

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

A Place in His Plan

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

Isaiah 41:1-

Theme: Take heart because the Lord has a place for us in his cosmic plan.

Introduction: Sports serve us by showing the value of a team, and of being a part of a team. There's something meaningful about being a part of a greater whole, and in making a contribution to a purpose larger than ourselves. Teamwork is also contrary to the proud independence that would seek to go about our lives on our own terms and in our own strength.

In this passage, the Lord reveals how he still has purposes for Israel, even in spite of their persistent rebellion against him. He would still work through them to accomplish his purpose of glorifying himself and of drawing others to himself, through them.

1. Part of God's plan (1-7)

In Isaiah 41-48, God calls the nations into a courtroom setting. He's going to give them opportunity to find fault with him. And of course, he will be vindicated and they will be shown guilty of idolatry.

In these verses, the Lord foretells the coming of an unexpected and unstoppable king. This prediction is later fulfilled in Cyrus, King of Persia, ~150 years in the future. As Persia overthrows mighty Babylon, the whole world appears to be unsettled. And so people turn to their idols for comfort. So the Lord is exposing the emptiness and foolishness of idolatry, and their inability to actually save anyone.

He's calling his people to burn their idols and to turn to him, the true and living God, who alone can save.

2. That we will be a part of (8-20)

Even though his people had rebelled against him for centuries and were sent into exile as punishment, the Lord is reminding them that he still has good purposes for them.

He makes three big promises to them: a) I will be with you; b) I will help you; and, c) I will use you.

The Lord would use his people to save others. He would use them to separate the wheat from the chaff, the saved from the unsaved.

His people would be a testimony to him and the truth in the world.

Questions:

1. How strong is your confidence in God's sovereignty over all things? Does that truth have its intended effect of ongoing comfort in your life?

2. How strong is your confidence in God's love for you?

3. What roles and responsibilities has God given you in life? How do you need to be courageous in those roles?