

Behold Our God
God's Amazing Redemptive Plan
September 4th, 2011
Text - Isaiah 19:16-25
Scripture Reading - Isaiah 19:16-25

Many people's favorite verse in the Bible is Jeremiah 29:11-13.

- **Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)**
¹¹For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. ¹²Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. ¹³You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.
- Nothing brings us more comfort, especially in times of difficulty, than knowing that we are in God's hands and that He has a good plan for our lives.

Despite our sin, God has had a good, redemptive plan for His people from the beginning.

- **Redeem** - To buy back; to atone or makeup for
 - o *We think of redemption as something we do ourselves.*
 - Redeem a coupon or gift offer
 - Redeem ourselves after a bad game
 - Redeem ourselves in the eyes of our spouse
 - o *But Biblical redemption can only be done by God.*
 - to free from the consequences of sin
- **Genesis 1:31 (ESV)**
³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.
- **Genesis 3:15 (ESV)**
¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; *he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.*"
- **Genesis 6:5-8 (ESV)**
⁵The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the Lord was sorry that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷So the Lord said, "I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things

and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸ *But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.*

- **Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)**

¹ Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and *in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.*”

- **Exodus 2:23-25 (ESV)**

²³ During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery (redemption) came up to God. ²⁴ And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. ²⁵ God saw the people of Israel—*and God knew.*

- **Nehemiah 9:26-31 (ESV)**

²⁶ “Nevertheless, (despite God’s giving them the promised land) they were disobedient and rebelled against you and cast your law behind their back and killed your prophets, who had warned them in order to turn them back to you, and they committed great blasphemies. ²⁷ Therefore you gave them into the hand of their enemies, who made them suffer. And in the time of their suffering they cried out to you and you heard them from heaven, and according to your great mercies you gave them saviors who saved them from the hand of their enemies. ²⁸ But after they had rest they did evil again before you, and you abandoned them to the hand of their enemies, so that they had dominion over them. Yet when they turned and cried to you, you heard from heaven, and many times you delivered them according to your mercies. ²⁹ And you warned them in order to turn them back to your law. Yet they acted presumptuously and did not obey your commandments, but sinned against your rules, which if a person does them, he shall live by them, and they turned a stubborn shoulder and stiffened their neck and would not obey. ³⁰ Many years you bore with them and warned them by your Spirit through your prophets. Yet they would not give ear. Therefore you gave them into the hand of the peoples of the lands. ³¹ Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end

of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.

- **Galatians 3:13-14 (NIV)**

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." ¹⁴He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.

- **Revelation 21:1-4 (ESV)**

¹Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ²And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Though full of warning and judgment, we catch glimpses of God's good, redemptive plan in the beginning chapters of Isaiah as well.

- **Isaiah 2:1-4 (ESV)**

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ²It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, ³and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

- **Isaiah 11:11-16 (ESV)**

¹¹In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time

to recover the remnant that remains of his people... ¹² He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the banished of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth....¹⁵ And the Lord will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt, and will wave his hand over the River with his scorching breath, and strike it into seven channels, and he will lead people across in sandals. ¹⁶ And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant that remains of his people, as there was for Israel when they came up from the land of Egypt.

Amazingly however, in the end of chapter 19 God promises to include even His fiercest enemies in His redemptive plan.

- Context
 - Woe oracles against Judah's enemies
 - Meant to strengthen their confidence in God and weaken their confidence in their neighbors
 - Early in Hezekiah's reign
 - Assyria peeking in power
 - Egypt trying to hold on to power
- 19:1-15 begins much like the rest
 - **Isaiah 19:1 (ESV)**
¹An oracle concerning Egypt. Behold, the Lord is riding on a swift cloud and comes to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at his presence, and the heart of the Egyptians will melt within them.
 - **Isaiah 19:2 (ESV)**
²And I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians,...
 - **Isaiah 19:4 (ESV)**
⁴and I will give over the Egyptians into the hand of a hard master, and a fierce king will rule over them, ...
 - **Isaiah 19:5 (ESV)**
⁵And the waters of the sea (the Nile at flood stage) will be dried up, and the river will be dry and parched,
 - **Isaiah 19:11 (ESV)**
¹¹The princes of Zoan are utterly foolish; the wisest counselors of Pharaoh give stupid counsel...
 - **Isaiah 19:14 (ESV)**
¹⁴The Lord has mingled within her a spirit of confusion,

and they will make Egypt stagger in all its deeds, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

- 19:16-25 appears to be more of the same
 - **Isaiah 19:16-17 (ESV)**
¹⁶In that day the Egyptians will be like women, and tremble with fear before the hand that the Lord of hosts shakes over them. ¹⁷And the land of Judah will become a terror to the Egyptians. Everyone to whom it is mentioned will fear because of the purpose that the Lord of hosts has purposed against them.

- But then comes an amazing turn
 - A few cities will significantly turn to the Lord.
 - **Isaiah 19:18 (ESV)**
¹⁸In that day there will be five cities in the land of Egypt that speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the Lord of hosts. One of these will be called the City of Destruction
 - As many as 30,000 cities
 - “City of the Sun” Heliopolis, the center of the worship of Ra the Egyptian sun-god)
 - God will treat Egypt like Israel
 - **Isaiah 19:19-22 (ESV)**
¹⁹In that day there will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. ²⁰It will be a sign and a witness to the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt. (Joshua) When they cry to the Lord because of oppressors, he will send them a savior and defender, and deliver them. (Judges) ²¹And the Lord will make himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians will know the Lord in that day and worship with sacrifice and offering, and they will make vows to the Lord and perform them. (Exodus) ²²And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them. (Kings / whole OT)

- o God will make Egypt and Assyria His own
 - **Isaiah 19:23-25 (ESV)**
²³In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and Assyria will come into Egypt, and Egypt into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. ²⁴In that day Israel will be the third with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, ²⁵whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, “Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel my inheritance.”

Application

- God has an amazing redemptive plan for His people and is working it out.
 - o **Isaiah 19:22 (ESV)**
²²And the Lord will strike Egypt, striking and healing, and they will return to the Lord, and he will listen to their pleas for mercy and heal them.
- No one is beyond redemption.
 - o Modern Egypt 80 to 90% Muslim
 - o Modern Assyria = Iran (98%)and Iraq (97%)
- God wants us to get on board
 - o Accept God’s redemptive offer ourselves
 - o Extend it to others, *even our enemies*.
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