

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Studies

Isaiah **Watchmen on the Walls**



A Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Study of Isaiah
Taught in the Women's Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study
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Isaiah

“Watchmen on the Walls”

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Watchmen on the Walls

Introduction to Isaiah



Who was Isaiah?

Before we answer this question, let's take a brief look at the history of the nation of Israel:

(Major events are listed, and the [familiar names](#) which go with them)

1. God chooses Israel to be His chosen people
[Abraham](#) 2,000 bc*
2. God rescues them from slavery in Egypt
[Moses](#) 1,500 bc*
3. God unites them as a Kingdom in the land of Israel
[David](#) 1,000bc*
4. God allows them to divide into two kingdoms –
[The Northern Kingdom & The Southern Kingdom](#) 900bc*
5. God scatters the Northern Kingdom (called Israel, or Ephraim) by allowing [Assyria](#) to conquer it 700bc*

6. God sends the Southern Kingdom (called Judah) Into captivity from the **Babylonians** 550bc*

7. God frees Judah to return to their homeland – 500bc*
 But they are never a world power again
 From that point on, they are ruled by:
Babylonians
Persians
Greeks
Romans

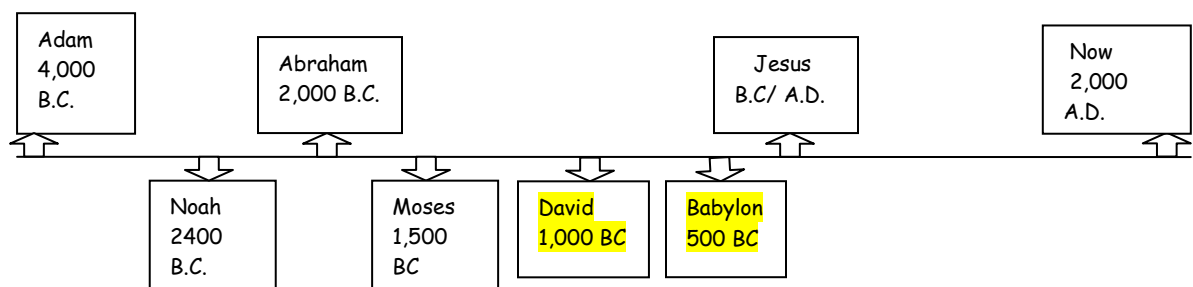
8. Jesus comes to be their **Messiah** 0-33ad

9. The Romans destroy Jerusalem & the temple
The Jews are scattered throughout the world 70ad

10. Israel is a nation again...but in **unbelief** 1948ad

*Old Testament dates are approximate.

Now...let's answer the question...Who was Isaiah?...Let's start with a simple timeline:



Isaiah was a prophet of God who lived and ministered after the time of King David, but before the exile to Babylon – about 700 BC.



The genealogy of Jesus – at the beginning of the book of Matthew – will give us some more detail about the time of Isaiah. If you look at Matthew, chapter 1, verses 6-11, you will see a list covering Jewish history from the time of David, the first God-chosen King of Israel, to the time when the Babylonians captured the Israelites and carried them away to Babylon.

Many kings of Israel are in this list. Some were men of faith, some were not. The ones who were not were the reason the Jews were taken captive. They led their people to choose idol worship and the things of this world over the majestic, glorious God of Israel...let's take a look at a few of the kings, the good and the bad:

David the King

With the crowning of King David, the world began to see that the coming Savior would be a King of the Jews...and as such, would also be the King of the World. For this Savior/King of the Jews would reign forever! No mere King reigns forever – only God Himself could reign forever – so this King of the Jews/King of the World was also going to be God Himself!

And King David himself spread prophecy far and wide – the Psalms he wrote are full of prophecies of the Savior Who was to come – the Savior who would be a son of David – the seed of the Savior-to-come was in David. The One Who would someday solve our sin problem forever was held in safety within David.

Psalm 89:35-37 "Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: His seed shall endure forever,.."

Psalm 2:7 "I will declare the decree: the LORD has said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance..."

Solomon

Solomon, David's son by Bathsheba, inherited the throne from David, but not without challenges. His brother, Adonijah, declared himself king when David their father was near death, and Bath-Sheba and the prophet Nathan intervened, encouraging David to be sure Solomon was crowned before David left this earth.

Solomon was wise and kind. He wrote much of the book of Proverbs, and also the book of Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon. In Song of Solomon he gave us a picture of the coming Savior – the One Who loved us with an everlasting love – Who was anxiously waiting to come to us – just waiting for the time chosen by the Father.

Solomon asked for wisdom to rule the Jews even before he asked for wealth. And God gave him that wisdom. But Solomon strayed away from God as he reigned. He married many women who did not know of love the One, True God, and although Solomon was a believer in Him, he allowed himself to be influenced by his pagan wives, and the kingdom of Israel began to slip into idolatry and worship of pagan gods.

He passed the kingdom on to his son, Rehoboam, who took a bad situation and made it worse.

Rehoboam

Rehoboam listened to his young advisors, ignored the sages who had been with his father, and by his arrogance and stupidity, split the kingdom in two. Two tribes went with Rehoboam, and two with his rival, Jeroboam.

Rehoboam kept two tribes, Judah and Benjamin, and they continued to worship the One, True God in Jerusalem, but their lives were hard. These two tribes together became known as **Judah**.



Jeroboam stole the northern kingdom of 10 tribes away from worship of the One, True God in Jerusalem...but gave them the life of ease they wanted. These 10 tribes together became known as [Israel](#).

Rehoboam passed on the kingship to Abijah.

And with Abijah begins a procession of kings in Judah. There were bad kings (who did not love the One, True God) and good kings (who did).

And all this time, during good kings and bad kings, the LORD God kept gracefully giving the world prophecies and pictures of the Savior-to-Come....

From Jonah – who showed us that the coming Savior would be in the earth 3 days and 3 nights....

And Hosea – who married a prostitute who broke his heart, and then went to go get her and restore her to himself...

And Amos – who dealt the Israelites severe verbal blows for their sins, but then ended his prophecy with wonderful promises of a future time of peace, when all would be well with the world again. (Amos 9:13-15)

**And then, wow,
Isaiah...**



Isaiah served the Lord God during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. He prophesied about events current to his day, but He also told the world amazing things about the Jewish Messiah who was coming to save the whole world:

- He would be born of a virgin (Is. 7:14)
- He would perform miracles (Is. 35:5&6)
- He would be meek & mild (Is 42:2&3)
- He would be sought by Gentiles (Is. 42:1)
- He would be smitten (Is. 50:6)
- He would suffer & bring salvation (Is. 53)

After Isaiah, the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by the Assyrians and carried away into captivity. It was only a few years later that the southern kingdom of Judah followed in Israel's footsteps, and was conquered by the Babylonians and cruelly treated in captivity there, far away from their beloved homeland.

Isaiah spent his years of prophecy warning Israel and Judah of what was going to come because of their sinfulness and rebellion. He told them of the destruction and suffering that was waiting for them...but he also gave them sweet and wonderful promises of the Savior-Who-was-to-come and solve their sin problem forever....

Check out the "Kings of Israel and Judah" chart on the next page.



After David and Solomon: Kings of **Judah** and **Israel**

Year B.C.	Kings of Judah	Kings of Israel	Notes	What Book of the Bible?
933	1 Rehoboam	1 Jeroboam I	Division after Solomon	I Kings 12-14
915	2 Abijah			I Kings 14&15
912	3 Asa			I Kings 15, II Chron 15
911		2 Nadab		
910		3 Baasha		
887		4 Elah		
886		5 Zimri		
886		6 Omri		
875		7 Ahab		
874	4 Jehoshaphat			
855		8 Ahaziah		
854		9 Joram		
850	5 Jehoram			
843	6 Ahaziah	10 Jehu		
843	7 Athaliah		The only female ruler	
843	8 Joash			
820		11 Jehoahaz		
806		12 Joash		
803	9 Amaziah			
790		13 Jeroboam II		
787	10 Uzziah			
749	11 Jotham			
748		14 Zechariah		
748		15 Shallum		
748		16 Menahem		
741	12 Ahaz			
738		17 Pekahiah		
738		18 Pekah		
730		19 Hoshea		
726	13 Hezekiah			
721			End of the northern kingdom.	
697	14 Manasseh			
641	15 Amon			
639	16 Josiah			
608	17 Jehoahaz			
608	18 Jehoiakim			
597	19 Jehoiachin			
597	20 Zedekiah			
586			End of the southern kingdom.	

So....Isaiah was a prophet of the One, True God.

- What is a prophet?

This isn't complicated. A prophet is simply a man or woman who is chosen by God to take His Word to people. Most of the prophets suffered greatly as they did their job for God – because most of the people they were speaking to did not want to hear what God had to say.

- When was Isaiah a prophet?

From about 750bc to 700bc. About 50 years

- Who did he prophesy to?

Both the Southern and Northern kingdoms of Israel.

Isaiah was a prophet who was comfortable in the tents of shepherds, and also able to walk into the halls of the glorious temple of Israel, speaking the language of the politicians and priests and governors of Israel.

Isaiah probably lived the last years of his life in relative peace, but tradition tells us that his death was violent – probably during the reign of King Manasseh (a really bad king – son of Hezekiah). Although the Bible itself does not record Isaiah's death, Jewish tradition held that he had been sawn in two.

Read **Hebrews 11:32-37** if you want to fully appreciate the sacrifices made to bring you the riches of this and other books in the Bible.

As we study this book together, picture in your mind a lone man standing on a wall which surrounds a city full of sleeping people. That lone man has a job – he's a Watchman. It's his job to sound the alarm when the enemy approaches.

Isaiah was a Watchman on the Wall.





"Turned Away Backward" Isaiah Chapter 1:1-4

Memory Verse: Isaiah 1:2

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken: 'I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me.'"

Through His prophet, Isaiah, God is making an accusation against His chosen people. They have rebelled against Him.

This might be a good place to ask ourselves what "chosen people" actually means.

The LORD actually chose Abraham to be the first Jew. But before He ever called Abraham to follow Him by faith, He could see down the corridor of time, and he knew exactly who this people would be. He saw them in all their sinfulness and failures, and still chose them to do a job for Him.

Deuteronomy 7:6-8 "For you are a holy people to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His own possession out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. The LORD did not send His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any of the peoples, for you were the fewest of all people, but because the LORD loved you and kept the oath which He swore to your forefathers, the LORD brought you out by a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 32:8-10 "When the Most High gave the nations their inheritance, when He separated the sons of man, He set the boundaries of the people according to the number of the sons of Israel. For the LORD's portion is His people; Jacob is the allotment of His inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye."

The LORD totally loved this people He had chosen. And His task for them? Love me. Listen to me. Obey me. And in so doing, you will show the rest of the world what I am all about.

But they rebelled. They turned away from His ways, and chose instead the ways of the heathens who lived around them.

Jeremiah also prophesied to these people – he says: " *...for my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the Fountain of Living Waters, to hew for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.*" *Jeremiah 2:13*

What had the Jews done? They had turned away from the One, True God, and had turned to false gods. They had turned away from life, light, hope and refreshment To death, darkness, hopelessness and thirst.

Craziness!!!

They have lowered themselves into the sewer of life. They have drawn other people in with them. They have made God mad! They are going backwards, not forward.

And why would they do such a thing, anyway? Why choose unhappiness when you could have happiness? Why choose hunger when you could be always full? Why choose suffering away from the presence of God when He is right there, willing to hold you and love you?

Why rebel? Because the human heart is desperately wicked, and does not want to do the right thing. Period.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Who can know it?"

Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God."

Not just Jewish hearts. All hearts are desperately wicked. Yours and mine, too. None of us have an inborn desire to do the right thing. Instead, we have an inborn desire to do the wrong thing. We desperately long to be disobedient to God.

The natural state of man is to rebel....to walk backwards. Before we begin to apply this little passage to our own lives, I'd like to make sure we realize how bad rebellion is...and how prone to it each of us is. This is not a lesson for someone else. It's a lesson for us.



So step aside from our passage for a minute and consider with me a current phenomenon in America. By the hundreds and thousands, many, many high school students are getting involved in a false religion called "wicca". Do you know what that is? Put very simply, it's worship of Satan. Sorcery. Witchcraft. Many of the proponents of wicca will tell you it is the worship of mother earth, or of nature...etc. But the truth is, it is the age-old worship of the devil.

Now...look what the Bible says about how evil this is:

Deuteronomy 18: 9-13

Deuteronomy 4:19&20

Leviticus 19:31

Leviticus 20:6

Galatians 5:19-21

Revelation 9:21

Revelation 21:8

In Old Testament times this worship of Satan led to abominable things...like throwing your newborn baby into a fire in order to offer it as a sacrifice to demons masquerading as gods. Today, the wicca worship of Satan still leads to abominable things, like wallowing in drugs and sexual immorality in order to "celebrate mother earth".

Now...having seen how deplorable witchcraft is, look at the following verse:

I Samuel 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft..."

Our little rebellions might seem innocent to us...or they might seem like we have the right to them...but they are every bit as evil as wicca, witchcraft, sorcery, throwing babies into the fire, and wallowing in drugs and sexual immorality.

So...do we get it?...do we understand how horrible rebellion is? If so, now we can read, talk about, and apply this passage to ourselves:

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 1:1-4

1. :1

- Who was Isaiah?
- What is a prophet?
- When was he a prophet?
- Who are all those kings?
- Who did he prophesy to?

2. :2 What is Isaiah's prophecy all about?

3. :3 How do you think the LORD feels about this?

4. :3&4 How bad is their rebellion?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

5. What is rebellion? Is it ever good?

6. Have you ever been rebellious? Against whom? Why? Did any good come out of it? Are you glad you did?

7. Have you ever had someone you love rebel against you? How did it feel? How long did it last? Did any good come out of it? Are you glad they did?



8. Jesus spoke out against the authorities of His day. Was that rebellion?

9. Can you think of any Bible stories of people who were rebellious? How did their lives turn out?

10. Can you think of any Bible stories of people who were opposed to something or someone, but did not choose to rebel?

11. Where do we see rebellion in our world right now?

12. Is rebellion ever honoring to God? Is it ever His way?

13. Are you “walking backwards” (rebellious) right now? Is it honoring to God? Should you do anything about it?



"Remnant" Isaiah Chapter 1:5-9

Memory Verse: Isaiah 1:9

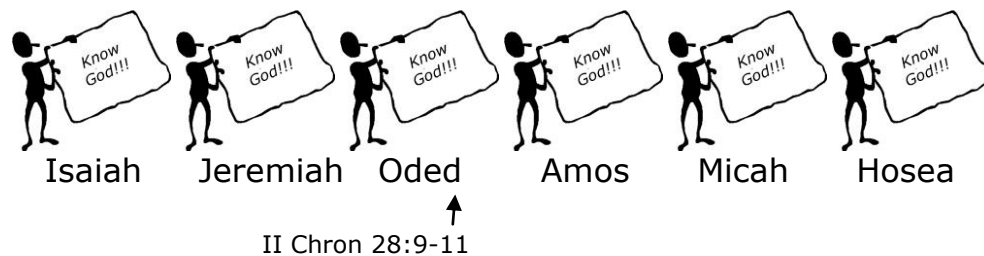
"Unless the LORD of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah."

Jeremiah was a prophet about the same time Isaiah was. He told the Jewish people in *Jeremiah 4:22* -

"For my people are foolish, **they have not known me**. They are silly children, and they have no understanding. They are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge."

But...there has always been a remnant of believers who **do** know God, no matter how dark the world gets. They are the most valuable people on planet earth.

During Isaiah's time, look at who else the Lord had in place, telling the Jewish people to know and love Him:



Discussion Questions for Isaiah 1:5-9

1. :5 Every time the LORD tried to get the attention of the Israelites, by letting them go through suffering, what was their reaction?

If the LORD gave them another tragedy, how would they react? (look at verse 6 to find out why)

2. :6 First, The LORD compares Israel to a human body...what kind of shape is it in?

3. :6 When this body got scrapes or wounds, were those scrapes and wounds bound and carefully taken care of?

4. :6 So what does that mean? When this body (Jewish people) got into sin...even little sins....did they do something about those sins? Or did they just let them linger and fester and get worse?

What happens to your relationship with God when little sins are not dealt with along the way?

5. :7&8 How does Isaiah describe the physical condition of Israel?
Note: What Isaiah is describing hasn't happened yet...Israel actually looked very prosperous at the time Isaiah said this. (a "hut in a garden of cucumbers" might sound to us like a sweet little cottage in the middle of a vegetable garden, but the Jewish people understood that He was saying they were a ravaged battlefield...a desert that had once been a garden.)

So how do you think the Jewish people reacted to this horrible description of their land? Would they have been insulted? Do you think they believed it? Do you think they accepted the words of God about what was someday coming, when all they could see was peace and happiness?

6. :9 What is "Sodom and Gomorrah"? Genesis 29:23-25



7. But it seems there is hope! What is the hope?

8. :9 What does "remnant" mean?

9. :9 If there had been no "remnant", what would have been the end of Israel?

10. Can you think of times in Bible history or future when a "remnant" was left to keep spreading hope and truth?
 - How about in Egypt, when the Egyptians were loading such misery on the Jewish people? Was there a remnant?
 - How about during the time of the Judges, when "every man did what was right in his own eyes"?
 - During the time of the Kings?
 - How about when the Jewish people were taken captive to Babylon? How about when they returned?
 - How about in Jesus' time?
 - How about when the church started?
 - How about all during the church age?
 - How about when Jesus returns?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

11. Have you ever been far from the LORD as a Christian?

12. Was it one big sin which drew you away? Was it a slow accumulation of little sins?
13. What brought you back?
14. Do you think the church today is anything like Israel in Isaiah's day?
15. Is there a "remnant" today?
16. Was there ever someone in your life who was a "remnant"? Someone who was walking by faith, who opened your eyes to your own lack of faith?
17. Are you a "remnant" today for someone else?
18. There is an old song which says "Little is much when God is in it." Can you think of examples of something "little" which turned out to be quite sufficient for the job to be done?
 - Example: Judges Chapter 7



"Repentance"

Isaiah Chapter 1:10-20

Memory Verse: Isaiah 1:18

"Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD, though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."

God wants obedience, not just religious activity. And God wants total obedience.

Look at this example of the far-reaching effects of partial obedience:

- Remember Jacob and Esau, sons of Isaac? And remember how Jacob loved the Lord God, and Esau did not? Esau eventually moved away from the family of Jacob, because he did not want to raise his family to have faith in the One, True God. One of Esau's grandsons was Amalek.
- And Amalek was evil – a true result of Esau's decision to not believe in the One, True God. When the descendants of Jacob were fleeing Egypt, many years later, the descendants of Amalek attacked them, and nearly annihilated them. **Exodus 17:8-16**. The Lord God was angry with Amalek for this, and pronounced His judgment on them – He would totally destroy this branch of Esau's family someday.
- In the time of Saul, King of Israel, the Lord was ready to fulfill that judgment on Amalek, and He told Saul to totally destroy the Amalekites. **I Samuel 15:1-23**. But Saul decided not to actually kill King Agag of the Amalekites. He let him live. God is furious with Saul for this partial obedience. Saul did go to war like the Lord God told him to, but he did not complete the job.
- Many years later a descendant of Agag the Amalekite was still around (because Saul did not destroy Agag), and was filled with hatred for the children of Jacob. In the book of Esther, this descendant of Agag (named Haman) nearly finished the job his ancestors had begun so many years

before. He tried desperately to totally wipe out the people of Israel as they were captive in Babylon.

- But God stepped in, through a young Jewish girl named Esther, and saved His people one more time.
- This near extinction of God's people happened because Saul, King of Israel, refused to obey completely.

God says in verse 13 that He cannot tolerate the combination of sin mixed in with religious activities. *"I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting."*

They are wearing Him out with their hypocrisy and partial obedience. They are being "religious", but their hearts hold on to their sin.

What do they need to do? Wash. Admit the sin. Let God point out the filth. Psalm 139:23&24 Turn away from the evil. Stop doing it. Start doing the good thing God always wanted you to do.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 1:10-20

1. :10 Why is God addressing the Jewish people, and calling them "Sodom", and "Gomorrah"?
2. :11 Why is God telling them He is tired of their sacrifices? Isn't He the One Who told them to make sacrifices?
3. :12-14 What are some of the "religious" things the Jewish people are doing...things that God had told them to do, but now He hates?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. What are some "religious" things we do today which God may hate?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.



5. :15 Why would God not hear their prayers?
6. Is it possible that God will sometimes not hear our prayers?
7. :16 What is the first thing the people of Israel need to do if they want to get things right with God?
8. :17 What is the second thing the people of Israel need to do if they want to get things right with God?
9. :18 When the people of God genuinely repent and turn and go in the other direction, what does God promise He will do?
10. The LORD knows, when He has Isaiah tell the people their sins can be washed away, that there is something He will have to do in order to make that possible. What is that something?
11. :19 &20 What will the results be of repentance? What will the results be of no repentance?

APPLICATION:

12. When did your scarlet sins become as white as snow?
13. Do you see yourself today as pure white?
14. How can you or I be pure white even when we still sin?



"Restoration"

Isaiah Chapter 1:21 – 2:4

Memory Verse: Isaiah 2:4

"..They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

It does not look like God intends to totally destroy this enemy who used to be His beloved. It looks like God wants to **restore** the one He loves, not annihilate her.

But how can He do that? How can He take something completely spoiled, and renew it to its fresh, original condition?

He's going to have to make an exchange. One pure, sinless, joyful life exchanged for her filthy, degraded unhappy life. He's going to have to give her an inconceivable gift. He's going to have to take away the old and replace it with the new.

Jesus, the Messiah of Israel, was the plan. His pure, sinless, joyful life will be laid on the bartering table – and He will be given as a free gift to the people who have no money to buy what they need to make them pure again. If Jesus had not come, Israel would have no possible chance to be reconciled to their God...or to ever be restored to what God always intended them to be. No chance at all.

*"There is none righteous, no, not one;
There is none who understands;
There is none who seeks after God.
They have all turned aside;
They have together become unprofitable;
There is none who does good, no, not one.
Their throat is an open tomb;
With their tongues they have practiced deceit;
The poison of asps is under their lips;
Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.
Their feet are swift to shed blood;
Destruction and misery are in their ways;
And the way of peace they have not known.*

There is no fear of God before their eyes.” Romans 3:10-18, Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 5:9, Psalm 140:3, Psalm 10:7, Proverbs 1:16, Psalm 36:1

Israel’s condition in Isaiah’s day is a picture of our own condition at the time each of us came face to face with how sinful we really were, and how hopeless our condition really was. Israel is a picture to us of ourselves before we believed in Jesus.

Her condition wasn’t hopeless, though. There was great hope. But there would also be great pain in having her eyes opened to how much she needed that hope. Just like there was great pain for many of us when we first realized how rotten we were, and how much we needed a Savior.

What was her hope? Jesus. Her Messiah. The Christ. The Promised One. She knew He had been promised. But in Isaiah’s day she didn’t yet realize what His coming would do.

She was still clogged up in her sins. So clogged up she didn’t have any memory of what purity and freedom felt like. She thought life was just always going to feel this way.

She didn’t know what the gift of Jesus was going to do. *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of life is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

But...even though she didn’t deserve it...and even though she had no idea how much she needed it...and even though the Lord knew she would at first reject it...the gift of God was coming!

“I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.

“...blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’ ” Romans 11:11, and 25-27



Redemption (:27) and Destruction of those who will not exercise faith (:28) are promised. No doubt about the fact that these things will happen.

And when God reaches out to make this happen, the people of Israel will at first feel shame. (:29) They will feel shame that they have chosen "terebinth trees" to put their faith in, instead of the One, True God.

In this passage, the terebinth tree is a symbol of strength (for the terebinth tree was a very strong, tall, powerful looking tree). But in this case, choosing to worship under a terebinth tree was wrong. Israel was choosing to worship under a strong, powerful-looking tree, instead of in Jerusalem, where God told them to worship. They were choosing the strength of the world, instead of the strength of God. They were choosing a strength they could see instead of a strength they would have to believe in with faith.

And when their destruction begins, they will feel shame at what they have chosen.

And that terebinth they have chosen will fade and its strength will be revealed for what it is....just something which looks great but cannot survive. It will become like a pile of dead, dried wood – it will go up in flames quickly. (:31)

Check out Revelation 17:12-14 for a simple, graphic description of the day (sometime in our future) when that terebinth tree will disappear.

What are our terebinth trees today? What are we putting our trust in instead of in God. Where are we choosing to worship instead of in the place God has told us to worship?

But destruction of the terebinth trees of Israel is not the goal...the goal of God is the future restoration of Israel...which will affect the whole world.

When God restores something, He does it completely.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 1:21-2:4

1. 1:21-23 God begins this section by reminding Israel of how far away from Him she has gone.
 - :21 She used to be a faithful lover, but now she is a _____
 - :21 She used to practice justice, but now she is full of _____
 - :22 She used to be like beautiful silver, but now she is Like the _____
 - :22 She used to be like fine wine, but now that wine is _____
 - :23 Her Kings used to be strong for God, but now are _____
 - :23 She used to be honorable, but now she accepts _____
 - :23 She used to take care of the weak, but now she Takes _____ of the weak.
2. 1:24 Therefore, what is God going to do?
3. 1:25 Who is God's enemy here?
4. 1:26& 27 But....does it look like God is going to completely destroy His enemy? What does He intend to be the end result of His judgment on Israel?
 - She will again have judges who practice _____
 - She will again be a _____ lover.
 - She will again be a _____ city.



5. 1:28-30 When they are judged, the people of Israel will feel shame for their disobedience. What is the "terebinth tree" this passage is talking about?

6. 1:31 When they are judged, even the strong among them will be weak. Everything they have done which they are so proud of will go up in _____ . **Revelation 17:12-14**

7. 2:2-4 What will Israel be like when the Lord finally makes everything right again?
 - All nations will come to _____ .
 - All nations will want to learn _____ .
 - All nations will bow to _____ .
 - No more _____ .

The future restoration of Israel will affect the whole world!

When God restores something, He does it completely.

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

8. When you believed in Jesus, were you completely restored?

9. What will you be like someday when you are completely restored?

10. What will our world be like someday when it is completely restored? **Romans 8:22 Revelation 21:22 – 22:5**



"The Day of the Lord"

Isaiah Chapter 2:5 – Chapter 4

Memory Verse: Isaiah 2:19

"They shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, from the terror of the LORD and the glory of His majesty, when He arises to shake the earth mightily."

The people of Israel had adopted the habits of the pagan nations which surrounded them...and they were exactly the opposite of the ways of the LORD.

Therefore...the "Day of the LORD" was going to come. The "Day of the LORD" refers to judgment. It's the time when God's wrath lets loose.

From the time of Adam and Eve, through Cain & Abel, Noah, Moses, the judges, and the kings, the LORD God had been holding back His judgment. He had every right to simply incinerate these people who loved sin more than they loved Him...but He hadn't done it. He waited. He kept giving them one more chance and one more chance to learn His ways and come to Him in faith.

Now Isaiah was beginning to sound the alarm. The "Day of the LORD" was coming. It would not be put off forever. The time of waiting and mercy would end.

The "Day of the LORD" Isaiah speaks of was, indeed, coming – in two parts:

- In Isaiah's day there would be a **small Day of the LORD** when the Assyrian and Babylonian armies would destroy Israel and Judah. The people would be murdered, raped, starved, and led away captive.
- And then there would be the **big Day of the LORD** – when the LORD would judge not just Israel but the whole earth – and that Day of the LORD has not yet come. It is part of the End Times which we have still not seen. In Revelation 3:10 the LORD Jesus is talking to the church at Philadelphia and telling them this:
"Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly!"

Isaiah's warnings to Israel are also God's warnings to us. In 2:6-8 He tells them some of the things they will be trusting in when the Day of the Lord arrives:

- "filled with eastern ways" – meaning they have adopted the ungodly ways of their neighbors
- "soothsayers like the Philistines" – looking to fortune-tellers instead of the prophets of God to know what the future holds.
- "pleased with the children of foreigners" – making friends with the people who do not love the LORD or His ways
- "land full of silver and gold and treasures" – very prosperous
- "land full of horses and chariots" – very powerful in the world's eyes.
- "land full of idols" – so many things they worship and adore – but not the LORD
- "worship the work of their own hands" – they worship what they can accomplish, what they can create, what they can think

If you re-read each of those bullet items, you can see our own culture described in perfect detail. The people Isaiah spoke to were no different than us.

How will the people of Israel react to the Day of the LORD? They will run and hide. They will know that it is the One, True God Who is causing the devastation around them, and they will realize it is because of their own sin that He is bringing down judgment. And they will run and hide. The idols will no longer be useful. They will be like yesterday's tossed salad – spoiled and no longer appealing.

But...even though people run and hide and realize the uselessness of their old idols...do they repent?

Not so much. They hide. They pray for the rocks to shield them from God. But they do not repent. (see Revelation 9:20&21)

It is interesting to note that punishments and tragedies will be handed out all around...but there will be the righteous in the midst of it all...and they will be OK. "*It shall be well with them*" They will do good things, and they will see good results from those good things. (see Revelation 13:9&10)

And what comes after the Day of the LORD?



A beautiful, healthy, strong tree! Jesus Christ Himself is the "branch" that will shoot forth out of the rubble of the Day of the LORD.
(Revelation 22:1-5)

People will survive, and those who do will enter into the Kingdom of God. There will be a cloud – the Glory of God – over the world. And there will be shade and refuge and shelter – forever more.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 2:5 - 4

1. 2:5 What is the plea Isaiah makes as he begins to describe this terrible and frightening "Day of the Lord" which is coming?

2. 2:6-8 What are some of the things God's people will be trusting in when the Day of the Lord arrives?

3. 2:9:17 What is one characteristic of Israel which will be destroyed in the Day of the Lord?

4. 2:18 What is one thing the LORD will make sure is completely abolished during the Day of the Lord.?

5. 2:19-21 What will people's reaction be to the Day of the Lord?
(also see Revelation 6:15-17)

6. 2:22 What are people told to absolutely not trust in during the Day of the Lord?

7. Read all of Chapter 3, and verse 1 of Chapter 4, and discuss how different types of people will be affected by the Day of the Lord.
 - The leaders and rulers and strong men of Israel:

- The righteous

- The women

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

8. If the Day of the Lord should begin in our lifetime, what would you be most concerned about?

9. What should you and I do, knowing that the Day of the Lord is coming? I Peter 4:7-11



"No Knowledge" Isaiah Chapter 5

Memory Verse: Isaiah 5:13

"Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge."

Isaiah is breaking forth in song to the One he loves most – Jesus. Jesus is the "Beloved" in this song. Israel is the vineyard which the "Beloved" has planted.

But this is such serious language in this passage...what does it all mean? It means the people of Israel, God's "Beloved", had not taken seriously the Word of God which they had heard. They had definitely heard the true Words of God, but they had not acted on them. They had not let the Word of God go any further than their heads. It had never affected their hearts.

So, by the "Word of God", do we mean the Bible? In Isaiah's time they didn't have Bibles, like we do. They didn't have a book comprised of the Old and New Testaments. But they did have the Words of God in scrolls. (just big, circular books, right?). They had the very Words of God we see in our Old Testaments – but they were not in "book" form, they were in "scroll" form. Same Words of God. Same power. Same authority.

And, like us so often, they heard and learned those Words of God, but ignored them.

This is a good place for us to ask ourselves why we put so much value in the Bible – and why the people of Israel should have put more value in their scrolls.

Let's start with a really important question: Has God Spoken? It opens up the door to all the other important questions...and it tells us why the Bible is so insanely important. And here are a few more questions which go along with it:

- Are we here just by ourselves with no help at all?
- Is there really a God in heaven Who is watching? Someone Who started it all?
- And if so, has He spoken to us?

- Has He given us any clues as to Who He is and What He is like?
Does He want to speak to us?
 - Does He want us to speak to Him?
 - Does He want to have a relationship with us?
 - And if He has spoken, has He spoken clearly? Can we understand what He has spoken?
-
- If God has **not** spoken, then we're on our own, and we just have to do the best with what we receive in this life.
 - But if God **has** spoken...if He **has** spoken...then run as fast as you can to get a copy of His Words. Sell all you have to get just a chance to read them.

We Believe God Has Spoken. And we believe the Bible is what He has spoken. Here are some words which help us understand exactly how He accomplished getting His Words into our hands:

- **Dual Authorship** - God spoke through men. He used their personalities and experiences and used their very hands to write out His words, but those words are, word-for-word, His very words.-
- **Inspired** – God inspired men to write the words He wanted them to write. They were not their own thoughts. They are totally trustworthy to be directly from God. Therefore, they apply directly to our lives today, even though they may have been written 6,000 years ago, and they applied directly to the lives of those in Isaiah's day, too.

And not only were the words inspired, but also the men who decided which books would make up the Bible were inspired, too. They were led by God to determine, in a logical and normal way, which letters and writings to include in the canon of the Bible, and which to exclude.

- **Sola Scriptura** – There is no other book like this one. There is no other authority which competes with this one. The Book of



Mormon does not. The Koran does not. There is no other word from God which would negate anything in the Bible.

If you ask a Catholic person today, educated in their own belief system, if they believe in Sola Scriptura, they will tell you no. They believe that the Bible is the Words of God, yes. But they also believe that the writings and proclamations of the Church Fathers of the past carry more weight than the Bible. They believe church fathers decided what books should be in the Bible, therefore church fathers have more authority than the Bible.

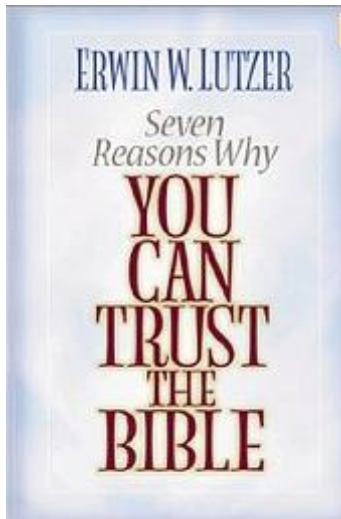
We do not believe that. We understand the Bible to be the final authority...with all of men's thoughts and decisions lower in importance than the Bible.

Here are three powerful Bible passages which assure us we are right in putting such a high importance on God's Word:

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things a naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." **Hebrews 4:12&13**

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." **II Timothy 3:16&17**

"The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and honeycomb. Moreover by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward." **Psalms 19:7-11**
...and all of **Psalms 119**



In "Seven Reasons Why You Can Trust the Bible", by Erwin Lutzer, the Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago gives the following reasons why you can trust that the Bible is the very words of God:

1. The Bible claims to be God's Word
2. History Confirms the Bible's Reliability
3. Bible prophecies Prove its Truthfulness
4. Jesus Himself affirmed the Bible's Authority & Truth
5. Science supports Biblical Creation
6. God People, by His Providence, Recognized the Canon
7. The Bible has Power to Change Lives

Therefore.....what is the "proof" that we truly believe the Bible is the very Words of God? What do we do which is evidence of our belief?

- Learn about it... "Bruce and Stan's Guide to the Bible" – Bruce Bickel and Stan Jantz, Harvest House publishers – just stuff about the Bible - take the little test below.
- Preach it....Verse-by-verse
- Teach it....all ages
- Read it....Every day - three times a day
- Live it....unflinchingly. This is really, really hard. It hurts. It makes us unpopular. It is the first thing we tend to avoid. It's the last thing we admit we are not doing when all falls apart.
- Memorize it....oh, yes, you can
- Speak it....why say meaningless things? Speak scripture and speak the name of Jesus. Often.



**Now, just for fun, Take A Little Test of Facts About the Bible.
The Following are the answers. Do you know what the
questions are?**

66
40
1500
1189
33,173
39
27
1
4,000
100
1455AD
6 Billion
2,000
Christ

Answer Key

66	books in the Bible
40	authors
1500	years to write
1189	chapters
33,173	verses
39	Old Testament Books
27	New Testament Books
1	Bible author who was not Jewish
4,000	Time period covered by Old Testament
100	Time period covered by New Testament
1455AD	Invention of Printing Press
6 Billion	Copies of the Bible since then
2,000	Different languages the Bible is published in today
Christ	The theme of the whole Bible.

A Few More Things:

- If your house catches on fire, grab your Bible. It is the most valuable thing you own.
- At Southside Pastor Ken preaches from the New King James Version of the Bible, but we don't think that's the only good version. There are many good versions. Here are the ones we recommend the most highly:
 - King James Version,
 - New King James Version,
 - New American Standard Bible (NASB),
 - English Standard Version (ESV)
- Reading your Bible every day is essential
 - Reading your Bible every day is simple.
 - But reading your Bible every day is not easy.
 - What does it say? (observe)
 - What does it mean? (ask questions)
 - What does it mean to me? (come to conclusions)

The people of Israel went into captivity because they had no knowledge of God's incredible Words!

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 5:

1. 5:1-7 What is the LORD comparing Israel to in these verses?
 - How does He feel about the vineyard?
 - How hard did He work to plant the vineyard?
 - What did He expect of the vineyard?
 - What will He do with the vineyard?
2. 5:8-10 Woe to those who _____
3. 5:11&12 Woe to those who _____



4. 5:13 Why has all this happened to Israel?

5. 5:14-17

People shall be brought _____

The LORD shall be _____

The lambs shall _____

6. 5:18&19 Woe to those who _____

7. 5:20&21 Woe to those who _____

8. 5:22&23 Woe to those who _____

9. 5:24&25 God's anger is like a _____

10. 5:26-30 Who does God call to do His work of judgment?

APPLICATION:

11. Why were the people of God so miserably far away from Him? Because they had no knowledge of Him. And why did they have no knowledge of Him?

12. What changes can you make in your life so that you know God better?

13. If the LORD should begin His "Day of the LORD" in your lifetime, are you ready to guide the people around you to know God better? How will you do it?



"The Making of a Servant" Isaiah Chapter 6

Memory Verse: Isaiah 6:8

"Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? And then I said: Here am I, send me."

This chapter is a very sweet picture of the moment when God called Isaiah to be His prophet. From it, I think we can see a picture of the things the Lord does in anyone's life as He calls them to do the work He has chosen for them to do.

Notice the setting. Isaiah appears to be in the temple...and of course we assume it is the temple in Jerusalem. But as he describes what he is seeing, we suddenly realize this temple is far bigger than the one in Jerusalem – for there is an immense throne in it, and huge angels flying around inside of it. This is the temple in heaven. The temple on earth, in Jerusalem, is modeled after this temple in heaven...but it is nowhere as glorious.

So Isaiah has been transported to heaven, and is seeing the temple of God in heaven. Besides this description we see in Isaiah 6, there are a couple of other places in scripture where we get a little glimpse of this heavenly temple:

- **Exodus 24:9&10** – When Moses and the leaders of Israel went up to the top of Mt Sinai to tell the LORD they had received His commands, and were willing to abide by them, and be His people. As they got to the top of the mount, they saw the LORD Himself...and we get a little glimpse of the temple He was in...paved with pure sapphire stones – so pure you could see through them.
- **Revelation 4:** This description of the heavenly temple is given to us by John the Apostle, in his account in the book of Revelation. Here we see the LORD sitting on His throne, all full of light and color, and with a rainbow glowing around the throne. We also see 24 seats, with 24 men sitting in them, who have crowns of gold on their heads. God the Father is sitting on that throne, and God the Spirit is in front of it, burning like 7 lamps. And then in verse 6 we see that beautiful sapphire floor again – blue and clear. There are also 4 huge creatures there – similar

to the ones Isaiah describes in today's chapter, and they are full of praise for the One on the throne.

We see in this scene that Isaiah had a high view of God. Turn to Exodus chapter 33 to get a little example of what it means to have a high view of God. In Exodus 33 the LORD has told Moses to leave Mt. Sinai and travel to the promised land. Moses has already received the 10 commandments from the hand of God. He has already been in His presence up on that mountain, and see the throne of God and the beautiful blue floor at His feet. Moses has already met with God on several occasions and begun to understand the enormity and impossibility of the job he has been given – that of leading the stubborn chosen people of God.

So in Exodus 33:12 -18, Moses asks something of His God. He asks to see Him fully – to fully see His awesome glory. He has had glimpses before, but now he asks to see Him in all His totality. Why does he ask this? Probably because he wants to know Who he is serving, and how to describe Him to these stiff-necked people whom he is sure will rebel the first chance they get.

In verses 19-23, we see the LORD's answer to this request: "I will place you in a cave in this mountain, and will pass my glory right by you, but I will have to cover you with My hand when I pass by, because if you would see My face, you would die. After I pass by you will be able to see my back, but to protect you I cannot let you see My face."

We forget how high and mighty our God is.

In order to serve Him, we have to have our moment when we realize we cannot put our arms around the totality of Who He is. He is higher than we can imagine. He is sitting on a throne in a temple in heaven, and He does not even need to move in order to get things accomplished. His train (robe) is so immense it fills the temple. There are heavenly beings whose job it is to simply cry out how Holy He is. And buildings shake when they do.

When Isaiah sees the LORD in this scene, he is pretty sure he is about to die. He has seen the King – the LORD. And he is 100% aware of how dirty he is in the presence of the King. His automatic reaction to being in the presence of Holy God is to declare his own sinfulness. "I am undone!" Surely this is the end of me!



"For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". Romans 3:23.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Romans 6:23

When you and I enter the presence of God we should be incinerated. It is a miracle that we are not. And the only reason we remain breathing and alive after meeting with Him is that He has given us a gift in His Son. That gift is forgiveness. Cleansing. Belief in Jesus Christ changes us forever. It makes us clean in the presence of the LORD of LORDS.

Isaiah's only hope of surviving this encounter with the HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL was the fact that some day that very HOLY ONE would become a man, live a perfect life, and die for Isaiah's sins. And then that HOLY ONE would rise from the dead, and live forever more....able to keep Isaiah clean for eternity. The death and resurrection of that HOLY ONE would be so powerful that it would reach back with cleansing and forgiveness into the past – and forward into the future. Isaiah survived his encounters with God...Moses survived his encounters with God...You and I survive our encounters with God....and our future children and grandchildren can survive their encounters with God....all because of the gift of eternal forgiveness purchased by the death and resurrection of the HOLY ONE OF ISRAEL.

Isaiah saw Him in His glory, fell before Him in his own sinfulness, and was cleansed by Him in order to do a job for Him.

We are no different.

An angel touched a live coal to Isaiah's lips. And his lips were cleansed so that he could preach and teach the LORD's words to Israel.

Isaiah was sent to proclaim the words of God. And he was told up front that not everyone would like his message.

We've been told that, too. *"They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me."* John 16:2&3

In an odd way, just hearing this bad news that we will probably be rejected when we tell the Good News, is actually an encouragement. It makes us braver when we accept the whole picture.

In the first part of Paul's letter to the Philippians, Paul tells his readers that he is in jail and has suffered much for the cause of Christ. And then he says "*and most of the brethren in the LORD, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*" Philippians 1:14

It's funny, but true – accepting the fact that you may suffer as you serve God is freeing. It gives you boldness. It sets you free from the fear which has kept you quiet.

Isaiah would not see God's goal accomplished in his lifetime. He would die watching the people of God continue in their selfish ways.

But the day was coming. The day when the people of Israel would return to their land after their captivity in Babylon, and only a handful of them would bravely decide to live for the LORD once more. They would be like a branch which rises from the stump of the tree which has been cut down.

And the day is still coming. The final plan of the LORD will yet be accomplished, when Israel once again, though small in size, will rise like a branch from a dead stump – and will worship and bow down before her King and Savior – Jesus Christ. Zechariah 12:10

If you are a believer in Jesus, then there is something for you to do. No one gets a "by". You are a servant, and every servant has a work to do by faith. If you think you have no talents...you still have a work to do. If you think you're too old...you still have a work to do. If you think you're too young...you still have a work to do.

You have been given "gifts". Abilities and desires from God to enable you to trust Him and get a job done. This isn't something you can or should do in your own strength. Gifts from God are abilities you can only use as you trust Him.

Here's the best way to start using your spiritual gifts:

- Fall on your knees
- Tell Him you are willing to do whatever He wants
- Ask Him what you should do
- Wait for the answer



- Once you get the answer, tell Him you have no idea how you will do this, but if He wants you to, then please won't He give you the ability and energy. Tell Him you know you can not do it unless He is the one who is doing it through you.
- Do it

So...servant of God...are you serving?

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 6:

Answer the following questions by filling in the blanks – these are all the things Isaiah had to know in order to be a prophet of God:

1. 6:1-4

- A high _____ of God
- An accurate _____ of God.
- A _____ of God.

2. 6:5

- A sure knowledge of his own _____.

3. 6:6&7

- A willingness to endure God's _____.

4. 6:8

- You must _____ to the call of God.

5. 6:9

- You must be intentional about _____ the news of God.

6. 6:10

- A willingness to accept the pain of _____.

7. 6:11-13

- Patience to wait on _____.

Wait for it.....wait for it.....

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

8. Has the Lord called you to do something for Him?
9. If you're not sure...what should you do?
10. If you are sure...are you doing it? Could you be more intentional?



"Four Sons Tell a Story" Isaiah Chapters 7,8&9

Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Some sons in Israel are going to tell the Meta-narrative simply with the meanings of their names:

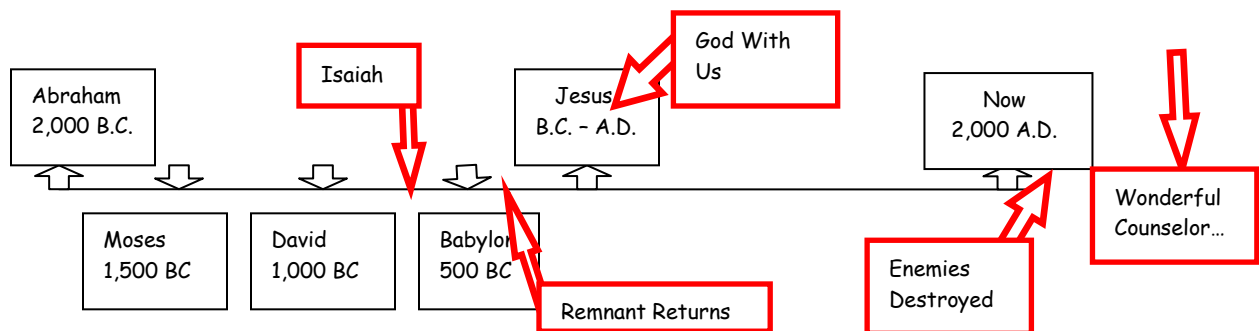
Isaiah is foretelling the whole rest of the future of Israel through these sons' names:

First, even though Israel has sinned and will be punished, **"A remnant shall return."** (Israel comes back to Jerusalem after Babylon)

Second, after that remnant returns, **"God will be with us"**. (Jesus comes to earth)

Third, their enemies will finally be destroyed **"Speed the spoil, hasten the booty"**. (Israel is scattered to the ends of the earth until this is finally accomplished)

And Fourth, the son who is **The Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace** will rule and protect them for all eternity. (Israel finally believes in Jesus and lives with Him forever)



Discussion Questions for Isaiah 7, 8&9:

1. **Isaiah's son, Shear-Jashub** Isaiah 7:1-9

1. Why is Isaiah sent to King Ahaz? :1&2
2. Who does Isaiah take with him? :3
3. What is Isaiah's advice to Ahaz? :4-9
4. **Shear-Jashub** means "A remnant shall return". What is the LORD telling His people through the name of this child?

2. **Son of a virgin, Immanuel** Isaiah 7:10-25

- What does the LORD tell King Ahaz to do? :10&11
- What does the LORD give King Ahaz even though he will not ask for it? :12-14
- In verses 14-25 King Ahaz is warned that the enemy will definitely come and attack and destroy his land. **Immanuel** means "God with us". What is the LORD telling His people through the name of this future child?

3. **Isaiah's son, Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz** Isaiah 8

- Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz** means "Speed the spoil, Hasten the Booty". What will become of the enemies of Israel? :1-10
- What advice is given to Israel until the time their enemies are destroyed? :11-22

4. **A future promised son - Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace** Isaiah 9

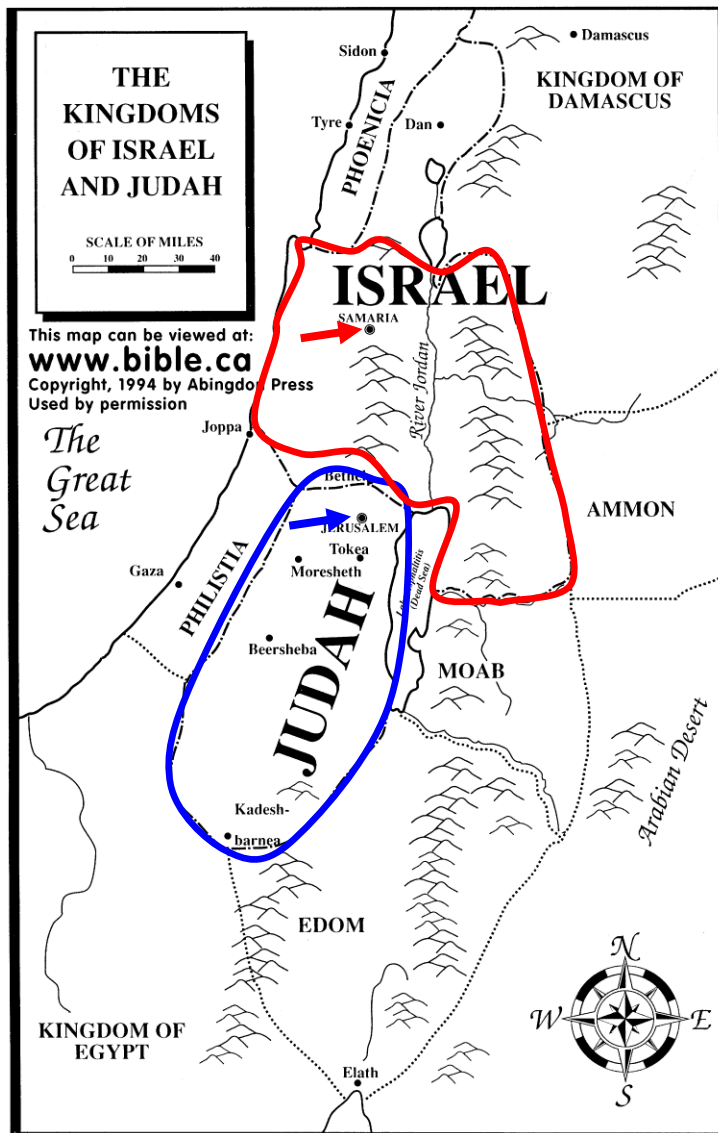
- This final "son" will define the eternal future of Israel. Who is He?



Be Still and Know that I Am God Isaiah Chapter 9:8 – Chapter 10

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 10:4*

"For all this His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still."



The LORD begins this portion by scolding both the Northern Kingdom and the Southern Kingdom of Israel. This can get confusing, because these two different areas are known by several names and nicknames:

Northern Kingdom Also known as:	Southern Kingdom Also known as:
Israel	Judah
Ephraim	Jerusalem
Samaria	Mt Zion

Samaria was the capital of the Northern Kingdom

Jerusalem was the capital of the Southern Kingdom.

The thing to remember is that these two Kingdoms are just 2 parts of what was the original "Israel". Put these two kingdoms together and they are still the people chosen by God for his purposes.

After the Northern Kingdom is destroyed by Assyria (after Isaiah's time), they are taken away from their land and settled in the land of Assyria. Years later, the Southern Kingdom is destroyed by Babylon, and the same thing happens. They are carried away from their land and taken to Babylon as prisoners.

The Southern Kingdom does get the chance to return to Jerusalem – from Babylon. The Northern Kingdom is never a kingdom again after they are carted away by Assyria, and they don't return as a group ever to the land of Israel. But... some of the people of the Northern kingdom do find different ways to get back to their homeland...they just never return as a group.

What we see in Isaiah 9 and 10 is the LORD telling both the Northern and the Southern kingdoms that He is angry with them, and telling them what their "punishment" will be. He is going to bring the Assyrians against all of them...and the Northern Kingdom will actually fall completely to the Assyrians. The Southern Kingdom will also be attacked by the Assyrians, but they will survive – at least for awhile – until Babylon comes and finishes them off.

One of the main questions we should ask here is why the LORD would choose an evil, God-hating group of people to attack, hurt and nearly destroy His own people.

The prophet Habakkuk also asked this question, and guess what the LORD answered him? "The LORD is in His holy temple. Let all the earth keep silence before Him". (Habakkuk 2:20). In other words: "I'm God. You're not. Be still and trust Me."

So we sit quietly and read this passage in Isaiah...watching what God is doing with His people. Maybe we're frustrated with them because they seem to be so dense about their own sin. Or maybe we hurt for them because of what they will be suffering soon. But still, we just have to sit quietly and trust that the LORD Who made them knows what He is doing.

First He tells them that He is going to punish them by the hand of Assyria. Then He tells them that once they have come back to Him, He will punish Assyria.



First He brings us back to Himself. Then He deals with those who wanted to see us hurt.

That's God's way.

And here's how the prophet Habakkuk finally responded, as he learned to keep silence before Mighty God:

"Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; through the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls – Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength; He will make my feet like deer's feet, and He will make me walk on my high hills." Habakkuk 3:17-19

Only 2 Discussion Questions this week: You will see them underlined in the midst of the following explanation notes:

So let's start walking through this passage:

9:8-10 Isaiah repeats once more God's charges against both the Northern and the Southern kingdoms of Israel: You are proud! You think: "Even if things do not go well for us, we have the intelligence and ability to replace any brick which falls down with an even better building block – smooth stones! ...and to replace any great tree which falls down with an even better tree."

The the LORD proceeds to tell them the things which He is doing to bring them back to Himself. The steps He is taking to strip away their pride so that they can trust fully in Him again:

:12 He is sending the Assyrians and the Philistines, their enemies, to "devour" them.

:13 But that's not all...

:14-17 He will be removing their leaders and their prophets

:17 But that's not all...

:18-21 He will be turning them against each other.

:21 But that's not all....

10:1-4 He will give them nowhere to run to.

10:4 But that's not all....

Question: What more do you think it will take?

At this point in the passage, Isaiah is given the word from the LORD that he should tell the people of Israel that all is not lost. Yes, the LORD's hand is against them now, and yes, the LORD will not stop until His will has been accomplished...but His will is not that His people be utterly destroyed forever. There is hope that this horrific job of bringing these people back will be successful.

And when it is successful, the LORD will then turn His attention to the evil people He has allowed to inflict this discipline on His people.

10:5-15:

10:5 *"Woe to Assyria"...* and **10:12** *"So it will be that when the LORD has completed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, He will say, 'I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the pomp of his haughtiness.'"*

The LORD is quite serious about this. He was willing to go to extremes to bring His people back to Himself. But He is not willing to let the perpetrators of hurt and suffering go unpunished.

Those perpetrators were arrogant, thinking that all their great power was of their own doing. The LORD says to them: *"Is the axe to boast itself over the one who chops with it? Is the saw to exalt itself over the one who wields it? That would be like the club wielding those who lift it, or like a rod lifting him who is not wood."*

What's He saying to them? "I made you strong so you could accomplish My will with My people. You didn't make yourself strong. You raise your proud eyes to Me and tell Me I don't exist! Fools!"

10:16-19 The LORD goes on to say: I will destroy you. My Light and My Glory and My Holy One will make you as nothing.



Who is the LORD's light and the LORD's Glory and the LORD's Holy One? Jesus. This is another "layered prophecy". Yes, the Lord was going to turn on Assyria after Assyria inflicted His discipline on His people. But even more so, the LORD – Jesus is going to someday snuff out all the enemies of Israel...all the enemies of the LORD...when He comes to earth for the 2nd time. A time we have not yet seen.

Someday His wrath will be completed. Finished. Over. Remember where we left off in 10:4 – the 4th time the LORD said to His people: "For all His anger is not turned away, but His hand is stretched out still." And we asked: What more do you think it will take? Well, verses 16-19 tell us what it will take before the sin of God's people is finally gone forever. It will take The Light of Israel, The Glory of God, the Holy One of Israel – Jesus – Who will trample the enemies of God at the cross, and rise from the dead, and then someday return. That's what it will take. **Revelation 15:1, Revelation 19:19-21**

10:20-23 The punishment inflicted on Israel in Isaiah's day was enough to wake up a few of God's people and bring them back to a relationship with Him. But it wasn't a permanent fix. Even more punishment and anger still had to be poured out. It was poured out on Jesus 700 years after Isaiah. And all those who put their trust in Him will never feel the wrath of God again.

10:24-25 Here's the point of this prophecy in Isaiah 9&10: "Do Not Fear The Enemy Who is Being Sent to Bring You Back to Me. Soon I will have accomplished My plan, and I will turn and destroy that enemy"

10:16-32 And now, as if he is seeing a vision, Isaiah describes, step-by-step, the future approach of the Assyrians right through the Northern Kingdom and to the very doorstep of Jerusalem:

- :28 At Micmash Assyria is 7 miles away from Jerusalem
- :29 At Geba Assyria is 5 miles away
- :29 At Ramah Assyria is 3 miles away
- :32 At Nob Assyria is on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

10:33-34 But Assyria will go no further. The devastation that Assyria is going to be allowed to pour on God's Chosen people will be stopped at the very doorstep of Jerusalem. The Northern Kingdom will be conquered and carried away, but the Southern Kingdom and Jerusalem, will be spared a little while longer.

Assyria is described here as a huge tree which has its limbs sawn off...the tree which was so strong and high will be brought down with a thud, unable to finish the evil it had planned against the LORD and His people.

Question: So what's the lesson for us from this prophecy?

I think we can best see our lesson from a story Jesus told – the Parable of the Lost Son. **Luke 15:11-32.**

The LORD loves us so much He will do whatever it takes to bring us into an eternal relationship with Him. He will allow whatever He has to allow in our lives to bring us to the point of repentance. He will step back and grieve over our suffering so that we will quit being so arrogant and will trust in Him completely.

Why? Because He is our only hope. If we don't trust in Him in this life, we will spend eternity in punishment and suffering.



"Thankful"
Isaiah Chapters 11&12

Memory Verse: Isaiah 11:1

"There shall come forth a rod from the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots."

Again and again Isaiah screams out the curses of God on the people of Israel...and then again and again he stops the screaming and quietly and gently says: "But everything is going to be OK. Your Savior is coming."

Chapters 11 and 12 are one of those little breaks from the ranting and railing. They are full of promises of blessing and also full of Isaiah's own spontaneous praise of the LORD as he thinks through the gift that is coming – Jesus.

First, He's described as green shoot from what would seem to be nearly dead roots.

This tells us a couple of things about the Messiah to come:

- He would be a descendant of King David (Jesse was the father of David)
- He would appear when it would seem that no more kings would ever come from David again.

Both of these things were true of Jesus. He was a proven descendant of King David. Both his mother (Mary) and father (Joseph) were in the line of David.

And He did appear at a time when there were no more rightful Kings of Israel – and the ruler who was over Israel wasn't even a Jew. (Herod). When Jesus was born, there was little hope in anyone's mind that a son of David would ever reign over Israel again. The only possible hope that might have existed would have been in the hearts and minds of those Jewish people who still looked for their Messiah to come, and who knew that it would be a miracle of God if that Messiah was able to once again reign as the rightful King over Israel. Not many Jewish people in Jesus' time were in this category.

Look at the following chart showing Jesus as being a direct descendant of King David:

Geneology of Jesus in 2 Gospels:

Matthew 1: 1-17	Luke 3:23-38
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	God
	Adam
	Seth
	Enosh
	Cainan
	Mahalaleel
	Jared
	Enoch
	Methuselah
	Lamech
	Noah
	Shem
	Arphaxad
	Cainan
	Shelah
	Heber
	Peleg
	Reu
	Serug
	Nahor
	Terah
Abraham	Abraham
Isaac	Isaac
Jacob	Jacob
Judah	Judah
Perez	Perez
Hezron	Hezron
Ram	Ram
	Admin
Amminadab	Amminadab
Nahshon	Nahshon
Salmon	Salmon
Boaz	Boaz
Obed	Obed
Jesse	Jesse
David	David
Solomon	Nathan
Rehoboam	Mattatha



Abijah	Menna
Asa	Melea
Jehoshaphat	Eliakim
Joram	Jonam
Uzziah	Joseph
Jotham	Judah
Ahaz	Simeon
Hezekiah	Levi
Manasseh	Matthat
Amon	Jorim
Josiah	Eliezer
Jeconiah (The Kingship stopped here)	Joshua
	Er
	Elmadam
	Cosam
	Addi
	Melchi
	Meri
Shealtiel	Shealtiel
Zerubbabel	Zerubbabel
Abihud	Rhesa
Eliakim	Joanan
Azor	Joda
Azdok	Josech
Achim	Semein
Eliud	Mattathias
Eleazar	Maath
	Naggai
	Hesli
	Nahum
	Amos
	Mattathias
	Joseph
	Jannai
	Melchi
	Levi
Matthan	Matthat
Jacob	Eli
Joseph	Joseph (Mary)

There's one other thing to note here. Look at the list above, on the left-hand side. (The Matthew genealogy). The Kings of Israel basically stopped with "Jeconiah". He was the last king of Israel before the people were carted away to Babylon as slaves. When they returned 70 years later to their own land, they never again actually

had a king as an independent nation. They were always under the thumb of some greater power. The Kingship had stopped with Jeconiah.

Besides the fact that the Jews were carried away to Babylon, there's another reason why the Kingship stopped here. Jeconiah had been such an evil king that the LORD told him the kingship would stop with him, and that no son of his would ever sit on the throne of Israel. (see *Jeremiah 22:30 "Write this man down as childless, a man who shall not prosper in his days; for none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David, and ruling anymore in Judah")*

So how does Jesus, then, ever have the right to sit on the throne of David (since he, through Joseph, was a descendant of Jeconiah)?

Look at the chart again. Not only is Joseph a descendant of King David, but Mary is, too. And Mary, while part of the bloodline of King David, is not part of the bloodline of Jeconiah. And it is Mary's DNA which is passed on to Jesus, not Joseph's, right? So through Joseph Jesus inherits the legal right to sit on the throne of David, but through Mary's bloodline He passes by the curse of the LORD (remember, Jesus is the LORD...so He's the One Who gave that curse) on the line of Jeconiah, and still meets the qualifications to sit on the throne of Israel..

So - besides being the King who would come when it seemed kings were gone from Israel, Jesus is also described as having all the characteristics of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is One of the three Who make up the Trinity. He is the Son. And He is God. He is the same as the Father. And He is the same as the Holy Spirit.

And what is the Holy Spirit like? We don't see much about Him in the Old Testament, and just a little bit more about Him in the New Testament. There's a reason why we don't see whole books dedicated to Him. His job is to point people to Jesus. To glorify Jesus. He doesn't want to glorify Himself and take the spotlight away from Jesus. (John 16:12-14)

But this great passage in Isaiah does tell us not only what the Holy Spirit is all about, but also that Jesus is the spitting image of Him!

- He is the LORD
- He is wisdom
- He is understanding



- He is counsel
- He is might
- He is knowledge
- And He is the fear of the LORD

There's a place in the book of Revelation where the great Throne room of God Almighty is described. And here we see the Holy Spirit as 7 lamps of fire – or, in other words – a huge candelabra with 7 points of fire burning on it. Picture a menorah. (Revelation 4:5) We are told that that 7-fold lamp is the Holy Spirit.

The Savior to come was going to be the Son of God (Isaiah 9:6). He was also going to be The Father (Isaiah 9:6). And He also was going to be the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 11:2).

If anyone ever needed proof that Jesus is God, I don't know what could be more clear than Isaiah's words in chapters 9 and 11.

And then all of Isaiah 12 is one of the many songs we will all learn to sing someday:

"And in that day you will say:".....

"O LORD, I will praise You; though You were angry with me, Your anger is turned away, and You comfort me. Behold, God is my salvation, I will trust and not be afraid; for Yahweh, the LORD, is my strength and song: He also has become my salvation. Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation."

"And in that day you will say:"....

"Praise the LORD, call upon His name; declare His deeds among the peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. Sing to the LORD, for He had done excellent things; this is known in all the earth. Cry out and shout, O inhabitant of Zion, for great is the Holy One of Israel in your midst!"

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 11 & 12:

11:1 How is Jesus being described here?

11:2 How is Jesus being described here?

11:3-5 Make a list of all the characteristics of Jesus which are talked about in verses 3-5:

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11:6-16

What is the world going to be like when the Savior finally comes reigns as King for 1,000 years?

Chapter 12 And....after all that happens, What is the proper response?

Even now, what is our proper response to the sure knowledge that all this is going to come to pass?

How important is thankfulness in our lives today?



"Surrounded By Enemies" Isaiah Chapters 13 through 23

Memory Verse: Isaiah 14:13

"For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God...' "

Israel is surrounded by her enemies today, and she was surrounded by enemies in Isaiah's day. Israel, from the time God picked her up and chose her to be His own, has had a big, red target painted on her back.

So...why does Israel have all these enemies? Why does she have them even today? Because of her one, main enemy: Satan. Satan hates God. And Satan hates anything God loves. And Satan will do anything to destroy God's plans.

Right in the middle of the passage describing Babylon in Isaiah Chapter 14, the LORD gives us a brief glimpse of what happened in the heavens when a beautiful, glorious angel rebelled, and took 1/3 of the angels of heaven with him, away from the heavens and down to the earth, spurred on by such evil ambition that his act would affect all of eternity.

"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the Pit." Isaiah 14:12-15

Look at the passage above and tell me what word you see the most in the words of Satan. "I". "I will..." . Satan wanted to be God. He didn't want to glorify God...instead, he wanted God to glorify him. And in the process of rebelling against what he was created to do – glorify God – he convinced 1/3 of the angels of heaven that he could, indeed, do what he purposed to do – and they fell from heaven with him. (Revelation 12:4)

Here are some things we know about Satan, the enemy of Israel:

- For now, he is called the "ruler of this world". (John 12:31). When he fell from the heavens, he convinced Adam and Eve to join him in his rebellion, and when they did, they handed over the reigns of this world to him
- He is all about darkness (Acts 26:18) He doesn't operate openly in the light. He fools, he tricks, he lies. He loves the darkness because his deeds are evil.
- He is called the "god of this age", and he blinds people. (II Cor 4:4) Again, he has power on this earth because of the sin of Adam and Eve. And one of his powers is to blind people to the reality of what he is doing. People who do not believe in the One, True God cannot see what he is doing.
- He is called the "prince of the power of the air", and he inspires people to lust. (Ephesians 2:1-3) His downfall was his lust. He wants everyone else to do the same. Lust for power. Lust for control. Lust for food. Lust for sex. Lust for things.
- He has "princes", or other fallen angels – demons, assigned to different nations. (Daniel 10:20). He wants to control the whole world, and he begins by controlling nations. As nations buy in to his program of lust and sin, he controls them more and more.
- He tries to steal worship that belongs only to God. (Matthew 4:8-10). All worship belongs to God. None belongs to any other being or thing. Satan wants it. His expressed purpose in life is to have what God has.
- He is an imitator. (Isaiah 14:15, II Corinthians 11:14&15) He is not a creator. He cannot make something out of nothing. He can only imitate what he has seen God do. He disguises himself as an "angel of light", making himself appear to be good and proper, just like God.
- His end? He lives on earth right now, with his holding cell below the earth. He gets to visit heaven every once in awhile (Job 1) , but he will be permanently cast out of heaven about half-way through the Last 7 Years (Revelation 12), and 3 and ½ years after that he will be bound in the bottomless pit for 1,000 years, while the Savior of the World reigns on earth. After that 1,000 years he will be let loose for a little while (Rev. 20:1-3 and :7-10) so that he can try one last time to destroy God, and he will fail. He at that time will be cast into the Lake of Fire, and will be tormented day and night, forever and forever.



Discussion Questions for Isaiah Chapters 13-23

See if you can name all the enemies of Israel as we go through Chapters 13 – 23, and then name the one enemy of Israel who is the head of all the others (from chapter 14)

1. Who is the enemy of Israel talked about in the following passages?
 - Chapter 13 through 14:23 _____
 - Chapter 14:24-27 _____
 - Chapter 14:28-32 _____
 - Chapters 15 & 16 _____
 - Chapter 17:1-3 _____
 - Chapter 18 _____
 - Chapters 19&20 _____
 - Chapter 21:1-10 _____
 - Chapter 21:11&12 _____
 - Chapter 21:13-17 _____
 - Chapter 22:1-14 _____
 - Chapter 22:15-19 _____
 - Chapter 23

2. Who is the one, main enemy of Israel, who convinces all the others to do their worst to Israel?
 - Chapter 14: 12-15 _____

3. Make a list of all of your enemies.

4. What do Isaiah chapters 13-23 teach you about your enemies?



Are You Ready? Isaiah Chapter 24

Memory Verse: *Isaiah 24:19*

"The earth is violently broken, the earth is split open, the earth is shaken exceedingly "

This day is coming. Are you ready?
Everyone in the world will be affected by this Day. Every culture.
Every language. Every social strata.

- **Revelation 6:15-16** *"And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, 'Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!'"*
- **Revelation 13:16& 17** *"He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name. "*
- **Revelation 14:9-11** *"Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, 'If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of his indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name."*

The entire earth will groan under the judgment of God. Look at all the things which will happen to the earth, mentioned in the book of Revelation:

- Earthquakes

- Cosmic disturbances
- Vegetation burned up
- Seas contaminated
- Water supplies poisoned
- Sun, moon and stars darkened
- Locusts which kill
- Armies which kill
- Drought
- Waters turned to blood
- Plagues
- Fire raining down from heaven with blood mingled in
- Sores on men
- Sea becomes blood
- Waters turned to blood
- Sun overheats the earth
- Darkness and pain
- Rivers dried up
- Islands and mountains moved
- Huge hail

But the truth is, this groaning of the earth is nothing compared to its groaning through the last 6,000 years, because it has, along with mankind, been under the curse of sin....since Adam and Eve first gave in to the temptation of satan.

This judgment the earth goes through in the end times will be the thing that will finally set the earth free from the curse of sin...and so the earth actually eagerly awaits this time!

- **Romans 8:19-22** *"For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now."*

The proud will be overwhelmed by this judgment. The ones who believed in themselves, and would not dream of letting go of their sins.

- **Revelation 9:20&21** *"But the rest of mankind, who were not killed by these plagues, did not repent of the works of their hands, that they should not worship demons, and idols of gold, silver, brass, stone and wood, which can neither see nor hear*



nor walk. And they did not repent of their murders or their sorceries or their sexual immorality or their thefts."

One simple word answers why this day will have to happen: sin.

- **Genesis 2:15-17** *"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'"*
- **Romans 6:23** *"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Is the earth totally destroyed during this coming judgment?

Thankfully, no. A few on earth are left – those who have believed in Jesus and not been martyred.

How do we know that? In the very end of the end times, when the armies of the earth are gathering at Armageddon, these two short and sweet little messages are given to the believers in Jesus who are yet alive on earth, who must be hiding out somewhere:

- **Revelation 14:12-13** *"Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, 'Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes', says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.'"*
- **Revelation 16:15** *"Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."*

And in addition to that, we know, from the Old Testament prophet Zechariah, that a small remnant of Jewish people come to faith in their Messiah just before He returns, and are on the earth, waiting to greet Him at His arrival.

- **Zechariah 13:8-9** *"And it shall come to pass in all the land,' says the Lord, 'That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will*

say 'This is my people'; and each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.' "

Read all of Zechariah chapters 12, 13 and 14 to see this whole wonderful picture.

Isaiah describes this time as The shaking of a tree, and the fruit drops to the ground. Like there is no hope left. No future harvest to look forward to.

- **Revelation 18:21-23** *"Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, 'Thus with violence the great city of Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore. The sound of harpists, musicians, flutists and trumpeters shall not be heard in you anymore. No craftsman of any craft shall be found in you anymore, and the sound of a millstone shall not be heard in you anymore. The light of a lamp shall not shine in you anymore, and the voice of bridegroom and bride shall not be heard in you anymore.'"*

Amazingly, what will be the one of the results of this "shaking"?

Praise to God! Repentance!!!! Belief!!!! This miraculous time of belief is described not only in the Zechariah passages we already mentioned, but also in Revelation 11, just after the two witnesses are killed, and then raised from the dead:

- **Revelation 11:11-13** *"Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, 'Come up here.' And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them. In the same hour there was a great earthquake, and a tenth of the city fell. In the earthquake seven thousand people were killed, **and the rest were afraid and gave glory to the God of heaven.**"*

The earth itself is heavily damaged during this time. When the LORD returns on His white horse, the earth will be healed for 1,000 years, but at the end of that 1,000 years, after the one last rebellion described in Revelation 20:7-9, the earth is done. It will fall, and not rise again, as Isaiah says here in 24:20.



- **Revelation 20:7-9** "Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them."
- **Isaiah 24:20** "The earth shall reel to and from like a drunkard, and shall totter like a hut; its transgression shall be heavy upon it, and it will fall, and not rise again."

But...that is not the end of the story. The earth, which saw mankind through over 6,000 years of groaning history, and then 1,000 years of the Glorious reign of Jesus, will be reborn:

- **Revelation 21:1** "Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away..."

Two groups of beings will be especially singled out for judgment during this time:

Evil Angels....and Evil rulers.

- **Revelation 19:19-20** "And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast into the lake of fire burning with brimstone."
- **Revelation 20:10** "The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever."

And when it's all over, The LORD Jesus Himself will reign in glory for 1,000 years. And He will be so bright and beautiful and so full of light, that the sun and the moon will hide their faces in shame, so to speak. For they never could ever have given off as much light as Jesus!

In fact, when the 1,000 year reign of Christ is over on this earth, and He reigns forever in the New heaven and the New earth, there will be

no need of sun or moon - for Jesus Himself will be the only light source necessary:

- **Revelation 21:23** *"The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."*

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 24:

1. Isaiah 24:1&2 Who will be affected by the coming judgment?
2. Isaiah 24:3 How much of the earth will be affected?
3. Isaiah 24:4 Who especially will be overwhelmed by this judgment?
4. Isaiah 24:5 Why is this going to happen?
5. Isaiah 24:6 Is the earth totally destroyed during this coming judgment?
6. Isaiah 24:7-11 In your Bible, circle every word which describes how people feel during this time.
7. Isaiah 24:12, 13 What illustration does Isaiah use to help us see what this time will feel like?
8. Isaiah 24:14&15 & 16a Amazingly, what will be the one of the results of this "shaking"?
9. Isaiah 24:16b-20 What else suffers during this time, not just people?



10. Isaiah 24: 21&22 What two groups of beings will be especially singled out for judgment during this time?

11. Isaiah 24:23 What will be the end result of this time of judgment?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

12. What can we do to get ready?



A Day of Praise

Isaiah Chapters 25&26

Memory Verse: Isaiah 25:1
"O Lord, You are my God.
I will exalt You, I will praise Your name. "

This lesson we are going to spend our time praising God as we read through this chapter. I suggest you prepare ahead of time by taking each section of the chapter and thinking of some things you can praise God for.

When your life on this earth is over....and you have done all the LORD ordained for you to do...and you have prayed every prayer...laughed every ounce of laughter...loved with as much love as you have been given...faced every last challenge...what stories will you share in heaven? What memories will you have of the lessons you have learned from your LORD, and the surprises He had for you?

As you think of your own stories, I'll tell you a few of mine....

:1 Some things the Lord has taught you in the past.

"O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth."

Your Stories:

My Story: I remember when He taught me to faithfully brush my teeth! It's not that I wasn't a "tooth-brusher", but I just didn't care whether or not I brushed them as consistently as the dentist said I should.

I became a believer in Him in my last year of High School. Seventeen years old. I gave my life to Jesus in a church service one Sunday shortly before Easter. As I began to walk with Him, one of the first things He taught me was to obey completely...even in those areas of my life where no one else would ever know what I had done....like....brushing my teeth. ☺

How did He do it? He gave me such a sensitive conscience that if I neglected to brush my teeth I would feel so guilty I couldn't bear to live with myself. I would groan under the load of guilt until I would angrily kick myself into the bathroom and get out my toothbrush and get the job done. Ha! I look back and realize what He was really doing was growing me up. I learned to be a responsible adult in that first year of my Christian life. He taught me to be like Him....faithful and true.

:2&3 Some time when the Lord has fought a battle for you.

"For You have made a city a ruin, a fortified city a ruin, a palace of foreigners to be a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. Therefore the strong people will glorify You; the city of the terrible nations will fear You."

Your Stories:

My Story: My parents decided to get a divorce when I was away to college. I was eighteen. Their marriage had been tottering for quite a while, and although I knew they were unhappy with each other, I was still taken by surprise when my Mom called me. After she told me that she and my Dad were splitting up, I walked into the bathroom of my dorm room and slid to the floor and wept. And wept.

I remember thinking: "This cannot be happening to me! Why would God allow this to happen?" My world crumbled. Where would my home be? What about my sisters and brothers? Would I have to decide whether I loved my Mom or my Dad the most?"



The battle the LORD fought for me that year was a battle in the depths of my heart. I had just come to faith in Him only the year before. And now I had a hurt inside that would never heal completely, and, quite frankly, I was really mad at the God I had just given my life to. I had no doubt that He could have stopped this from happening. But He didn't. Why didn't He? I fought the battle of disappointment in God. I struggled and struggled with whether or not He had the right to do whatever He wanted to do in my life...and whether or not I was going to trust Him no matter what happened.

He helped me win the battle. He fought for me way within the depths of my teenage heart. I remember clearly the day I dissolved before Him and acknowledged His right to do His will. I remember accepting my parents' divorce and telling Him I loved Him and trusted Him. And I remember asking Him to still use me for His purposes, asking Him to forgive me for doubting His sovereignty. He was right there, smiling, as He gathered me in His arms and loved me. He had fought the battle, leaving me forever sure that the safest place in the world to run was straight into His arms.

:4&5 When has the Lord been a refuge during a storm?

"For You have been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shade from the heat; for the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. You will reduce the noise of aliens, as heat in a dry place; as heat in the shadow of a cloud, the song of the terrible ones will be diminished."

Your Stories:

My Story: The storm I remember was an actual storm. Ken and I were travelling from Colorado to Indiana with our 5 children. They were ages 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2. I was 30 years old. We were driving a soon-to-be-repossessed van, and were homeless. We had been starting a church in Colorado, and had just simply run out of money. Ken couldn't get a job. We were hungry. Our only choice seemed to be to leave Colorado and find a place to live with my Dad, in

Indianapolis, Indiana. So...we packed up all of our worldly possessions and our 5 children and made a long and bewildering trip to what would be our home for the next 33 years and counting.

Somewhere in between Colorado and Indiana we stopped at a small restaurant to have dinner. Ken was carrying our youngest, the three older boys ran into the restaurant, and I was carrying our 4-year-old. There was a fierce storm blowing, and we just headed for the door of the restaurant, knowing that once we were inside the storm could blow all it wanted and we would have a few minutes reprieve from the drive.

As I left the car with Beth in my arms, the wind suddenly whipped up, and I felt like she was going to be snatched out of my grasp. The wind took my breath away, and I held on to her for dear life, leaning into the wind, barely making any headway. I knew the LORD was with me, but it sure felt like the forces of nature might win. I was afraid, and she was afraid, but I just kept putting one foot in front of the other, and made it into the restaurant...a miracle. The LORD was our shelter that night from the wind and the rain. He got us inside that place of safety, gave us a warm meal, and then sent us the rest of the way to our new home.

Never forget Who has walked you through all of your storms. He may have more storms ahead for you, but He is your shelter every time.

:6 When has the Lord given you a time of rejoicing?

"And in this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all people a feast of choice pieces, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of well-refined wines on the lees."

Your Stories:

My Story: I'm a good swimmer. We had a pool in our backyard when I was a teenager, and I loved to swim. But none of our kids knew how to swim...because there just hadn't been a pool to swim in for the first few years of our family life.



After we arrived in Indiana, we had a few more difficult months as we got back on our feet, but slowly things began to ease up, and suddenly we found ourselves living in an apartment complex on the south side of Indianapolis, in a 2-bedroom apartment, with a swimming pool! Perfect! We had a home of our own again, the kids were in good schools, and although we were a little cramped, we were so happy to be together, alive and employed, that we were just filled with rejoicing.

And...there was a pool! That summer I spent most of our time with an 11-year-old, 9-year-old, 7-year-old, 5-year-old, and 3-year-old in our apartment complex pool, teaching them how to swim. It was so much fun! We eventually owned a home again and accumulated "stuff" again...but nothing will ever compare to the rejoicing I did that summer as I taught our 5 children how to swim. ☺

:7&8 When has the Lord wiped away your tears?

"And He will destroy on this mountain the surface of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death forever, and the LORD God will wipe away all tears from all faces; the rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken."

Your Stories:

My Story: I cry at sad songs, and when my dog dies. I cry when my kids or my husband are hurt, and when life closes in on me. Yes, there have been a few tears in my life, and the LORD has wiped away every one of them.

I sit here this morning writing these words with not one tear dripping down my cheeks. And not one tear stuffed down inside me, afraid to come out. Will I cry again some day? Probably. But I'm not afraid of sorrow. It ends. I may have some tears left when I stand before

Jesus in a few years, but one of the first things he will do is wipe them away. Forever. *"And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."* Revelation 21:4

Max was the first possession I ever had which was mine and mine alone. I grew up in a family of 6, wore hand-me-downs, and shared everything. I married at 19 and we had our first child when I was 20. Sharing was simply the way life was lived. Everything was ours. No complaints. We loved our life.

He was a gift. A little bundle of fur which rolled around on the floor in my Christmas stocking when I was 45 years old. I taught him how to sleep in his new home, eat and drink in the laundry room, and how to walk every morning with me. He was my constant companion through the years when my children were leaving home, going to college, getting married, and having children of their own.

He sat by my side as I learned to memorize scripture, and he walked with me over many miles as I practiced that scripture. I'm sure, if he could have talked, he could have recited a lot of the book of Revelation.

He heard me pray for my children and all their friends. He slept up on our bed when Ken traveled, and gave him dirty looks when he came home. ☺

And when I took him to the vet that horrible morning, I knew I wouldn't be bringing him back home. I cried a lot of tears that day, and for a long time after. My very own dog had lived his life, and it was over.

Now, what is spiritual about this? A dog is a thing of this world, right? We all miss them when they die, but we get over it, right? What's God got to do with it?

The LORD cares when we cry. He cares when we hurt. Even if it is just a dog...or just a lost doll...or just a house that burns down. He loves to wipe away our tears.

Here's how the LORD wiped away my tears: He reminded me that we will all be riding white horses when we return with Him from heaven



someday. (Revelation 19:14). So, he reasoned with me, if there are horses in eternity, why not Golden Retrievers?

:9 When have you waited on the Lord and He has come through?

"And it will be said in that day; Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

Your Stories:

My Story: When we moved to Indianapolis we left behind a dream. We had been starting churches, and as we limped into Indy we found that the LORD opened up a door for us with a job in the "real world", but pastoring seemed to be over for us. We didn't know...would it be over forever, or just for a couple of years? Ken filled pulpits now and again, but we got on with the stuff of life as the door remained closed for another church to pastor. And of course you know that the job of pastor is not ever just for the husband. It's a job for a couple. We were both out of work – the work we had dedicated ourselves to – the work we loved.

We waited. We prayed that the LORD would someday see fit to give us another chance to start a church. And we waited.

Ken was 51 and I was 49 when the door opened wide and free – just as easy as pie. Southside Bible Church was born. We jumped at the chance to start just one more church...and our dream was that we could Pastor a church of maybe 100 people for the rest of our lives.

Every Sunday we would pile my little red truck full of the stuff of church: Baby swing, toys for the nursery, bulletins, Bibles. And every Sunday after services were over we would have only one prayer. Just one more Sunday, Lord. After waiting all that time, we could hardly wait for just one more Sunday. We still feel that way today.

:10-12 Has the Lord ever conquered an enemy for you?

"For on this mountain the hand of the LORD will rest, and Moab shall be trampled down under Him, as straw is trampled down for the refuse heap. And he will spread out His hands in their midst as a swimmer reaches out to swim, and He will bring down their pride together with the trickery of their hands. The fortress of the high fort of your walls He will bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, down to the dust."

His hands laid the foundation of the earth. And His right hand is so huge, when He stretches it out, it spans the heavens! (Isaiah 48:13)

There is no enemy He cannot conquer. He just sometimes waits so long to do it!

Instead of a memory here, I have a longing. I long for the day when the Last 7 Years begins. When the LORD of all creation clicks the stopwatch and the time begins to click off – 7 years of passion and judgment and repentance and birthing the largest revival in the history of mankind.

If I am privileged to live through even a part of that last 7 years, I will have a few more wonderful memories to share with you when we are all in heaven together...and a few more reasons to Praise the LORD Jesus.

I suggest that we all end this study by reading Isaiah Chapter 26 – silently, and as we read, continue to praise and thank the LORD...especially for your salvation.

A Song of Salvation – Isaiah 26

¹ In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah:

We have a strong city;

God will appoint salvation *for* walls and bulwarks.

² Open the gates,

That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.

³ You will keep *him* in perfect peace,

Whose mind *is* stayed *on* You,

Because he trusts in You.

⁴ Trust in the LORD forever,



For in YAH, the LORD, *is* everlasting strength

⁵ For He brings down those who dwell on high,
The lofty city;
He lays it low,
He lays it low to the ground,
He brings it down to the dust.

⁶ The foot shall tread it down—
The feet of the poor
And the steps of the needy."

⁷ The way of the just *is* uprightness;
O Most Upright,
You weigh the path of the just.

⁸ Yes, in the way of Your judgments,
O LORD, we have waited for You;
The desire of *our* soul *is* for Your name
And for the remembrance of You.

⁹ With my soul I have desired You in the night,
Yes, by my spirit within me I will seek You early;
For when Your judgments *are* in the earth,
The inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

¹⁰ Let grace be shown to the wicked,
Yet he will not learn righteousness;
In the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly,
And will not behold the majesty of the LORD.

¹¹ LORD, *when* Your hand is lifted up, they will not see.
But they will see and be ashamed
For *their* envy of people;
Yes, the fire of Your enemies shall devour them.

¹² LORD, You will establish peace for us,
For You have also done all our works in us.

¹³ O LORD our God, masters besides You
Have had dominion over us;
But by You only we make mention of Your name.

¹⁴ *They are* dead, they will not live;
They are deceased, they will not rise.
Therefore You have punished and destroyed them,
And made all their memory to perish.

¹⁵ You have increased the nation, O LORD,
You have increased the nation;
You are glorified;
You have expanded all the borders of the land.

¹⁶ LORD, in trouble they have visited You,
They poured out a prayer *when* Your chastening *was* upon them.

¹⁷ As a woman with child

Is in pain and cries out in her pangs,
When she draws near the time of her delivery,
So have we been in Your sight, O LORD.

¹⁸ We have been with child, we have been in pain;
We have, as it were, brought forth wind;
We have not accomplished any deliverance in the earth,
Nor have the inhabitants of the world fallen.

¹⁹ Your dead shall live;
Together with my dead body they shall arise.
Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust;
For your dew *is like* the dew of herbs,
And the earth shall cast out the dead.

Take Refuge from the Coming Judgment

²⁰ Come, my people, enter your chambers,
And shut your doors behind you;
Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment,
Until the indignation is past.

²¹ For behold, the LORD comes out of His place
To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity;
The earth will also disclose her blood,
And will no more cover her slain."



Blossom as the Rose Isaiah Chapters 27-35

Memory Verse: Isaiah 35:1
"...The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the Rose. "

I know this is a big chunk, but there is an overall picture in chapters 27 thru 35 that I don't want us to miss.

The LORD is going to bring his wandering, rebellious children back to a personal relationship with Himself, and these chapters give us several "pictures" of how that will look. The "pictures" let us know that the day when this was supposed to happen was not in Isaiah's time...in fact...it hasn't happened yet. The complete restoration of Israel to God is yet to come. The beauty of it is startling and it should shake us to our core. The One, True God....the One Who created the world....does not give up on the ones He loves. He never gives up.

Even though His chosen people rebelled against Him and committed adultery with pretty trinkets, and even though they did not recognize Him when He came to rescue them, and even though they fought against Him and nailed Him to a cross, and then worked hard to not believe that He had risen from the dead....and even though they have lived for 2,000 years in denial of Who He is and that He is alive...and even though they have hated Him and spoken evil of Him, and hated the ones who have believed in Him....

Even though....He has never given up. He is still working things in His almighty plan so that these people He has loved will see Who He is, and get their chance to fall at His feet in repentance and be able to experience His forgiveness, mercy, and love once again.

Isaiah had no idea how long in the future this prophecy would wait before it was fulfilled. We don't either. But we know it will come, and we can see, through Isaiah's pictures, what it will look like someday.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah Chapters 27-35:

1. **27:5&6** The picture here is one of Israel wrestling with God, taking hold of Him, in order to make peace with Him. **Why would wrestling with Someone be the way to make peace?** In other words, how can you fight with Someone and expect them to end up being OK with you in the end?

To answer this question, Look at Genesis 32:22-32 to see a time when someone wrestled with God and came away blessed by God.

2. **27:12 & 13** This picture is of the children of Israel being drawn back to their land from everywhere that they are scattered throughout the world. A trumpet blows, and they hear it, and make their way back to the land and the One who gave them that land. **Has this happened yet?**

3. **28:10-13** This picture is of understanding slowly beginning to take hold of Israel once again as the LORD opens their eyes to the truth about Jesus. Their own celebrations and traditions will suddenly be seen for what they have been saying all along – they all have been pointing to Jesus. **Can you think of a Jewish celebration which points to Jesus, but they just haven't realized it?**

And how about Isaiah 53? Do they understand today what this means?



- 4. 28:20** This is a really graphic picture of what Jewish people's lives will feel like when this time of "eye-opening" comes. **What will it feel like to be a Jew at this time?**
- 5. 29:13&14** This picture is one of all the wisdom and wise people of Israel being put to shame by the truth of Who Jesus is. **Can you think of a time during Jesus' ministry on earth when wise leaders of Israel were put to shame by Him?** How about Matthew 22..."Stump the Chumps"?
- 6. 30:18-21** The picture here is of the LORD patiently, kindly, waiting and helping His people come to faith. Almost like He is softly whispering in their ears, leading them step by step back to His embrace. **Do they deserve this kind of patience and kindness? No? They why is He going to do it?**
- 7. 30:29** **What does this picture? What are your favorite songs?**

8. 31:1&4 This picture is of Israel finally learning to not trust in the armies of men to protect them, but to wholly look to their God for survival. **Do you see Israel today looking to the armies of men for protection?**

9. 32:14&15 This is a before and after picture:

Before:

After:

10. 33:17 and 20 What are two things Israel will live to see?

11. 34:9-15 This is a very ugly, frightening picture of what will happen to the enemies of God. **What do you see painted on this picture?**

12. 35:5&6 Here's the last picture for us to look at. **How does Israel begin to see again?** Look at Zechariah 12:10&11 to see how this picture begins, and then look back at Isaiah 35:5&6 to rejoice with Israel at the "rest of the story".



"Hear the Words of the Great King – the King of Assyria!"
Isaiah Chapter 36 - Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 36:8

"Now therefore, I urge you, give a pledge to my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses..."

The commentators I've read say that the first 35 chapters of Isaiah speak of the time when Assyria was busy conquering the Northern Kingdom, picking off the cities one at a time, and then moving further south into the Southern Kingdom, and picking off the cities of Judah....and basically pushing them to the outskirts of Jerusalem in order to totally conquer all of Judah, too.

II Kings 18:1-12 gives a good background of this story.

And so, now the Assyrians have arrived, literally, at Jerusalem's door. They have been warring southwest of Jerusalem...have destroyed the northern kingdom and weakened all of Judah...and are now standing outside the city of Jerusalem. King Hezekiah and his advisors and the people of Jerusalem are terrified. King Hezekiah, as he saw Assyria slowly conquering all of Judah, actually made a deal with Assyria at one point – sent him a payment in gold to forge an alliance which would keep him away from Jerusalem – but it didn't work. The King of Assyria, Sennacherib, never had any intention of leaving Jerusalem alone.

Sennacherib hasn't come himself to demand Jerusalem's surrender. He has sent someone under his command. Probably a senior officer, whose title is: the Rabshekeh. Sennacherib doesn't think it will be difficult to subdue Jerusalem. They are just a puny little kingdom. They are led by a puny little frightened king. They think they can reach out to Egypt to help them, but Sennacherib knows Egypt is now match for his own power. And they think their God will save them. But Sennacherib knows the other cities and towns he has captured also thought their gods would protect them, and he knows gods are no match for his power, either.

Just to keep the names straight, here's a recap:

Hezekiah – King of Judah, trapped inside Jerusalem

Sennacherib – King of Assyria – sending his chief officer to demand the surrender of Jerusalem.

The Rabshekah – Chief officer to Sennacherib, on horseback outside of Jerusalem, his armies behind him, demanding surrender.

Eliakim – Emissary of Hezekiah, come out to meet the Rabshekah. Eliakim is a loyal part of King Hezekiah's staff, and also a member of the royal family of David, and, he doesn't know it yet, but he will someday be king himself. (and he doesn't have a great ending..read about it in II Kings 23:34-37 and Isaiah 22:20-25)

Shebna – Emissary of Hezekiah, come out to meet the Rabshekah. Another loyal member of Hezekiah's staff – but not a believer in the One, True God.

Joah – Emissary of Hezekiah, come out to meet the Rabshekah. Nothing more is known of him.

Do you recognize one of the above names?

Shebna - He is spoken of in Isaiah 22:15-19. He was driven out of his position of leadership in Hezekiah's kingdom because he eventually loved riches so much he was willing to deal dishonestly with the enemy. At the time of this story in Isaiah 36, he is still a trusted member of Hezekiah's leadership team.

Israel has been trusting in her neighbor, Egypt. And of course Assyria is angry about this – they want this land of Israel for themselves, and are not feeling really friendly towards anyone or any country which would keep them from it.

The Rabshekah stands outside the walls of Jerusalem and tells them what they already know – Egypt is not strong enough to fight with Assyria.

But the Rabshekah is misunderstanding the God of Israel. He is so arrogant that he thinks Israel's God is probably unhappy with Hezekiah for spending the first 14 years of his kingship taking down so many places of worship out in the countryside, and insisting everyone come to Jerusalem to worship God. The Rabshekah had not researched very well – for exactly the opposite was true...and the people he was trying



to scare knew it. They knew that their God was the One, True God Who wanted to be worshipped only in Jerusalem, and that He wasn't happy with their altars in the countryside, and that King Hezekiah had, indeed, be pleasing God by what he had been doing.

The Rabshekah tells them they are foolish to be trusting in their God – that their God is probably angry with their King anyway. He offers them horses in exchange for their loyalty.

But this is not a bribe. It's a taunt. He is laughing at Israel, telling them that if they will surrender to him he will give them 2,000 horses...oh yeah...he forgot...of course they wouldn't have the men to get on them!

The Rabshekah humiliates them – reminds them how small they are.

He tells them that he is, in fact, doing exactly what their God wants him to do. Their God has asked him to come and conquer them. Now I don't know how he had this information...maybe he had done enough research to know some of the things Isaiah had already said in his role as prophet to Judah and Israel. Because in Isaiah 10:5&6, Isaiah had said: *"Woe to Assyria, the rod of My anger, and the staff in whose hand is My indignation. I will send him against an ungodly nation, and against the people of My wrath I will give him charge, to seize the spoil, to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets."*

So yes, God had indeed called Assyria to come and punish His people for not trusting in Him.

But the Rabshekah hadn't read or hadn't believed the rest of that prophecy of Isaiah: *"Therefore it shall come to pass, when the LORD has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, that He will say, 'I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks.'" Isaiah 10:12*

So the proud Assyrian Rabshekah tells Israel they are fools to trust in their God to protect them...since Assyria is only doing what their God wants them to do.

The Rabshekah has frightening things to say. The three representatives of King Hezekiah ask the Rabshekah to stop talking in Hebrew to them, because they don't want the people listening from the city walls to be frightened by him. They ask him to switch his language to Aramaic – a language not so well known by the ordinary man in Jerusalem.

Are they trembling in their boots? Are they beat down by his frightening words and the power behind him?

The Rabshekah laughs at them again, and then repeats, even louder, his arguments – pointedly addressing them to the people on the walls of the city – demanding that they stop listening to their King, Hezekiah.

Assyria does not really want an alliance with Israel. They want a peaceful surrender so they don't have to waste manpower on this insignificant little piece of real estate.

They promise: You can live peacefully in your land for awhile, until we come to carry you away to another place, where you will be our servants, but you will live comfortably.

In other words, give up your freedom, which will only buy you hunger and starvation and death, and accept servitude to us, where you will at least live in peace the rest of your lives.

The Rabshekah continues to taunt: None of the other nations we have conquered have been protected by their gods. Yours is no different. Assyria is mightier than any god.

Does it feel hopeless? Hezekiah has told his people to say nothing – no matter what Assyria says. And they are obeying him! Not one of them caves to the fear the Rabshekah is instilling in their hearts. Yea Jerusalem!!!!

They may not have caved....but they are wild with fear and grief. They tear their clothes (like they would at a funeral) and come back to Hezekiah, not sure what will happen next. They need a word from their king. They need to know the plan.



Discussion Questions for Isaiah 36:

1. :1 When is this taking place?
2. :1&2 What is the story?
3. :3 Who comes out of the city of Jerusalem to meet with the Assyrians?
4. :3 Do you recognize one of these names? (Isaiah 22:15-19)
5. :4-6 What country has Israel been trusting in? Why is Assyria angry about that?
6. :7 What argument does Assyria use to try convince the people of Israel that they would be foolish to trust in God?
7. :8 What is Assyria doing here....bribing Israel to make an alliance with them....or making fun of Israel?
8. :9&10 What is Assyria's final jab at the people of Israel?
9. :11 Assyria has been talking so far to these representatives of Israel in Hebrew. Why do the representatives now ask him to speak in Aramaic?
10. :12 How does Assyria answer this request?

11. At this point, do you think Assyria is actually trying to form an alliance with Israel...or simply trying to scare Israel into surrender?
12. :13-17 What does the Assyrian promise will happen if the people of Israel give him a present and lay down their arms?
13. :18-20 What argument does the Assyrian give for not trusting in God?
14. :21 What seems to have been planned in advance by Hezekiah, the king of Israel?
15. :22 The representatives of King Hezekiah return to Hezekiah from this seemingly disastrous meeting with the Assyrian. Why do they tear their clothes? What seems to be their reaction to the meeting?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

16. As believers in Jesus, we also have an enemy. Who is he?
17. Does he ever try to scare us with threats and words?
18. Does he ever offer us rewards for giving in to him?
19. Should we ever believe him?



"First comes Fear, Then Faith, Then Fulfillment of God's Words"
Isaiah Chapter 37 - Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 37:36

"Then the angel of the LORD went out, and killed in the camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand..."

I'd like to start out today's lesson asking you to think through something with me:

This last week I got the following e-mail from an old friend who used to attend Southside, but now is living in another city. I'd like you to read the e-mail, and then tell me how you would answer it:

Kathleen -

I hope this email finds you well.

I have been speaking with a young lady here at work that is fairly new to the area. She is originally from Sri Lanka and is a Buddhist. She has told me crazy stories about her life and some things her parents made her do growing up which has made her turned off to all religions. She mentioned that one time she went in to a church because she liked candles and lit one (must have been a catholic church) and sat there for a while and really felt the presence of God but she did nothing.

I have been speaking with her about just giving church a try for a month (I always remember Ken asking people to just pray for a month for God to reveal himself) and she said that she would go one time but is very scared. She lives near your church. I was telling her about Southside and she said she would go.

I am going to try and get her to go this Sunday to the 10:45 service. Who knows if she will go however. Would it be alright if I gave her your name to ask for you when she

gets there? She said she does not know what to do, never been to a service. Also she said, I will have an open mind but people won't try to convert me, will they?

So two questions:

1) Will you be there this Sunday for the second service and is it okay if she asks for you when she gets there, or will you look for her? Her name is

2) Can you guys start praying for her? I imagine it is going to take some serious work from God to get her to go and walk through the doors for the first time.

Thanks and I hope to hear back from you.

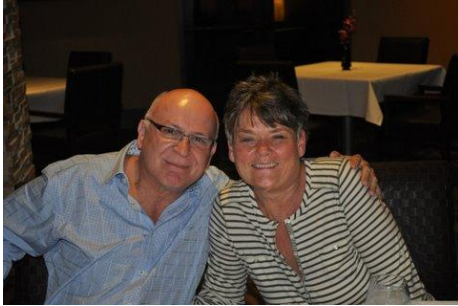
So...if this e-mail had been sent to you, how would you answer it? What would you tell this old friend? What would you tell him that he could pass on to this young co-worker which would start to put her mind at ease about coming to a new place to learn about a whole new religion? How would you pray?

The reason I want us to think this through before today's lesson is because today's lesson is all about fear and learning what God says, and then trusting Him. I think we forget sometimes that people who don't know God at all usually start out being afraid, then need to know what God says, and then struggle with whether or not to trust Him. This lesson today is not just for us who know God, it's also for those who do not.

In today's passage we learn that the enemy which looked so strong was no match for Almighty God.

Here is the answer I sent to the e-mail my friend sent:

Oh, yes – I would be glad welcome her on Sunday. I'll be standing by the front doors from about 10:30am to 10:45am, as I usually do, greeting people, and will look for her. I'm attaching a picture of me (and Ken) so you can show it to her – that might help her know who she is looking for. 😊 I'll be glad to sit with her if she'd like me to.



Tell her no one will try to convert her, but they probably will talk to her and be friendly. And that we will be singing a few songs, and then have teaching from the Bible. She won't be asked to respond in any way during the service. She can sing with the whole group if she wants to (there are words on the screens at the front of the church), or she can just listen. There are Bibles by the front door for anyone to use in the church service, so if she doesn't have a Bible she can

use one of ours if she wants to follow along. I can help her find the passage we'll be looking at that morning. In our services it really helps to be able to follow along in the Bible as Ken teaches and preaches, as you remember.

Our purpose in teaching the Bible is so people will get a look at what the Bible says about God and about Jesus, and will be able to take the time to understand it, and then will have the chance to make their own decisions about their relationship with God.

Also, tell her we are a group of very ordinary people, and that we get a lot of visitors to our church, so most people will not even realize she is new when she comes – she'll just be one of many who are walking in the front doors and finding a seat in the sanctuary. There are about 400 people in each of our services....at 9 and 10:45.

She'll find people dressed in a variety of ways. Some will be very casual...shorts and flip-flops....and some will be dressed up – sport coats on the guys, and dresses on the women. Everyone seems to be comfortable no matter how they dress.

I know it can be daunting to walk into a brand new group of people and be part of a worship service which is different than what you are used to. I hope she joins us, though, because there are such great things to learn about the LORD!

Thanks for asking – I'll be looking for your friend and praying for her. – Kathleen

I was hoping he would share this e-mail with his co-worker to help put some of her fears to rest.

And then I sent another:

Brian – The last e-mail I sent was mainly so you could pass it on to Shelley. So I just wanted you to know that we will, indeed be praying and expecting a miracle for her. Tomorrow I am teaching in Isaiah, and there is a verse which seems to me applies to your situation: In Isaiah 36 & 37, The people in Jerusalem were surrounded by the enemy, and expecting to be killed. They were afraid, and didn't know whether to expect God to rescue them. They took their fears to the prophet, Isaiah, and he told them the LORD knew their situation and that they were going to be OK. So, even though the people of Jerusalem could see with their eyes that it was going to be impossible to escape from this enemy, they believed God and trusted that His words were true. Here's the verse I referred to: "Then the angel of the LORD went out and killed in the

camp of the Assyrians one hundred and eighty-five thousand; and when people arose early in the morning, there were the corpses, all dead.” Isaiah 37:36 The LORD God was true to His word, and in order to protect His people, He just sent an angel to kill 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Pretty simple for God.

Jerusalem was afraid, they heard what the Lord had to say, and they trusted Him. Shelley is afraid, and she needs to hear what God has to say, and she needs to trust Him. He is just as able today to get rid of the enemy as He was 2,500 years ago.

- Kathleen

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 37:

1. :1&2 What are the things King Hezekiah did when he heard the report of his servants?

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

2. :3&4 What are they asking Isaiah to do?

3. :5-7 What does Isaiah tell them?

4. :8-13 The Rabshekah leaves at this point, and goes about 15 miles away, where his king, Sennacherib, is leading another battle. Sennacherib still wants to capture Jerusalem, but has other people he is also leading wars against, so he just sends a message back to Jerusalem. Is there anything different in this message than the one he had sent previously through the Rabshekah?

5. :14&15 What does Hezekiah do with this message – this letter?

6. :16-20 What does Hezekiah ask of the LORD?

7. :21 How does the LORD answer Hezekiah?

8. :22-25 The LORD is rebuking Assyria and pointing out to them Who they have been blaspheming. Who have they been laughing at and blaspheming?

9. :26-29 What does the LORD promise He will do to Assyria because of their blasphemy of Him?



10. :30 -35 Now the LORD gives Hezekiah a promise. It has 3 parts: What are they?

1) :30 _____

2) :31&32 _____

3) :33-35 _____

11. :36-38 What happened to the proud king of Assyria?



"An Extra 15 Years" Isaiah Chapter 38

Memory Verse: Isaiah 38:19b
"...the Father shall make known your truth to the children."

Flashback: This event actually happened before the events of Chapters 36 & 37....

In today's chapter we see Hezekiah sick and dying, and then the LORD gives him an extra 15 years. So...start out this lesson by considering what you would do with an extra 15 years. What if you knew for sure you would not die until 15 years from now? What would you do for the next 15 years?

King Hezekiah was sick. Isaiah the prophet comes to comfort him. And he comforts him with a word from the LORD. However, this word from the LORD doesn't sound very comforting. Isaiah tells Hezekiah he will die with this sickness. He tells him to "get his house in order".

He didn't say "Don't worry, everything is going to be OK". And he didn't say "God is going to heal you." And he didn't say "You've served God well and He wants you to keep serving Him". He said "You are going to die". Not very comforting.

But sometimes the LORD comforts us with hard truth. C.S.Lewis called it a "Severe Mercy" when his own dear wife died, no matter how much he had prayed for her to live.

How can these words "You will die" be a comfort? Let's see....

Verse 2 says when King Hezekiah heard this, he "turned his face to the wall" and prayed. I would guess he turned his face to the wall either

- for privacy. He perhaps didn't want to display the total anguish he felt to Isaiah and any other people which might have been in the room.
- or in order to be facing the temple when he prayed, which was the Jewish custom. Years before, King Solomon had

said, while dedicating the temple " Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before you today: that Your eyes may be open toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there'; that You may hear the prayer which Your servant asks toward this place And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they prayed to this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear forgive."

- Or both.

He prays to the LORD. And weeps bitterly. He weeps for himself and for his people. He wants to finish the work of spiritual restoration he had begun years earlier. He had served the LORD with a "whole" and "Peaceful" heart (the NKJV says "loyal"). He is not ready for it to be over and to be left unfinished.

Doesn't he know this is God's work, and God will finish it if He wants to? Yes, I imagine he does know that. He is a man who communicated with God and loved God and knew His ways. But he is also a man. And he loves life. And he knows what he has inside of himself. And he strongly feels he is not done yet.

The LORD sends Isaiah again. This time with a different message: You will not die after all. I have heard your prayer and I am answering it. You will live another 15 years....and, don't worry either about the King of Assyria who has been threatening you. I will not let him conquer you or your city, Jerusalem.

Now jump ahead for a minute to the end of the chapter. For some reason, as Isaiah wrote this account many years ago, he left out a couple of important facts, and inserted them at the end of the chapter so we would have the complete story. Remember, Isaiah wrote with a pen on a piece of papyrus, and there was no backing up and inserting something after it had been written. No delete. No copy. No paste. No insert. ☺

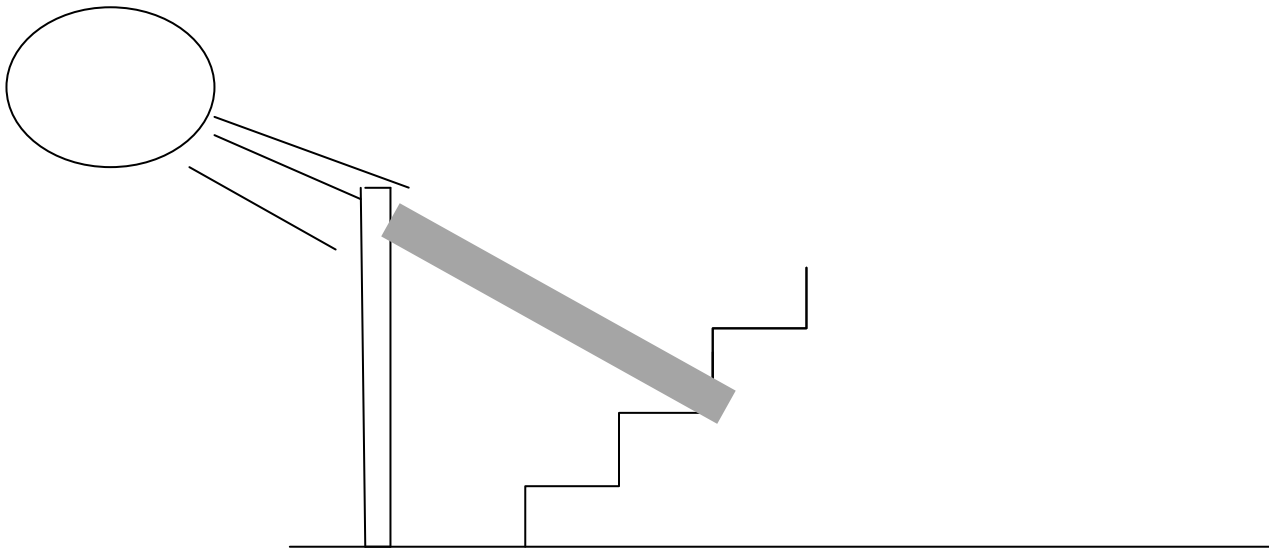
- First – we need to know (from :21) that the sickness Hezekiah was suffering from was a boil. A skin infection. In our day and age there would most likely be an immediate cure for this problem. But in Hezekiah's day a boil could kill you. Compare it perhaps to present-day "merca". The prophet becomes the



physician in this story, and Isaiah directs Hezekiah's attendants to apply a specific poultice to the boil in order to cure him.

- Second – we also need to know (from :22) that when Hezekiah was told by Isaiah that God had said he would live, not die, he was confused, and he asked for a sign from the LORD - He needed to know that this was, indeed, the good news he had been hoping for. The LORD doesn't rebuke him for this – He does give him a sign, and wow! What a sign!

The LORD says – look out your window. You can see that the sun is going down in the sky, because right outside your window is a "sundial". This was perhaps not the typical sundial you may be picturing in your mind. It might have been simply a large pillar which cast a shadow on a set of steps leading up to Hezekiah's palace.



And as Hezekiah watched, the shadow cast by the sun shining on the pillar went backwards 10 degrees! The shadow had been moving up the stairs, and then went a little bit back down those stairs. Think about what that means! The sun actually appeared to travel in the opposite direction and moved back up into the sky. Now we know that actually means the earth's rotation changed briefly – but no matter – this sign was a physical impossibility. It had never happened before and has never happened since.

Here's an interesting question: Why did the LORD first tell Hezekiah he would die....and then tell him he would live another 15 years?

Did God change His mind because Hezekiah prayed? Maybe. But also, God knew all along what He would do as Hezekiah responded by faith.

He told Hezekiah he would die because he definitely was going to die of that boil. He "changed His mind" because Hezekiah turned to Him in faith instead of despairing or turning to the idols of the day for help.

It does seem to appear that God has 2 plans: One which will happen because life is spinning out of control and death and war and murder will happen as a result of sin. But another plan which will happen as we respond in faith to the disasters of our lives.

Is that a "change of mind"? I don't think so - since the LORD knows everything from beginning to end. But it does tell us our prayers make a difference - and our faith moments impact the world.

Does God always heal? No. Does He always give us what we ask for in faith? Not always the way we envision it. Our part is to trust Him and not turn to our idols in a time of heartache. His job is to let us know He is working and that we can rest in Him.

Why does the LORD give signs to his people? Why did He send prophets who would tell us in advance what would happen? Look at Isaiah 48, beginning at verse 3. *"I have declared the former things from the beginning; they went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. Because I knew that you were obstinate, and your neck was an iron sinew, and your brow bronze. Even from the beginning I have declared it to you; before it came to pass I proclaimed it to you. Lest you should say, 'My idol has done them, and my carved image and my molded image have commanded them.'"*

Why does the LORD give signs to His people? So they will know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is He Who is accomplishing these things, and not the idols they so quickly turn to when things get hard. Did Hezekiah need to know this? Maybe not. But his people did. They wandered away from God at the snap of a finger. They needed to know what it looked like when the Mighty hand of God moved.

And then look forward to verse 12 in this same chapter: *"Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, my called; I am He. I am the First, I am also the Last. Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand up together."*



And they needed to know that even moving the sun backwards in the sky was a little thing for their God. He created the sun. The sun and the earth would do His bidding any time He asked.

A little know fact about King Hezekiah – he seems to have had an interest in the poetry and prose which had been inspired by God. In Proverbs 25:1 we get a little glimpse into Hezekiah's heart: he apparently commissioned his men to copy and preserve some of the Proverbs of Solomon. We have them today because he had this love for God's words.

And now we see a little of King Hezekiah's own prose and poetry as he lifts up his voice to praise God and tell of his journey through this terrible sickness and fear:

And what will Hezekiah be able to do once he has been healed? He will praise the LORD. And he will make these stories known to his children. Ahhhh. Children. And here, I think, is the key to the deep grief Hezekiah was experiencing with this sickness.

You see, Hezekiah did not have a son. He did not have a son to whom he would pass on his love for God. He did not have a son who would one day take the throne of Israel when he died. Hezekiah had not finished the work he wanted to do...and he had no one to leave that work to, to carry it on.

History tells us Hezekiah died 15 years after this, and that Hezekiah's son, Manasseh was 12 years old when Hezekiah died. That means Manasseh was born 3 years after this miraculous healing of King Hezekiah. II Kings 21:1.

The sad part of this story? Manasseh, that son Hezekiah longed for and eventually had because of his healing, was an evil king. And Manasseh's son, Amon (Hezekiah's grandson) was also an evil king. They rebuilt the idol altars that Hezekiah had torn down.

But the good part of the story? Amon's son, Josiah, was one of the best kings of Israel. He loved the LORD as his great-grandfather Hezekiah had. He was the one the LORD was looking forward to when he granted Hezekiah 15 more years of life! Hezekiah's prayers were answered many years later, after his death, in the life of Josiah.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Psalm 90:12

I think it is a kindness that Hezekiah didn't know all the future. But what he did know was that the LORD had healed him and plucked him from the jaws of death. And Hezekiah wanted to live out the rest of his life – the next 15 years – singing His praises in the house of the LORD.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 38:

1. What would you do with an extra 15 years?
2. :1 Who was sick, and who came to comfort him, and what kind of comfort did he give?
3. :2&3 How did Hezekiah react to what Isaiah told him?
4. :4-6 How did the LORD answer Isaiah's prayer?
5. Does the LORD every change His mind?
6. :7&8 What kind of a sign does the LORD give Hezekiah to help him know this would actually happen?
7. Why give a sign? (Isaiah 48:3-13)



8. :10-20 Hezekiah journals his thoughts through this terrible sickness and healing:
- :10 How old is Hezekiah when this happens?
 - :11 What about his impending death is making him so sad?
 - :12 Did he expect to live longer than this?
 - :13 Is he suffering very much from this sickness?
 - :14 Does he have any hope besides God?
 - :15 Who does he think is ultimately responsible for this sickness?
 - :16 & 17 What does Hezekiah realize at this point?
 - :18 If Hezekiah had died, what would he not have been able to do?
 - :19 What will Hezekiah do because he has been granted more years?
 - :20 What will Hezekiah sing about?
9. :21&22 What was making Hezekiah so deathly sick?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- 10. How old are you right now?
- 11. Do you expect to be around for another 15 years?

12. If you are, what will you do with the next 15 years of your life?

13. Are you passing on the mighty works of God to the hearts of your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren?

Deuteronomy 4:9

Deuteronomy 6:7

Psalm 78:2-4



"A Short Walk Down the Wrong Path" Isaiah Chapter 39 - Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 39:2

"...There was nothing in his house or in all his dominion that Hezekiah did not show them."

King Hezekiah makes a really bad mistake in this chapter. After he has been healed, a company of men arrives from a distant country – Babylon. They have heard of Hezekiah's miraculous healing, and have come to pay him honor and congratulate him on his escape from death. Hezekiah is blinded by pride it seems, and opens up his palace and his city to them – proudly showing them all of his mighty accomplishments. He forgets to be wary of those who come with flattering words. He forgets that his accomplishments are really God's accomplishments. He forgets to be careful with the emissaries of a country which Isaiah had already warned him about.

He fails God in this little event – and he fails his people, too.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 39:

1. Have you ever been completely sure of yourself, and then realized, as you looked back, that you made a terrible mistake?
2. :1 Who sent letters and gifts to Hezekiah? Why did he send them?
3. :2 What was Hezekiah's reaction to the letters and gifts? Why do you suppose Hezekiah reacted in this way?
4. :3 What did Isaiah want to know?
5. :4 What else did Isaiah want to know?

6. Are you starting to get the idea that something is wrong, here?
What do you think it might be?

7. :5-7 What startling revelation does Isaiah have for Hezekiah?

8. What did Hezekiah do wrong? Anything?

9. :8 What is Hezekiah's reaction to Isaiah's bad news?

10. Does that seem like an odd reaction?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

11. Was King Hezekiah's failure here really so bad?

12. What do you learn from it?



"Comfort" Isaiah Chapter 40

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:1
"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!"

Hezekiah failed his God in chapter 39. But his God will not fail him....

1. Have you ever feared that you might lose your salvation? What happened to give you assurance? Or....Do you still struggle with that?
2. :1 Isaiah starts out this chapter with the main theme of the chapter. What is it?
3. :2 Why did the people of Israel need comfort?

What do you think it means that Israel had received "double" for her sins?
4. :3-5 What is the first thing that was going to happen in order for payment to be made for Israel's sins? John 1:23
5. :6-8 What (or Who?) was going to appear in order to pay for Israel's sins? John 1:1
6. :9 Who is this "Word of God"? John 1:14

7. :10 What does this "Word of God" do? Isaiah 40:2
8. :11 What does the "Word of God" do after He has paid the price for Israel's sin? John 10:11-16
9. :12-26 Do you really not believe God can do this? Ephesians 2:8&9, Romans 11:5&6, Galatians 2:21
10. :27&28 Israel - Why do you not trust Him?
11. :29 So...all the debts are paid.
- a. Now...Do you feel able to keep yourself debt-free? No? Good! Because you definitely are **unable** to keep yourself debt-free!
 - b. Who can give you strength and power? Your salvation was never dependent on your strength, and never will be.
12. :31 So what's the only thing left for you to do?
Psalms 142:5-7 Romans 12:1

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

13. All the way from the beginning of time, what has been the only way to be saved and to stay saved?
- Genesis 15:6, Revelation 22:17
14. Are you trusting in God to accomplish your salvation, or are you trusting in yourself?
- Revelation 20:15



"The Magnificence of God"

Isaiah 41-48

For today's lesson, just enjoy yourself as you fill out this chart. Read the verse in the middle column, then, in column #1, in your own words, describe what that verse says about the magnificence of God, and then in column #3 jot down any other verses you might think of which also describe that particular magnificence.

It's an exercise which you may want to spread over several days. You will be rewarded in your spirit as you do this – you just won't believe how peaceful and joyful you will feel as you concentrate on our Magnificent God!

How is He Magnificent?	Isaiah 41-48	Other Scriptures
	41:4 "I, the LORD am the first; and with the last I am He."	
	41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."	
	41:17 "I, the LORD, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them."	
	41:20 "That they may see and know, and consider and understand together, that the hand of the LORD has done this, and the Holy One of Israel has created it."	

	<p>42:5 “ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it:”</p>	
	<p>42:8&9 “I am the LORD, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another, Nor my praise to carved images.”</p>	
	<p>42:13 “The LORD shall go forth like a mighty man; He shall stir up His zeal like a man of war. He shall cry out, yes, shout aloud; He shall prevail against His enemies.”</p>	
	<p>42:16 “I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them,..”</p>	
	<p>43:1 (and thru verse 7) “But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: ‘Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine....”</p>	



	43:10b&11 “Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me. I, even I, am the LORD, and besides Me there is no savior.”	
	43:13a “Indeed, before the day was, I am He.”	
	43:14b “For your sake I will send to Babylon, and bring them all down as fugitives...”	
	43:19 “Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth: “	
	43:25 “I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”	
	44:2 “Thus says the LORD who made you and formed you from the womb.”	
	44:3b “I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on our offspring. They will spring up among grass like willows by the watercourses. One will say, ‘I am the LORD’s’; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; another will write with his hand, ‘The LORD’s.’, and name himself by the name of Israel.”	

	<p>44:8b “You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”</p>	
	<p>44:21 “Remember these, O Jacob, and Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me!”</p>	
	<p>44:25 “Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, and drives diviners mad...”</p>	
	<p>44:27 “Who says to the deep, ‘Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers.’ “</p>	
	<p>45:1 “Thus says the LORD to His anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held – to subdue nations before him and loose the armor of Kings, to open before him the double doors, so that the gates will not be shut.”</p>	
	<p>45:7 “I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I the LORD, do all these things.”</p>	
	<p>45:8c “And let righteousness spring up together. I, the LORD, have created it.”</p>	



	45:15 “Truly You are God, who hide Yourself...”	
	45:17 “But Israel shall be saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation; You shall not be ashamed or disgraced forever and ever.”	
	45:19a “I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth.”	
	45:23 “I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return.”	
	46:4 “Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and will bear; Even I will carry and will deliver you.”	
	46:10 “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.’”	
	46:11b “ Indeed, I have spoken it; I will also bring it to pass. I have purposed it; I will also do it.”	

	<p>47:1 “ Come down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon; sit on the ground without a throne, O daughter of the Chaldeans! For you shall no more be called tender and delicate.”</p>	
	<p>48:11 “For my own sake, for My own sake, I will do it; For how should My name be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another.”</p>	
	<p>48:17 “ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go.”</p>	



"The Servant" Isaiah 49-53

You see – Isaiah prophesied through the reigns of several Kings of Israel...some of them were desperately wicked...some of them were Godly. He saw the downward path of sin the Jewish people were taking. He saw the Assyrian army nearly destroy the whole country. And he saw them fall away when the hand of God stretched out to say: "This far and no farther!". And then he saw a new enemy poised on their north – ready to take down the little that remained of Israel – he saw Babylon and all the evil it would do to God's chosen.

He must have realized at some point in his ministry that one enemy always gave way to the next – there would be no final freedom from sin by the efforts of even Godly Kings or people. Only the LORD Himself could rescue His people from the sin which so powerfully controlled the world.

That is why all through Isaiah we have seen prophecies of **the Messiah that was to come** – the One Who would rescue Israel forever from their sin and their suffering. This, and this alone, was the hope Isaiah saw for the future – and this, and this alone, was the hope Isaiah offered to his Jewish audience. Isaiah was shown **The Servant**...and that was enough to give him the courage to go on with his ministry of prophesying to a stubborn, deaf, and blind people. Tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawn in two by the evil king who reigned after good king Hezekiah. (Hebrews 11:37). Doesn't seem like a very fitting ending for such a man of God, does it? But it was OK – because Isaiah knew **The Servant** would take care of him.

The Servant is our only hope, too. So let's look at these prophecies and breathe a sigh of relief. I'm sure I'm not getting all of them – but here are a few that we've seen already:

- 6:10 He would be rejected
- 6:9-10 He would teach in parables
- 7:14 He would be born of a virgin
- 9:1-2 He would be from Galilee
- 9:6-7 He would be a son
 He would be called God
- 11:2 The Spirit of God would rest on Him
- 35:4-6 He would perform miracles

40:1-5,9 He would be preceded by a messenger
 40:11 He would be tender and compassionate
 42:2 He would be meek and humble

But now, as we approach Isaiah 49 through Isaiah 52, Isaiah's pace picks up :

Prophecies of Messiah in Isaiah 49-52	What was the prophecy?	Where was it fulfilled in the New Testament?
49:1	Born of a woman – called of God even from the womb	Matthew 1:23,
49:2a	He was the very Word of God, just like a sharp sword	John 1:1 Hebrews 4:12
49:2b	He would be protected by God	John 10:39
49:6	Not only would He save the Jews, but also the Gentiles	Luke 2:32 Acts 13:46-48
49:8c	He would restore the earth	Rev. 21:1
49;9	He would set prisoners free so they could serve Him	Acts 5:17-20
49:10a	He would someday make sure His people would never again hunger or thirst or be too hot	Rev. 7:16
49:10b	He would be like a tender shepherd	John 10:11
49:11	He would straighten things out so that people could find Him	John the Baptist
50:4-5	He would know what to say	John 8:26
50:6	He would receive beatings	Matt 27:27-31



50:9	No one would be able to condemn Him for any sin	John 8:45-47
51:6	He would offer eternal salvation	John 3:36
52:6	His people would one day again know Him and know His name	John 8:48-59

And then, in Isaiah 53, the prophet simply explodes with descriptions of the Man Who Would Come – the One Who Would Suffer and Save His People From Their Sins....Every single verse is a trumpet blast in our ears – **HE IS COMING!!!! HOLD ON!!!! YOU WILL KNOW HIM WHEN YOU SEE HIM!!!!**

Isaiah 53....Jesus Love Me

¹ Who has believed our report?

And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant,
And as a root out of dry ground.

He has no form or comeliness;

And when we see Him,

There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

³ He is despised and rejected by men,
A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.

And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him;
He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;

Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He *was* wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.

⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted,

Yet He opened not His mouth;
He was led as a lamb to the slaughter,
And as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
So He opened not His mouth.

⁸ He was taken from prison and from judgment,
And who will declare His generation?
For He was cut off from the land of the living;
For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

⁹ And they^[a] made His grave with the wicked—
But with the rich at His death,
Because He had done no violence,
Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;
He has put *Him* to grief.
When You make His soul an offering for sin,
He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days,
And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand.

¹¹ He shall see the labor of His soul,^[b] *and* be satisfied.
By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many,
For He shall bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great,
And He shall divide the spoil with the strong,
Because He poured out His soul unto death,
And He was numbered with the transgressors,
And He bore the sin of many,
And made intercession for the transgressors.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah Chapters 49-53:

1. How can there be any doubt that Jesus is the Promised Messiah?
2. What is your personal reaction to seeing all Jesus did to save you?
3. Jesus is called "The Servant" by Isaiah. Why do you think he calls him that?
4. What should that mean for our lives?



"Something Refreshing For the Thirsty"

Isaiah Chapters 54-59

Guest Teacher: Jan Billups

Memory Verse: Isaiah 55:1

"Come, all you who are [thirsty](#), come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, [buy wine](#) and milk without money and without cost. Isaiah 55:1

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 54-59:

Isaiah 54 God's offer of joy and security to His Redeemed

- What hope is promised in verses 1-3, 4-10, 11-17?
- What does God reveal about Himself in these chapters that would cause His people to sing?
- In what way do these verses make you want to sing for joy?

Isaiah 55 God's offer of mercy and satisfaction to the Repentant

- What is the invitation God gives in verses 1-5?
- How are God's thoughts and words different than ours?

Isaiah 56:1-8 **God's offer of acceptance to the outsider**

- In verses 1-2 how did God expect His people to live?

Isaiah 56:9-57:21 **God's offer of peace to the contrite**

- What does contrite mean to you?

Isaiah 58 **The devotion God accepts**

- What were the eight acts of love God revealed through Isaiah?

Isaiah 59 1-15a **Destruction caused by sin**

- What separated the people from God?

- How does this verse apply to us now days?

Isaiah 59:15b-21 **Deliverance God accomplished**

- How did the Lord intervene in verses 15b – 20?

- How does God want us clothed? What are the battles we face?



**"Life Begins with Repentance...
And Then...You Can't Believe
The Abundance that is Waiting for You!"**

Isaiah 59-65

There isn't one of us who doesn't desire abundance in our lives. We want abundant food, abundant warmth in the winter, abundant flowers in our gardens, abundant funds in our purses, abundant families around our tables, and on and on. Of course we want abundance.

Jesus said: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it abundantly." John 10:10b And He wasn't kidding. That really is what He came to bring to us. And He is very able to do it...but we have a job to do first, before that abundance can begin to shower down on us.

What is that job? Repentance. We have to see ourselves for the really rotten people we truly are...and then we have to repent. Sorrow over our sinfulness. Hate the way we have gone against God's ways. And ask for God to make us different. Make a change. Turn and go in the opposite direction.

So...first....Repentance.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah Chapters 59-65:

Isaiah 59

1. 59:1 Is God able to save us from the horrible condition we are in?
2. 59:2 If God is able, then why are we not all saved?
3. 59:2-8 What are some of the ways we have sinned?
4. 59:9-15 Because of our sad, horrible sinful condition, what is life like for us?

5. 59:16&17 When God saw that no man on earth could ever turn back sinfulness, what did He do?
6. 59: 18-19 But the LORD not only supplies salvation...what else will He eventually do?
7. 59:20 What is the LORD's specific promise to those who turn away from sin and believe in Him in Israel?
8. 59:21 What does the LORD promise in this verse to the Jewish people? Has He kept this promise?
9. But when do these Words which have been in their mouths for generations...when do these words reach their hearts?

And after Repentance....Abundance!!!!

10. What are some of the abundant provisions the LORD has for Israel, and for the Gentiles, too, after they repent and come to Him in faith? Can you tell which of these provisions will be received here, on this earth, and which will be received in the New Heaven and the New Earth?

In the following chapters, describe God's abundance for Israel...and also for us!

- 60: 3

- 60:9

- 60:15&16



- 60:18

- 60:19&20

- 60:21

- 61:1-3

- 61:7

- 61:10

- 61:11

- 62:4

- 63:1-4

- 65:17

- 65:20

- 65:24

At some point in time, the Father will turn to the Son and say “Go”!
And the Last 7 Years will begin. Somewhere near the end of that 7
years, the nation of Israel will come to utter, mind-staggering faith in

Jesus - their Messiah they missed when He came over 2,000 years before.

And when they do finally kneel before Him in faith, believing in Him and loving Him, He will begin His 1,000-year reign as King of this earth. And we gentiles who join Him during that 1,000 years will be there for only one reason – He died for us, rose for us, and then forgave us when we, too, repented before Him.

The 1,000 years will be unbelievable! It will be fun and fulfilling and challenging and fantastic to live during those days! But that will be nothing compared to the next event in God's plan: The New Heaven and the New Earth. Now that will be Abundance too much to put in words!



"Heaven is My Throne" Isaiah Chapter 66 - Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 66:1
"Thus says the LORD: Heaven is my throne, and earth is My footstool."

This closing chapter of Isaiah wraps up everything we have seen in the whole book. It has all been about the LORD. The people the LORD loves have been important in this book, but the LORD Himself is the focus. His Magnificence. His Power. His Throne. His Servant. His Plan for His World. It's all about Him. It always was. It always will be.

Discussion Questions for Isaiah 66:

1. :1 What point is the LORD making in verse 1?
2. :2 If a temple building, constructed by men who do not love the LORD, is not so important to God, what is?
3. :2 Why is it a good thing to tremble at God's word?
4. :3 God is the One who told men to sacrifice animals, burn incense and give grain offerings, right? So why is He having Isaiah tell people He doesn't have any use for their sacrifices, offerings and incense?
5. :4 When god called to these people, did they answer? When He spoke, did they hear? What did they do instead of hearing and answering Him?

6. :5 Have there been some who did listen to God? What have their lives been like all this time?

7. :6 We hear the distant drum of that coming "Day of the LORD" in this verse. What does the LORD God do, ultimately, to His enemies?

8. :7-9 What illustration is the LORD using here to describe the time when Israel finally comes to faith in the Messiah?

9. The LORD describes this time of "labor" in 2 ways:
 - a. :7 A Child that is born even before _____ begins.
(what Child is that?)
 - b. :8 &9 A Child that is born quickly after _____ begins.
(what Child is that?)

10. :10-13 The LORD is speaking these verses to the whole world, not just to Israel. What is He saying to the whole world?

11. :14-17 Two kinds of people will see the ultimate return of the LORD to the earth. Those who rejoice and those who are judged. Who will be rejoicing? Who will be judged?

12. :18 When the LORD returns, what does He want all the nations to see?

13. :19 & 21 When the LORD returns, 2 huge things will happen:
 - a. God's Glory will be declared among the _____
 - b. The _____ will be brought from all over the world to Jerusalem.



14. :22 What does the LORD promise He will make?
15. :22 What does the LORD promise will happen to the Jewish people?
16. :23 What does the LORD promise all people will do once He returns?
17. :24 Why would the LORD have Isaiah end his awesome book of prophecy with these negative words?

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

18. Do you have a higher view of God now that you have studied the book of Isaiah?
19. What do you know about God now that you didn't know before?
20. Are you looking forward to seeing God in heaven?
21. What is the first thing you want to do when you see Him?
22. What is the first question you will ask Him?