

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

Join the Song

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 13-27

Theme: Reject the pagan mentality and you will sing the song of perfect peace.

Introduction: Sometimes, the decisions we make in life don't become fully evident for 10, 15, or even 20 years. And making good decisions isn't just about taking action to do right things. It's also about rejecting the wrong—we need to know what to reject and when to reject it. It won't do to embrace godliness on one hand while simultaneously embracing evil on the other. Israel was trying to do this very thing: serve God while also looking to other gods/saviors for help.

We can summarize Isaiah chapters 13-27 under 2 points:

1. Do not trust the nations (13-23)

The Lord was calling his people to trust in him alone—not looking elsewhere for deliverance and help.

He was also pronouncing judgment on the surrounding nations (Babylon, Tyre, Egypt, etc). Though they did not have Israel's status before God, all nations are still accountable to him.

The nations were judged for trusting in their own strength and power and for rebelling against the one true God.

This judgment against the nations ought to remind us that nothing we do escapes God's notice or judgment. He sees and knows all, and one day he will judge all things righteously.

God's people are not left out of the judgment. The Lord judges them for looking to these sinful nations for help, instead of looking to him. And he judges them for feasting and reveling when they should have been mourning and repenting.

2. Trust the Lord alone (24-27)

In reading chapters like these, we might be tempted to think that God is just reacting to whatever his people do. But Isaiah helps us to see that the Lord is actually reigning over history and is always accomplishing his plan.

Further, God is working to bring everything to his appointed consummation.

Death will be defeated and sorrow and shame will be ended.

In addition, his people can walk in peace in this life because our hearts rest in him.

Questions:

1. Where are you looking for hope?
2. What does your spending (time, money, emotions) reveal about your trusts?
3. Where is God calling you to grow in trusting him? What would it look like to trust him more in that area?