people responded? Do you see similar aspects of this in your life? In what ways are you forgetful of God's mercy, grace, and love? What are some of the reasons we are forgetful?
3. What was the Lord going to do about their forgetfulness/arrogance/worldliness? Why does God feel the need to do this? What does this tell you about God's character?
4. Read through the "Woes" and identify how each of them lie about God's character and how faithfulness in these areas actually reflects wholeness/beauty.
5. In what ways are you/we being led to call evil good, and good evil? Name some things where this is happening for the purposes of awakening yourself to their effects.
6. How does exile fit with the beginning of the Story of the World and the end? How can we be warned?
7. Read Isaiah 4. In what ways do you see Christ and His ministry? In what ways do you see yourself (as a Christian) in this passage? What has the Lord provided for you in the Kingdom of Heaven?
8. How/where are you taking refuge in the "shelter" that God has made for you? Are there areas where you are neglecting/living outside of the canopy of God's grace?

Accountability: *What are some ways you are being forgetful of God and growing in your love for the world? What are some victories here?*