

“Capitol Chaos” (1-10-21)

Introduction: In light of the events of this past week, and months, and year . . .

1) The Eternal King

Context - Isaiah's Message: Present problems, coming Captivity, a return, and a future hope - Jesus!

- God's people are broken, sinful, and not fulfilling their mission
- God's judgement is coming
- There is Hope - Jesus, and a redeemed people

Isaiah 8:11-13 (ESV)

(11) For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: (12) “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. (13) But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

Note: Israel - seeking an unholy alliance & paranoid about a coming attack! But that is ultimately a distraction.

This echoes **Jesus in Matthew 10** as he is sending out his disciples as “sheep among wolves” . . .

Matthew 10:26-28 (ESV)

(26) “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. (27) What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. (28) And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Note: There is more to life than what is present & visible, don't be obsessed with what is hidden. Instead, may your life be found hidden in Christ!

Isaiah speaking of looking to God instead of fearing man begins to prophesy about Jesus who is to come . . .

Isaiah 8:14-16 (ESV)

(14) And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (15) And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.” (16) Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples.

Note: God is either our sanctuary or an offense, there is no middle ground. For Isaiah this is a future hope.

Isaiah 8:17-22 (ESV)

(17) I will wait for the LORD, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him. (18) Behold, I and the children whom the LORD has given me are signs and portents in Israel from the LORD of hosts, who dwells on Mount Zion. (19) And when they say to you, “Inquire of the mediums and the necromancers who chirp and mutter,” should not a people inquire of their God? Should they inquire of the dead on behalf of the living? (20) To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no dawn. (21) They will pass through the land, greatly distressed and hungry. And when they are hungry, they will be enraged and will speak contemptuously against their king and their God, and turn their faces upward. (22) And they will look to the earth, but behold, distress and darkness, the gloom of anguish. And they will be thrust into thick darkness.

Note: When men are waiting and in turmoil, and look anywhere but to the Lord, they find hopelessness and darkness!

But into this darkness a light shines . . .

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (ESV)

(2) The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. . . (6) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Note: In all the turmoil & uncertainty of this life, we have an eternal King, and our hope is not dependent on ourselves, but on the promises of God!

- **For Isaiah** he was looking ahead 700 years to someone who had not come yet. But he found hope in Him!
- **For us**, Jesus has come, and we now await the return of the King and his everlasting kingdom . . .

2) The Lasting Kingdom

Hebrews 12 - an Unshakable Kingdom: After highlighting the faith of the saints of old (in the midst of their waiting & suffering), and encouraging us to endure and even allow ourselves to be disciplined by a loving Father as we wait . . .

Hebrews 12:22-24 (ESV)

(22) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (23) and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, (24) and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Note: A heavenly vision, and the 2 bloods - Abel's crying out for justice, Jesus' providing mercy for all!

Abel - the wickedness of man **Jesus** - the love and glory of God

Hebrews 12:25-27 (ESV)

(25) See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. (26) At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." (27) This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain.

Note: Listen to the voice that calls to us, he is the only one offering something that lasts - that will endure in the midst of all the turmoil & trouble of this present darkness!

Hebrews 12:25-29 (ESV)

(28) Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, (29) for our God is a consuming fire.

Note: We have the hope of an eternal kingdom - is that where you have invested your hope?

At the conclusion of this heavenly vision & encouragement to trust & worship God and live in view of this eternal kingdom, look at the application and find our hope & direction . . .

Hebrews 13:1-8 (ESV)

(1) Let brotherly love continue. (2) Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. (3) Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. (4) Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. (5) Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." (6) So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (7) Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. (8) Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Note: Jesus doesn't change, and his kingdom is unshakeable - so live in that kingdom now. Godly life in all practical matters, because that matters!

- This is counter culture, not raging against or fighting against the "other side"
- Instead, living your life in allegiance to your king and aligning your life with his kingdom!

And when things get difficult along the way, remember . . .

Hebrews 13:12-15 (ESV)

(12) So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. (13) Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. (14) For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (15) Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

Conclusion: Spending time in prayer - looking to our king and his kingdom, and crying out on behalf of this present moment and a world in need . . .

1 Timothy 2:1-6 (ESV)

(1) First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, (2) for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. (3) This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (5) For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (6) who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time.