

GOD'S MISSION

Isaiah 45

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- When you find yourself lamenting the brokenness of our world, what gives you hope?
- How would you define the word sovereign? What does it mean that God is sovereign?

One reason we study the book of Isaiah during Lent is that it allows us to witness how God fulfilled his promises in Christ. It also makes clear to us that God's plans are not our plans and God's ways are not our ways. As humans this reality can be unnerving, mostly because it just doesn't always make sense to us. We don't understand why God would choose to work through imperfect humans to accomplish his mission of bringing all nations to himself, much less humans who do not even acknowledge his existence. And yet, by studying Isaiah 45, we find hope because God is faithful to his word and because no matter what happens around us, God is ultimately in control.

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- As believers, we are living in a foreign land. Our ultimate home is the kingdom of God and we wait for its full inauguration here on earth. It's why we lament the brokenness of the world and long for things to be the way God designed and intended. Considering this reality, how can we relate to the prophet speaking to the Israelites in exile, even if in our present circumstances we aren't refugees or exiles ourselves?
- When have you been tempted to question God's revealed plans or the people through whom he chooses to work? Or when have you been tempted to attribute an event to God's wrath? Why was this a temptation? What did you learn from the experience? What does this Isaiah passage suggest we should say or do in these circumstances?
- Consider the behavior, beliefs, and values of our society, what aspects do you find concerning? Regarding these concerns, where do you find comfort that things do not happen simply by chance, but that ultimately God has control and can work through believers and unbelievers alike, no matter the individual's own motivations?
- Are you at all afraid of what God will ask of you if you fully dedicate yourself to him and surrender so that he can work through you to accomplish his mission? Why or why not?

Related Passages

- **Philippians 2:1-11**
- **John 19:1-16**
- **Ephesians 2:1-10**

Conclusion

Read Isaiah 55:8-11. Again God affirms that his ways and his words can be trusted. Spend some time identifying the things that concern or worry you in your own life, in your community, and in the world. Lay your concerns before the Lord and trust in him. Pray he will give you eyes to see him at work in the people and events around you and pray for the Holy Spirit's prompting when God is calling you to participate in his mission.

<https://groundwork.reframemedia.com/episodes/gods-mission>

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