

Isaiah: A Prophet for Our Time
The Prideful Ambition to Be Like God
Isaiah 14:1-32

In the Garden of Eden, there were two trees: the tree of life, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Adam and Eve were given a choice. It is ironic that in choosing to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, that they would then produce a world that would not be able to tell the difference. In their pride, they thought God was withholding something good from them. In their pride, they decided to take on a task for which they were ill-equipped, setting the cosmic parameters for a peaceful and blessed existence.

1. Our desire to be like God keeps us from rest.

2. Our desire to be like God causes utter failure.

3. Our desire to be like God results in utter humiliation.

Every generation is called to a choice: place their trust in themselves or place their trust in God. Faith requires us to choose a path of utter dependence on God rather than constantly seeking alternatives that may even initially seem more defensible. Instead of relying on alliances, money, status, the political influences or promises of others, or any other human support system, we must simply trust in God's promises to motivate and empower us, even when things look dark and hopeless. The circumstance may be a health crisis, a personal economic crisis, or a national or international political crisis, but the answer is always the same: trust God.

Reflection

How does Satan deceive us into thinking we can do better than God when it comes to our future? What are some worldly things that we trust in, often without realizing it? How do we respond when someone points out the possibility that our trust has been misplaced? How can a community of believers help us see our blind spots regarding trusting in the things of the world? How do we extend grace to those who are trapped in idolatry? How do we extend grace to those who point out our trappings? Why is it so important to trust God as we advance His Kingdom? What does pride do to hinder the advancement of the gospel? How does it ultimately affect our mission?