



ISAIAH: THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

Lesson 3 - The Restoration of the Remnant

John L. Kachelman, Jr

Dalraida Church of Christ, Montgomery, AL

INTRODUCTION

A second aspect of Isaiah's message giving hope is the message of the remnant.

1. God has a faithful "remnant" and will continue to restore it to fulfill His promises.
2. The remnant concept encourages because it reminds us that God's purposes will not be destroyed.
3. Those following God may feel isolated and alone, but there are others with the like and precious faith that are struggling as well! (Matthew 7:13-14)

THE REMNANT

I. ☞ God first made a promise to Abraham that "all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Genesis 12:3).

A. God would send forth a blessing for all people through Abraham's lineage.

1. From that point in Jewish history, the people of Israel can trace their unique role in the scheme of redemption.
2. However, as Old Testament history reveals, the people of Israel rise and fall in God's favor.
3. Throughout Israel's rise and fall, there was still the encouraging hope from God's promise of the remnant. ☞
 - a. Israel faltered in their faith many times along their journey to the promise land. (Isaiah 59:1-2; Malachi 1:10—they treated God with a casual shrug!)
 - b. Each time they fell, they were encouraged to follow God's law instead of their own desires.

B. The concept of a "remnant" being preserved was first mentioned by ☞ Moses as he talked to the Israelites. (Isaiah 29:13; 44:22; 56:7)

Deuteronomy 4:27-31, Moses clearly tells the nation that "the Lord will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations."

1. The nation had consistently turned away from God's commands, and Moses made it clear that if this continued, they would be scattered but there would still be some "few in number" that would remain.
2. This warning was reiterated in Deuteronomy 28:62-68:

Then you shall be left few in number, whereas you were as numerous as the stars of heaven, because you did not obey the Lord your God. It shall come about that as the Lord delighted over you to prosper you, and multiply you, so the Lord will delight over you to make you perish and destroy you; and you will be torn from the land where you are entering to possess it. Moreover, the Lord will scatter you among all peoples, from one end of the earth to the other end of the earth; and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone, which you or your fathers have not known. Among those nations you shall find no rest, and there will be no resting place for the sole of your foot; but there the Lord will give you a trembling heart, failing of eyes, and despair of soul. So your life shall hang in doubt before you; and you will be in dread night and day, and shall have no assurance of your life. In the morning you shall say, 'Would that it were evening!' And at evening you



shall say, 'Would that it were morning!' because of the dread of your heart which you dread, and for the sight of your eyes which you will see. The Lord will bring you back to Egypt in ships, by the way about which I spoke to you, 'You will never see it again!' And there you will offer yourselves for sale to your enemies as male and female slaves, but there will be no buyer."

3. The messaging was clear. If Israel disobeyed God, the nation would suffer but the Lord would still bless all nations as He had promised to Abraham. The covenant with Abraham would be guaranteed regardless of Israel's beliefs and behaviors.

II. The remnant of the faithful was preserved through ☞ God's providential care throughout the years leading up to Christ's birth.

A. The concept of the remnant was used by the prophets as they prophesied and warned about the captivity in the Babylonian and Assyrian empires, the disobedience of God's people, or the salvation of man through the faithful few:

- **Nehemiah 1:3** - They said to me, "The remnant there in the province who survived the captivity are in great distress and reproach, and the wall of Jerusalem is broken down and its gates are burned with fire."
- **2 Kings 19:30-31** (*Isaiah to King Hezekiah*) - The surviving remnant of the house of Judah will again take root downward and bear fruit upward. For out of Jerusalem will go forth a remnant, and out of Mount Zion survivors.
- **Jeremiah 23:3** - Then I Myself will gather the remnant of My flock out of all the countries where I have driven them and bring them back to their pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply.
- **Jeremiah 31:7-8** - O Lord, save Your people, the remnant of Israel. Behold, I am bringing them from the north country, and I will gather them from the remote parts of the earth.
- **Ezekiel 14:22** - Yet, behold, survivors will be left in it who will be brought out, both sons and daughters.
- **Amos 5:14-15** - Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and thus may the Lord God of hosts be with you. Just as you have said! Hate evil, love good, and establish justice in the gate! Perhaps the Lord God of hosts may be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.
- **Amos 9:11-12** - In that day I will raise up the fallen booth of David, and wall up its breaches; I will also raise up its ruins and rebuild it as in the days of old; that they may possess the remnant of Edom and all the nations who are called by My name, declares the Lord who does this.
- **Micah 2:12** - I will surely assemble all of you, Jacob, I will surely gather the remnant of Israel. I will put them together like sheep in the fold; Like a flock in the midst of its pasture they will be noisy with men.
- **Micah 7:18** - Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love.
- **Zephaniah 2:6-7, 9** - So the seacoast will be pastures, with caves for shepherds and folds for flocks. And the coast will be for the remnant of the house of Judah, they will pasture on it...Therefore as I live, declares the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, Surely Moab will be



like Sodom and the sons of Ammon like Gomorrah - a place possessed by nettles and salt-pits, and a perpetual desolation. The remnant of My people will plunder them and the remainder of My nation will inherit them.

- **Zechariah 8:11-13** - But now I will not treat the remnant of this people as in the former days, declares the Lord of hosts. For there will be peace for the seed...and I will cause the remnant of this people to inherit all these things. It will come about that just as you were a curse among the nations, O house of Judah and house of Israel, so I will save you that you may become a blessing. Do not fear; let your hands be strong.
- B. The nation of Israel, even though unfaithful, would be preserved so they would be a blessing to all the nations.
1. God's promise to Abraham and his seed would be an unshakeable reality.
 2. All nations would be blessed; redemption from sin would be offered.
 3. This absolute assurance is found in the faithful remnant that would be preserved so God's promise of Christ could be fulfilled (Galatians 3:26-29)
 4. There is a blessed assurance in this "remnant" prior to Christ's coming and following Christ's coming (Daniel 2:44, "the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed"; Hebrews 12:28, "we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken.")
 5. The messaging of the "Remnant" is simple—God's plans CANNOT be prevented! Remain faithful to God even if it appears you are isolated and alone!

ISAIAH'S USE OF THE REMNANT

Isaiah uses the concept of the "Remnant" more than any other prophet.


I. Isaiah uses the concept of the "Remnant" to suggest several different ideas:


- A. **Persistence in Sin.** The disastrous ruin comes to Judah because she has a stubborn practice of idolatry. This persistence in sin will decimate the population and only a small fraction would remain. You cannot be a part of the "Remnant" if you disobey God's commands!
- B. **God is faithful in honoring Promises.** The faithfulness of God honors His promise to Abraham concerning the coming of the Messiah. Even though the majority will apostatize there will be a small minority that perseveres so that the divine promises will be fulfilled (Consider Isaiah's emphasis on the Abrahamic and Davidic covenants: Isaiah 7:2, 13; 9:6ff; 11:1ff; 22:22; 29:22; 41:8; 51:2; 55:3-5; 63:16).
- C. **Survivors of Apostasy.** Isaiah uses this concept to describe those remaining faithful to God even when the majority chooses to be unfaithful. The "Remnant" are the survivors of the apostasy. The remnant will be the ones who cling to God when others forsake His will. The imagery in this phrase is so compelling that the apostle Paul makes use of it to identify the faithful of God's church (Romans 9-11).



II. Although the "Remnant" often refers to the physical nation of Judah that was to be brought out of Babylonian Exile, the concept has application to the "new" Israel in New Testament Christianity - *the Lord's Church*.

- A. The Lord's Church will suffer decimation in her numbers because many depart faithfulness.
- B. This desertion and apostasy will require another "remnant" to be identified.
- C. As the Lord's Church struggles with false doctrine and teachers, many will fall away (1 Timothy



4:1ff; 2 Timothy 4:1ff) but there  always remains a faithful “Remnant” dedicated to following God (Hebrews 12:28).

D. This “Remnant” will exist throughout history and  keeps the Lord’s Church present until Christ’s Return.

1. Those belonging to the “Remnant” are the  only ones to be saved.
2. This “Remnant” is composed of  only the faithful who are in the “Kingdom” (Church).
3. A frightening truth—there are those who falsely believe they are a part of the “Remnant” but they are not. They have deserted God and compromised fidelity to God’s commanded will. Isaiah 59:2, 10-12, 18

Revelation 2:4-5—Ephesus—thought she was among the Remnant—“you have left your first love. Therefore, remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.”

Revelation 2:14-16—Pergamum—“you have there some who hold the teaching of Balaam, who kept teaching Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols and to commit acts of immorality. So you also have some who in the same way hold the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Therefore repent; or else I am coming to you quickly.”

Revelation 3:2-3—Sardis—“you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.”


Revelation 3:16—Elitist Laodicea—“because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth.”

III. Who is among the “Remnant”? How are we to identify this select group today?

- A. Isaiah identifies those who are a part of this “Remnant.”
- B. The prophet’s description is very practical.
- C. Modern man must make certain he is a member of God’s “Remnant” in today’s religious environment!

IDENTIFYING TRAITS OF GOD’S REMNANT

The traits identifying those who are a part of God’s “Remnant” are specific. Not only would these be easily identified in Isaiah’s day, but they are clearly identified in our world. Examine each trait and see how it identifies those belonging to God’s “Remnant.”

I.  *They are citizens of God’s Kingdom* (Isaiah 2:2-4; 9:6-7; 11:11-16; 16:5; 25:6-9; 32:1-4; 56:7).

- A. The righteous “Remnant” of God submits to the rule of God in their lives and the reign of God in their hearts!
 1. These have humbled their pride and forsaken selfishness.
 2. These have bowed their hearts and bent their knees in contrition.
 3. These have fully surrendered to the commands of the Almighty God and consequently “live” to do the will of the Holy Father (Galatians 2:20).
- B. Isaiah’s prophecy announces that the members of the “Remnant” share these qualities:



1. They are willing to obey God and control self (Isaiah 2:2-4).
2. They are worshiping in reverence to the Holy Lord (Isaiah 9:6-7; 16:5; 56:7).
3. They are walking in the grace of the Lord (Isaiah 11:11-16; 32:1-4).

II. 🕊️ *They are called by God's Name* (Isaiah 4:1-6; 43:7; 65:15).

A. The “Remnant” is called by God’s Name.

1. The faithful seek to be identified by God’s name because such an identity is an honor.
2. The great desire to be identified by an acceptable name is illustrated by the desperation of the women of Judah (Isaiah 4:1, “For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, ‘We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!’”).
3. The “name” indicates submission. This is a fact that is easily understood.
 - a. Those who are called by God’s Name are those who have submitted to His direction.
 - b. Those who are not called by the Lord’s Name are destined for retribution because they fail to recognize God’s authority (Isaiah 63:15-19).
4. Those who recognize and wear God’s Name are blessed.
 - a. Isaiah’s prophecy of the “new name” (Isaiah 62:2; 65:15, “And you will be called by a new name which the mouth of the LORD will designate.” “You will leave your name for a curse to My chosen ones, And the Lord God will slay you. But My servants will be called by another name.”) was fulfilled in Acts 11:26!
 - b. Why would one seek to disassociate themselves from this identification with God?
 - c. It is incredible that in today’s culture there are many who seek to evade any association with God’s directions, God’s plans, and God’s names. These seek a name that in “all-inclusive” and not distinctive!

B. Isaiah would look at today’s culture with astonishment. Isaiah 30:15-16

1. How can one hope to be a part of the “Remnant” if he does not wear the name of God?
2. 🕊️ Are some ashamed to wear God’s Name?
3. Are some uncomfortable maintaining that one must wear God’s Name?
4. Will we permit God’s Name to be replaced with names that are stylish thinking that such a “change” will entice more to find salvation?
5. Whatever man may attempt to do with God’s Name, man cannot justify the arrogance of his actions.
6. God has specifically given His “name” and mankind must use this name if he is to be pleasing to God (1 Peter 4:11a).

C. 🕊️ If you want to be identified with the “Remnant” then you must be identified by God’s name!

III. 🕊️ *They are comforted by God's Redemption* (Isaiah 11:1-10).

A. Members of God’s “Remnant” find a wonderful comfort.

1. This comfort originates because the “Remnant” has obeyed the Messiah’s will and has found the comfort of forgiveness (Isaiah 40:2).



2. Wonderful comfort is experienced by the “Remnant” because they trust in the righteous justice of the Almighty God (Isaiah 11:4-5).
- B. The “Remnant” understands that the Almighty Lord God will vindicate all wrongs committed against them.
1. They are helpless and totally incapable of possessing strength to sustain them against enemies.
 2. Those who are a part of the “Remnant” look to God for justice and strength (Isaiah 32:1-3,6).
 3. This is the comfort that sustains the hearts of Christians today when faced by injustices and maligned by evil (Romans 12:19-21).
 4. There is no room for the proud, arrogant, and self-dependence in the ranks of the “Remnant.”
- C. Are you comforted by the wonderful assurance of the Almighty God’s power?
- IV. 🕊️ **They are complemented by God’s Crown** (Isaiah 28:5-7).
- A. There is an 🕊️ obvious contrast between those who are among God’s “remnant” and those who are worldly.
1. The worldly look for strength and justice in “the proud crown of the drunkards of Ephraim” (Isaiah 28:1). But they are “confused” (verse 7).
 2. The godly “Remnant” look for strength in the reign and justice of the Almighty Lord God (Isaiah 28:5-6, “In that day the Lord of hosts will become a beautiful crown and a glorious diadem to the remnant of His people; a spirit of justice for him who sits in judgment, a strength to those who repel the onslaught at the gate”).
 3. “In that day”—*the day when the wonderful news of salvation is proclaimed*—those who trust and obey God will find that their obedience compliments their lives.
 - a. True “beauty” is found in obedience.
 - b. This is a close parallel of Isaiah 4:2-6 where those who trust and obey God are blessed by possessing the holy “Name” for their identity.
- B. Those who obey Jehovah God’s commands are crowned with a symbol of dignity and honor.
1. 🕊️ The “Remnant” is shrouded in dignity and honor because they trust and obey the Lord’s commands.
 2. This dignity is further explained by Isaiah when he says it occurs because the spirit of Judgment from the Lord governs the behavior of the “Remnant” (Isaiah 4:3).
 3. 🕊️ Following God’s rules provides a beauty, honor and dignity that is impossible to find if the world’s standards are followed. The “beauty and dignity” of the world are false and will vanish in times of crisis (Isaiah 28:7-8, “And these also reel with wine and stagger from strong drink: the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are confused by wine, they stagger from strong drink; they reel while having visions, they totter when rendering judgment. For all the tables are full of filthy vomit, without a single clean place”).
- There is a true beauty and dignity that characterizes the “Remnant.” 1 Peter 3:3-4, “Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or



putting on dresses; but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God.”

CONCLUSION

The message of salvation is “good news!”

1. Isaiah foretells that God’s good news proclaims a message that redeems the lost and restores the “remnant” to spiritual security!
 - a. This message causes great joy to fill our hearts.
 - b. 🕊️ This message should cause us to carry swiftly and announce urgently this good news to all who have not yet obeyed the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the middle 1800's a missionary to the Polynesian Islands wrote this report: “Fifteen years ago the natives lived in the brush like brutes but now their villages are neatly plastered cottages evidencing civilization. Fifteen years ago anarchy, bloodshed, and war prevailed throughout the islands but now there is law, order, and peace. Fifteen years ago the people were all dark and degraded, strangers to praise and prayer but now they are clothed and in their right minds and every night and morning their families kneel together in prayer and praise filling the air with their songs to the almighty God of heaven. Fifteen years ago they had no written language but now they have the Gospels. Fifteen years ago they were all before God dead in sins but now there are hundreds in church fellowship, living to God’s glory, and are new creatures in Christ!”

- II. 🕊️ The prophetic word that Isaiah spoke reminded the people that the faithful remnant would be preserved!
 1. The message of Isaiah gives great hope to Christians today. We are thus assured that the “remnant” is a reality and that we can be a part of it!

When we realize that 🕊️ there are wonderful blessings for being a part of the spiritual remnant today, the faithful can rejoice and feel secure in their everlasting destiny. (Isaiah 4:2-6)
 2. This is wonderful news. Blessings are still offered by Isaiah’s prophecy!
 3. 🕊️ Are you a part of the “Remnant”?