

Chapter 35



The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

Isaiah

Isaiah 35

028

November 6, 2022

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Indian Hills Community Church

Detectives looking for Eschatological Evidences in Isaiah

Tribulation and Kingdom Truth



Continuing

The Way Eschatology is Expressed Reveals the Augustinian Construct

- Last week our text was Isaiah 34.
- In order to understand Isaiah, we suggested that the text in the Bible reveals **actual covenants** that provides the framework that connects in a perfectly unified fashion **all revelation**— God's single purpose, the common denominator is— **His Glory**.
- This eliminates all other suggested ends such as the **redemption of Man**—which is built on imagined or **false covenants**.

Redemption of Man

- This substitution may be more subtle than one might think. Since the redemption of Man is so important to us we can't **but image** that it becomes the **singular task— all that God does**—i.e. **the Bible is redemptive history**.
- If this hypothesis is accepted then when passages do not fit the “redemptive story” completely (many if not most do not), then it is easy to demand figurative/non-literal meaning of the text—thereby denying its literal meaning.

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- **Broadbent: (Pilgrim Church) “The (public) face of the Church changes like the phases of the moon. Often the Church blossoms on account of the number of the saints and is strong on this earth, and again she seems to fall and to pass away entirely. But if she disappears in one place we know that she is to be seen in other lands, even if the saints are only few who lead a good life and remain in the holy fellowship. And we believe that the Church will be raised up again in greater numbers and strength.**

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- The founder of our covenant is Christ and the Head of our Church is Jesus the Son of God...It is further stated in this document that the brethren confessed seven points of the Holy Christian faith: (1) the Triune God; (2) that this God is the Creator of all things, visible and invisible; (3) that He gave the Law of Moses; (4) that He let His Son become man; (5) that He has chosen for Himself a spotless Church; (6) that there is a resurrection; (7) **that He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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- In this remarkable book we have been given an insight into the "hope of the church" at least as expressed in the pre-Reformation years.
- 1. Specifically that there would always find churches that are true to the Scriptures.
- 2. That God— "will come to judge the living and the dead."
- Agreed that there will always be faithful churches in the world, but there is hardly any hope in just "having a church."
What is needed is deliverance—a redemption of creation.

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- To this nebulous eschatology is added the idea of a Kingdom now. Kingdom building is the task of the individual and the church, the organization.
- But—We have made the point that the Kingdom of God is a literal Kingdom on Earth ruled over by the Lord Jesus Christ—the Son of David. His kingdom is perfect in its moral performance and productive output.
- It is heaven on earth just as Jesus prayed in his prayer. “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,”

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- **What we have then in modern Christianity (even in Dispensationalists) is a mixed brew of biblical ideas mixed with the “wisdom of antisemitism” and Greek philosophy.**
- **Issues are—reject Jewish promises. Accept all matter as evil.**

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From my recent reading—Anna's Son by Hart Wiens.

Preamble: Interesting—the author sees the Kingdom of God as a present reality and we all can contribute to it—it is mysteriously wonderful that all kinds of religious convictions can join to **build the kingdom of God where Jesus is Lord.**

Following quotes are from the book

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“The understanding of the gospel we carried with us was still essentially the “gospel of sin management.” In which we had been immersed. That's how we were raised.

‘We were colonial paternalistic in understanding our role in building of the Kingdom where Jesus is Lord.”

p.168

**Ed: Only a soft definition of the Kingdom can allow this statement.
The Kingdom is like the mystical Husker Football Nation.**

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- Q. “This experience, as well as the support we experienced in our translation ministry from Catholics in the Philippines, gave us a new and positive perspective on the Church and helped expand our understanding -- of the gospel and of the reach of God's Kingdom in this world. We could see that any boxes (limitations) we create through our denominational emphases are too small for God. p.184
- “...seeing the many different and creative ways in which my colleagues were pursuing their missions. I relished the opportunities to partner with leaders of other missions and denominations as we worked together to build the Kingdom where Jesus is Lord. (I) began to sense that perhaps this was the kind of service for which God had been preparing me all my life. p. 186

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- Q “On my last visit with him (Cardinal) we talked about the **diversity in God's Kingdom and the church**. As our meeting came to a close, he leaned back in his chair and began to sing, "**Father make us one. That the world may know that you sent your Son. Father make us one. "** **My own understanding of the nature and beauty, diversity and magnificent reach of God's Kingdom was growing. p. 197**

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- **It is not easy to raise questions about how people who have suffered for the Gospel and paid a high price to make it available to others in foreign lands. (My guilt as an arm chair critic!) Yet——**
- **There is a danger to reach out for help from comradeship in times of physical needs. These close relationships tend to frame the Enemy of the Gospel as a Friend that has been misunderstood.**

The Framework

- As we approached our study of Isaiah we have in one hand the frame work on which to hang all the verses to make a complete picture.
- Of course the frame work was constructed with truth given in the text—the Covenant made with Abraham etc.
- When studying Isaiah we have sorted out the historical from the prophetic—which can be challenging.
- But looking to build another frame work (as a kingdom* now) would be extreme folly!
- *Neo-Postmillennialism and Amillennialism.

Armageddon

- We will not review Isaiah 34 but to say that it is the judgment followed by the hope 35.
- This is the last of these before the Grand Hope is revealed in Isaiah 40.





The Regenerated Earth

- Isaiah 35:1 “The wilderness and the desert will be glad, And the Arabah will rejoice and blossom; Like the crocus 2 It will blossom profusely And rejoice with rejoicing and shout of joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, The majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They will see the glory of the Lord, The majesty of our God.

The Regenerated

- Isaiah 35:3 “Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. 4 Say to those with anxious heart, “Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save you.”



The Regenerated Earth

- Isaiah 35:5 “Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah.

It should be noted that the descriptions given of the Kingdom are in earthly physical terms.

The Regenerated Earth

- Isaiah 35:7 “The scorched land will become a pool And the thirsty ground springs of water; In the haunt of jackals, its resting place, Grass becomes reeds and rushes. 8 A highway will be there, a roadway, And it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, But it will be for him who walks that way, And fools will not wander on it.

The comparisons are not within the Kingdom but from “now” to then.

The Regenerated Earth

- Isaiah 35:9 “No lion [old kind of] will be there, Nor will any [old kind of] vicious beast go up on it; These [old kind of] will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there,
- 10 And the ransomed of the Lord will return And come with joyful shouting to Zion, With everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, And sorrow and sighing will flee away.

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In the Regenerated Earth

**Ends the first half of the book
36-39 are historical largely**