

Weekly Devotions: GOD IS SOVEREIGN 14

The Ways of our Sovereign God are not Our Ways

When we look at what is happening in the world, it is natural to ask whether God is really in control. If He is all-powerful and rules over the whole creation, why then does He not wipe out the wicked or why does He not protect His people?

There are many things about God we may not fully comprehend simply because human wisdom is finite and God's wisdom is infinite. We should not presume to be as wise as or wiser than God and expect Him to do things our way. Instead, we should approach Him in humble reverence, seeking to know His will and purpose. As the sovereign King, God does not have to answer to us; we have to answer to Him.

Read Isaiah 55

In Isaiah 55, the Jews would have been confounded by the prophecies of Isaiah, that a time would come when both Jews and Gentiles would be invited to the heavenly banquet (vv. 1-3). They would also find it difficult to understand why God would choose to forgive the wicked and the unrighteous; not only to forgive but to forgive abundantly (vv. 7-8). Finally, the Jews faced an uncertain future and the possibility of going into exile was real, yet God was saying to them that they would be glorified and "go out in joy and be led forth in peace" and nations would be drawn to Yahweh because of them (vv. 5, 12-13). How could that be possible? All these must be hard for them to grasp.

Our faith should not be based on what we see happening to us or around us but on God's word alone. **Trust in God is an act of the will, a determination to obey and believe in God's word regardless of whether we understand it or not.** Our God is faithful and His word is certain. He would not make empty promises (vv. 10-11).

Questions to ponder

1. Is there something in your personal life or in what you see happening around you that caused you to wonder whether God is sovereign? How did you overcome it? On what should your faith be anchored on?
2. What did God ask people, including the wicked, to do (vv. 1-3, 6-7) in order to enjoy His grace and mercy?
3. How much different are God's thoughts and ways from yours and what did God say about His word (vv. 9-11)? What is God saying to you personally in Isaiah 55?