

A PROPHET SPEAKS OF PEACE

Scripture reading: Selected passages from Isaiah.

Intro: Isaiah speaks of peace many times and in different ways.

Sometimes he speaks positively about it. Cf. Isa. 26:3, 4. At other times he approaches it from a negative point of view. Cf. Isa. 41:10,

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee. Be not dismayed; for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

Sometimes he is dealing with peace when he does not use the words peace or fear not. We had one the last time we considered this prophecy. See Isa. 40:31.

Obviously, if you have looked at the passages in Isaiah in which this theme is present, you know that they cannot all be considered in a single message. And, therefore, I want to be selective tonight, and pick out some of the key passages which speak of peace, either positively or negatively, to find out how it is that peace can come to the human heart.

I. PEACE IS NEVER FOUND IN SIN (Isa. 48:22; 57:19-21).

This emphasis helps us to divide the last 27 chapters of the prophecy. It is extremely important! Sin and peace are not pairs that travel together.

II. THE ^NFOUNDATION OF PEACE IS SALVATION (Isa. 52:7; 53:5).

Note how "peace" and "salvation" are parallel expressions in Isa. 52:7.

Cf. Rom. 5:1. Peace includes peace with God (and must include it) before there can be peace in our hearts.

But not every child of God is enjoying the peace that should be his. Therefore, we want to look with special care at the verses which bridge the gap between what can be and what is.

III. THE EXPERIENCE OF PEACE.

A. Isaiah 48:17, 18.

It is one thing to know the Word; it is necessary also that we obey the Word.

Troubles make us think about our lives, and we begin to measure our lives by the Word. We often find that this where we fail.

We search the Word to find out what the Lord will do for us, but how often do we look at what the Lord wants us to do for Him--by His grace! There is never any failure on God's part, but there often is on ours.

B. Isaiah 41:10.

SOMETIMES
WE NEED TO
SIT DOWN TO
TEACH OURSELVES
TRUTHS WE
ALREADY
KNOW

The emphasis here is on:

- 1) The presence of God, or, Where He is.
- 2) The Person of God, or, Who He is.
- 3) The promises of God, or, What He will do.

C. Isaiah 43:1-3a, 4a, 5a.

Notice the tenses here:

- 1) The past:
 - a) "I have redeemed thee."
 - b) "I have called thee by thy name."
- 2) The future: v. 2.
- 3) The present:
 - a) "Thou art mine."
 - b) "I am the Lord thy God, the holy One of Israel, thy Savior."
 - c) The NASB puts v. 4 in the present: "Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you . . ."
 - d) "I am with you."

In view of all of this, we now need:

D. Isaiah 12:2.

This is Messianic and millennial in character. But the application is for the present, too. We must believe.

In Isa. 7:9b Isaiah told King AHAZ, "If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established."

Isa. 12:2 comes from Ex. 15:2. It was, and is, a part of the Word of God. The difficulties may seem insurmountable. The problems without solution. But we must begin with the Word of God, take God at His Word, and believe like Abraham of old, who

"staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strong in faith, giving glory to God, and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform" (Rom. 4:20, 21).

Concl: This is at least a part of what Isaiah would teach us about peace.