GOD In His Own Words

Pastor Toby Locke • Week 5 • 10/29/2023

The Hope of Israel

Isaiah 49:14-26

Israel’s Worry:

* “My Lord has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ me.” (vs. 14)

God’s Assurances to Israel:

* “I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you.” (vs. 15-16)
* “I will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you.” (vs. 17-23)
* “I will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you.” (vs. 24-26)

God’s Goals:

* Remind Israel of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 23)
* Encourage them to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Him. (vs. 23)
* Prove His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for His people to the \_\_\_\_\_\_. (vs. 26)



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Debrief Plan: 10/29/2023

**Icebreakers**:

1. What would you pick if you could choose your own superpower?
2. What is one place in Israel that you would love to visit someday (if you had the time and money to go, and if conditions were safe)?

**Sermon Summary**: Tragedy and atrocity has plagued God’s people throughout their history, from the Assyrian captivity to the recent attacks by Hamas. To any Jews (past or present) who wonder if God has forgotten them, God makes the assurance that He remembers, will restore, and will rescue. In the meantime, He asks them to wait for Him, trusting in His perfect timing.

**Discussion Questions**:

*Though the focus of today’s sermon was on how this message from Isaiah applies to Jewish people both past and present, there are certainly corollary ideas that we Gentile Christians can grab onto and apply to our relationships with God, too. Our discussion questions for today will draw our thoughts to these application points.*

1. Have you ever observed people with a faith background turn away from God because of some trauma or atrocity that they have experienced? Without sharing too many details, did they ever come back to God?

**Read Isaiah 49:15-16**.

1. How do you personally react to God’s (metaphorical) description of Himself as a nursing mother?
2. What does that word picture communicate about God’s heart?
3. Is it the kind of word picture you would expect God to use? Why or why not?

**Read Isaiah 49:23b.**

1. When you are experiencing trauma like Israel was in this passage, how easy or how hard on a scale of 1-10 is it to wait for God’s restoration and rescue?
2. What messages from the world, the flesh, or the devil (or all of the above) do we receive that make it hard for us to wait for God to rescue us?
3. How can we resist those messages and hold on to the truth anyway?

**Closing Prayer Time**:

Would you pray for the current crisis in Gaza? Pray for justice for the evildoers, the sparing of innocent lives (on both sides), and for this tragedy to turn both Jews and Arabs to Yahweh to find comfort and peace in the Messiah, Jesus.