



February 10, 2008

A Proclamation of Power

Throughout the book of Isaiah, God proclaims his power and the blessings He bestowed on the nation he raised up. These things should have been in the forefront of the Israelites minds and a remembrance of the greatness of the Lord should have reminded them of their obligations to the God who loved and preserved them in the midst of nations. The idolatrous practices of the people and their spiritual neglect had blinded them and so they had need to be told of these things. They, like many in the world today, had lost faith in their God and had failed to recognize the power and greatness of the Lord. The stories of old, telling of the things that God had done, were not kept in mind as they pursued their own path away from life and salvation. Last week we saw some of the statements made through the prophet comparing the idols that men made with their hands to the living God who was able to perform great feats. God reminds them of his power and couples that with statements of the negative consequences they were bringing on themselves. God states, ***“But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”*** (Isa 59.2). Failing to heed the warnings that were given through the prophets, the people continued in their wayward thinking in spite of the reality that faced them as these things came to pass. The infinite wisdom and working of God can be found throughout the book. ***“Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?”*** (Isa 40.12). The power of God is seen in other statements as he reminds the people of his authority as creator. ***“It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.”*** (Isa 40.22-23). His people, surrounded by their enemies, turned to other

earthly powers for deliverance, only to find that the strength they hoped for was brought to nothing by the power of God. The reasons for this are seen in statements concerning the judgment of God against the sinful nation. ***“Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law.”*** (Isa 42.24). God reveals that the destruction that was to come upon them was of their own doing. They had been warned and refused to turn from their evil against God. There is also a demonstration of God’s ability to use other nations against them as he reveals the form their judgment was to take. ***“Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.”*** (Isa 43.14). God also reminded them of how they had grieved him and challenged his patience with their practices. ***“Thou hast bought me no sweet cane with money, neither hast thou filled me with the fat of thy sacrifices: but thou hast made me to serve with thy sins, thou hast wearied me with thine iniquities.”*** (Isa 43.24). God declares his majesty, not only in spiritual things through his commands, but in the reality of the world as well. ***“I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.”*** (Isa 45.7). God further states his divine authority over man and therefore his right to command obedience. ***“I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.”*** (Isa 45.12). Finally, God declares the surety of these things. ***“...My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure...”*** (Isa 46.10). Having these commands and warnings, the people were without excuse as we are today.

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