

Precious God, Precious Redemption

Isaiah 41-44

Main Idea

God is real and idols are not real (and can't deliver), so we should trust God for redemption and respond in praise so that all the world may glorify God.

Overview

What happens to those that live in deception and reject the Redeemer? Judgment (41.1-7)

- Isaiah 41.1 indicates that Judgment is coming to the “coastlands”
 - Coastlands here indicates distant places which are the nations (i.e. Isaiah 34.2, etc.)
 - Vss. 2-7 describe that judgment

What happens to those that do believe? Sight, Knowledge, Consideration, and Understanding (41.8-20)

- The “servant” here in vs. 8 is said to be, among other things, the “Offspring of Abraham”:
 - The “Offspring of Abraham” according to the Holy Spirit through the Apostle Paul’s pen is all those that have the same faith in the same God that has acted in the way of the way of the Gospel of God (Galatians 3.6-7, 9)
 - Those in Isaiah’s day and our day are all united to Abraham through faith in Christ
 - In that way we are the “servant” in this particular passage
- We learn that God will:
 - Not cast us off (vs. 9)
 - Strengthen us, help us, and uphold us with His righteous right hand (vs. 10)
 - Cause all those that put us to shame to be shamed (vs. 11-12)
 - Use us to put them in their place (vs. 15-16)
 - Supply the poor and needy and not forsake them (vs. 17-19)
 - God does all this so that those in Christ may see, know, consider, and understand that the
- Lord has done all these good things (vs. 20)

What does this mean for any “rivals” to God? They are nothing (41.21-29)

- Vs. 24 & 29 reveal to us that all idols are a delusion and are nothing in comparison to God:
 - Idol: Anything that competes with the “ultimacy” of God
 - God goes on to mock them in order to communicate their futility (vs. 22-28)

How can we attain the promises of the Lord? By the Lord sending a Servant to do them for us (42.1-9)

- The “servant” here is a particular servant that will enable the servants to be the servants:
 - In the same way Adam was a representative for us, so this servant (Christ) would be a representative for all the “offspring of Abraham” (those of faith)
 - This passage points us to Christ since that is what Scripture has us to believe:
 - Matthew 12.18-20
 - Luke 2.32
 - Mark 1.9-11, etc.
 - The Christ will be a Covenant and a light to the nations in order to open the eyes that are blind so that they can then walk in righteousness (vs. 6-7)
 - He will bring forth Justice (Vs. 1, 3, 4) (make all things right)

- This is a New thing (not like the old) (New Covenant) (vs. 9)
- The Christ will not be one that will break us or quench what has begun, but He will bring about what is good to fan us into a flame for Him and His glory (vs. 3)
- He will be one that brings out us that are imprisoned in our sin (vs. 7)

How should we respond to this good news? By singing praise and giving thanksgiving to God (42.10-17)

- After considering the Servant and what He will do for the Servants the appropriate response is to sing in praise and thanksgiving to God (vs. 10-17) for what He has done and will do

What does this news of Christ's redemption for us mean? We are precious and loved by God (42.18-44)

- We once were blind (42.18-20) and defined by our sin (42.24)
 - But God chose to redeem us and call us by name and make us His (43.1)
 - He promises to be with us (43.2)
 - He is our Savior (not us) (43.3)
 - He calls us precious, honored, and He tells us that He loves us (43.4)
 - He does all this for His glory (43.7)
 - This is not selfish of God since He is the highest and best of all things (we are not)
 - We are to be witnesses to this love and grace (43.10)
 - We once burdened God with our sin, but God has blotted out our sins for His sake (43.24-25)
 - We do not need to Fear God (44.2...7 x's in this passage)
 - This means we no longer need to fear His wrath against us knowing that now He is our Heavenly Father who loves us
 - He is still an awe inspiring figure
 - We are the Lord's (44.5)

Who is like this God? No one (44.6-8)

- There is not only no God like this God, but there are no other gods (vs. 6-8)

What are we to think of idolatry in light of all of this? They are lies that cannot deliver (44.9-20)

- The image here is that of people that cannot see that they are living in deception:
 - They make idols out of the same thing they use for other mundane purposes
 - They feed on ashes with a deluded heart (44.20)
 - Those idols cannot deliver and they cannot see that a lie is in their right hand (44.20)

How can we escape this deluded idolatry? By having the Lord be our Redeemer (44.21-28)

- The Lord is the one that has to redeem us (44.22-24) and by doing so He can blot out our sin (44.22) and therefore He will not forget us (44.21):
 - a. God is more powerful than all other 'rivals' and His purposes for His glory and our good will be brought about (44.24-28)

Questions

Discussion Starter: Share with the group how the sermon was particularly helpful.

1. Read through Isaiah 41.1, 8-20: What does the Redeemed have (vs. 20) that those in Judgment do not have? Why must God judge? How does God promise to uphold the Redeemed?
2. Read Isaiah 42.1-9 and Matthew 12.18-20, Luke 2.32. Discuss all the things that Christ is for us.
3. Read Isaiah 42.10-17. Why is joyful singing particularly appropriate after considering Christ? Where is that happening in your life? Are you singing in joy to the Gospel?
4. Read Isaiah 43.1-7. How does this passage encourage your love for Christ? Discuss how this

love is deeper and better than any other loves.

5. Read Isaiah 44.9-20. Describe idolatry as it is laid out here. What idols are you thinking will 'deliver you'? How can we be witnesses to these people?
6. Read Isaiah 44.21-28. What does it mean for the Lord to be our Redeemer? What does that mean in reference to our inclination to try and redeem ourselves?

Accountability: How has the precious love of God been changing you? Comforting to you?