

The Bible Jesus Read

Lesson 6

The Prophet Isaiah

The book of Isaiah resembles the Bible in miniature. It has 66 chapters as the Bible has 66 books. The first 39 chapters are about the judgment of God on idolatrous mankind just as the Old Testament has 39 books. The last 27 chapters are about the grace of God just as the 27 books of the New Testament are. Isaiah was a prophet sent by God to preach a two fold message to the nation of Judah during the perilous times of 740-680 B.C. His message was judgment is coming because God can't allow such blatant sin forever, but eventually restoration and redemption would come through the promised Messiah.

1. When Joshua conquered the land of Canaan, the 12 tribes of Israel settled there in approximately 1400 B.C. and Israel was one nation. What happened after Solomon's death in 930 B.C. (1 Kings 11:1-13; 12:16-19, 23-24)? From then on Israel was divided into two kingdoms with 10 tribes in the north called Israel, and 2 tribes in the south called Judah.
2. Isaiah's ministry was primarily to two kings of Judah in Jerusalem. Who were they (Isa 7:3; 36:1-2; 37:1-7)? What nation was the major threat during Isaiah's time (Isa 36:1-2)? What happened to the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 B.C. (2 Kings 17:6)? Why did God allow the destruction of Israel (2 Kings 17:7-18)? Who was left (2 Kings 17:18)?
3. The people of Jerusalem feared an Assyrian invasion and it came, but what did Isaiah predict (Isa 10:24-27; 14:24-25; 37:5-7, 33-35)? What happened when Assyria laid siege to Jerusalem (Isa 37:36-38; 2 Kings 19:35-37)?
4. Even though Judah would be spared from Assyria, who did Isaiah predict would destroy Jerusalem and take Judah into captivity (Isa 39:6-7, 2 Kings 25:1-10)?
5. The secular world believes Assyria conquered Israel, and Babylon conquered Judah because they were stronger. What reason does the Bible give (2 Kings 16:1-3, Deut 28:15, 49-52; Isa 9:8-21; 30:12-14)?

6. In describing Israel's relationship to God, Isaiah used the metaphor of a vineyard. Who is the vineyard of God (Isa 5:7)? Where did God put the vineyard (5:1)? What all did God do for the vineyard (5:2)? What did God expect (5:2, 7)? What were the consequences (5:5-6)?

7. What prophecy did Mathew say was fulfilled in Matt 1:22-23 (Isaiah 7:14)? What about Matt 4:12-17 (Isa 9:1-2)? Who do you think Isaiah 9:6 refers to (Matt 28:18)?

8. According to Acts 13:22-23, who is Isaiah referring to as "the shoot who will spring from the stem of Jesse" in Isa 11:1-2? How did Isaiah describe the first coming of the Messiah as the suffering servant in Isa 53:2-11? What about the second coming (Isa 11:4-5)?

9. Isaiah spoke a harsh message of condemnation and impending judgment on his people which certainly came to pass. Nevertheless, he also had a message of hope about the coming Messiah who would bring salvation and usher in the kingdom of God. What will the kingdom be like (Isa 2:3-4; 11:6-10; 61:10-11; 65:17-25)?

10. Why does Isaiah say we all need a Messiah, a Savior (Isa 53:5-6; 65:2)? Whose plan was it (Isa 53:10)? How can we be a part of it (John 1:12; 3:16-18, 36; Romans 3:21-24)?