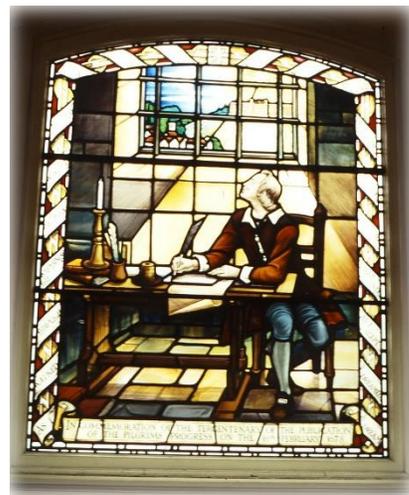


Good morning, Everyone.

Last night we held our first church-wide, live-streamed service. Though prevented from worshipping together physically, I'm sure that we were of a single soul spiritually (smile).

Plans and Projects:

I mentioned last night that my plans for the Lord's Day are to continue our two present series: I Corinthians 15 (morning) and *Psalms: Praying and Singing Ourselves unto Praise* (evening). Both are wonderfully timely. But on Wednesdays we'll be using Psalm 91 as a platform for understanding the present crisis and responding to it rightly.



Included in last night's message was a review of our two catechism cards on God's providence (27 and 28). How about reviewing them each day this week? Parents can also work on them with your children in family worship. Just be ready for the possibility that they may ask some hard questions! But you've got your Bible. Give them the answers (smile).

Providential Preparations:

I suggested Monday that everyone think back over the last few years at church to see if we could come up with any ways in which it's obvious now that the Lord has been graciously preparing us for this troubled time.

Here's the first providential preparation that comes to my mind: **the Isaiah series.**
Trust in the Holy One of Israel Alone, for He Only is Salvation.

You'd have to be an unbeliever not to recognize the Lord's preparation of us through that theme.

Here are four strands of thought from that series that surface repeatedly throughout Isaiah and that we'll want to consider today.

- 1 **God was chastening His people in Judah** by various foreign powers (such as the northern kingdom and Syria (chapter 7)). He persisted until Judah was nothing but *bruises, welts, and raw wounds* (1:6).
- 2 **The people's reactions to this trouble and terror were. . .**
 - **To multiply their sacrifices (1:11) and prayers (1:15)** to the LORD, but without relenting. They resisted turning from their grievous sins; even the kinds that He said made them *rulers of Sodom* and *people of Gomorrah* in His sight (1:10).
 - **To fear and dread the international conspiracies**, rather than the LORD Who's chastening instrument they were. They were terrified of the human rods rather than the Divine hand.
- 3 **The LORD's message to His rebellious sons (1:2) was:**

"You are not to say, '*It is a conspiracy!*' In regard to all that this people call a conspiracy, And you are not to fear what they fear or be in dread of *it*.¹³ "It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy. And He shall be your fear, And He shall be your dread.¹⁴ "Then He shall become a sanctuary. . ." (Isaiah 8:12-14a).

4 **The LORD's command was:** *“Wash yourselves and make yourselves clean; remove the evil deeds from My sight. Cease to do evil, Learn to do good. . .”* (Isaiah 1:16-17a).

What are the applications for us? What do we need to stop fearing? From what do we need to *wash* ourselves? What do we need to *cease* doing? What do we need to *learn to do*?

Then He shall become a sanctuary.

Praying for You Today,

Pastor Minnick

All Scripture quotations are taken from the NASB.

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