

Why God Does What He Does

Isaiah 43

Introduction

Why does God do what He does? Isaiah tells us in Isaiah 43.

Overview of the chapter:

Even though Israel has sinned and God has punished her through Babylon (42:18-25)

Yet God will lavish His mercy on sinful Israel — saving and restoring her (43:1-7)

Israel can be sure God will do this, because God has kept all His promises (43:8-13)

Isaiah again describes the wonderful blessings God will bring to Israel (43:14-21)

Even though Israel has persistently sinned against God (43:22-28)

So why does God do what He does? Specifically, why does God show mercy?

To explain why — Isaiah answers two crucial questions:

Why does God create us? (vv.6-7)

God creates Israel, and creates us, and does all He does to display His glory.

Throughout God's Word we see that God does what He does to display His glory (Eze 20:5-9; Psa 106:6-8; Ezekiel 20:21-22; 2Sam 7:23; John 2:11; John 12:27-28).

None of us like people who seek to display their glory, because they do this for themselves. But the reason God displays His glory is for us — our highest joy is beholding greatness, and God is the greatest greatness.

So the most loving thing God can do for us is to display His glory.

Why does God forgive us? (v.25)

He forgives us for His own sake — for the sake of displaying His glory.

The highest display of God's glory is His mercy.

We live in a universe created and ruled by a God whose highest passion is displaying the glory of His mercy — His goodness to completely undeserving people.

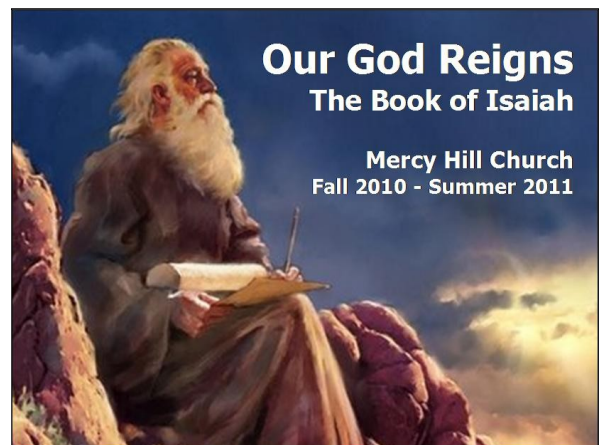
What does this mean for us?

Be humbled.

Be encouraged.

Be sobered.

Be hopeful.



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?

Before Sunday's teaching, what would you have said was God's purpose for all that He does?
How did Isaiah 43 change your answer?

How would you answer Brad Pitt's objection that God is all about His own ego?

Does it make sense that the most loving thing God can do for you is to show you His glory? Why or why not?

Which of the four take-aways hit you the deepest (be humble, encouraged, sobered, hopeful)?
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.

