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Morning Service

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## A God of Encouragement

### **Abstract:**

We all are hard pressed to find reasons of encouragement these days. Our government has betrayed us in its quest to further strengthen the power of current class. It steals more and more every day to fund the socialist empire being built on the very backs of the people it seeks to oppress. There appears no relief in sight, in fact, it looks like things will get much worse. Why then, should we rejoice?

We rejoice because Christ, the great light of Isaiah, has come and is King, and has been King for 2000 years. Today's church has lost focus on Christ's current Kingship and has instead adopted the flawed belief that the world is destined for self destruction and we as Christians can only hope we are 'taken up' before this happens. Scripture says Christ is King NOW and government rests on his shoulders NOW. Kingship is a political position and it's His current position. How then, can the world destroy itself if Christ is King?

We have opted for the belief that the church is a hospital for our sick souls and a safe haven until the rapture comes. Nothing could be farther from the truth! The church is a battle station, where our souls are strengthened and emboldened to obtain our King's victory!

When Isaiah first prophesied about the Messiah, notice the condition of Israel. They were under bondage of the king they had wanted, they were adding to God's law, so much so that God found their offerings to him offensive, yet they could not see this. They were stumbling in the dark and were happy to do so.

Why then, is His Church happy to stumble around in the dark today?

Why is His Church changing or watering down the Law and Christ's teachings?

Why is the Church sitting idle and letting it happen? Is it because we are forgetting that Christ is King?

As you listen, and read the scripture references, ask the Lord how you can spread the message of encouragement to the people in your life. Israel had forgotten who their God was and the result is plain to see.

Our Lord Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King, a great light which the darkness cannot overcome, a mountain to which the nations will come for guidance. Let's pray we start living like we believe it!

## Scripture References:

**Isaiah 9:1-21** But there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. (2) The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them. (3) You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. (4) For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. (5) For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. (6) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. (7) There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (8) The Lord sends a message against Jacob, And it falls on Israel. (9) And all the people know *it*, *That is*, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, Asserting in pride and in arrogance of heart: (10) "The bricks have fallen down, But we will rebuild with smooth stones; The sycamores have been cut down, But we will replace *them* with cedars." (11) Therefore the LORD raises against them adversaries from Rezin And spurs their enemies on, (12) The Arameans on the east and the Philistines on the west; And they devour Israel with gaping jaws. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out. (13) Yet the people do not turn back to Him who struck them, Nor do they seek the LORD of hosts. (14) So the LORD cuts off head and tail from Israel, *Both* palm branch and bulrush in a single day. (15) The head is the elder and honorable man, And the prophet who teaches falsehood is the tail. (16) For those who guide this people are leading *them* astray; And those who are guided by them are brought to confusion. (17) Therefore the Lord does not take pleasure in their young men, Nor does He have pity on their orphans or their widows; For every one of them is godless and an evildoer, And every mouth is speaking foolishness. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out. (18) For wickedness burns like a fire; It consumes briars and thorns; It even sets the thickets of the forest aflame And they roll upward in a column of smoke. (19) By the fury of the LORD of hosts the land is burned up, And the people are like fuel for the fire; No man spares his brother. (20) They slice off *what is* on the right hand but *still* are hungry, And they eat *what is* on the left hand but they are not satisfied; Each of them eats the flesh of his own arm. (21) Manasseh *devours* Ephraim, and Ephraim Manasseh, *And* together they are against Judah. In *spite of* all this, His anger does not turn away And His hand is still stretched out.

**Luke 1:67-79** And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying: (68) "Blessed *be* the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, (69) And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant-- (70) As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old-- (71) Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; (72) To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, (73) The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, (74) To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, (75) In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. (76) "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; (77) To give to His people *the* knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, (78) Because of the tender mercy of our God, With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, (79) TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."

**Psalms 110:1-2 A Psalm of David.** The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." (2) The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, *saying*, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

**Isaiah 5:20-25** Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! (21) Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight! (22) Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine And valiant men in mixing strong drink, (23) Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away the rights of the ones who are in the right! (24) Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble And dry grass collapses into the flame, So their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust; For they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. (25) On this account the anger of the LORD has burned against His people, And He has stretched out His hand against them and struck them down. And the mountains quaked, and their corpses lay like refuse in the middle of the streets. For all this His anger is not spent, But His hand is still stretched out.

**Isaiah 8:19-22** When they say to you, "Consult the mediums and the spiritists who whisper and mutter," should not a people consult their God? *Should they consult* the dead on behalf of the living? (20) To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (21) They will pass through the land hard-pressed and famished, and it will turn out that when they are hungry, they will be enraged and curse their king and their God as they face upward. (22) Then they will look to the earth, and behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish; and *they will be* driven away into darkness.

**Isaiah 1:2** Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the LORD speaks, "Sons I have reared and brought up, But they have revolted against Me.

**Hebrews 1:1-14** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, (2) in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (3) And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, (4) having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. (5) For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"? (6) And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." (7) And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." (8) But of the Son *He says*, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. (9) "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS." (10) And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; (11) THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, (12) AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END." (13) But to which of the angels has He ever said, "SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET"? (14) Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?

**Isaiah 2:2** Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it.

We are glad you have chosen to listen to this sermon and pray that it gives you strength, the desire for obedience, and a desire to have God's abundant Grace mortify sin in your life. If you have any questions or comments please email [chuck\\_ezell@yahoo.com](mailto:chuck_ezell@yahoo.com).