

Chapter 10-12

- In Chapter 10, Isaiah is prophesizing against the Assyrians. The king of the land feels his success is due to his great military might.
- The king of Assyria was merely a “useful item in God’s toolbox (10:5)” In 10:20-23, Isaiah says God will use Israel to show the nations that the rise and fall of empires is always the work of God.
- In 10: 24-34, he tells the people of Judah not to be afraid—no matter what the Assyrians do, God has already determined the effort will fail.
- Chapter 11 is a beautiful picture of the peaceable kingdom. This oracle anticipates a new king coming from the line of Jesse, who was the father of David.
- The king will “not only rejuvenate the social process but also heal creation and cause all of creation to be reconciled.” (Foster, p. 1000).
- In 11:10-16, we hear about the return of the beloved remnant of Israel and Judah. Healing will happen between nations.
- READ: 12: 1-2. A grateful people returned to God.

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1. *The people of Judah go through much fear, worry, and danger, and the message is always that God was with them, working things out. Have you had an experience of this in your own life?*
2. *Isaiah says that the Branch will bring peace to a troubled world and open up little branches of heaven in every nation of the world. What evidence do you see of this occurring in our world today?*

Welcome, Friends! to

“The Book of Isaiah”

A ten-week class exploring the Book of Isaiah and its relevance to our faith and practice today.



Michelangelo's "Isaiah" from the Sistine Chapel, Vatican City

WEEK 4: Ch 7-12

Background for this Section

- Chapter 7-12 completed the first section of the book of Isaiah.
- These chapters contain historical narratives and prophecies that Isaiah delivered to Ahaz, king of Judah in approximately 735-732 BCE.
- It was a time of conquest and King Ahaz was tempted to seek help from Assyria and Egypt.
- Isaiah's prophecy encouraged Ahaz to trust the Lord instead of seeking protection from other nations.

Chapter 7

- King Jotham was a godly king, but when his son Ahaz became king, he was willful and stubborn and King Jotham was too weak to control his son (2 Chronicles 27:2).
- Isaiah went to Ahaz at the start of his reign with an urgent warning (Is Ch 2-5), but Ahaz didn't listen. As a result, in 734 BCE, the Aramean and Israelite armies crossed over the border into Judah.
- Ch 7 says that when Ahaz and his subjects heard the news they were "shaken, as trees of the forest are shaken by the wind."
- READ: 7:3-9. Son's odd name means "A Remnant Will Return," meant to be a message of hope for Ahaz.
- In Ch 7: 7-11, God reassures Ahaz that if he trusts in him, what he fears will not come to pass. But in 7:12, Ahaz declines God's offer, saying "I will not put the Lord to the test." It sounds pious, but God knows that Ahaz doesn't want a sign, for fear he will have to believe and repent.
- READ: 7: 13-17. Scripture offering the sign of the virgin birth; bringing forth goodness and blessing for Judah.

What does "If you do not stand firm in faith, you shall not stand at all" (v 7:9) mean to you?

Chapter 8

- God continues to be merciful, even though Ahaz disregards the signs and prophecies.
- READ: 8:11-17. This is a passage that is quoted five times in the New Testament (1 Peter 3:14 quotes 8:12, Hebrews 2:13 quotes 8:17, Romans 9:33 and 1 Peter 2:8 quote 8:14)
- A great statement of faith in 8:17: "I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him."

Chapter 9

- READ: 9: 2-7: These opening verses of Chapter 9 paint a beautiful prophecy of Jesus and are often quoted at Christmas (and are part of Handel's *Messiah*).
- This prophecy is saying "God has not forgotten Israel." He is, in fact, singing them a dawn chorus.
- The prophecy reveals that the Messiah will come from the north of Israel, from Galilee.
- In verses 9:3-5, Isaiah explains that this means God is "enlarging the nation."
- As Phil Moore writes (p. 44), "When the Messiah comes to Galilee, he will turn darkness into light, night into dawn, distress into joy, defeat into plunder, oppression into liberty, and soldiers' clothing into fuel for the fire."
- Verse 9:6 reveals the true identity of God's new branch of heaven on earth. *Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*.
- His authority will bring endless peace and he will uphold it with "justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." (v. 9:7)
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