Isaiah: Behold Your God!

The Repentant Are Blessed in Jerusalem
Lesson 17
Isaiah 63:7-66:24

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
December 30, 2018
Isaiah – Keys

- Two books or sections with 2 historical settings
  - Book 1: The Assyrian invasion - Jerusalem preserved
  - Book 2: The Babylonian captivity - Israel restored in the Land

- Major historical event in both sections: The Eternal Kingdom

- Two common themes for both sections:
  - Behold your God!
  - The just shall live by faith!
Isaiah – Outline

- Book 1 – Condemnation (Isaiah 1-39)
  - 1. The LORD speaks to Isaiah (1-5)
  - 2. Isaiah is called and sent (6)
  - 3. The coming Assyrian invasion (7-12)
  - 4. The LORD speaks to the nations (13-27)
  - 5. The LORD speaks to the nation (Judah) (28-35)
  - 6. The Assyrian invasion (36-39)

- Book 2 – Comfort (Isaiah 40-66)
  - 1. Comfort in the sovereign God (40-48) – theology proper
  - 2. Comfort in the saving God (49-59) – soteriology
  - 3. Comfort in the ruling God (60-66) – eschatology
Comfort in the Ruling God (60-66)

- The Kingdom of God on earth (60) – glory
- The deliverance which permits the Kingdom (61) – salvation
- Waiting for the Kingdom (62) – hope
- The judgments that come before the Kingdom (63:1-6) – justice
- Isaiah’s prayer – response to his prophecy (63:7-64:12)
- The LORD’S response to Isaiah’s prayer (65-66)
Isaiah’s Prayer (63:7-64:12)

- The lovingkindness (HESED) and goodness of God (63:7)
  - Lovingkindness of the LORD
  - All that the LORD has granted us
    - His great goodness toward the house of Israel
    - Granted according to His compassion
    - The abundance of His lovingkindness

- The promise to Abraham (63:8)
  - My people – the great nation
  - Their Savior – the blessed nation
Isaiah’s Prayer (63:7-64:12)

- The experience of God’s goodness to Israel in history (63:9-14)
  - The LORD saved them from bondage in Egypt
  - Israel rebelled and the LORD became their enemy
  - They remembered the Exodus and entry into their Land
  - God’s intent: make a glorious Name for Himself

- The current state of His holy and glorious habitation (63:15-19)
  - The LORD’S restrained zeal and compassion
  - The “failed” expectation of the Patriarchs
  - The “judicial” hardening of the hearts of Israel
  - The lost heritage of the LORD
Isaiah’s Prayer (63:7-64:12)

- A call for the Sovereign Redeemer God to come down (64:1-7)
  - The example of His coming at Sinai
  - No comparable God
    - He acts on behalf of those who wait for Him
    - He requires righteousness
  - How can we be saved?
    - God requires righteousness
    - The people are under the power of their iniquities

- An appeal to God as their Father (64:8-12)
  - The Potter and the clay – the sovereign, unobligated God
  - A request for forgiveness
  - An appeal to the Promise – “Your people . . . Your holy city”
  - Will you restrain . . . keep silent . . . afflict us beyond measure?”
The LORD’S Response to Isaiah’s Prayer (65-66)

- The grace of God to the Gentiles (65:1)
- The distinguishing grace of God (65:2-16)
  - A rebellious people “. . . following their own thoughts.” (65:2-7)
  - A believing remnant – “my servants” shall inherit the land (65:8-10)
  - Those who forsake the LORD . . . He will slay (65:11-15a)
  - My servants to be “blessed in the earth” (65:15b-16)
The LORD’S Response to Isaiah’s Prayer (65-66)

- The coming Kingdom (65:17-66:23)
  - New Heavens and a New Earth (65:17-18; 66:22; Revelation 21-22)
  - The Pre-Kingdom – Millennial Kingdom (65:19-25)
    - The LORD will rejoice in His people and in Jerusalem
    - Blessing in the earth with curse reduced – no evil or harm
- The people in the Kingdom (66:1-9)
  - A dwelling for God – not man-made (66:1-2a)
  - A regenerated people (66:2b)
  - A people destined for the LORD’S vengeance (66:3-6)
  - The Great Nation brought forth in a day (66:7-9)
The LORD’S Response to Isaiah’s Prayer (65-66)

- Comfort in a Kingdom of joy and peace for all who love Jerusalem (66:10-14a)
  - The LORD will rule with a rod of iron (66:14b-17; Ps 2:8-9; Rev 19:15)
  - A universal Kingdom – all nations and all tongues will see His glory (66:18-21)
  - The security of the New Heaven and New Earth (66:22-23)

- Eternal wrath (66:24)
  - A terrifying final word
  - Eternal wrath
Final Observations

- The servant role of the nation Israel in the plan of God
  - Blessed – as a display of God’s sovereign grace
  - Blessed – as a display of the loving faithfulness of God
  - Blessed – even greater as central to the eternal Kingdom

- The message of Isaiah . . . and the entire Bible
  - Behold your God . . . in Christ, the Servant of Israel
  - The just shall live by faith . . . in His Word and His Ways