

Series: Isaiah

Lesson # 26

Title: THE RIGHTEOUS RULER

Scripture: Isaiah 11v01-09

Date: 3-29-09

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Princeton, New Jersey

Isaiah was sent by the LORD with a message of comfort and encourage for the LORD's chosen, remnant in Judah in a time of great unrest.

As I wrote those words the thought occurred to me--since the fall of Adam when has there ever been a time when the believer could find comfort or encouragement from anything in this world?

During certain seasons God graciously reminds us that this world and everything in it is but a vapor which is passing away. In doing so he also reminds us that the kingdom of which the believer belongs is not of this world.

John 8: 23: And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

John 8: 35: Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done? 36: Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

That is the good news which Isaiah was sent to deliver to the Lord's people in his day. That is the good news I am sent to deliver to you in mine.

Proposition: As we behold the leaders of this world--both religious and secular--causing this people to err; as we behold those who are led of them being utterly destroyed, believer, may you draw fresh courage this day knowing that our Prophet, Priest and King Jesus Christ is seated in the third heaven executing judgment and justice in the earth for you.

The false prophets, priests and kings of Judah were proud, stiff-necked, rebels against God. They used the law of God to oppress, to bind, to threaten, and to frighten men; they appeared zealous for God's law; yet they compromised with the heathen nations accepting idol gods as their own. As LORD of hosts brought judgment upon the nation in the form of the Assyrian king the gospel of Christ goes forth at the same time promising Sanctuary to those who seek refuge in the LORD God alone

But God's way and the way that seemeth right unto man are totally opposite. Those vain rulers of Judah were called high ones of stature, haughty, full of pride, cedars of Lebanon; oaks of Bashan; while the King of heaven and earth came in a totally different way:

Isaiah 11: 1: And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Isaiah 53:2: For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, *there is no beauty that we should desire him.*

Luke 2:7: And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

I. THE ANOINTING OF GOD'S PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING.

Isaiah 11: 2: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

What a word of comfort and assurance! Christ's kingdom is spiritual, not temporal. The administration of his office of Prophet, Priest and King is spiritual. Therefore he was anointed by the "Spirit of the Lord" resting on him: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

A. BY THIS ANOINTING OUR PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING WINS THE VICTORY OVER OUR TRUE ENEMY.

1. Though we are flesh and blood and live in the physical realm and see only the waves of turmoil with these physical eyes--truly we wrestle not against flesh and blood.

Ephesians 6: 11: Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12: For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high *places.*

2. All the suffering that the Lord's people were under in Isaiah's day is just as it is in our day. It was first and foremost due to the religious oppression of false prophets, priests and kings. But there was a far greater warfare than what meets the eye--a spiritual warfare. Satan is the accuser of the brethren--the Dragon; and Satan's messengers are the tail of the dragon--false prophets.

Isaiah 9: 14: Therefore the LORD will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day. 15: The ancient and honourable, he *is* the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he *is* the tail. 16: For the leaders of this people cause *them* to err; and *they that are* led of them *are* destroyed. 17: Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one *is* an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly.

3. God declared that this spiritual warfare--this oppressive yoke of Satan--would be broken one way, BY THE ANOINTING.

Isaiah 10: 27: And it shall come to pass in that day, *that* his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

4. It was a man who broke the law and men whom the LORD God would save; therefore it would be a Man who obeyed the law, answered to its penalty and thus took away all the Devil's power--That Man is **the Rod of the stem of the house of Jesse; the Branch who grew up out of his roots.**

5. No prophet, priest, or king in Israel was qualified until he had special anointing from God. And so Christ's qualification for this work as Prophet, Priest, and King arose from his anointing. As a man, the Rod out of the stem of Jesse, our Lord Jesus needed the ministry of the Holy Spirit even as we, but he needed it in a full measure. Yet, because his work was against the powers and rulers of darkness, spiritual wickedness in high places, so it was necessary that he should be enriched with the gifts of the Holy Spirit beyond measure.

Psalm 45:7: Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

John 1: 32: And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. 33: And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. 34: And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

6. What does Matthew tell us was the first thing that happened after the Holy Spirit rested upon him?

Matthew 3: 17: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Matthew 4: 1: Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil.

Acts 10:38: How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. 39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: 40: Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly; 41: Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, *even* to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. 42: And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. 43: To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

This was practical instruction for the brethren to whom Isaiah was sent and it is for us this very hour: Our warfare is not with the leaders of this world. No matter how far off course they may lead. Our warfare is against the devil himself. But we have a Prophet, Priest and King who wins that war for us. What are we to do? Put on the whole armor of God--Christ Jesus the Lord.

B. It is by this anointing that all judgment was committed to him and by which he executed judgment perfectly.

Isaiah 42:1: Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, *in whom* my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

John 5: 22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:...27: And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. 28: Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29: And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

C. It is by this anointing that he fulfills his office as THE PROPHET OF GOD.

Deuteronomy 18:15: The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;...18: I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

What did our Savior say? **Isaiah 61: 1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek;**

II. NEXT, WE SEE THE MANNER IN WHICH HE GOVERNS.

Isaiah 11: 3: And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5: And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Isaiah 11: 3: And shall make him of quick understanding

- cause him to smell--to discern--the fear of the Lord--it means he knows the heart of men
- **John 2:25: And needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.**

Isaiah 11: 3...In the fear of the LORD

- It means this Judge judges according to the LORD's standard of Holiness, not man's standard.
- **John 5: 30: I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.**
- **Psalm 37:6: And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.**

Isaiah 11: 3:...and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Exodus 23: 8: And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous.

Luke 4: 5: And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6: And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. 7: If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. 8: And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

Matthew 22: 16: And they sent out unto him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, Master, we know that thou art true, and teachest the way of God in truth, neither carest thou for any *man*: for thou regardest not the person of men. 17: Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not? 18: But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, Why tempt ye me, *ye* hypocrites?

The unregenerate, ultra-religious Pharisee's condemned him for healing a man on the Sabbath day and what did he say: **John 7: 24: Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.**

Illustration: The Lord calls it what it is! In Isaiah's day, the false prophets and priests appeared zealous for God's law--bound men with it, oppressed them, rather than lead them to the Holy One of Israel. Then turned around and accepted the Philistines and their gods. When men do this in our day they call it being gracious--"We have brethren amongst the Philistine, the LORD God has a people there--they trust their will, they look to their own works, they will not submit themselves to the Savior of God's Israel, but we need to be gracious." But God shows in reality that they were seeking rewards--gifts--**Isaiah 2:6: Therefore thou hast forsaken thy people the house of Jacob, because they be replenished from the east, and *are* soothsayers like the Philistines, and they please themselves in the children of strangers.**

Isaiah 11: 4: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth:

Are you poor in spirit? Is your heart broken at how far short you come of the glory of God? Only those who have been made to know what they are outside of Christ are meek. The Pharisee's pretended to be meek. The false prophets in Israel pretended to be meek.

This is the gospel of salvation to those who need salvation. Only the poor in spirit, the meek of the earth know their need of salvation. **Isaiah 61: 1: The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound; 2: To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3: To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.**

Peter was sure thankful! Thankful that Christ judges the poor with righteousness--that he looks on the heart. After denying his Lord 3 times, after leaving the brethren and going back to his nets, the Lord came to him and said to him 3 times: **John 21:17:...Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.**

Our High Priest reproveth us but he never ceases being our Advocate with the Father.

1 John 2: 1: My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Isaiah 11: 4:...and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

Psalm 110:2: The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

Psalm 2:9: Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Isaiah 10: 33, 34: he shall cut down the thickets of the forest with iron...

What is this rod of iron? The rod of his strength? This rod of his mouth?

Isaiah, Go forth now and speak to my people my gospel concerning my Christ.

Illustration: Lately, everyone seems to have a solution about how to fix things in our nation and in the world. I can assure you of this--man broke it; man can't fix it.

The rod of the mouth of our Lord wherewith he slays the wicked is the gospel of Christ wherewith he comforts and corrects his people. **Isaiah 40: 1: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.**

The gospel comes forth into the hearts of his Redeemed with the effect it had on John: **Revelation 1: 16: And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.17: And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18: I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.**

But to the wicked it is a savor of death unto death--the word whereby they shall be judged
Revelation 19: 11: And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12: His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13: And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14: And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15: And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16: And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. 17: And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18: That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all *men, both* free and bond, both small and great. 19: And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20: And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21: And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which *sword* proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

Isaiah 11: 5: And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Righteous judgment, Equitable Reproof, Righteousness and Faithfulness the girdle of his loins

Men read of God's sovereign choice in electing whom he will unto salvation in Christ, of God predestinating a particular people to be conformed to the image of his son, of Christ redeeming that particular people for himself and the cry is "Unfair, unrighteous!"

The only one who can save your soul is the only one you accuse of unrighteousness and of being unfair. Do you suppose he would be righteous and equitable to cast you into hell for such slander? Then what would it be but free, sovereign, distinguishing, grace if he chooses to take away your stiff neck and your heart of stone and give you eyes to behold his glory!

For him to do so--his holy justice must be satisfied, sin must be put away, and you must be made holy to be accepted of God. God the Father entrusted that work to his Son. As a Man the Holy Spirit rested upon him so that he fully completely reconciled a people unto himself. If this work was not performed by him and him alone--then no mercy could be shown to you or me. But because he is the righteous judge, and equitable in all his dealings, he has brought forth judgment and mercy and caused them to kiss in perfect harmony.

If he makes you to behold just how righteous and equitable he is in order to shower you with everything you never deserved then you will cease accusing the King and Savior of unrighteousness and of being inequitable to do with God-hating sinners whatever he is pleased to do. The problem is that you do not have a clue just how unrighteous and unfair you are before the thrice holy God!

Illustration: Right about now we all wish there was someone on the hill that we could trust. They wished the same thing in Isaiah's day. To know someone is in charge who can not be blinded by bribes and politics-as-usual. **BELIEVER YOU HAVE SOMEONE IN GOD'S HOLY HILL AND HIM YOU CAN TRUST. he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:**

III. THE EFFECTUAL RESULT OF HIS GRACE IN THE HEARTS OF MEN

Isaiah 11: 6: The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7: And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8: And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9: They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

This is a description of the peace which Christ produces in his people in this world. We were as beasts but being justified by faith we have peace with God.

A. BECAUSE ALL FULLNESS DWELLS IN OUR SAVIOR, BECAUSE THE SPIRIT WAS POURED OUT ON HIM WITHOUT MEASURE, HE IS RISEN :

John 1:16: And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

Ephesians 4:7: But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

Without measure he had "the spirit of wisdom and understanding"--

- Therefore through the Holy Spirit poured into us Christ is made unto us Wisdom (I Cor 1: 30)

"the spirit of counsel and might"

Council is everything God has to say, everything God's justice says, the manner in which God manifests his righteousness--the whole council of God is Christ--the one in whom is the fullness of the Godhead bodily. The full council of God is not Christ plus works it is Christ, Christ, Christ! **Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Luke 21:15: For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. I Corinthians 2: 15: But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16: For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

B. Where the Prince of Peace reigns in the heart there is peace.

Before the fall of Adam these beasts came together to be named by Adam. After the fall the curse came and enmity entered in.

These animals show us the enmity that exists between man and man. But what happened when the animals entered the ark in Noah's day? The Ark was set before them, the LORD gave them new natures bringing them into the ark in peace, and there they lived together in peace.

So it is with those born of the Spirit of Christ--he removed the curse by being made a curse for us, we were at enmity with one another but he removes it:

Ephesians 2: 14: For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; 15: Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even the law of commandments contained in ordinances*; for to make in himself of twain one new man, *so making peace*; 16: And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: 17: And came and preached peace

to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. 18: For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

When he pours out the Holy Spirit and brings us into the Ark by faith there is neither Jew nor Gentile, bond nor free, rich or poor, male or female, wolf or lamb, leopard or kid, calf or young lion, cow or bear but we are all one in Christ Jesus our Peace (Gal 3: 28, 29)

We lie down together in the church of God. A little child (pastor) leads us. We feed upon the green pasture of gospel truth. The sucking child, the newborn babe of God's kingdom shall not be harmed by the old serpent--Satan and his tail of false prophets any more. The weaned child, weaned from his self-righteous works and from this world, shall not be harmed by the den of iniquity - self-righteous religion. It is as safe and secure as it is pleasant and peaceable - "They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea."

It is my prayer that our Prophet, Priest and King will turn you from the vanity of the corrupt leaders of this world and give you peace that you may lay down and rest in his eternal care.