

Peace and Security in Our Day

Isaiah 39

“Peace and Security” → Isaiah 39:8

“We’re all in this together!” I have heard this many times during the year 2020, usually in reference to the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (AKA COVID-19) and particularly regarding the government’s response. Unfortunately, if you have been following the news and living in the United States during this time, you quickly realize that we certainly are not “together.” As a society, we are not together in politics, in standards of right and wrong, in individual or societal goals, or in our view of the world. In fact, from a Biblical viewpoint, believers and unbelievers cannot, are not and will not be “together” in many different ways for a wide variety of reasons.

But don’t we all want peace? Well, it depends on how you define and obtain that peace and there’s the rub. If peace is just being left alone, it’s not true peace for it will not last. Disease and death (or Judgment Day), if nothing else, will interrupt such peace. If peace is an absence of hostility between fellow men and women, we all desire that but it is not perfect peace. True peace can only be found when sin is confessed and forgiven and the hostility between God, who hates sin, and man, who is a sinner, is satisfied by perfect justice. The world, which loves darkness (John 3:19) and suppresses the truth (Romans 1:18), refuses to pursue true, perfect peace. Thus, the world doesn’t really *want* peace!

The world tries to obtain peace with money, power, fear, promises and the like. It is willing to compromise truth, principles, freedoms, and allegiances for peace. The offer is “security” – otherwise known as freedom from fear or anxiety. If we follow certain advice or sell our souls to a certain philosophy, we will be free from financial, emotional, relational, political (the list goes on) dangers. In turn, we will have comfort and prosperity – the American ideal of “security.” Never mind the long-term or even short-term consequences of having obtained this security. Don’t look at the impact on others, security says, only consider yourself!

We are all in danger of the thoughts of Hezekiah!

1. _____ Is Really Hard to Eradicate (v. 1-2)

a. The Idolatry of “_____”

i. His _____

ii. His _____

iii. His _____

b. The Need to “_____”

i. _____

ii. The _____

iii. _____

2. _____ Is a Real Siren Song (v. 3-7)

a. The Joy of Being _____

i. From _____

ii. By the _____

iii. For _____

b. The Reward for _____

i. Loss of _____

ii. Loss of _____

iii. Loss of _____

3. Smugness Leads to _____ (v. 8)

a. _____ of the Self-Religious

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

b. _____ of the Self-Religious

i. Lack of love for _____

ii. Lack of love for _____