

Isaiah Bible Study

Isaiah 1-2

On Sacred Scripture

1 Peter 1:25 – “The grass withers and the flower falls but the Word of the Lord abides forever.”

Ignace de la Potterie, SJ – “We can now conclude that the causality of the Spirit through His action on the sacred writer is equally exercised on the actual text of Scripture which the ancient writer has written and which believers today read and interpret. This amounts to saying that *there is an indwelling of the Spirit in Scripture itself, that the text that has been written is the bearer of the Spirit, and that it must be read and interpreted in the Spirit.*”

Catechism of the Catholic Church # 104 – In Sacred Scripture, the Church constantly finds her nourishment and her strength, for she welcomes it not as a human word, “but as what it really is, the Word of God.”[1 Thess 2:13] “In the sacred books, the Father who is in heaven comes lovingly to meet His children, and talks with them.”[DV 21]

On the Fear of the Lord

Pope John Paul II – *Crossing the Threshold of Hope* - “...we need to pray that people everywhere and especially people in our own time will receive the fear of God. From the Holy Scriptures, we know that this fear is not the fear of a slave. It is filial fear, not servile fear.....a fear that is first of all love.” (the love of a father)

On Sacrifice

Tertullian – “*What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings and of the fat of lambs, and I do not want the blood of bulls and goats.(Is 1:11)* What God asks of us the Gospel teaches: The hour is coming when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth....We are the true worshippers and true priests, who, praying in spirit, offer a spiritual sacrifice, an offer fitting and acceptable to God....This sacrifice is offered with the whole heart, fed on faith, looked after by truth, perfect in innocence, pure in chastity, and garlanded with love.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #2100 – Outward sacrifice to be genuine must be the expression of spiritual sacrifice. The prophets of the Old Covenant often denounced sacrifices that were not from the heart or not coupled with love of neighbor. The only perfect sacrifice is the one that Christ offered on the cross as a total offering to the Father’s love and for our salvation. By uniting ourselves with His sacrifice we can make our lives a sacrifice to God.

St. Augustine – “So present yourselves to Christ the head as a body worthy of Him, to the bridegroom as a worthy bride. The head can only have a body worthy of his, and so great a husband can only marry a wife worthy of Him. That he might, it says, present the glorious church to himself without stain or wrinkle or any such thing. This is the bride of Christ who does not have stain or wrinkle. You don’t want to have any stain? Do what is written: *Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the wicked schemes from your hearts. (Isaiah 1:16)*”

Psalm 51 – The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Pope Benedict XVI – *The Spirit of the Liturgy* - In all religions, sacrifice is at the heart of worship.sacrifice, in its essence is simply returning to love....the creature comes home.... in giving itself, it becomes fully itself.

On Idolatry

Catechism of the Catholic Church #2113 – Idolatry not only refers to false pagan worship. It remains a constant temptation to faith. Idolatry consists in divinizing what is not God. Man commits idolatry whenever he honors and reveres a creature in place of God, whether this be gods or demons (for example, satanism), power, pleasure, race, ancestors, the state, money, etc. Jesus says, “You cannot serve God and mammon.” ...Idolatry rejects the unique Lordship of God; it is therefore incompatible with communion with God.

St. Augustine – “I inquired what wickedness is, and I didn’t find a substance, but a perversity of will twisted away from the highest substance – You oh God.”

St. Jerome – We can say that all human thinking that runs contrary to the truth leads man to build and worship idols; *man is humbled and men are brought low*, and they will not be able to raise themselves up for they will be bound by the devil until the Lord releases them.

On the Hope of the Lord

St. Basil of Caesarea – The Lord is faithful in all His words and spoke truly when He promised: *Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be like wool.* The great physician of souls who is ready to deliver not you alone but all who are enslaved by sin, can heal your sickness.

St. Clement of Rome – Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the ministers of God’s grace will speak of penance. And the Lord of all things Himself spoke of penance, and swore an oath: I do not desire the death of a wicked man, but that he should change his ways; and He adds: *Cease to do evil, learn to do good; Though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be like wool.* The Lord desires that all whom He loves would repent, and He affirms it by His all powerful will. Let us be obedient, then to His glorious plan, and, by

imploing His mercy and kindness, let us return to His goodness, and be converted, leaving aside all our vain works, the disputes and jealousies that lead to death.

Athanasius of Alexandria – Who is it who has joined in peace those who hated each other except the beloved Son of the Father, the Savior common to all, Jesus Christ, who in His love endured everything for our salvation? It had long been prophesied concerning the peace that he brought, as the Scripture says: *They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; and nation will not take up the sword against nation, nor will they learn any more to wage war.....* When they (the barbarians) hear the teaching of Christ, they immediately turn from war to farming, and instead of arming their hands with swords, they stretch them out in prayer

Gaudium et Spes – Insofar as men are sinful, the threat of war hangs over them, and hang over them it will until the return of Christ. But insofar as men vanquish sin by a union of love, they will vanquish violence as well and make these words come true: *They shall turn their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into sickles; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*