

6-2-2024 Sunday Sermon Message

Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16

The Text: Revelation 3:14-22

Title: **God's Message to Israel, God's Church, and the World Today "Repent!"**

After God chose the Israelites and gave them the law, He told the Israelites, who were constantly worshipping idols, to repent through the prophets. He constantly warned them that if they did not, He would judge them through the Gentile nations.

Speaking to Israel as they ministered to the Gentiles, the prophet Isaiah foreshadowed what would happen if they did not repent:

"² At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot.³ And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years for a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia;⁴ So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with their buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.⁵ And they shall be afraid and ashamed of Ethiopia their expectation, and of Egypt their glory."(Isaiah 20:2-5)

He also warned them through the prophet Jeremiah that if they did not repent, He would not forgive them:

"⁵ Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it.² And though they say, The LORD liveth; surely they swear falsely."(Jeremiah 5:1-2)

Because no one, from the king to the priests to the people, repented, they were destroyed by Babylon and taken captive to Babylon. God sent the prophet Ezekiel to the exiles to call them to repentance once again:

"⁶ Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn yourselves from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations....³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the

Lord GOD. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

"(Ezekiel 14:6; 18:30)

Finally, God sent His Only Begotten Son to give them a message of repentance, and He sent the prophet John the Baptist. This was foretold by the prophet Isaiah:

"⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."(Isaiah 40:5)

Before the appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, John the Baptist came and preached the message of repentance in the wilderness of Judea:

"² Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."(Matthew 3:2)

However, he was killed by the hypocrites of his day and by King Herod. When Jesus learned that John had been imprisoned, He followed with a message of repentance:

"¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."(Matthew 4:17)

Finally, God wanted to send His only begotten Son, Jesus, to preach the message of repentance and to bring the kingdom of heaven to the land of Israel if they repented. But they did not accept Jesus as their Messiah. At this time, Jesus foretold them that because of their disbelief in him as the Christ, they would one day accept the Antichrist and suffer greatly during the Great Tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble:

"⁴³ I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive."(John 5:43)

Jesus told the Jews to pray, "**Thy kingdom come,**" because if they believed in Jesus Christ and received Him, the kingdom of heaven would come to Israel, and they could live in the so-called heavenly kingdom of heaven on this earth, where Jesus Christ would be their King and they would be His people, but they rejected Jesus Christ as their King and did not realize and repent until now, and they have been persecuted and killed in the world for the

past two thousand years. As for the suffering they were about to suffer, Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven that He had promised to give them was taken away:

"¹² And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."(Matthew 11:12)

From then until now, the kingdom of heaven, which had been prepared for the Israelites, was taken over by Satan the Devil, the principalities and powers under him, the rulers of the darkness of this world, and the wicked spirits on high places.

However, when the Lord Jesus Christ, the King of kings and Lord of lords, returns to judge the world, the Israelites shall repent bitterly when they see the Lord Jesus Christ, whom they pierced to death. At this time they will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, the Millennial Kingdom that is the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ:

"⁹ And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.¹⁰ And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn....¹³ In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.² And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land."(Zechariah 12:9-10; 13:1-2)

Since God sent the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ, He has declared to the world that it is "sin" not to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, who has forgiven and took away the sin of the world:

"⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me;" (John 16:8-9).

Therefore, the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle Paul, proclaimed to the whole world that they should repent and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ:

**"³⁰ And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:"
"(Acts 17:30)**

Furthermore, God is calling upon the apostate church of God to repent:

"¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;¹⁵ I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:...¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."(Revelation 3:14-17.19)

The Bible says that now is the time for the Lord Jesus Christ to come to avenge all the world, the Jews, and all the churches that do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and practice religion within the church, worshipping all kinds of idols:

"⁶³ Who is this that cometh from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah? this that is glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? I that speak in righteousness, mighty to save.² Wherefore art thou red in thine apparel, and thy garments like him that treadeth in the winefat?³ I have trodden the winepress alone; and of the people there was none with me: for I will tread them in mine anger, and trample them in my fury; and their blood shall be sprinkled upon my garments, and I will stain all my raiment.⁴ For the day of vengeance is in mine heart, and the year of my redeemed is come."(Isaiah 63:1-4)

Amen! Hallelujah!