

Isaiah

Isaiah 1-4 Though your sins are like scarlet... How long was this “vision”? (during reigns of Uzziah – Hezekiah! – see 2 Kgs. 14:21- 20:21) How were they “trampling My courts”? (1:12) How do we still do this today? How “tough” is the stain of sin? (1:18) What is the only “stain remover”? When are “the last days” (2:2) “in that day” (2:17, 20; 3:7, 18; 4:1, 2) What / Who is “the Branch of the Lord” – (look ahead to 11:1-5; 53:2) What is where is “Zion”?

Isaiah 5-6 Vineyard song – Isaiah’s commission With Is. 5 also read Matthew 21:33-46; see also Jn. 15:1-17. What are the “woes” in ch. 5? How do they relate to our world today? What does heaven look like? What was to be Isaiah’s message? (6:9-10) How do we speak that same message today? With v.13b, look ahead to Is. 11:1 and back to Gen. 3:15.

Isaiah 7-9 Christmas promises With 6:13 ending with “the holy seed” – what is the “sign of Immanuel”? Why is king Ahaz called “the house of David”? (see also 2 Sam. 7, especially v.11-13) Who / what are the “flies and bees” 7:18? What was the purpose of Isaiah’s first-born son’s name? (ch. 8) How is Jesus described in 8:14-15? (see also Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:8) Read 9:1 with Matt. 4:12-17; and 9:2 with John 1 and 3:19-21. Note the birth announcement – 9:6,7. What and why the refrain 4 times in 9:8-10:4?

Isaiah 10-12 Root and Branch of Jesse How did God use Assyria to punish Israel? (see 10:5, 12) Does God still use heathen nations today to punish / chastise His children? With the Branch from Jesse, review Is. 4:2. What is “the fear of the Lord”? (11:2-3) When will the “wolf live with the lamb... calf and lion...” (v.6-9)? When is “that day” in ch. 12?

Isaiah 13-16 Judgment against the nations Why begin this series of woes against Israel’s enemies with Babylon? When / what is “the day of the Lord” in 13:6, 9? What is the Gospel in ch. 14? What is “the day of the Lord” in 14:3f? Note, 16:5 points to Jesus.

Isaiah 17-20 Judgment against the nations (continued) What is “the glory of the Israelites / of Jacob” 17:34)? Why these negative prophecies against these nations? Why was Isaiah to run around stripped and barefoot? (20:24) What would happen if someone did that same thing today?

Isaiah 21-23 Judgment against the nations (continued) What hope-full name does God use in 21:10? Note the pun on calling Jerusalem “the Valley...”! ch. 22 What is the terrible irony of 22:12-13 – what is the terrible judgment and warning of 22:14? With 22:22 also read Matt. 16:19 and Rev. 1:18; 3:7.

Isaiah 24-27 Promise of the Day of the Lord - Day of the Lord means both judgment and blessing – note both of these as you read these chapters. Why will the Lord “lay waste the earth”? When will this happen? What and where is “the mountain of the Lord”? (25:6-9 see also 27:13) How is death “swallowed up” forever? (see 1 Cor. 15:54)

Isaiah 28-30 3 of 6 woes Ephraim was the name for the Northern Kingdom of Israel. What childish saying were the people repeating? (28:10, 13) What was the meaning? Who is Isaiah writing about in 28:16, the precious cornerstone? “Ariel” is another name for Jerusalem! Who is fighting against Jerusalem? 29:13 is quoted by Jesus in Matt. 15:8-9 – what is the message of these verses? The “obstinate children” of ch. 30 is Israel! What was God’s clear warning to them? (30:27-31)

Isaiah 31-33 Other 3 of 6 woes Why would Israel “rely on Egypt”? With 31:8 see also 37:36. How is the Messianic kingdom described in ch. 32? Why all the talk of “righteousness”? The destroyer and traitor is Assyria – what is the prayer asking in ch. 33?

Isaiah 34-35 Judgment and Promise How do these chapters show that the Lord is in charge of all nations? How do they describe the last days? What is “the scroll of the Lord” (34:16)? With ch. 35, see Matt. 11:46. How will “the Lord come” (35:4)? What is the “highway called the Way of Holiness”?

Isaiah 36-39 Assyria -> Babylonia Compare 2 Kings 18-20 – why the repetition? After so much poetry, why these chapters of prose? (Note how these chapters end the first half of Isaiah – the Assyrian threat. The last half will be about the Babylonian threat.)

Isaiah 40-42 Comfort Greatly! Why the three voices in 40:3, 6, 9? How is Jesus foretold in these chapters? Why the image of eagles / “on wings like eagles” (40:31)? Who is “My servant”? (Note: 4 “servant songs” for the Messiah: 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13- 53:12)

Isaiah 43-45 Re-gathering and Renewal What great promises! Why “forget the former things”... What is the “new thing” God is doing? (43:18-19) How is idolatry mocked? How could Cyrus be God’s “anointed”? (Note 45:3-6, 18, 22)

Isaiah 46-48 Fall of Babylon Need a “helping hand”? see 46:3-4, 8-9 Note the repetition of “Listen to Me” in these chapters and future chapters! (46:3, also v.8, 12; 47:8; 48:1, 12, 16) What was the result of not listening? (Sounds like a loving parent, doesn’t it?) Note also the “I Am” statements: 46:4, 9; 47:8, 10; 48:12, 17. What is the message God is telling us? Why is there “no peace for the wicked”? (48:22)

Isaiah 49 The Servant’s Ministry Who is this chapter talking about? (see also Lk. 1:26f; Matt. 1:18f, 2:13f) Who is the “new, perfect Israel”? Do you also hear Jesus’ prayer in Gethsemane? Not just for Jacob, but what’s the great news? (v.6) What powerful images does God use to show His tender love? (v.15) Does God have tattoos? (v.16) Note v. 23, “Then they will know...” and v.26b “Then all mankind will know...”

Isaiah 50 Israel’s sin / the Servant’s obedience - Note: God did not initiate the divorce! Why do we think that “God’s arm is too short”? Again, note the many specific references to Jesus’ suffering and death – appropriate reading today! Do you also see “Maundy Thursday” in these verses?

Isaiah 51-53 Good Friday - How was Jesus a “rock” on Good Friday? How did God’s “arm” bring justice to the nations? (51:5) What comfort did Jesus bring on Good Friday? (51:12) Note “the cup of God’s wrath” – 51:17 In ch. 52, note “My people” and “redemption”. The Suffering Servant – Is. 52:13- 53:12 – centuries before Jesus fulfilled these words perfectly – for you, for me, for all! Praise and thanks be to God!

Isaiah 54 Future Glory - Why such encouragement for joy, especially after such gruesome prophecies in ch. 52-53? From the “divorce” of ch. 50 to the rejoicing in our “husband” (v.5) in this chapter! What makes the difference? What a promise! (v.10)

Isaiah 55 Invitation to the Thirsty - What makes us “thirsty”? How do we try to satisfy our thirst? What should make us thirsty? What only can satisfy this thirst? What is the urgency of v.6? Why the urgency? How are vs. 8-11 both humbling and “the best news ever!”? How can they be both?

Isaiah 56 - How was God’s “salvation close at hand” v.1? How is this true today as well? How is this chapter so wonderful for us Gentiles? How is it a warning to those who are Jewish?

Isaiah 57 - Why are “the righteous taken away”? What does this mean? How bad had idolatry gotten at this time? Is this still true today? Is it even worse? Note God’s love – after his warning and reprimand, how does God comfort those who are contrite? Note the source of “there is no rest for the wicked”...

Isaiah 58 - What hypocrisy! Is this still true today? What does God say to this? What is Godly “fasting”? (v.6-7) [Note also Matthew 25 with these verses.] How can a person “find their joy in the LORD”? (v.14)

Isaiah 59 - God’s arms “too short”? (see again 50:2 and 53:1 and look ahead to v.16!) How is this pointing to Jesus? Snake eggs and cobwebs? What does that have to do with us? Why the switch in pronouns (from you and they to us and our) in v.9f? What is the covenant? (v.21)

Isaiah 60 - The Epiphany chapter of Isaiah! When will all of this be fully fulfilled? With v.19 see also Rev. 21:23; 22:5.

Isaiah 61-62 - Note, Jesus quoted / read this see Lk. 4:16-21. What is the message of these verses? What “double portion” will people receive? (v.7 – see again 40:2) Note Israel’s response to God’s word – v.10-11. What is the significance of the five references to “righteousness” in these 2 chapters? What is significant with a “new name”? (62:2) See the footnote for the play on names in 62:4 (also v.12) Note: God’s “mighty arm” again (62:8 – see ch. 59 and notes)

Isaiah 63 - Remember that Edom was Israel’s enemy (Esau and Jacob). “My own arm worked salvation” v.5 – are you hearing “Jesus” throughout these chapters and verses? Drinking God’s “cup of wrath” (v.6) – Jesus in Gethsemane... Note the references to the Holy Spirit! Note also the references to our true “Father”...

Isaiah 64-65 Righteousness in God alone - With all the “special effects” of super bowl, etc. would people even notice if God would “rend the heavens and come down”? Although, what effect do disasters temporarily have on people? How does Isaiah write confession and repentance in these verses? How does God reveal His grace in these verses? What is the difference between “My servants” and those being addressed in ch. 65? Which one are you? What are the “new heavens and the new earth”? (see also Rev. 21)

Isaiah 66 – Humble and contrite What strong words does God have for those who “choose their own way” rather than God’s way? (v.3) What are the great promises that God makes for His faithful people?