

Sunday, October 20, 2019

God is My Salvation – Isaiah

54. No Other God – Isaiah 44:1-23

Intro: Isaiah 43:28 – curse and reproaches on Jacob and Israel, but this is not the last word...

I. Now Then – vs. 1-5

A. Listen

1. You are My Servant (status unchanged) – Heb. 12:5-8
2. You are My Chosen – perfect tense, completed action, cannot be undone – 1 Peter 2:9-10

B. Don't Be Afraid

1. Made and Formed – Potter and Clay
2. Will Help – imperfect tense, repeated action as needed
3. Servant, Chosen – repeated for comfort
 - a. Remember Who I AM
 - b. Remember who you are in relation to Me

C. Refreshment is Coming (Restoration)

1. Rain – revival, new life, grace!
2. My Spirit – among the grass, bringing new growth and nourishment for generations
3. An Individual Response from a Corporate People
 - a. Say, Call, Write – testimony, witness
 - b. Offspring, Jacob Israel – no Gentiles here, these are formal Israelites becoming true Israelites through the Spirit of God – Rom. 9:6-13; 10:1; 11:26-27; Isa. 59:20-21
 - c. Abraham – Isaac – Jacob / Abraham – Isaac – Esau

II. The Lord and His People – vs. 6-8

A. Apart from the Lord There is No God

1. King, Redeemer, Only God
2. First – self-existing, self-sufficient
3. Last – remains at the end
4. Fullness of God's Divinity (exclusive)

B. Incomparable God

1. Who is like Me?
2. Decree and Set in Order – create and sustain the universe

C. Comforter

1. You are My witnesses
2. No other God, no other Rock – God Himself is the ultimate assurance – Psa. 71:3; 95:1; Deut. 32:31; 32:4; Psa. 19:14-15; Exodus 17:6

III. The Idolater and His Idol – vs. 9-20

A. No Idol with an Idolater - quote #1

B. Useless, Unprofitable, Unashamed

1. Merely Human (vs. 10-13)
 - a. Can a Human Maker Make the Divine?
 - b. Maker will be put to shame, stumble, be let down – human strength fails
 - c. If they knew what they were doing they would be afraid
 - d. Can a made thing make things?
 - e. An idol is made in the image of its maker
2. Merely Material (vs. 14-17)
 - a. Who creates, nourishes, sustains the trees?

- b. Idolatry is an attempt at self-preservation
 - 1) Fire for food
 - 2) Fall down before what is left
 - 3) Save me!
 - 3. Merely Deceived (vs. 18-20)
 - a. Blind – 2 Thess. 2:10-11; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 4:17-19
 - b. No one stops to think
 - 1) No knowledge – no facts to understand, ignorance
 - 2) No discernment – even if facts were present, unable to see their significance
 - c. It is an abomination to give divine characteristics to a man-made thing – Acts 17:29
 - d. Might as well feed on dying embers – there is no deliverance by idols or from them (by self-effort)
- IV. God's People Not Forgotten – vs. 21-23
 - A. Remember – a deliberate recollection of Who the Lord is and what He has done – Psa. 78:9-11, 40-42; 42:6; Luke 22:19-20
 - B. God Will Not Forget His Servants
 - 1. Offenses Wiped Clean
 - 2. Return – a command
 - 3. I have Redeemed You, You are Mine – redemption is the motive for conversion, not the response to conversion – the redeemed will convert
 - C. Sing, Shout! – 2 Thess. 1:10
 - 1. The Lord has done this
 - 2. The Lord has Redeemed
 - 3. The Lord has Glorified Himself!

Quote #1 – “Idolatry is not only making god, it is making god what you want him to be.” – JA Motyer, Commentary on Isa. 44:9