

THEY SHALL BUILD THE OLD WASTES PLACES ISAIAH 58:8-13, 61:4

Text: Isaiah 58:12, 61:4

(Isaiah 58:12) "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

(Isaiah 61:4) "And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations."

Introduction:

The house of Jacob, Gods chosen people had begun to question why God was not seeing them or answering their prayers. So God sends a preacher with a message. The messages content spoke as to how bad these people really were. The prophet was preaching faithfully and plainly to them. Though they were called the people of God, he does not flatter them, but shows them their transgressions. He was instructed to cry aloud and not spare them in trimming the truth.

They on the outward appearance are a lot like people today. They seemed to be good. They had a form of godliness.

(2 Timothy 3:5) "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

They went to church, observed their times of prayer. They loved to hear good preaching. They seemed to enjoy their religion. I call it Country Club Christianity. They were inquisitive concerning their duty, but wanted only to know it, but not do it.

To most they appeared to be a living thriving church but in all actuality there were dead much like the church in Sardis.

(Revelation 3:1-6) "And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead. {2} Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God. {3} Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. {4} Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

{5} He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. {6} He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Notice:

1. Complaint (vss 3)

(Isaiah 58:3) "Wherefore have we fasted, say they, and thou seest not? wherefore have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours."

A. Were questioning God.

(Psalms 18:30) "As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him."

2. Clarification (vss 4-7, 13)

(Isaiah 58:4-7) "Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high. {5} Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? is it to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes under him? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to

the LORD? {6} Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? {7} Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?"

(Isaiah 58:13) "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:"

- A. Their methods were wrong.
- B. Their means were wrong.
- C. Their motives were wrong.

3. Challenge

- A. Call upon the Lord (vs 9)

(Isaiah 58:9) "Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;"

B. Cry unto the Lord (vs 9) (shout)

(Isaiah 58:9) "Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;"

C. Confess I'm the one at fault (vs 9)

(Isaiah 58:9) "Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;"

1. Stop blaming others for your problems

D. Cast off vanity (vs 9)

(Isaiah 58:9) "Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;"

E. Compassion of those in need. (vs 10)

(Isaiah 58:10) "And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day:"

(Jude 1:22) "And of some have compassion, making a difference:"

4. Confidence (vs 11,14)

(Isaiah 58:11) "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

(Isaiah 58:14) "Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."

- A. Rejoice in the Lord.
- B. Ride the high places.
- C. Receive an heritage.

5. Commission

(Isaiah 58:12) "And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

A. Raise up

B. Repair.

C. Restore.

Close:

We need to build the old waste places, and raise up the foundations for many generations. Why? So that many generations in the future will be able to dwell in the paths set forth.

Are you building bridges or are you battling the current?