

## Chapters 25-27

- Chapter 25, is a song of praise for God’s judgment. Isaiah praises God for overthrowing ungodly people.
- READ: Isaiah 25: 6-10: We hear again of the good promises of God for those who are reconciled to him.
- Chapter 26 is “Judah’s song of victory,” offering the thanks and praise for God’s faithfulness and goodness.
- READ: 26: 19. Here we have a foreshadowing of the resurrection of Jesus.
- Chapter 27 finishes the “Book of Judgment” section with a song about a vineyard, the good harvest of God.
- READ: Chapter 27: 2-6.
- Richard Foster writes in the commentary of 27:12: “On that day” signals future restoration and well-being that are unspecified, but quite certain and guaranteed by God’s own promise. That rhetorical sign of the future is here combined with the word ‘gathered’ which signified the termination of exile and the bringing home of all Israelites who had been scattered far from the Land of Promise. Thus the great anticipation of the Isaiah tradition and of the Old Testament generally is one of a homecoming that will be buoyant, triumphant, and joyous.”

### ~ \* ~ \* ~ \* DISCUSSION QUESTIONS \* ~ \* ~ \* ~

1. *How might the world be different if nations turned to God instead of each other to form alliances?*
2. *Much of the language of God’s judgment shows us that God sees truly what is going on—in our world and in our hearts. What thoughts and feelings does this bring up for you?*

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 6: Ch 28-35

## Background for this Section

- Isaiah Chapters 28-35 deal with the pressures and response of Judah as they prepare for the invasion of Assyria.
- Chapters 28-31 begin a new section in Isaiah, and Richard Foster's commentary says these chapters were probably written by the prophet during the reign of Hezekiah at the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE.
- These chapters speak of harsh judgment for Jerusalem, predominately for pride.
- Jerusalem's government has a policy of making alliances with other nations rather than trusting in God.
- The oracles in 28:1, 29:1, 29:15, 30:1, and 31:1 all begin with a Hebrew word that means "Woe," although it is often translated as "ah," "oh," or "alas" in modern translations)

## Chapter 28: Judgment and Restoration

- Isaiah proclaims the vanity and pride of drunkards of Ephraim will come to an end, decries the "fading flower of beauty:
- READ: 28:5-6. Isaiah sees restoration during the time of God's governance.
- Verses 28:7-8, people are self-indulgent, not listening
- READ: 28: 11-13. Who will have a clear heart and mind to hear and respond to God's promise?

*Have you had an experience in your life when you suddenly felt God was trying to get your attention?*

- Verses 28:14-15: Scoffers have made a "covenant with death," *for we have made lies our refuge and in falsehood we have taken shelter.*
- READ: 28:16-18. A promise that God will deliver them from their blindness and false alliances.

- Crop metaphor; plowing and planting "They are well instructed, and God teaches them" (v 28:23-29)
- There is a reason for God's judgment, destruction, and restoration; being brought low to build again.

## Chapter 29: Truth Will Out and Hope for the Future

- READ 29: 15-16. The arrogance of those who believe God doesn't see their deeds.
- READ: 29: 18-24. Restoration, God-style.

*How do you feel when you read of this restoration, dear hearing, blind seeing, meek joyful, all needs met?*

## Chapter 30 & 31: Rebellious Children, Invited Home

- V 30:1, "carry out a plan, but not mine; make an alliance, against my will, adding sin to sin"
- V 30:9: They are willfully ignorant, saying to seers, "do not see" and to prophets, "do not prophesy to us what is right; speak to us smooth things, prophesy illusions"
- READ: 30: 15. Promise of restoration, special verse among Friends.
- READ: 30: 18-21. Beautiful image of harmonious, redeemed relationship with God.

## Chapter 32 & 33: Peace and Prosperity

- V32: 1 lifts up the Davidic belief in the great king which will bring in an era of safety and well-being and joy. These promises became the "root of messianic hope in the New Testament," which identified Jesus as the king who would make all things new.
- READ: 32: 16-18. After such judgment, the ultimate outcome for God's people will be justice, righteousness, and peace.

- READ: 33:15-16. Foster: “It is characteristically promised in the OT that those who practice such an ethic will live a life of abundance, well-being, and security.”

## Chapter 34 & 35: Peace and Prosperity