

project 4:4

one year one bible one church one lord

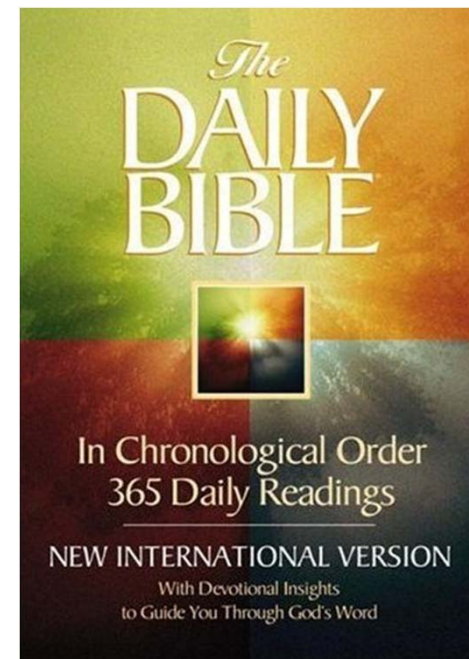
Isaiah Offers Hope for the Future Lesson 29

July 18, 2010

PV Pleasant Valley Church of Christ

This Week

- ▶ We'll cover readings for July 11-17
- ▶ 2 Kings 21, Isaiah 40-53
 - ▶ Manasseh, King of Judah
 - ▶ Isaiah's Prophecies and Pronouncements
 - ▶ Judgment against Judah
 - ▶ The folly of idolatry
 - ▶ Punishment of Oppressors
 - ▶ Promises of Restoration
 - ▶ The Coming Messiah



Manasseh's Reign

▶ 2 Chronicles 33:1-4

- ▶ ¹Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. ²He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. ³He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. ⁴He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, "My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever."



Manasseh's Reign (2)

▶ 2 Chronicles 33:5-7

- ▶ ⁵In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts. ⁶He sacrificed his sons in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced sorcery, divination and witchcraft, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, provoking him to anger. ⁷He took the carved image he had made and put it in God's temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever.



Manasseh's Reign (3)

▶ 2 Chronicles 33:8-10

- ▶ ⁸I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your forefathers, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and ordinances given through Moses.” ⁹But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites. ¹⁰The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention.



God's Anger

▶ 2 Kings 21:12-15

- ▶ ¹²Therefore this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I am going to bring such disaster on Jerusalem and Judah that the ears of everyone who hears of it will tingle. ¹³I will stretch out over Jerusalem the measuring line used against Samaria and the plumb line used against the house of Ahab. I will wipe out Jerusalem as one wipes a dish, wiping it and turning it upside down. ¹⁴I will forsake the remnant of my inheritance and hand them over to their enemies. They will be looted and plundered by all their foes, ¹⁵because they have done evil in my eyes and have provoked me to anger from the day their forefathers came out of Egypt until this day.”



Manasseh's Fate

▶ 2 Chronicles 33

▶ ¹So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. ²In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers. ³And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

▶ What does this incident tell us about God?

For Discussion

- ▶ What does this account teach us about the responsibility of leadership?
- ▶ What does it teach us about the responsibilities of followers?
- ▶ What do you think of as you read the descriptions of God's anger and judgment?



Manasseh's Reform

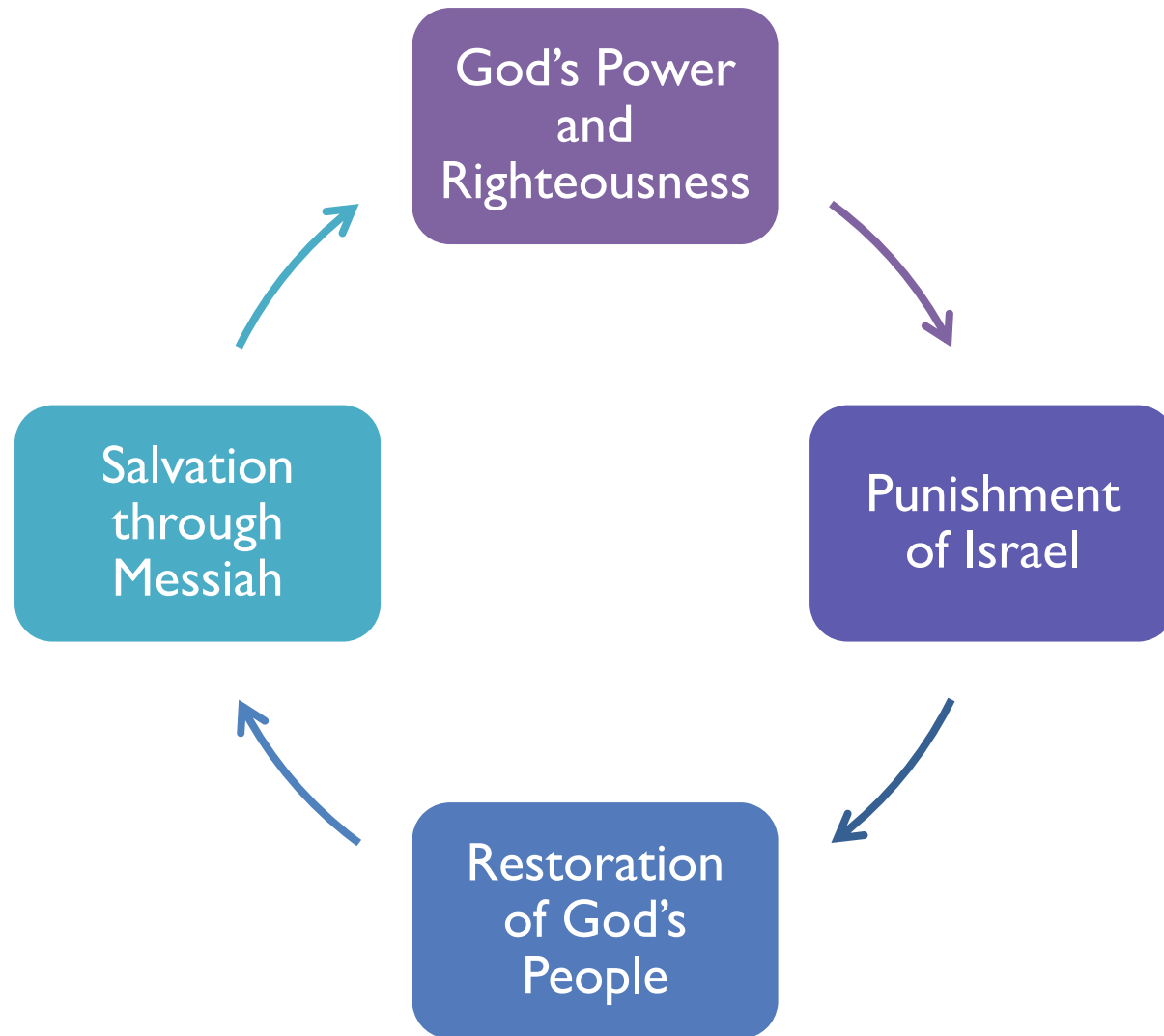
- ▶ 2 Chronicles 33:15-17

- ▶ ¹⁵He got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the LORD, as well as all the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he threw them out of the city. ¹⁶Then he restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel. ¹⁷The people, however, continued to sacrifice at the high places, but only to the LORD their God.

- ▶ Why would Manasseh make such a turnaround in his life?



Isaiah's Message



For Discussion

- ▶ Reading these verses in Isaiah, what are some of the big problems Isaiah is working to counteract?
- ▶ What metaphors here speak to you? What imagery does Isaiah use that communicates God's heart to you?



God's Unlimited Power

- ▶ Isaiah 40:12-14

- ▶ ¹²Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance? ¹³Who has understood the mind of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor? ¹⁴Whom did the LORD consult to enlighten him, and who taught him the right way? Who was it that taught him knowledge or showed him the path of understanding?

- ▶ What could God possibly need from us?



God in Control

- ▶ Isaiah 41:2-4

- ▶ ²“Who has stirred up one from the east, calling him in righteousness to his service? He hands nations over to him and subdues kings before him. He turns them to dust with his sword, to windblown chaff with his bow. ³He pursues them and moves on unscathed, by a path his feet have not traveled before. ⁴Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD—with the first of them and with the last—I am he.”

- ▶ Make no mistake, it is God who will bring judgment upon Judah



The Futility of Idols

▶ Isaiah 44:9-12

- ▶ ⁹All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless. Those who would speak up for them are blind; they are ignorant, to their own shame. ¹⁰Who shapes a god and casts an idol, which can profit him nothing? ¹¹He and his kind will be put to shame; craftsmen are nothing but men. Let them all come together and take their stand; they will be brought down to terror and infamy. ¹²The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm.



The Futility of Idols (2)

▶ Isaiah 44:12b-15

- ▶ He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint. ¹³The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. ¹⁴He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. ¹⁵It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread.



The Futility of Idols (3)

▶ Isaiah 44:15b-18

- ▶ ^{15b}But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. ¹⁶Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, “Ah! I am warm; I see the fire.” ¹⁷From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, “Save me; you are my god.” ¹⁸They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so they cannot see, and their minds closed so they cannot understand.



The Futility of Idols (4)

▶ Isaiah 44:19-20

- ▶ ¹⁹No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, “Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?” ²⁰He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, “Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?”

▶ I wonder if God in His own way finds this behavior humorous

- ▶ A man cooking with the same material that he worships – both made by the hand of God Himself



Power, Punishment and Promise

▶ Isaiah 46:8-13

- ▶ ⁸“Remember this, fix it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels.
⁹Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.
¹⁰I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. ¹¹From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that will I bring about; what I have planned, that will I do. ¹²Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are far from righteousness. ¹³I am bringing my righteousness near, it is not far away; and my salvation will not be delayed. I will grant salvation to Zion, my splendor to Israel.



God's Action's Through Prophets

▶ Isaiah 48:1-4

- ▶ ¹“Listen to this, O house of Jacob, you who are called by the name of Israel and come from the line of Judah, you who take oaths in the name of the LORD and invoke the God of Israel - but not in truth or righteousness - ²you who call yourselves citizens of the holy city and rely on the God of Israel - the LORD Almighty is his name: ³I foretold the former things long ago, my mouth announced them and I made them known; then suddenly I acted, and they came to pass. ⁴For I knew how stubborn you were; the sinews of your neck were iron, your forehead was bronze.



God's Action's Through Prophets (2)

▶ Isaiah 48:5-8a

- ▶ ⁵Therefore I told you these things long ago; before they happened I announced them to you so that you could not say, 'My idols did them; my wooden image and metal god ordained them.' ⁶You have heard these things; look at them all. Will you not admit them? "From now on I will tell you of new things, of hidden things unknown to you. ⁷They are created now, and not long ago; you have not heard of them before today. So you cannot say, 'Yes, I knew of them.' ⁸You have neither heard nor understood; from of old your ear has not been open.



God's Action's Through Prophets (3)

▶ Isaiah 48:8b-11

- ▶ ^{8b}Well do I know how treacherous you are; you were called a rebel from birth. ⁹For my own name's sake I delay my wrath; for the sake of my praise I hold it back from you, so as not to cut you off. ¹⁰See, I have refined you, though not as silver; I have tested you in the furnace of affliction. ¹¹For my own sake, for my own sake, I do this. How can I let myself be defamed? I will not yield my glory to another.



If Only ...

▶ Isaiah 48:17-19

- ▶ ¹⁷This is what the LORD says — your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: “I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go. ¹⁸If only you had paid attention to my commands, your peace would have been like a river, your righteousness like the waves of the sea. ¹⁹Your descendants would have been like the sand, your children like its numberless grains; their name would never be cut off nor destroyed from before me.”

▶ God’s way is always the best

- ▶ Not doing this His way is always hard

Watch Your Toes ...

- ▶ Isaiah 50:10-11

- ▶ ¹⁰Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. ¹¹But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.

- ▶ What was God saying to Judah?

- ▶ What does this say to us?



The Messiah

- ▶ Isaiah 53 is the beautiful, yet haunting, chapter on the suffering servant
- ▶ In the middle of God's pronouncement of punishment on His sinful people, He provides this glimpse of the One who will suffer for those sins
- ▶ Makes you wonder how the Jews missed Jesus
- ▶ What do you think of as you read this chapter?



Your Turn ...

- ▶ What insights have you gained from this week's study?
- ▶ What did you find in these passages that you have never seen before?
- ▶ How did the Lord speak to your heart through the Word this week?
- ▶ How will your walk with Him be different as a result?



Next Week

- ▶ Readings for <Next Date Range Here>
 - ▶ <Brief Summary>

Questions?

