

SPRING GUIDE

TRUSTING THE LIVING LORD

MAJOR OBJECTIVES FOR THIS LESSON:

1. The Verdict: Guilty.....Isa 1:2-5
2. The Charge: Empty WorshipIsa 1:11-15
3. The Remedy: RepentanceIsa 1:16-17
4. The Choice: Life or DeathIsa 1:18-20

OPENING QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- 1) How do we learn the lessons of life? Teaching/disciplining styles?
 - a) By formal and informal instructions
 - b) By listening/observing
 - c) By doing/OJT
 - d) By mimicking good examples and avoiding the mistakes of others
- 2) Can all “normal” people be taught to live right?NO!
 - a) You can only teach/counsel those who want to be taught/counseled
 - i) **Quest?** – How do school teachers handle bad students?
 - b) Currently, the Holy Spirit restrains the Evil One.. **2Thes 2:6,7**
- 3) Reading tough books like Isaiah and Jeremiah make us take notice and learn from the sins of others – even on a national scale
- 4) We will see the following in Isaiah:
 - a) How God dealt w/ national sins
 - b) Some uniqueness of God’s promises tied to the Land of Israel
 - c) Messianic insight
 - d) Future glory of Israel and the Church
 - i) God will prepare a lavish feast, incl. the best wine, for all peoples on top of Mount Zion..... **24:23; 25:6**
 - ii) All tears will be wiped away.....**25:8**

INTRO TO ISAIAH

- 5) **Situation**
 - a) Northern Kingdom of Israel is about to be captured and dispersed by the Assyrians
 - b) Isaiah, a city prophet, possibly a kingly relative (son of Amoz), has easy access to the king and political leaders
 - c) Judah, the Southern kingdom, is going through a string of good kings and bad kings
 - d) **Illus** – equate to stock market going downhill in a zig-zag fashion – lower lows and lower highs
- 6) **Period** – 742-700 BC, Kings Uzziah, Ahaz, Hezekiah, ~150 yrs before Jeremiah
- 7) **Purpose** – Continually warned the people to turn back to God with their hearts
- 8) **Political**
 - a) Israel King Pekah and Syrian King Aram sought Judah’s alliance against Assyria, but Judah’s King Ahaz (against the wishes of Isaiah) sided with the Assyrian King
 - b) Assyria was successful at defeating the Northern Kingdom of Israel and Syria, whom they dispersed throughout Arabia
 - c) Under King Hezekiah, God defeated the Assyrians when they camped against Jerusalem
 - d) King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Assyria, and then started to pound on Judah’s door
 - e) Judah, by the time of Isaiah, had gone through about 200 years of civil war since the break up of the David Kingdom AND is going to endure another 200+ years of battles with their neighbors (Syria, Assyria, Egypt, Babylon – aka, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Iraq)
 - f) **Illus.** – imagine America going through a 200 year civil war and then battling 200 more years with neighboring nations (Mexico, Canada)
- 9) **Book Division**
 - a) Chaps 1-39 – contemporary
 - b) Chaps 40-66 - futuristic

LESSON PLAN

- 10) **Guilty Verdict**.....vv1:2-5
 - a) Divine courtroom setting
 - i) Let’s examine the facts – Israel has broken covenant
 - ii) Even dumb animals recognize their care-givers, but not Israel
 - iii) “Why ask for more beatings?”..... **v5**
 - (1) **Prov 1:7** – it does no good to admonish, correct or punish a foolish person - they don’t learn from it. Only recourse is to let them be. (78 vs in Proverbs)
 - (2) Foolishness on a national scale – Israel then, Arab nations now – no ability to listen to reason or be rationale
 - (a) The wicked may be shown favor and blessings, but they do not learn righteousness, he does not perceive God’s majesty and deals unjustly still..... **v26:10**
 - (b) **Illus.** – Infamous quote from Mom: “I’m going to whoop you 3 ways – fast, hard & continuously”
 - (3) Often times God uses other nations to discipline a wayward country, but God also has the means to wipe out even whole nations Himself
 - (a) Global flood
 - (b) Pandemics – Certain ancient American tribes mysteriously vanished (e.g., Incas, Aztecs, and others) w/ evidence of human sacrifices. Uhm!
- 11) **Empty Worship** vv11-15
 - a) Dangers of traditions becoming Sacred Cows, Easy Believism, and Convenient Christianity
 - b) God may want us to follow specific patterns of worship (OT – animal sacrifices, Sabbath limitations and circumcision vs NT baptism, communion and regular meetings) BUT He always intended for us to realize the true meaning behind those traditions or ritualistic practices
 - c) Convenient Christianity is a Killer – we obey when it is convenient (e.g., we seem to read our Bible when it’s convenient, pray, keep the speed limit, be submissive, and give when it’s convenient)
 - i) Need to migrate from Convenient to Sincere Christianity – If we are serious about our service to the Lord, we will read our Bible, pray, keep the speed limit, give/tithe whether it’s convenient or not.
 - d) God wants obedience (which includes a heartfelt willingness) and not sacrifice
- 12) **Remedy – Repentance** vv16,17
 - a) Different styles of discipline to turn a wayward child back
 - i) God tried them all – cajole, plead, reason with, reward and punishment. Punishments got harder and longer
 - ii) Yet, to no avail (leopard can’t change their spots, and the wicked can’t learn to do good)
 - b) God wants right actions + right attitudes
 - i) Stop doing evil and start doing good
 - ii) Seek justice, correct the oppressor, defend the weak
- 13) **Choose Life** vv18-20
 - a) Blessings await Israel – eat of the good things of the land
 - b) Else destruction will come
 - c) Is there an application to us non-Israelites? Absolutely
 - i) General principle of blessings and rewards – even on a national scale, but need to be careful that we don’t misapply specific land-based promises of blessings and curses meant for Israel