



GREAT CHAPTERS FOR GREATER LIVING: ISAIAH 1

"A GLIMPSE OF HOPE"

ISA. 1: 9

WE HAVE SEEN IN OUR PRIOR STUDIES THAT ISAIAH HAS SHOWN THAT SIN LEADS TO A LIFE OF MISERY AND OF SLAVERY, AND IN THE END, IT LEAVES US HELPLESS AND ALONE. BUT THANK GOODNESS, THE PROPHET IS NOT FINISHED. VERSE NINE IS A KIND OF TURNING POINT IN ISAIAH'S MESSAGE. HERE, HE GIVES US A GLIMPSE OF HOPE.

I. SIN DESERVES THE PUNISHMENT OF TOTAL DESTRUCTION

"EXCEPT THE LORD OF HOSTS HAD LEFT UNTO US A SMALL REMNANT, WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AS SODOM, AND WE SHOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE UNTO GOMORRAH." WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM? SODOM AND GOMORRAH WERE DESTROYED. GENESIS 19:28 CONFIRMS THAT THEY WERE TOTALLY DESTROYED! ISAIAH IS WARNING HIS PEOPLE, AND US THIS MORNING, THAT IF WE ALL HAD WHAT WAS COMING TO US, IT WOULD BE TOTAL DESTRUCTION. INSTEAD OF BLAMING GOD FOR THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD AND OUR NATION, WE MUST REALIZE THAT IN REALITY, WE HAVE NO PLEA BECAUSE OUR SIN WARRANTS GOD'S JUDGMENT AND DESTRUCTION. WE DO NOT DESERVE ANY FORGIVENESS.

OUR COUNTRY, AND IN FACT, THIS ENTIRE WORLD, IS IN REBELLION AGAINST THE LORD. WHO COULD BLAME HIM IF HE DECIDED TO DESTROY US ALL LIKE HE DID SODOM AND GOMORRAH?

II. WE ARE TOTALLY INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING AT ALL ABOUT OUR SALVATION

THE WORD "EXCEPT" SAYS A GREAT DEAL. ISAIAH IS SAYING THAT IF GOD HAD NOT DONE SOMETHING, THE RESULT WOULD HAVE BEEN DESTRUCTION—WHICH MEANS THAT WE CAN DO NOTHING. PEOPLE ARE NEVER SAVED UNTIL THEY FIRST REALIZE THAT THEY CANNOT SAVE THEMSELVES.

ISAIAH IS REMINDING HIS PEOPLE THAT THEY CANNOT EVADE GOD. THEY HAD TRIED TO DO SO, BUT HERE HE IS SENDING HIS PROPHET WITH A MESSAGE TO THEM. HE ALSO REMINDS THEM THAT THEY CAN DO ABSOLUTELY NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT PUTTING THEMSELVES RIGHT WITH GOD. NEITHER CAN WE DELIVER OURSELVES FROM SIN'S BONDAGE.

III. OUR SALVATION IS ENTIRELY OF GOD

"EXCEPT THE LORD OF HOSTS HAD LEFT UNTO US A VERY SMALL REMNANT"—AND THANK THE LORD HE HAS! ISAIAH TOLD HIS COUNTRYMEN, WERE IT NOT FOR GOD DOING THIS, WE WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, BUT HE HAS LEFT US A SMALL REMNANT. WE COULD DO NOTHING AT ALL, WE WERE COMPLETELY HELPLESS AND DESERVED NOTHING BUT HELL, BUT WE ARE SAVED. IT IS THE LORD WHO HAS DONE IT.

IT WAS GOD WHO SAVED LOT FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF SODOM AND GOMORRAH, AND IT IS STILL GOD WHO DOES THE SAVING. HE ALONE HAS THE POWER AND THE WILL TO SAVE US FROM SATAN AND SIN'S GRIP ON US. IT IS HIS SON, JESUS, WHO HAS DONE THIS, AND ALL GLORY SHOULD GO TO HIM.

WE ARE SAVED BY THE POWER OF GOD---IT IS ENTIRELY HIS DOING!