



Sermon Discussion Questions
September 24, 2023,
The Gospel According to Isaiah
THE LORD' SPIRIT IS UPON US
Isaiah 44:1-8

1. Opening Discussion Questions

- a. Right now, portions of the DMV are under a drought warning. What has been your experience with drought? Have you ever lived where water was rationed? Even if you've not experienced a severe drought, have you ever forgotten to water a house plant for a long time or come home from vacation to a dried-up lawn? What have you learned from such experiences?
- b. If you go to a fair or a carnival, you will likely find a booth or tent with a fortune teller who will try to convince you they can tell you about your future. What are the strangest/silliest ways you've heard of them using to tell your future? Why do you think otherwise intelligent people believe and spend good money to have someone tell them the future? What would a fortune teller need to do to convince you that they were legitimate?

2. Study/Discussion Points:

a. *The Sermon's Key Points*

- i. The Lord's Spirit is on Us. (Isaiah 44:1-3)
 - God promised restoration through His Holy Spirit.
 - Fulfilled at Pentecost, this is reality for every believer in Jesus.
 - To experience the Spirit's power, we must walk in the Spirit.
- ii. Pray for and Expect Revival. (Isaiah 44:4-5)
 - A beautiful picture of revival
 - Pray for revival in our community and country!
- iii. Trust the Living God to Accomplish This (Isaiah 44:6-8)

b. *Monday – God's Mercy and Israel's Unfaithfulness.*

- i. Isaiah 44 begins with the word "But" suggesting that what we are about to read is the result of the preceding verses. Read Isaiah 43:22-28.
 1. How do verses 22-24 describe the difference between the way the exiled Jews treated God and the way God related to them?

2. What would be a logical “excuse” that the exiles would offer for failing to offer the sacrifices God’s law demanded?
 3. If you stopped at verse 24, how would you describe the exiles spiritual condition?
 4. While we are no longer required to offer sacrifices – Jesus provided the perfect sacrifice for us all – how might these three verses describe the spiritual condition of America? Of the church in America?
- ii. How does verse 25 change the picture? Compare this verse with Exodus 34:6-7, and Psalm 103:3 & 11-14.
 - iii. In last week’s message it was pointed out that God was placing the idols on trial. Now in verses 26-27 who is being put on trial? According to verse 28 what is the verdict?
- c. **Tuesday** – *God promised restoration through His Holy Spirit.*
- i. Read Isaiah 44:1-3.
 1. Who is God addressing in these verses?
 2. How does He describe/classify those He is talking to? What does He claim gives Him the right to do so?
 3. What does He promise them?
 4. Who will receive the promise?
 - ii. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, Ephesians 1:4 and James 2:5.
 1. What does it mean to you to be “chosen”?
 2. If you are “chosen”, what should you be (see Romans 1:1, James 1:1, 2 Peter 1:1, & Jude 1)?
 - iii. Read Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:16-21 and Romans 10:12-13.
 1. In what way does being “chosen” by God to be a Christian put us in a position like the exiles Isaiah is writing to?
 2. In what way are we different?
- d. **Wednesday** – *Fulfilled at Pentecost, this is reality for every believer in Jesus.*
- i. Read the account of Pentecost in Acts 2:1-13 and Peter’s explanation in Acts 2:14-36
 1. Although these are probably familiar passages, what strike you most as you read them now?
 2. How do you think this event relates to the promise God gave the exiles in Isaiah 44:3?

ii. Read what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17 & 25-26 and John 15:26-16:15.

1. What single word does Jesus use repeatedly to describe the Holy Spirit?
2. How do you feel that this description of the Holy Spirit relates to the passage we are considering in Isaiah?

e. **Thursday** – *To experience the Spirit’s power, we must walk in the Spirit.*

i. Read Galatians 5.

1. What does it mean to you to “walk by the Spirit”?
2. How important is it to “walk by the Spirit” (see Romans 8:5-11 – especially 9b)?
3. What do you find strange or unexpected about the works of the flesh listed in 19-21?
4. Compare the list in verses 19-21 with 2 Timothy 3:1-5. What would you conclude?

ii. Consider prayerfully which of the Fruit of the Spirit are not especially evident in your life. How might that suggest ways in which your walk needs to be more in step with the Spirit?

f. **Friday** – *Pray for and expect revival.*

i. Read Isaiah 44:4-5

1. Compare this with Psalm 1:1-3. What do you think it would look like if this promise was fulfilled in America today?
2. Read Jeremiah 50:45 and Zechariah 8:19-22. What additional insight do you get into what God is promising the exiles?

ii. What does “revival” mean to you?

1. Read Psalms 19:7, 69:32, 71:20, & 85:6. What do these Psalms teach us about revival?
2. What does Isaiah 57:15 contribute to our understanding?
3. Based on these passages where would we conclude revival should begin?

iii. Read Revelation 3:1-6.

1. What does it suggest to you about revival?
2. Where should our emphasis on revival be focused?

g. **Saturday** – *Trust the Living God to Accomplish This*

i. Read and meditate on the final portion of the focal passage, Isaiah 44:6-8.

1. What do the titles used for God in verse 6 say to you?
 2. Compare verse 6b with Revelation 22:13. What is the significance of God being the “first” and the “last”?
 3. What is the obvious answer to the rhetorical question in verse 7? Verse 8b?
- ii. That God is our Rock is a great comfort. End by considering these verses from the Psalms: 18:2, 31 & 46; 19:14; 28:1; 61:2; 62:6; 71:3; 78:35; 92:15; 95:1; and 144:1.

3. Application: We talk often about the need for revival in America. But as an old hymn says, “O Lord, send a revival and let it begin with me!” This week consider how you might be an instrument of revival. Throughout history, every revival seems to have been preceded by earnest prayer by God’s people. Commit to such prayer. As you think about revival consider the following acrostic:

Rekindled love for God (Revelation 2:4-5, 3:15-17, Matthew 10:37, Mark 12:30)

Enthusiasm for Worship (Hebrews 13:15; Psalm 34:1-3, 100:1-4; John 4:24)

Vigilance in Prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Ephesians 6:18; 1 Peter 5:7; Romans 8:26, 34)

In-depth Bible Study (Matthew 5:6; Psalm 119:97-98; James 1:23)

Victory over Sin (Hebrews 12:1; Romans 6:1-7)

Affection for Others (John 13:34-35; Philippians 2:2-4)

Life of Faith (James 2:17-20; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 1 Corinthians 10:31)

4. Prayer Points:

- a. **A**doration – 1 Peter 4:16
- b. **C**onfession – James 5:16
- c. **T**hanksgiving – Philippians 4:6
- d. **S**upplications – James 4:2-3
 - i. That God will provide opportunities for each of us to share the Gospel with someone this week.
 - ii. For the Love Our Neighbor weekend on September 30th – that many of our neighbors will be introduced to Christ.
 - iii. For the continuation of the “Grow Deeper” Discipleship class and the new Vines and Branches cohort.
 - iv. The 45+ kids that are signed up and attending the Wednesday evening Awana program and for the volunteers leading the activities.
 - v. For the entire staff of Lake Ridge Baptist Church.