

WHAT'S YOUR STORY WHEN IT COMES TO HANDLING LIFE'S HEAT?

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- Isaiah's grand vision of his/the people's sin & God's holiness (chpts 1-6)
- God's promise of his presence in Isaiah 7-9 (Immanuel; Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace).
- Isaiah's promise of coming turmoil & discipline. In Isaiah 9-12 we saw:

ONLY THROUGH HIS SON JESUS WILL GOD REIGN WITH JUSTICE.

ONE: God stretches out his hand in discipline to his people. *Isa 9.8-10.4*

TWO: God stretches out his hand in judgment on those who arrogantly use the power he gives them to discipline men & nations. *10.5-34*

THREE: In Messiah Jesus God stretches out a highway home for all who flee the foolish arrogance of man. *Isa 11.1-16*

FOUR: God's holy Son, reigning amidst his church, spreads joy in all the earth. *Isaiah 12.1-6*

ONE: Whose story are you trying to live and tell to survive in life's heat?

ARE YOU MOST TRYING TO BE A *PROPHET* OR A *PRIEST* OR A *KING*?

Prophet: *If I learn right and speak right then my life is justified.*

Priest: *If I'm moral/religious and help others then my life is justified.*

King: *If I work hard, multiply resources & succeed then my life is justified.*

WE SO MUCH WANT TO TELL OUR STORY (OR OF OUR TRIBE OR NATION).

TWO: Isaiah tells God's story to help God's people handle life's heat.

[Cf., worship bulletin cover for the flow of Isaiah 13-27]

A. Isa 13-20 God rules not simply over his people but also over leaders and nations.

14.12ff: Even pride that models the Serpent will be brought low.

18.3-7 The greatest of the earth will bring tribute to Zion's King.

19.19-24 YHWH will join Assyria & Egypt with Israel to his praise; 20.3-6: how foolishly we turn to "Egypt" for success).

B. Isa 21-23 No refuge or resource is beyond God's rule and reign.

21.8-10 the idols/spiritual power of Babylon are shattered in the dirt.

22.12-14 Our King is our first enemy if he is not first in our hearts (and only Christ the King can make him so)

23.7-9, 17 God will take the pride and possessions of Tyre to supply the needs of those who dwell before his face.

C. Isa 24-27 God's anointed King comes to earth to judge and to restore!

24.17-23 The returning King floods the earth and reigns in Jerusalem (Hebrew: *and before his elders, glory!*).

25.3-9 This King is our shade from the heat, for at his banquet is life and peace (26.1-9).

26.16-19 Only this King can meet the need: he must be prophet, priest and king to and through us!

27.2-6, 12-13 God's vineyard will put forth shoots and bless the earth; men and women from everywhere come and worship him as he reigns in Jesus from the heavenly Jerusalem now come down to earth.

Interact with Isaiah 11-12 with these thoughts/questions:

1. Have you responded to your upbringing by seeing your life as most justified/successful if you are (a) a good prophet, (b) a good priest, or (c) a good king?
2. What dangerous fruit can flow from thinking you can fix yourself or your spouse, family, or chosen "world" if you try hard enough and are a good prophet, priest or king?
3. How can you better "work out [not *for*] your salvation with fear and trembling" (Philippians 2.12-13) if you worship Jesus as the only good prophet, priest and king? How might these chapters of Isaiah help?
4. Meditate especially on Isaiah 26.15-19 to see how we must have Christ's life as our source of new creation living if we are going to be fruitful in life's hot/pressured seasons. See also John 7.38-39, 2 Corinthians 1.3-12 and James 3.13-4.12, for help in being fruitful in life's heat.