



SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Friday, 05/27/2022

Scripture: Isaiah

TITLE – Isaiah – Salvation

Some of the best stories are ones that begin with tragedy but end with triumph. You know I like the story of *Les Mis*. Jean Valjean is a man who steals for the survival of his family. He serves his time and is released only to find the world only sees his sin. He finds redemption not in man's favor but in God's faithfulness. The ending of the story is of mercy, grace, and reunion. But Valjean's salvation story began with judgment. This is a lot like the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah is a book unlike any other in the Bible. It is a book that resembles the whole Bible. The first 39 chapters are a blend of warning of judgment for sin. The last 27 chapters contain hope and comfort in the salvation to come.

The prophet Isaiah wrote this book. He was a poet and a prophet. Some people call Isaiah the "St. Paul of the Old Testament." He was educated and dedicated to serving the Lord. But like any prophet, the reception of the message was mixed. Isaiah's ministry lasted 60 years, from 740 to 680 B.C.

If the book of Isaiah could be summarized in one word, it would be "salvation." That's the main thing of Isaiah. It's all about salvation. The word "salvation" appears 26 times in Isaiah but only seven times in all other prophets combined. Salvation is of God, not man. This is abundantly clear as you read this Old Testament book.

Is Christ found in the book of Isaiah? Absolutely! Salvation is found in Christ alone. The messianic, or "Savior" prophecies are clearer and more explicit here than in any other Old Testament book. The prophecies describe the person and work of Christ. For example, we find prophecies about the virgin birth, the bringing of gifts from the kings, Jesus' miracle work, His resurrection, and of course, his criminal's death. In fact, Isaiah 53 contains probably the most well-known prophecies. Chapter 53 is often referred to as the suffering servant passage.

There are too many passages we could zoom in on, but two of my favorites are found in Isaiah 26 and 40.

Isaiah 26:3-4 (CSB) says,

["You will keep the mind that is dependent on you in perfect peace, for it is trusting in you. Trust in the LORD forever, because in the LORD, the LORD himself, is an everlasting rock!"](#)

You see, friend, when life seems out of control, and I'm scared or worried, I put my eyes back on God. He is forever faithful. He is our forever rock.

This is so encouraging because there are times I'm ready to throw in the towel. I'm so tired and feeling defeated. That's why I turn to Isaiah 40:31. It says,

“Those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.”

God is faithful, and he will forever be our salvation. That is where we find our hope.

So here's my challenge for you today. Fix your eyes on the Savior. It's there our hope and peace reside. You may need to do this every minute to keep that perfect peace. That's okay. Just readjust your focus and do it again and again and again.

When our eyes are on the Savior, our hope is fixed. That is when we will win the day.