

ISAIAH

Key Chapters of the Prophet

A Child Is Born! Lesson 2

Isaiah's Ministry
739-698 BC

Return to
Jerusalem
538 BC



Abraham
2000 BC

Moses
1500 BC

King David
1000 BC

Israel
Destroyed
701 BC

Jerusalem
Destroyed
586 BC

Introduction

Occasionally, news channels share some good news—an act of human kindness or a feel-good story—to give us a break from all the bad things happening in the world. The gospel is more than that. What impact does the *good news* (gospel) have when it comes right after a report of sin and its consequences?

Isaiah 7 - "Immanuel" (7:14)

Read **Isaiah 7:1-14**.

What is the context of this key Christmas verse, *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel"*?

Ahaz, King of Judah learns that the King of Israel was allying with the nation of Aram to march against Jerusalem. Ahaz reacted...

When you are troubled or afraid, where do you turn? Where did Ahaz turn? (2 Kings 16:7)

So, Isaiah goes to Ahaz with this message: (see verses 3-9)

When Isaiah tells Ahaz to ask for a sign (to know that the Lord will deliver Judah) Ahaz says...

God gives him a sign anyway: (Verse 14)

The original reader of Isaiah, and even Isaiah himself, did not read this passage and see a crystal-clear picture of the nativity, the ultimate fulfilment in Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary. Nonetheless, what comfort would they find in this statement?

Take a step back from this verse and see it in the Bible's wider context. The first gospel promise God made was in **Genesis 3:15**.

There (in Genesis 3:15) Adam and Eve learned that the _____ would destroy the devil.

In Isaiah 7:14, God reveals the detail that the Savior would not only be born of a woman, but...

The Lord connects these dots in **Galatians 4:4-5** and **Matthew 1:22-23**...

What does God communicate about himself by simply revealing the name Immanuel?

Summary of Isaiah 7:15-25. Isaiah uses the age of the child to express the length of time before the king of Israel and the king of Aram would no longer pose a threat. While the child was still an infant, those kings would be wiped out.

Isaiah 8 – “Utter Darkness” (8:22)

Summary of Isaiah 8. Isaiah foretells the destruction that Assyria will bring upon Israel. In that time of distress people turn to “mediums and spiritists” instead of inquiring of their God. The chapter ends on a dark note, where those who turn away from the Lord are thrust into “utter darkness.”

Isaiah 9 – “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light!” (9:2)

Read **Isaiah 8:19-9:7**

How does reading the end of chapter 8 help us better appreciate the opening verses of chapter 9?

In what ways might someone understand these verses in the sense of an earthly kingdom?
What phrases tell us that this is more than just a physical restoration of an earthly kingdom?

Look at specific phrases that Isaiah uses to describe the Messiah and his work and give specific examples of how each applies to Jesus. (For example, Isaiah said, “People walking in darkness have seen a great light.” Jesus...)

Further Study

Read Isaiah 7-11. Since this study covers select chapters of Isaiah, each lesson suggests chapters to read at home. By the end of the course, you will have read all of Isaiah. You'll have time at the beginning of each class to share insights from your personal reading or ask questions.