

*He is coming to save us from our sins, for Him*  
*Isaiah 42:14–21*  
*Sermon*  
*03/19/2023*

It seems like God is somewhat subdued these days. If we watch the news, if we look carefully at the world and the movement of governments, armies, and cultural social engineers; it appears as if God is not there.

As you look at federal laws being passed you realize they are frequently not in alignment with biblical values.

<https://www.electionforum.org/faith/criminalizing-christianity-most-dangerous-bill-passes-house-10-reasons-why-you-need-to-act-now/>

When we go out into the new virtual world to make our virtual place in it, references to our Christian teaching are often censored or shadow banned, so you don't always know your message is not getting out!

(<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2023/01/13/business/what-is-shadow-banning.html>)

In a way, God does appear to be absent. Now, there is a movement of sorts of people trying to protect our Christian values as well. But that appears to be falling under "Christian Nationalism" and may or may not be interested in the Gospel of Christ, as much as the culture of Christianity.

So the jury is still out, whether that is God speaking or not, which, based on the Prophecy of Isaiah today leads me to believe, it's not God speaking, because when he does, there is no denying He is there!

I don't know how many of you have ever seen a woman give birth, there is no denying a baby is on its way.

I will never forget the first time I saw it. In high school they made us watch it for sex education. And there was no doubt in my mind right there and then that she was on her own.

Sure, there were doctors and nurses in the room. Yes, her husband was by her side encouraging her. Of course, there were machines that told them vital information about her blood pressure and the like.

But when it boiled right down to it. Nobody, and I mean no body helped her with the pain and agony of bringing that baby into the world.

She had to bear it all on her own, and she knew no one in the room could empathize with what she had no choice but to do; bring that baby into this cruel, cold world.

So women, who have given birth, understand God like none of us can, and God understands them like no one, that hasn't given birth either, can.

For God was all on His own watching in silence as the people of God caused Him pain beyond even the pain of childbirth with their sins against Him.

Having given them a homeland and protection from their enemies all around, they nearly immediately started chasing after god's that gave them nothing at all.

They erected altars, monuments, statues, and made sacrifices to gods that they carved out of wood and finished with melted Gold and thought it would actually answer their prayers?

If ever there was virtual living, this was it. They virtually believed in gods they virtually created that virtually gave them everything they wanted...virtually.

And so many people bought into the rouse, it actually drove the economic and political landscape and isolated the true believers who did not buy into the rouse.

I have been fascinated by the ability of our world to fool people into thinking something is real when in fact it is nothing at all.

It's a bit dated now, but for a while in the early 2,000's there was a program, "Total Request Live", that appeared to be completely spontaneous. Famous people would just show up and the host, Carson Daly, would spontaneously invite people off the streets of New York to come into their make shift studio and everybody would talk about the latest pop stars and cultural happenings.

It was exciting, and connected, and just that coolest thing happening to the coolest age group. Unfortunately, it was all a lie.

Everything was carefully orchestrated and scripted. The audience was even specifically recruited and instructed on what to say and how to act in the studio to have the appearance of being the coolest kids in the city.

Marketing companies cleverly placed products all over the place to make it look like things Carson just used on a daily basis, and his casual use of these items would skyrocket their sales shortly after.

Nothing was spontaneous, nothing was organic, and nothing was just happening right there right now. It was planned, focused grouped, and then sold to the very people they were trying to fool, as the solution to everything they would ever want.

Like I said in last week's sermon, a solution looking for a problem.

This is idol worship: programmed, orchestrated, organized, and constantly promoted to keep us interested in the profit of others at our expense, and now even at the very expense of the Gospel itself.

The idols are still there, they are just packaged under clever marketing, with red, blue, and green company logos that tell us every day our biblical world view needs to take a seat and let the new anti-family social engineers take over with whatever their saying today, that will likely contradict what they said yesterday!

**GOOD LUCK WITH THAT WORLD!**

We, on the other hand, are gonna pay attention to what has been true for over 1700 years, and will continue to be there for us even forever! The Word of God, canonized, clear, faithful, and true, for all people, all cultures, for all time!

And this is what it told the people of God in Isaiah's day and applies more than ever for us today!

When God starts speaking, like a woman in child birth panting, gasping, and screaming all at once, you are gonna know it!

Truly Mountains and Hills will be flattened by His' powerful voice! All vegetation will wither on the vine and rivers will become dry islands!

**Biblical End of the World Stuff People!**

Just like Peter Venkman said in Ghostbusters, "Human sacrifice, dogs and cats living together... mass hysteria!"

But then, the prophecy to Isaiah takes a decided turn in verse 16, "I will lead the blind.... I will guide them...I will turn the darkness before them into light'

What is God saying here? What does He mean? I was expecting the Metal Band Disturbed's type of God who sings in their song, "The Vengeful One"

He's observing the chaos

Taking in the lack of raw humanity  
It's as if the entire world's fallen in love

With their insanity!

Hear the innocent voices scream

As their tormentors laugh through all of it

No forgiveness from all I've seen  
The degradation I cannot forget  
So sleep soundly in your beds tonight  
For judgement falls upon you at first light!

I'm the hand of God

I'm the dark messiah  
I'm the vengeful one

After all, that's what we deserve!

Oh, sure it's easy to say but we didn't make any idols pastor!!

Didn't we though? Or if we didn't do it, did we not stand by and simply let it happen!

Oh, how easy it is to make idols today, or just purchase them for \$39.99 online, ya know, the suggested donation.

Like the paper prayer blankets that were being sent around. Apparently, some Christians were jealous of the Muslims who had their personal prayer blankets they knelt on 7 times a day.

So, someone sent out folded up paper prayer blankets for free and suggested the that \$39-dollar donation would bring a blessing upon their home and family!

That only took one week of Bible Study to correct that misnomer.

Oh, the famous Touched By An Angel Shows that lead to the rise of angels being purchased for the home with the assurance that their presence would protect them.

I can only imagine the horror of the Arch Angels Michael and Gabriel when they saw us doing that!

They know better than anyone their job is to serve the one who we should worship, and never intercede for us or hear our prayers!

We even go so far as to leave our bibles on the shelf, with all our important documents inside the cover, and treat it like a relic to be revered rather than open and devote ourselves to what it says. Go home today and see how much dust is on your family bible, I know ours is pretty bad.

Are we so deaf? Are we so blind? Is it me, "it's me? I'm the problem it's me?"

Yes, it is, Marc...indeed it is! And you as well my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ!

But this is the good news. God tells us today, "Who is blind, BUT MY SERVANT? (emphasis mine) Who is deaf BUT MY MESSENGER? (emphasis mine)

God clearly picks the most ridiculous people to send out, who will undeniably give all the glory to God!

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 bears this out saying,

“ 26 For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, [a] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, 29 so that no human being [b] might boast in the presence of God. 30 And because of him [c] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

We are the blind, the deaf, we can't see or hear or even boast of Him unless God enables us to do so as He teaches us in 1 Corinthians 12:3,

“Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.”

Apart from God we can do nothing, but that is really good news for all of us who are deaf and blind in spiritual matters.

Because the truth is I don't know much when it comes to God! I know, a pastor should never say such a thing. BUT, it's true; when you compare what we know with what there is to know about God.

So, we can all confidently say, “None of us really know anything...BUT, we do know Him. We know, by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we can trust God perfect in Christ.

Like when I look to the Cross, where He died for my sin, I know He is no longer gasping at my shame, rather He is delighting in my salvation won in His name.

That's when we realize the real point of God's return in Isaiah today.

He is no longer the vengeful one to those saved in His Son's Name, and He is not coming to judge us for our sins, rather He is coming to save us from our sins, for Him.

AMEN

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