

Faith Baptist Church

Sermon Notes Sunday, January 17, 2021

God's Unfolding Story

Isaiah 40:28

Background Information-

In about 740 BC, nearly a century after Elijah and a couple decades after Jonah, a prophet named Isaiah had an encounter with God. He saw God on His throne in His temple, with angels declaring His holiness and glory. Deeply humbled, Isaiah received his calling to go to the nation and declare both judgement and hope.

Instead of serving the Lord with humility and offering love to their neighbors, the nation of Judah strayed further by offering meaningless sacrifices in God's temple at Jerusalem. In so doing, the people of Judah turned their backs on God and alienated themselves from Him, which created the need for Isaiah's pronouncements of judgment—declarations made in the hope that God's chosen people would return to Him.

Why is Isaiah so important?

The book of Isaiah is like a miniature Bible. The first thirty-nine chapters (like the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament) are filled with judgment upon immoral and idolatrous people. The final twenty-seven chapters (like the twenty-seven books of the New Testament) declare a message of hope and restoration. The Messiah is indeed coming as Savior for His people!

In fact, the book of Isaiah provides us with the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ in the entire Old Testament. It includes the full scope of His life: the announcement of His coming (Isaiah 40:3–5), His virgin birth (7:14), His proclamation of the good news (61:1), His sacrificial death (52:13–53:12), and His return to claim His own (60:2–3). Because of these and numerous other Christological texts in Isaiah, the book stands as a testament of hope in the Lord, the One who saves His people from themselves.

What's the big idea?

Isaiah's overall theme receives its clearest statement in chapter 12: "*Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; For the Lord God is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation.*" (Isaiah 12:2). This echoes the meaning of Isaiah's name, which means the "salvation of Yahweh".

Three Resolutions-

Recognize that God is _____ and Lord over all _____.

Remember that God is not limited in His _____, and never becomes _____.

Realize that God is not limited in His _____ of the problems you _____.

Additional Bible Passages to Reference-

Isaiah 12:2; Psalm 19:1-2; Hebrews 1:3; Psalm 139:13-17; Luke 12:6-7; Proverbs 15:3; Job 34:21; John 14:16-18

Questions for Reflection-

Do you believe that God is the creator of everything (Isaiah 40:12,22)? Do you believe that God is the ruler over the nations (Isaiah 40:15-17)? Do you believe that God directs and names the stars in the sky (Isaiah 40:26)?

When are you likely to forget that God is the creator and ruler over all?

How can you remind yourself that God is wise and unique, the source of your protection and strength?

Do you believe that God is able to strengthen the weak (Isaiah 40:29-31) and protect the vulnerable (Isaiah 40:11)?

What does Isaiah tell us about strength, weariness, ourselves, and God in Isaiah 40: 28-31?

In times of distress or uncertainty, what brings you comfort? Do you find comfort in the truth of God's Word?

In what difficult situation in your life do you need to experience the comfort of the Lord God? What do you need to trust Him with right now?