

ISAIAH

Key Chapters of the Prophet

Historical Considerations

Lesson 4



		Isaiah's Ministry	Return to Jerusalem	
		739-698 BC	538 BC	
Abraham	Moses	King David	Israel Destroyed	Jerusalem Destroyed
2000 BC	1500 BC	1000 BC	701 BC	586 BC

Review

Isaiah chapter 10 ended with the imagery of mighty trees chopped down. Chapter 11 began with a sign of hope as a shoot spouted up from the stump of Jesse (King David's father). The little shoot became a mighty Savior bringing peace and justice. To this Messiah, the nations would rally. When all hope seemed, lost God did the impossible. From the line of David, a little child was born of a virgin (as Isaiah foretold in chapter 7). He is the mighty Savior of all nations who came to bring ultimate peace between all people and God.

How clearly has Christ been seen just in the first 11 chapters of Isaiah?

Why is Isaiah such a challenging book?

1. **Jesus Christ is the key** to understanding the Bible's bigger picture. If we were to read Isaiah without knowing Christ and how he fulfills countless prophecies of Isaiah, it would be extremely challenging (See **Acts 8:26-35**).

Overcoming this challenge: Strive to see Christ on every page (either as he is directly foreshadowed or as the one who is the answer to all the problems presented).

2. **The timeline.** Isaiah prophesies about 1) situations of his present day, 2) future temporal fulfillment (destruction of Jerusalem and physical return and rebuilding), 3) Future spiritual rescue when the Messiah would come to earth to save from sin, 4) the restoration and gathering of spiritual Israel (the New Testament Church), and 5) The end of time when the Messiah returns to earth.

Overcoming this challenge: Try to keep the multiple time frames in mind and realize that often, a specific prophecy can include several or even all of them!

Isaiah 27, 35 – *Blossoms in the Desert*

Summary of Isaiah 12-26. This section is bookended with words of praise to the Lord for his mighty acts and his deliverance. What's in between? Chapters 13-24 are prophecies against surrounding nations and even God's chosen nation. But hope emerges yet again.

Read **Isaiah 27:6-9**. What will happen for Israel in coming days? (Keep in mind the multiple timeframes).

Isaiah 35 uses similar imagery to describe the spiritual restoration of Israel. Take some time to discuss the imagery and how it applies to you, God's redeemed!

Isaiah 36-39 – *Historical Interlude*

In the time remaining, read **Isaiah 36-39**. Jerusalem is spared from Assyria and Babylon is introduced.

Chapter 36 – How did the king of Assyria view the Lord, God of Israel? What shaped his false views of the Lord?

Chapter 37 – How did Hezekiah react to the message given in chapter 36?

Verses 14-20 record Hezekiah's prayer. What makes it an exemplary prayer?

Verses 21-38: How does God answer the prayer?

Chapter 38 – The Lord extends Hezekiah's life. Note especially verse 17. How might that verse be helpful to you?

Chapter 39 – An envoy from Babylon comes and sees Hezekiah's palace. Isaiah informs Hezekiah that everything in his palace will eventually be carried off to Babylon. What do you think about Hezekiah's reaction in verse 8?

Further Study

Read Isaiah 27-39. 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.