

Isaiah

**“Magnifying the Holy One of
Israel”**

**Spring/Summer Sessions 2009
Embry Hills church of Christ**

Teachers:

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Lesson Number/Subject and Chapters Covered/Dates

Lesson 1 Introduction, Background	April 12
Lesson 2 God's Indictment of Judah and Jerusalem/Chapter1	April 15
Lesson 3 Messianic Hope Revealed and Sin Punished/Chapters 2-4	April 19
Lesson 4 God's Vineyard and Isaiah's Call to Serve/Chapters 5-6	April 22
Lesson 5 Messianic Hope Mixed with Political Issues/Chapters 7-9	April 26
Lesson 6 Continuation of Lesson 5 Themes/Chapters 10-12	April 29
Lesson 7 God Rules Among The Nations/Chapter 13-14	May 3
Lesson 8 Prophecies Against Other Nations/Chapters 15-20	May 6
Lesson 9 Prophecies Against More Nations/Chapters 21-23	May 10
Lesson 10 Condemnation of Sin and Songs of God's Glory/Chapters 24-27	May 13
Lesson 11 Holy One of Israel Our Only Hope for Deliverance/Chapter 28-29	May 17
Lesson 12 Woes to Those Who Do Not Trust in God/Chapters 30-32	May 20
Lesson 13 Woes Continued/Chapter 33-35	May 24

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Isaiah's Personal Information

- His name means "salvation is of the Lord"
- He was the son of Amoz, but nothing more is revealed about Amoz
- Tradition tells us he was the brother of Amaziah, King of Judah. This may be why he was able to have close association with kings and priests and be very conversant in world political affairs
- His home was Jerusalem and he speaks of his wife
- He had two sons Shearjashub "A remnant shall return" and Maher-Shalalhash-baz "the spoil speedeth, the prey hasteth"
- He was a contemporary of Hosea (Northern Kingdom) and Micah
- Tradition holds that he was killed in a cruel manner by the evil king Manasseh, but the evidence for this is not conclusive

Features of The Book to Note During Our Study

- The "Holy One of Israel" is used several times throughout the book
- The book often mixes judgment of sin and promised blessings for God in the same passages
- The book is the most often quoted or referenced book in the New Testament and we will highlight some of these items later in this lesson
- The phrase "In That Day" is used quite often and the context must be referenced to gain a proper understanding of the meaning of each usage
- Isaiah prophesied for a period of almost forty years and in a wide variety of political and spiritual conditions among God's people and other nations
- Due to its specificity and detailed foretelling of future events, the book's inspiration/authorship has been fiercely attacked by critics
- His harsh condemnation of sinfulness is matched only by his prophesy of God's promises to save through His Perfect Servant
- Salvation by faithful obedience to God's will is a major theme in the book as well as the inclusion of the Gentiles in God's blessing through the Servant
- God is the ruler of all nations and He will bring them to power or to destruction as He wills

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Historical background during Isaiah’s period of writing—
Table of Important Kings Israel, Judah and Assyria

Israel’s Kings	Judah’s Kings	Assyria’s Kings
Jereboam II (793-752) II Kings 14:23-29	Uziah (Azariah) (790-739) II Kings 14:21; 15:1-7 II Chron 26	Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul) (745-727) II Kings 15:19-20 II Chron 28:20-21 I Chron 5:6, 25-26
Pekah (751-731) II Kings 15:17-21 16:1-5	Jotham (750-734) --Co-Regent-- II Kings 15:23-38 II Chron 27	Shalmaneser V (727-722) II Kings 17:2-5 18:9
Hoshea (731-722) II Kings 17:1-5	Ahaz (741-726) II Kings 16 II Chron 28	Sargon II (722-705) II Kings 17:6 24-27 II Kings 18:9-12
ISRAEL FALLS TO ASSYRIA II Kings 17:6-41	Hezekiah (726-697) II Kings 16:20 Ch. 18,19,20 II Chron Ch. 29-32	Sennacherib (705-687) II Kings 18:13-17 II Kings 19:35-37 II Chron 32:1-21 Isaiah 36:1
	Manasseh (697-642) II Kings 21:1-18 II Chron 33:1-20 ISAIAH’S Death (690)	

The Book Itself

Important Themes—1) Trust and Faith in the Holy One of Israel would be the only hope for deliverance 2) The coming of the Messiah, God’s Perfect Servant and the great blessings that He would bring to the faithful

Isaiah’s Designation for Jehovah—1) The Lord of Hosts refers to God’s omnipotence and rule over all things --used 63 time in the book

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2) The Holy One of Israel refers to God's complete perfection and holiness as compared to sinful and imperfect mankind

Two Major Divisions—Chapters 1-39 are generally referred to as the Assyrian Period (e.g., Sinful Israel will be judged using Assyria ,but Assyria will also be judged for their pride/arrogance)—Chapters 40-66 are generally referred to as the Babylonian Period when Isaiah exhorts the people to maintain their faithfulness and to wait for God's deliverance and blessing

Critical Attacks of Isaiah's Authorship—New Testament writers quote Isaiah and name him as the author of the prophecy 21 times and none of the New Testament writers refer to anyone but Isaiah

Practical Lessons from the Book

- The book stresses the omniscience of God, God knows and sees beyond the realm of human knowledge.
- When we forsake our covenant relationship with God we have committed a terrible evil, but we can return with a repentant heart to God.
- The foolishness of idolatry is exposed.
- Genuine repentance requires ceasing from evil and returning in faith to God. Either one without the other is incomplete.
- Sin, in any form, extracts a high price. It ruins internally, externally and (most importantly) eternally.
- God's righteous cause will triumph over evil.
- The only hope for the world is the Messiah and the covenant sealed with His blood.
- We must have a faithful attitude in all circumstances in order to please God

New Testament Scriptures Where Isaiah is referred to by Name:

Matt 13:14-15 Romans 9:27 Romans 10:16 John 12:39-40
Matt 12:17-21 Acts 28:25-27 Acts 8:30 Luke 4:17-19
and thirteen other quotations

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New Testament Scriptures Confirm Isaiah's Prophecy is Fulfilled:

I Peter 2:6 Luke 24:47 Rev 3:7 I Cor 15:54 II Peter 3:13 I Cor 2:9 and
there are another 14 confirming references in the New Testament

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Lesson Two-God's Indictment of Judah/Jerusalem
Chapter 1

- 1) What kings are mentioned in the introductory verse and what is the content of Isaiah's vision? What claim does Isaiah make concerning the things he wrote in vs.2?

- 2) What are the indictments God brings against His people in vs. 3-6? What are the results of their sinful ways in vs. 7-9?

- 3) What comparison is made concerning the rulers of Judah and Jerusalem in vs. 10? What would this illustration show the rulers of God's people?

- 4) What do vs. 11-14 tell us about the nature of true worship to God? Can you cite some other OT prophets/NT writers who included this same theme in the writings?

- 5) Our prayers can be impacted by the way we live our lives. What must be done to ensure our prayers will be heard with favor by God?

- 6) Make a listing of all the action verbs noted in vs. 16-17. What can we learn about how our faith in God must be revealed from these verses?

- 7) Verses 18 through 20 are a very powerful statement about the conditional nature of our deliverance by God. What is the force of the word "reason" in this context? Can you find some other reference to this teaching in other places in the Scriptures?

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Lesson Two-God's Indictment of Judah/Jerusalem
Chapter 1(continued)

- 8) List some of the comparisons of what the city and people once were and what they have become due to their rejection of God. What are some of the things that can come from a rejection of God based on Romans 1 and similar passages?

- 9) Make a listing of God's actions to remedy the situation in vs.24-26. What will be the results for the people of God?

- 10) Notice the comparison of end results for those who choose to accept or reject God's offer of deliverance. What are the characteristics of the people in each group?

- 11) Verse 29 introduces the idea of rejecting idolatry. What illustrations are given in the final verses of the chapter to show the consequences of choosing idols over the true God?

Application Questions:

- 1) God wants those to worship Him with a pure heart. How could we be guilty of offering "worship" that God would not desire?

- 2) God allows all men to be free moral agents. What does the idea of "reasoning" tell us about how God draws men to Himself?

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Lesson Three-Messianic Hope Revealed/Sin Punished
Chapter 2-4

- 1) The concept of the “last days” is introduced in these chapters. Look at Acts 2:17 and Heb1:1-2 to see what time in history is being referenced and explain your reasoning.

- 2) The reference to “mountains” in prophetic writings is used to describe power/rule or dominion. How would that be applicable in this case? See also Dan 2:35, 45.

- 3) Who would flow to this mountain and what would be their attitude toward the new life in there? What in this passage indicates a spiritual meaning to this “mountain”?

- 4) Make a listing of the uses of the words “filled” or “full” in vs. 6-11. What was the impact of these things that were filling the land? Does this sound familiar?

- 5) Observe the listing of the things God proclaims He is against in vs. 12-18. Make a list of the common characteristics of the items listed and what we can learn as here as well.

- 6) The first comparison (in the book) of the matchless power of God versus idols and men is observed in vs. 18-22. What lessons can be learned from this comparison?

Chapter Three

- 7) Make a listing of all the things that will be removed from Judah and Jerusalem in vs.1-5 and what effect the removal of these things would have.

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Lesson Three-Messianic Hope Revealed/Sin Punished
Chapter 2-4 (continued)

8) What is revealed about the rulers of Jerusalem and Judah in this context of vs. 6-8? What is the impact on the people when the powerful are wicked?

9) What group is addressed in vs. 16-26? List some of the characteristics describing these people and what will be their end result?

Chapter 4

10) The idea of God's righteous "Branch" is introduced in vs. 2. What favorable results will be seen resulting from the works of the righteous Branch? See also Jer 23:5 Zech 3:8 and 6:12.

11) We see the imagery of "cloud by day" and "fire by night" in these verses. What would these symbols mean to those who read the book?

Application Questions:

- 1) We can see God's attitude toward those lifted up with pride. How can we fall victim to this same sinful pattern of behavior?

- 2) We are warned about trusting in material things in these chapters. How should we prepare ourselves to avoid these sinful practices?

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Lesson Four-God's Vineyard and Isaiah's Call
Chapter 5-6

- 1) The parable of God's vineyard is introduced vs.1-7. What had God done for the vineyard and what does it represent?

- 2) What fruit had the vineyard borne for the Lord? What does this represent and what will happen to the vineyard as a result?

- 3) The next section in verses 8-23 is a listing of six woes against the wicked. Make a listing of the six woes and the application of each one.
 - 1)

 - 2)

 - 3)

 - 4)

 - 5)

 - 6)

- 4) Because of the evil attitude and behaviors noted in the previous verses, God will bring punishment against His people. How will this punishment be accomplished? By whom?

Chapter 6

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Lesson Four-God's Vineyard and Isaiah's Call
Chapter 5-6 (continued)

- 5) Describe Isaiah's vision seen in vs. 1-5 (see also Rev 4) and his reaction to the things he observed. What can we learn from this vision?

- 6) What do we learn about man and his sinfulness and God in His holiness from these verses? What had to happen to bring about fellowship?

- 7) Once the barrier of sin between Isaiah and God had been removed, what did Isaiah say? Was this a logical response?

- 8) What do we learn about the reception to the word of God given through Isaiah? What other prophets in the OT were given this same challenge by God?

- 9) What does Isaiah ask about their reception of God's word? Is this a difficult thing for him to hear? In the midst of this message of destruction, what ray of hope can be found?

Application Questions:

- 1) Do you think it is possible to lose some of our sense of awe and reverence toward God? What can be done to restore it?

- 2) What errors can happen if we emphasize the love of God without the proper thought of His perfect justice?

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Lesson Five-Messianic Hope Mixed with Political Messages
Chapter 7-9

- 1) What was the reaction of King Ahaz (Judah) when he heard the Pekah (Israel) and Rezin (Syria) has formed their armies to come up against Jerusalem? What does this show about his faith?

- 2) Isaiah was told to take his son and meet with Ahaz and tell him what the Lord has said about the armies coming against him. What does Isaiah tell Ahaz about this invasion?

- 3) What illustration is used to show the futility of the invasion? What does the discussion of “headship” tell us about God’s realm of control?

- 4) God offers to show Ahaz a sign to prove the word given through Isaiah. What does Ahaz’ refusal to ask for a sign show about his faith in God? Where did Ahaz go for his assurance (nation)?

- 5) God will give a sign to Ahaz and to all the people of Judah/Jerusalem. What was this sign and when did it take place?

- 6) Isaiah told Ahaz the threat from Syria and Israel would not be last for long. What was the threat that would be much more important?

- 7) What were God’s people told about making alliances with the other nations in the land of promise? What consequences were seen due to their lack of faith?

Chapter 8

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Lesson Five-Messianic Hope Mixed with Political Messages
Chapter 7-9 (continued)

- 8) Isaiah was told to take a tablet and write on it “Maher-shalal-hash-baz” what does this mean and what is the application?

- 9) In verses 11-22, a contrast is drawn between having confidence in God and the futility of false religion. What are some of the consequences of each?

Chapter 9

- 10) Another ray of Messianic hope is seen in vs.1-7. List the terms used to describe the Messiah and some NT references to these designations.

- 11) The last portion of the chapter is a recitation of sins and consequences that God’s people would experience. What can be learned from this section of the chapter?

Application Questions:

- 1) God has always told his people to come to Him in faith in order to be acceptable. What are some warning signs that tell us our faith is not what it should be?

- 2) What are the consequences when we depart from God’s way and try to add to or take from His revealed will? Can you cite some contemporary examples?

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Lesson Six-Messianic Hope Mixed with Political Messages
Chapter 10-12

- 1) Isaiah pronounces a woe against those who to those who use power and influence to gain material wealth. What are the questions that God asks them in vs. 3-4?

- 2) Who is brought forward as the punisher used by God against His people? Would the pride and arrogance of Assyria go unpunished?

- 3) What message of hope is seen beginning in vs. 20-23? What are the possible applications of this message?

- 4) According to vs.24-34, what will be the fate of Assyria eventually?

Chapter 11

- 5) This first section of the chapter is an exalted portrayal of the Messiah. Make a list of the characteristic of the Messiah (righteous Branch) and the significance of each one noted in vs.1-5 for class discussion.

- 6) What are the figurative images used to demonstrate the spiritual peace that will be seen in the Messianic age? Where are these peaceful conditions found?

- 7) When was the prophesy in verses 11-16 fulfilled? What would you use to determine this is not something to come in the future?

Chapter 12

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Lesson Six-Messianic Hope Mixed with Political Messages
Chapter 10-12

- 8) Chapter 12 is the end of the first sub-section of Isaiah –God’s complaint against Judah and Jerusalem. Go back through the text of the first twelve chapters and make a listing of warnings to sinners and the rays of Messianic hope. We will review the lists in the class discussion.

- 9) This chapter is a song of thanksgiving to God. Make a list of some of the things for which Isaiah gives thanks to God.

Application Questions:

- 1) Make a listing of the different ways, particularly in the OT, God has shown He is in control of all the nations.

- 2) When many of the OT prophets spoke of salvation, they were talking about deliverance from a physical enemy/oppressor. They rejoiced about this deliverance, but why should we be even more joyful in the deliverance provided by the Messiah?

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Lesson Seven-God's Rule Among the Nations
Chapter 13-14

Chapter 13 is the beginning of the second sub-section of Isaiah –God is Sovereign
Among All the Nations.

- 1) Isaiah presents the prophecy of the downfall of Babylon. What other prophets speak of Babylon's destruction?

- 2) According to vs.3-5, Who is in charge of the armies that will be brought together against Babylon?

- 3) The phrase "the day of the Lord" is used to introduce the section in vs. 6-10. In this context, what does "the day of the Lord" mean? What will be the reaction of those who are in Babylon?

- 4) There are references to changes in the sun, the moon and the stars in vs. 9-10. Look in Joel 2:10, Micah 3:6, Amos 5:18 and Ezekiel 32:7-8 and see how these figures are used by other prophets.

- 5) Vs. 14-16 tell us that none of those involved with the Babylonians will escape the cruel destruction being brought by God. What can we learn from this example?

- 6) Who will God call as his instrument for destruction in Babylon? What do we learn about the long-term status of Babylon following their destruction?

Chapter 14

- 7) When Babylon is destroyed God's people will once again be chosen of God. What is the fulfillment of this promise and when did it happen?

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Lesson Seven-God's Rule Among the Nations
Chapter 13-14 (continued)

- 8) The section in vs. 4-23 is a proverb or “taunt-song” over the destruction of Babylon. Make a listing of some of the things that will be said in this song of derision and we will discuss them in class.
- 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - 4)
 - 5)
 - 6)
 - 7)
 - 8)
 - 9)
 - 10)
- 9) How could Isaiah speak of the fall of both Assyria and Babylon as well as the rise of the Medes with such accuracy many years before it happened?
- 10) Why is Philistia told not to rejoice over the fall of Babylon?

Application Question:

- 1) Many critics have said there was no way Isaiah could have known about the events he foretold. How would you answer these questions if you were asked?

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Lesson Eight-Prophesy Against Other Nations
Chapter 15-20

- 1) Isaiah begins his oracle against the nations with Moab. When did Moab cross paths with God's people in the past?

- 2) How extensive will the destruction be and what will be the reaction of the men of Moab? How does Isaiah react to this message of destruction?

- 3) Moab was given an opportunity to gain some relief from the destruction. What was their reaction and why?

- 4) What is the status of the land as described in vs.7-10? What futile effort will be made to avert the destruction?

- 5) Isaiah takes up an oracle against Damascus (Syria) at the beginning of chapter 17. What will be the status of their cities/land after God is against them?

- 6) According to vs. 7-8 what positive result will come during the destruction of Syria? What does this say about the individual's relationship to God versus the entire nation?

- 7) What is the most important reason why their destruction was declared according to vs. 9-11? How can we fall into this same sin?

- 8) What does vs.12-14 tell us about God's control of the nations?

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Lesson Eight-Prophesy Against Other Nations
Chapter 15-20 (continued)

- 9) According to chapter 18, Ethiopia will pay homage to the Lord. What do the men of Ethiopia plan to prepare for the threat of the Assyrians? What advise does Isaiah give them instead?

- 10) How does Isaiah describe the destruction of the Assyrian threat in vs. 5-7? How does this fit with the power that God exerts over all of the earth and nations?

- 11) Make a list of things that will be the cause of Egypt's downfall from vs.1-10 of chapter 19. What do we learn about the idols that Egypt is relying upon?

- 12) Verse 18 begins a section of the chapter with "in that day". Based on the verses that follow, what "day" is being discussed?

- 13) Isaiah was told by God to walk about "naked" for three years as a sign of the shame that would come to Egypt and Ethiopia. What would this mean and what other prophets were told to do unusual things to tell God's message?

Application Questions:

- 1) Egypt's destruction is not "complete" like some other nations noted in the prophets. What may be some reasons for this?

- 2) God's superiority over the idol gods of the land is shown once again. How can idolatry creep into our lives? What steps can we take to avoid these temptations?

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Lesson Nine-Prophesy Against More Nations
Chapter 21-23

- 1) According to the first few verses of the chapter, who was going to be destroyed and who would be the agent of God's punishment on that nation?

- 2) What will the nation rulers who are about to be destroyed be doing according to vs. 5-6? How does this line up with the record of this nation's downfall according to Daniel chapter 5?

- 3) Why would this message of a nation's destruction be comforting to the people of Jerusalem/Judah? How do you explain Isaiah's reaction in vs. 3-4? What can we learn from this?

- 4) Who was the father of the nation of Edom? What do we know about his character and what interaction(s) did his descendents have with God's people? What OT prophet speaks exclusively about this nation?

- 5) Who does Isaiah speak against in vs. 13-17? What prophecies are made against this nation and region? What will become of their splendor?

- 6) Isaiah turns his attention to the people of Jerusalem. What phrases are used to describe the poor performance of the ruling classes among God's people?

- 7) According to vs. 9-14, the city of Jerusalem and the region of Judah going to be lost to the invaders. What are some of the reasons this would happen?

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Lesson Nine-Prophecy Against More Nations
Chapter 21-23 (continued)

- 8) We next see a contrast in the disposition of two individuals among the ruling class of Jerusalem. What attitude is displayed by Shebna and how does the Lord react to him? In contrast, what is the attitude of Eliakim and how does the Lord react to him?

- 9) Isaiah begins a prophecy against Tyre and Sidon in the first few verses of chapter 23? What other OT prophet else spoke about the destruction of Tyre and Sidon in his book?

- 10) What was the source of Tyre/Sidon's wealth and also its pride? Who else, other than the people in these two cities would be profoundly impacted by their destruction in vs. 2-7?

- 11) Who is revealed as the planner and architect of the destruction of these two cities? What reasons are given for their ruin?

- 12) How complete is the destruction of these two cities? How are the cities described following the invasion by the Babylonians (Chaldeans)? How long would these cities be "forgotten" and what could this mean?

Application Questions:

- 1) Isaiah 21:9 is quoted in Rev 14:8 and Rev 18:2. What would be the common patterns of behavior between ancient Babylon and Rome during the time of Christ?

- 2) Eliakim is type of the servant God is seeking. What application of Isaiah 22:22 would you make concerning God's perfect Servant?

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Lesson Ten- Sin is Condemned/Songs of God's Glory
Chapter 24-27

- 1) This chapter begins with a general condemnation of sin. What will God do to because of the sins of the world? Will there be any distinctions among different people/classes?

- 2) Make a list of the sins that are described in the first few verses of the chapter. Do we see similar conditions in today's world? What should we learn?

- 3) What are some of the changes that will occur based on God's cleansing of the earth? What shows the certainty of this judgment?

- 4) In the midst of all the desolation a ray of hope is once again seen (vs. 13-16) What is the source of the rejoicing among the righteous?

- 5) The incomparable God is extolled in the final three verses of chapter 24. Is there any part of the spiritual or physical world that will not hear His voice and obey?

Four Songs of Praise to God

- 6) Verses 1-5 of ch.25 are a song of praise to God's matchless name. What are some of the marvelous deeds ascribed to Him?

- 7) The second song of praise is seen in verses 6-9a. This song tells of the great feast prepared on Mount Zion. What could this prophecy mean?

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Lesson Ten- Sin is Condemned/Songs of God's Glory
Chapter 24-27

- 8) The third song of praise tells of the certainty of God's salvation for His people. What would the reference to defeating Moab mean to His people?

- 9) Chapter 26 is the fourth song of praise to God. Make a listing of some of the contrasting attitudes and outcomes between the righteous and the wicked.

- 10) What great beast is overcome by God in the first verse of ch. 27? What could this prophecy represent? Where else do we see beasts being overcome by God?

- 11) The allegory of God's vineyard is brought forward again. What happens to the vineyard in this case in comparison to ch. 5. What can we learn from this?

- 12) Another ray of hope is seen in the final two verses of the chapter. What will be the method for God to gather His people together? Once they are gathered, what will they be doing? What could be the possible fulfillment(s) of this prophecy?

Application Questions

- 1) The Lord calls us to make peace with Him. What is the only way to have this perfect peace with Him? What could that mean for our relationship to the world?

- 2) We see a very different path and outcome for the righteous and the wicked in these chapters. What can we learn from these chapters to help us as we live in the sinful world?

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Lesson Eleven – Holy One of Israel-Only Hope for Deliverance
Chapter 28-29

Sub-Section Number 3 Begins Here Ch. 28-39
The Only Source for True Deliverance is God

- 1) The first in a series of six “woes” begins at vs.1 of ch.28. To what group of people is the first “woe” addressed? How were they described and how were they being deceived?

- 2) How is the status of their glory described, and what word pictures are used to show its brevity? What is contrasting event that will occur “in that day”? What day is being described by this context?

- 3) What was causing the leaders of the people to be unfit for their duties? What is the lesson for those in leadership positions in our time?

- 4) What derisive comments did these leaders make concerning Isaiah’s teaching and manner of presentation? Is this a common theme among those who think themselves wise in our day? Cite some examples from scriptures and your own experience.

- 5) God promised them they would be taught a lesson by some people who they could not understand? How is this prophecy fulfilled? Why is it ironic they would have to learn the lesson this way?

- 6) Instead of leaning on the Lord and His strength and wisdom, with whom had the people made a pact/covenant? Why is this a foolish choice on their part?

- 7) What is the ray of hope given in vs. 16? What is the fulfillment of this prophecy? How is this stone/foundation different than the one noted earlier in the chapter?

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Lesson Eleven – Holy One of Israel-Only Hope for Deliverance
Chapter 28-29 (continued)

8) What interesting illustration is used in vs. 19 and 20 to describe the inability of the rulers plans to accomplish their goals? What does this tell us about trying to add to or take away from God' teachings?

9) The next woe involves Ariel or Jerusalem. What is the mood of those in Jerusalem in the beginning and to what shall it be turned? What is the importance of the first person singular pronouns in the verse 3?

10) How are those who will make war against Mount Zion described in vs. 5-8? Does this give much hope for those who will be fighting for Jerusalem?

11) How is the message of Isaiah described in vs. 9-14? Why do you think the people found his message to be so "difficult" to grasp?

12) Our Lord quotes vs. 13 to describe the Jewish leaders of His day. How could we be guilty of the same type of sin as those of leaders during Jesus' ministry?

13) The next woe is directed to those who doubt the power of God to find them out in their sins. What key mistake are they making in this error?

Application Question:

1) What scriptures can you find to show the importance of good leadership among God's people both OT and NT? Why is this so critical?

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Lesson Twelve – Woes to Those Who Do Not Trust the Lord
Chapter 30-32

- 1) How does God describe the people of Judah at the beginning of the chapter?
What does the phrase adding sin to sin mean in this context?

- 2) What critical mistake are His people repeating in vs.3-5? What will be the results of this mistake?

- 3) What types of things do the people say about the words of the prophets and what does this show about their attitude toward God? What will God do in response to their rebellion?

- 4) Even though the people have turned their back on God, what offer is given vs.15 and 18? Does God's extension of mercy have conditions? What should we learn from this example?

- 5) What could be meant by the phrases "bread of privation" and "water of oppression"? What was the intended end result of suffering these conditions?

- 6) What oppressor nation's judgment is described in vs. 27-32? What are some of the graphic images used to describe the wrath of God that will be unleashed on this nation?

- 7) The next woe is pronounced against the false hope provided by military might and power. Where did God's people place their trust and what did they fail to consider? How can we be guilty of the same sins?

- 8) Isaiah lays before Jerusalem the way they can be saved in the last few verses of ch. 31. What must the people do to gain God's favor and His blessings?

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- 9) We have a comparison of the incomparable God and the power and abilities of men and their military might. What illustration is used to draw this contrast? What should we learn from this?

- 10) Chapter 32 begins with a prophecy of a new era for the people of God. Who is the One described in the first few verses and what illustrations are used to describe His benefits?

- 11) What transformation will take place in the lives of those who will share in this new time of blessing? What are some possible fulfillments of this prophecy?

- 12) Isaiah once again directs his message to the women of Jerusalem and Judah. How are they described and what must they do to be right with their God?

- 13) What clues are we given as to the timing of the end of the arrival of these blessings in vs. 15? How would these conditions be changed following the events described in this verse?

Application Questions:

- 1) The people in Isaiah's day were chastised for departing from God's way and leaning on human wisdom. What should we do to avoid making repeating these same sins?

- 2) Why do you think Isaiah spoke specifically to the women in a portion of this chapter? What critical roles did women play in society then and now?

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Chapter 33-35

- 1) What nation is the “spoiler” referred to in the first few verses of ch. 33? What will be their end and how will it be determined?

- 2) The next few verses appear to be describing the conditions in the land during the invasion by a foreign army. What terms are used to describe the terrible conditions in the land?

- 3) The Lord begins to speak in vs. 10-16. What things does the Lord tell the whole world to observe? How is His character described in this group of verses?

- 4) The hope for the future under the reign of the Messiah is described beginning in vs. 17. How will the thoughts/concerns of the people be changed under the reign of the Messiah?

- 5) How does the Messiah fulfill all the roles noted for Him in vs. 22-24? What illustration is used to show the current condition of God’s people without the coming of the Messiah?

- 6) Chapter 34 is a description of God’s judgment in general and uses Edom’s destruction as an illustration. What hyperbole is used to describe the extensive the destruction of the nations who incur God wrath in vs. 1-5?

- 7) Isaiah turns the discussion to Edom specifically in vs. 6-15. Make a list of the descriptive term used to convey the conditions in Edom when the judgment of God is exercised.

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- 8) “Who” would be the occupants of Edom following the invasion of the destroyers? What other city/nations would have this same group of occupants? Why?

- 9) What is the meaning of the things discussed in vs. 16 and 17? How can these verses help us to build our faith in God?

- 10) Chapter 35 is a description of some of the blessing that will be available in the days of Messianic blessing. What elements of nature are included to show the glory that will be part of His reign?

- 11) What are the applications of comforting words in vs. 4-6? How did our Lord apply these verses in Matthew 11: 2-6?

- 12) We are introduced to the Highway of Holiness in vs. 8-10. Who will be allowed to travel this highway? Who will not be on this highway? Take a look at Matthew 7:13-14 for a few hints.

Application Questions:

- 1) Is the ability to travel this highway a matter of choice or is that pre-determined for each individual? What scriptures would you use to support your conclusion?

- 2) We have completed the six “woes” pronounced by Isaiah in ch. 28-33. What are the common characteristics of the people who are the subject of these “woes”? What lessons should we learn?