

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

- In these chapters, God promises to deliver Israel out of all woes; the Messiah's glorious reign is foretold; Israel's enemies will one day be annihilated; & Jerusalem will be a place to go to for healings

Lifeway's ETB Focus: **Isaiah 31:1-9**

OPENING QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

- In God's eyes, which sin is the worst? Adultery? Murder? Idolatry? Lying? Rape? Homosexuality? Bestiality? Lust? Pride?

Passage	Comments
31:1-9	<p>Idolatry is the Worst of All Sins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v1. Israel relied on anyone & anything else but God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What do we put before God? <input type="checkbox"/> Family? <input type="checkbox"/> Work? <input type="checkbox"/> TV/Computer? <input type="checkbox"/> Leisure time? <input type="checkbox"/> Other things? How should we keep God #1 in all areas of life? v2. In wisdom, God brings disaster on the wicked, and He also brings disaster on those who help the wicked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benevolence Principle: We need to avoid helping those who exhibit prodigal or wicked behavior, even if they are homeless orphans and widows – Else we could incur God's wrath meant for them.....cf 2Chron 19:2; Is 9:17 vv4-5. God will eventually defend and deliver Jerusalem from all of her enemies – as surely as birds fly vv6-7. God is willing to welcome home His wayward children if only they would willingly return to Him and forsake their idols (essentially, all sin is a form of idolatry) cf John 5:40
32:1-20	<p>One Day Peace will be the Norm – BUT Not Today</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-4; 15-18. Behold a special King will reign – Peace will prevail, healings will abound. Possible allusion to Millennium vv5-14. BUT not Today. Fools still rule, the needy go hungry, and the righteous are still oppressed v8 & v20. BUT we still need to be righteous, merciful, & wise in tough times, and remember to diversify Ecc 11:1-2, 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How should we diversify? <input type="checkbox"/> Stock/Bond portfolio? <input type="checkbox"/> Have more kids? <input type="checkbox"/> Take on more jobs? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
33:1-24	<p>One Day the Lame will be Rich When the Lord is King</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presumably the Day when the Lord reigns supreme will be in the Millennium (when He rules with a rod of iron, Rev 12:5), and definitely in the New Heavens and Earth) v1. When the Destroyer finishes destroying then God will destroy the Destroyer cf Zech 1:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note: God can use the wicked to discipline the wayward, but the wicked will not go unpunished Mat 7:2 vv6, 13. Though we might live in tumultuous times, God provides stability, salvation, wisdom, and knowledge – and it begins with us have a proper fear of Him Prov 1:7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do we exhibit proper fear of the Lord? <input type="checkbox"/> Do what we want when we want to do it? <input type="checkbox"/> Obey? <input type="checkbox"/> Other ways? vv10-12. God will burn people to lime (i.e., utterly destroyed) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note. It may sound cruel for God to burn people, but God is cruel to the cruel (Ps 18:26) yet still righteous and just in all His dealings with His creation (Deut 32:4), though we do not fully understand it all on this side of Glory..... Isaiah 55:8-9 vv15-24. When God is King the lame will be rich & healthy

Passage	Comments
34:1-17	<p>The Day of Vengeance is Coming Upon All Nations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> But When? Possible partial fulfilment during Isaiah's time, but ultimate fulfilment during the Tribulation v4. The sky will roll back like a scroll of Rev 6:12-14 v5. God has devoted certain people to destruction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some take this to mean people have no choice. They are either destined for Hell or Heaven (i.e., Calvinists) Rather, consider that someone's willful behavior destines them to destruction (either temporal or eternal) Even believers can suffer temporal or earthly destruction at the hands of the wicked (Ps 72:14), or possibly die an early death for backslidden behavior 1Cor 11:30 vv6-17. The Day of Vengeance. Again, partial fulfilment during Isaiah's time and ultimate fulfilment in the future when Israel's enemies meet their judgment. Weeds and wild animals will inherit the cities of the wicked – and it is God's doing (vv16-17)
35:1-10	<p>A Day Comes When God Heals the Blind, Deaf, & Lame</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-6. Passage foretells the Healings of Christ Mat 11:4-5 vv7-10. The Highway of Holiness Leads to Jerusalem <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible allusion to the New Heavens and Earth since there will be no sorrow & sighing there Is 25:8 ...and where non-Jews will grab a Jew, not to hurt them, but to follow them to Jerusalem for worship..... Zech 8:23 This could also be an allegorical representation of the Gospel which leads those who choose to listen ("having ears to hear") to eternal life Mat 7:14
36:1-22	<p>Foolish Mocking Invokes Silence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-2. The Assyrian army is at Jerusalem's doorstep vv10-12, 15, 18. Assyrian General Rabshakeh mocks the Jews and their God v21. Hezekiah's response is SILENCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likewise, Jesus was silent before his mocking accusers Acts 8:32; Isaiah 53:7,8; Mat 26:62,63 Principle to Live By: When should we take a silent approach to accusations? When our accusers are fools. We should not cast pearls to swine..... Mat 7:6

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Better days for oppressed believers are coming, but NOT today
- In the meantime, we need to always put God first in all areas of life, else we could be putting an idol before our Lord and Savior
- NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 37-39.** As seen in Hezekiah's request to live longer we see that God has given Man an indomitable will to live for as long as possible on this sin-soaked planet

