

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 06 Sept.....	Isaiah 01-05.....	God Comforts
2) 13 Sept.....	Isaiah 06.....	God Sends
3) 20 Sept.....	Isaiah 07-22.....	God Promises
4) 27 Sept.....	Isaiah 23-24.....	God Reigns
5) 04 Oct.....	Isaiah 25-30.....	God Saves
6) 11 Oct.....	Isaiah 31-36.....	God Protects
7) 18 Oct.....	Isaiah 37-39.....	God Listens
8) 25 Oct.....	Isaiah 40-45.....	God Renews
9) 01 Nov.....	Isaiah 46-48.....	God Acts
10) 08 Nov.....	Isaiah 49-52.....	God Comforts
11) 15 Nov.....	Isaiah 53-57.....	God Justifies
12) 22 Nov.....	Isaiah 58-64.....	God Expects
13) 29 Nov.....	Isaiah 65-66.....	God Restores

**INTRODUCTION**

- Isaiah is another challenging book for us to glean all the gold nuggets that are in it within a short 13-week span.
- Lifeway's ETB opted to highlight about 10 verses each week, but, to be more fair to this great book, I highlight more gold nuggets found in the material between each weeks' lessons

**Isaiah Summary**

**Book Division**

- Chaps 01-39 – Contemporary prophecies
- Chaps 40-66 – Futuristic prophecies
  - It is difficult at times to tell if the prophecies refer to the Messianic era, the Church age, the 7-year Tribulation period, the Millennium, or the eternal post-Millennium (New Heavens & New Earth) time frames

**Time Period.** 742-700 BC, during the reigns of Judean kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, ~150 yrs before Jeremiah

**Purpose.** Continual warning of Jews to turn back to God

**Overall Situation**

- Northern Kingdom of Israel is about to be captured and dispersed by the Assyrians
- Isaiah, a city prophet, possibly a kingly relative (son of Amoz), has easy access to the king and political leaders
- Judah, the Southern kingdom, is going through a string of good kings and bad kings

**Political Situation**

- Israel's 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
- Assyria was successful at defeating Syria and the Northern Kingdom of Israel
- Under King Hezekiah, God defeated the Assyrians when they camped against Jerusalem
- King Nebuchadnezzar conquered Assyria, and then started to pound on Judah's door
- Judah, by the time of Isaiah, had gone through about 200 years of civil war since the breakup of the Davidic Kingdom AND is going to endure another 200+ years of battles with their neighbors (Syria, Assyria, Egypt, Babylon/Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Iraq).
- Imagine America going through a 200-year civil war, then battling 200 more years with neighboring nations (Mexico, Canada)

**Isaiah 1-5 Introduction**

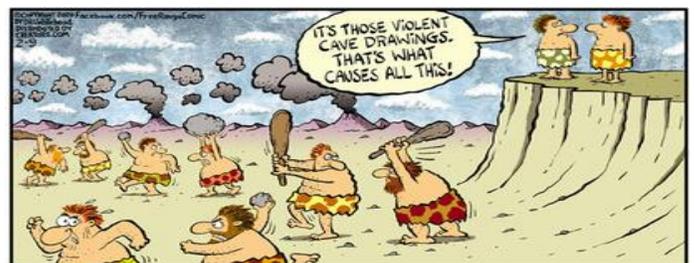
- God conveys to Isaiah and to the Jewish nation that He tried everything to get Israel to behave itself and quit sinning ...or the end result would be destruction
- But Israel didn't get it?

**Lifeway's ETB Focus:** ..... Isaiah 1:10-20

**OPENING QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

- How do we learn the lessons of life?
  - ♦ By formal and informal instructions?
  - ♦ By listening/observing?
  - ♦ By doing (On-the-Job Training)
  - ♦ By mimicking good examples and avoiding the mistakes of others
- Can all "normal" people be taught to live right?
  - ♦ You can only teach/counsel those who want to be taught/counseled
- Reading Isaiah makes us take notice and learn from the sins of others – even on a national scale
- We see the following in the book of Isaiah:
  - ♦ How God dealt w/ national sins
  - ♦ Some uniqueness of God's promises tied to the Land of Israel
  - ♦ Messianic insight
  - ♦ Future glory of Israel and the Church
    - God will prepare a lavish feast for all peoples on top of Mount Zion, including having the best wine.....24:23; 25:6
    - All tears will eventually be wiped away.....25:8

Passage	Comments
Isaiah 1:1-5	<p><b>Guilty Verdict</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Divine courtroom setting                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Let's examine the facts – Israel has broken covenant</li> <li>♦ Even animals recognize their care-givers, but not Israel</li> </ul> </li> <li>• v5. "Why ask for more beatings?"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>Prov 1:7</b> 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.</li> <li>♦ Foolishness on a national scale – There is no ability to listen to reason or to be rationale                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The wicked may be shown favor and blessings, but they do not learn righteousness, they do not perceive God's majesty and they deal unjustly still .....v26:10</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Often times God uses other nations to discipline a wayward country, but God also can wipe out even whole nations                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ For example, Noahic global flood, Canaanites</li> <li>♦ Pandemics – Certain ancient American tribes which had evidence of human sacrifices mysteriously vanished (e.g., Incas, Aztecs, and others) Uhm!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:11-15	<p><b>Empty Worship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dangers of traditions becoming Sacred Cows:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Easy Believe-ism (e.g., altar calls)</li> <li>♦ Convenient Christianity</li> </ul> </li> <li>• God may want us to follow specific patterns of worship at specific times in history (e.g., OT animal sacrifices, Sabbath limitations and circumcision vs NT baptism, communion, and weekly meetings), BUT He always intends for us to realize the true meaning behind those ritualistic traditions</li> <li>• 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 to do so)</li> <li>• Need to migrate from Convenient to Sincere Christianity                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ If we are serious about our service to the Lord, we will read our Bible, pray, keep the speed limit, and give whether it is convenient or not</li> </ul> </li> <li>• God wants obedience (which includes a heartfelt willingness) and not just sacrifice</li> </ul>



Passage	Comments
1:16-17	<p><b>Remedy → Repentance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are different disciplines to try to turn a wayward child                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>God tried them all – cajole, plead, reason, reward and punishment, and the punishments got harder &amp; longer</li> <li>Yet, to no avail – Leopards can't change their spots, and the willfully wicked refuse to learn to do good..... <b>Jer 13:23</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>God wants right actions + right attitudes                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stop doing evil and start doing good</li> <li>Seek justice, correct oppressors, defend the weak</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:18-20	<p><b>Choose Life</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blessings await Israel → eat the good things of the land                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Else destruction will come</li> </ul> </li> <li>Is there an application to us non-Israelites?..... Absolutely                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General principle of blessings and rewards – even on a national scale, but we need to be careful we do not misapply specific land-based promises of blessings and curses meant solely for Israel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
1:21-31	<p><b>More Bad News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v21. Israel left their first love for justice and righteousness by prostituting themselves through idolatry</li> <li>v23. They also forsook orphans and widows</li> <li>vv25-26. God promises to fix what is broke, but it will not be pain-free or easy</li> <li>Many times, the only remedy available for God to restore justice and righteousness is to annihilate a wicked society                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember, the wicked will not learn righteousness even when treated with kindness..... <b>Is 26:10</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2:1-22	<p><b>Now, the Good News</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the last days, God will accomplish His will (partially fulfilled in the Millennial Reign of Christ, totally fulfilled in the New Heavens and Earth)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v2. The House of the Lord (Temple) will be rebuilt</li> <li>v4. No more wars. Defense contractors will build John Deere tractors</li> <li>v7. ...and the land of Israel will be filled with Gold</li> </ul> </li> <li>v12. But first comes the "Day of Reckoning" (possibly the Tribulation period)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>vv13-17. Nations will be humbled and God exalted</li> <li>vv19-21. Men will hide in caves ..... <b>Rev 6:15,16</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>v22. Good perspective on life → There is no reason to put one's trust in Man or even to be scared of Man since Man is weak and insignificant..... <b>Ps 56:11</b></li> </ul>
3:1-26	<p><b>National Downfall Begins with Disrespect</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Isaiah returns to his contemporary time frame, but the lessons are for all generations</li> <li>vv1-3. God can disrupt a nation's food supply, their military, and their entire economy ..... <b>HOW?</b></li> <li>vv4-6. God can put inexperienced people (youth) in positions of key leadership → which leads to rash decisions, oppression of the populace, and turmoil between the young &amp; the old ..... Any Examples? Can this happen in churches?</li> <li>vv8-9. The crux of the problem is not monetary policies or political wrangling, but hatred of God as individuals and even entire nations openly display their sins</li> <li>v12. "Their oppressors are children, and women rule over them" – This conveys experienced rulers have been removed and replaced with unqualified and inexperienced leaders (God's hand is on this)</li> <li>vv14,15. God judges a nation when they oppress the poor</li> <li>vv16-17. Sexual sins lead to diseases</li> <li>vv25,26. The end result of forsaking God is national ruin</li> </ul>
4:1-6	<p><b>The Branch of the Lord to the Rescue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v1. Seven women will cling to one man conveys war has decimated the male population</li> <li>vv2-6. This promise of protection for the remnant is strictly for the Jews during Isaiah's time, and possibly alludes to Jerusalem in the end times</li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
5:1-30	<p><b>Woe to Those Who Seek Pleasure over God</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This chapter commences a new subject, and is, in itself, a prophecy in poetic form, having no connection with the preceding or the following chapter</li> <li>v4. <b>God laments.</b> He tried everything to get Judah to repent. "What more was there to do...?"</li> <li>vv5-6. The only recourse was near-total destruction</li> <li>vv8,11,12. Wealth, wine, and entertainment consume people's time instead of seeking God</li> <li>v13. End result → God's people go into exile due to lack of knowledge – or willful ignorance</li> <li>vv20-23. "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil"                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do we see this in our era?</li> <li>But what woes come on those who call evil good, who oppress the righteous, and who live wickedly? Consider <b>Ps 73:17-19</b>. God sets the wicked on "slippery slopes" and they will be destroyed 'in a heartbeat'</li> </ul> </li> <li>vv26-30. God whistles for a distant nation, and it comes speedily – possibly alluding to the Roman empire who eventually destroyed the Babylonian empire</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- What Israel should've done was to humble themselves, repent of their sinful past, and start to follow God's directives again
- Same with us – we need to confess, repent, and seek after God wholeheartedly

**SUPPORTING PASSAGES**

**Ps 56:11.** In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

**Rev 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!"

**NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 6.** Angelic beings play a role in our quest to see God's glory, and like Isaiah, we need a cleansing to stay close to God and to be willing to be used



**"They shouldn't be showing girls in bikinis when kids his age are watching!"**