

God Has Not Forgotten You

Isaiah 49:8-26

Introduction

If God has promised to do good for us, never stop loving us, protect us from all evil — what's going on at those times when I face ongoing, difficult trials? Has God forgotten me? And if He has not forgotten me — what is He doing?

God answers those questions in Isaiah 49.

What has God promised Israel?

God promises a new covenant in the Messiah (v.8a)

God promises to restore Israel to the Promised Land (vv.8b-11)

God promises that through the Messiah He will bring people to Himself from every nation (v.12)

Isaiah responds by busting out with joy (v.13)

But even though Isaiah is rejoicing, Israel is not rejoicing.

Why was Israel not rejoicing?

Israel thought God had forgotten and forsaken her, because for year after year she had been enslaved in Babylon.

Has God forgotten Israel?

Because of Jesus, as we trust Him, God is always giving us His complete, undivided attention — with a heart of deep love and compassion.

What is God doing while He's focused on us with compassion?

He is weeping with us (John 11:35).

He is ready to comfort and satisfy us with His presence (Psa 34:18).

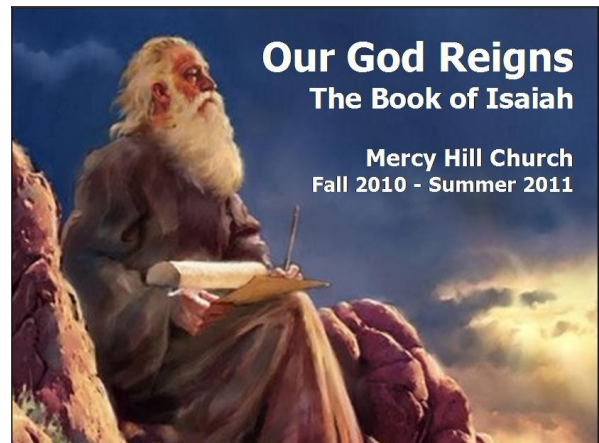
He is enlarging our soul's capacity for joy in Him forever (2Cor 4:14-16).

He is perfectly timing our deliverance (Psa 31:15).

What does God urge Israel and us to do?

Set our hearts on His promises (Isa 41:10; Psa 103:3; Mat 6:33; Psa 50:15; John 6:35).

Wait for Him (Isa 49:23). Those who wait for him will not be ashamed.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

What was the Holy Spirit saying to you Sunday through this passage?

What questions, ideas, objections, encouragements did you come away with?

Have you had a time in your past when you thought God had forgotten you? What brought you to that conclusion? How do you view it now?

Are you now thinking that maybe God has forgotten you? Why?

Which of the four actions that God does for us is most meaningful to you? Why?

Which of the four is most puzzling to you? Why?

What's your take-away from this message? What are you going to do differently? When? How?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

