

Sermon Notes
Good News Church
Greatest Hits of the Bible
“A Mother’s Love”
Isaiah 49:13-16
Drue Warner
5-10-26

Purpose / Take Away

My goal in this message (and every message) is to plant seeds from God’s Word that would be watered by God’s Spirit and will result in a harvest of faith in our lives. It’s not my goal to get you to do something. My hope is that God would do something and that you would respond to whatever God is doing.

My purpose in this text from Isaiah is that we would have an Isaiah experience.

Isaiah Overview

Isaiah was a priest who prophesied for more than 40 years (from 740 - 701 B.C.) during the reigns of 4 kings (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah). He was a voice proclaiming Israel’s disobedience and rebellion, God’s discipline, and God’s salvation.

The book of Isaiah has 66 chapters and a lot of detailed prophecy about the rise and fall of Babylon, the captivity of Israel, and the Messiah to come. Isaiah also accurately prophesied about the rule and reign of Cyrus, King of Persia nearly one hundred years before Cyrus came to power, and he mentioned Cyrus by name! It’s this kind of prophecy that gives great evidence of the Bible being a credible authority.

According to tradition, Isaiah was martyred by being sawn in half (ordered by King Manasseh). Another great evidence for the Bible being a credible authority.

Isaiah Experience (CH. 6)

Isaiah found himself in the presence of Almighty God and was undone by his holiness, as well as his unworthiness. His response was to fall on his face and proclaim, *“I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people with unclean lips.”* But Isaiah’s experience didn’t stop there.

An angel took a hot coal, touched his lips and said, *“Your guilt has been taken away and your sin has been atoned for.”* Isaiah experienced the grace and kindness of God. As a result, when God asked Isaiah, *“Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?”* Isaiah responded by saying, *“Pick me! I’ll go! I’ll do whatever you want me to do. I’ve seen your glory and your grace and nothing else compares or matter matters. I’m in!”*

That’s what I want for us.

Big Picture

Chapters 1-39 God's accusations of Israel's idolatry and coming punishment

Chapters 40-66 God's love for Israel and promise to forgive and restore

BAD NEWS

Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! This is what the LORD says: "The children I raised and cared for have rebelled against me. Even the animals--the donkey and the ox--know their owner and appreciate his care, but not my people Israel. No matter what I do for them, they still do not understand." Oh, what a sinful nation they are! They are loaded down with a burden of guilt. They are evil and corrupt children who have turned away from the LORD." - Isaiah 1:2-4

The LORD has rejected the people of Israel... The land is filled with idols. The people bow down and worship these things they have made. So now everyone will be humbled and brought low. The LORD cannot simply ignore their sins! - Isaiah 2:6-9

JUSTICE

The LORD takes his place in court. He is the great prosecuting attorney, presenting his case against his people! - Isaiah 3:13

Cut Down to a Stump - "Israel will remain a stump, like a tree that is cut down, but the stump will be a holy seed that will grow again." - Isaiah 6:13b

MERCY > Out of the Stump, a new Branch...

Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot--yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. - Isaiah 11:1

Everyone gets justice or mercy.

ISAIAH 40 TURNING POINT

Like a parent disciplining a child, there comes a point in which the discipline and punishment (Isaiah 1-39) runs its course, and something has to change. This is what we read in Isaiah 40-66.

"Comfort, comfort my people, says your God... A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God." – Isaiah 40:1, 3

"He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." – Isaiah 40:11a

"They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." – Isaiah 40:31

RENEWED HOPE

"For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back." – Isaiah 49:7

- I gave faithless Israel her certificate of divorce and sent her away because of all her adulteries." – Jeremiah 3:8

----- TODAY'S TEXT -----

ISAIAH 49:13-15 REDEMPTION

¹³ Shout for joy, you heavens; rejoice, you earth; burst into song, you mountains! For the Lord COMFORTS his people and will have COMPASSION on his afflicted ones.

¹⁴ But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me." ¹⁵ "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!

A MOTHER'S LOVE - In this incredible grace of God, we see characteristics of God that He has also made evident in the prominent characteristics we find in mothers.

Everything we love about mothers, is really what we love about God.

- Comforting, Compassionate Nurturer
- Persistent, Unwavering, Unconditional Love
- Fiercely Pursuing and Loyal
- Never Giving Up

GOOD NEWS

"No matter how deep the stain of your sins, I can remove it. I can make you as clean as freshly fallen snow. Even if you are stained as red as crimson, I can make you as white as wool. – Isaiah 1:18

- **ISAIAH 53** - "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." – Isaiah 53:5

"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness. But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin." - 1 John 3:4

"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life." – Romans 6:23

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
– Romans 5:8

SECURED

¹⁶ See, I have ENGRAVED you on the palms of my hands."

THE CROSS

"He reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters... He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me.'

- Psalms 18:16, 19

CONCLUSION

Have you had an Isaiah experience? Have you found yourself in the presence of Almighty God and undone by his holiness and your unworthiness. Ideally, this results in repentance.

Have you also experienced the amazing grace and compassion of our loving God, knowing that, in spite of our sinfulness, unworthiness, and absolute deserving of God's justice and condemnation, because of Christ on the cross, *"Your guilt has been taken away and your sin has been atoned for?"* Ideally, this results in faith.

If so, how will you respond? If you say, *"Pick me, I'm in,"* like Isaiah, it's because God has picked you first. He has not forgotten you. Instead, He has had compassion on you and has engraved you (not just your name, YOU) on the palms of His hands.

And THAT'S Good News!