

Introduction

The book of Isaiah “declares that the curses of Deuteronomy will indeed fall on the people. They will be exiled, but through the exile and the ministry of the servant of Yahweh, the people’s sins will be taken away, and through the judgment will come an eschatological salvation for God’s people so saturated with the glory of God that mere words cannot bear the weight of the tremendous majesty.”

James Hamilton

God’s Glory in Salvation through Judgment, p. 190

This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week’s verse is Isaiah 40:22...
“It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.”

Day One

Read Isaiah 24; Judgment on the Earth, Yet Hope Remains

“Isaiah is a master of the unexpected note of hope” (J. Alec Motyer, *Isaiah: Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries*).

1. What teaching or principle convicted or encouraged you from last week’s lesson or lecture on Isaiah?
2. In Isaiah 24:1–13, what is being described, and what reason was given as the cause?
3. The tone of chapter 24 changes dramatically in verse 14 as the harvest of judgment becomes a gleaning, a careful gathering of what is left. In light of this, to whom was Isaiah referring in verse 14?
 - a. Why was the survival of these people important in understanding God’s promises to Israel?
4. In verses 21–23, Isaiah described the totality of God’s judgment in both the spiritual and earthly realms. With what image does he close in verse 23, and how does this fulfill God’s covenantal promise?
5. After reading chapter 24, has Isaiah’s description of the judgment and destruction to come changed your understanding and worship of God? Be specific.

Day Two

Read Isaiah 25; The World-Wide Song of Praise to God

1. How is Isaiah 25:1 a response to what the author wrote in chapter 24?
 - a. From verses 1–5, for what things was God being praised?
 - b. How has this year’s study deepened your understanding of verse 1? Does this cause you to praise God, as it did the prophet Isaiah?
2. In verse 8, what does God remove forever? Why do you think this is so significant, especially remembering the context of God’s covenants with His people?

3. In verse 9, what have the righteous—those who remained and will be present at the feast—been doing?
 - a. How are *you* waiting for the Lord's return? Is your joy/hope grounded more by understanding what is to come, or on the present circumstances of your life today?
4. As this section of prophecy describes the glorious victory of the King, what specific aspect of God's character did Isaiah highlight in verse 10? How would this reality comfort the people who heard it then, and how does it comfort believers today?
5. In verses 10–12, against what sin was Isaiah warning?
 - a. In what ways does this sin manifest itself in your life today? Find at least one verse that would be helpful for you to meditate on as you battle this sin, and share these with your group.

Day Three

Read Isaiah 26; A Waiting People

1. In Isaiah 26:1–6, the people are rejoicing at the LORD's salvation, however this song was to be sung in the future at the fulfillment of God's covenant promises to His people. What counsel can be found in these opening verses for how the people might wait well?
 - a. How do these verses affect your attitude as a believer today awaiting the return of the King?
 - b. How can you *practically* stay your mind on God and trust in Him as your Rock?
2. From verses 7–9, how do the righteous wait for the LORD's timing? Is that true for you today?
3. From verses 12–15, what language points to the LORD's faithfulness to His covenants with Abraham, Moses, and David?
4. According to verses 16–19, how will God's accomplishments in the future compare to those of His people, detailed in verses 12–15?
 - a. In verse 19, to whom do you think Isaiah is referring?
5. The closing verses in Isaiah 26:20–21 show that the judgment of the nations is inevitable, and yet as in Exodus, the LORD is faithful to preserve His own who are safely shut behind their doors as the fury passes by. Take time to pray and thank the LORD for His faithfulness to His own, and ask that He would strengthen you through His Word today to wait well for His perfect timing.

Day Four

Read Isaiah 27; The Conclusion to Redemptive History

1. In Isaiah 27:1, what event is alluded to that is key to redemptive history? (See Genesis 3:15.)

2. In verses 2–6, how is Israel described, and by whose power does this accomplishment take place?
 - a. Contrast the description of the vineyard in 27:2–6 with that in Isaiah 5:4–7, and list some of the differences.
3. In verses 7–11, Isaiah shows how God’s dealings with His own people differed fundamentally from the punishment for the other nations. When Israel is restored, what will happen to the nations that God raised up for a time, but who are a people without discernment (v. 11)?
4. In verses 12–13, what will become of the people of Israel and where will this take place? Why is that important?

Day Five

Read Isaiah 32; The King Reigns

1. In Isaiah 32:1, an unidentified king reigns in righteousness but other clues to his identity are given in Isaiah 9:1–7, 11:1–5 and 16:5. From these references, who is this king?
 - a. According to Luke 22:30, 1 Corinthians 6:2, 2 Timothy 2:12, and Revelation 2:26–27 and 3:21, who are the princes who will rule with this king?
2. In verses 2–4, identify some ways God’s people will be transformed from the description given in Isaiah 6:10.
3. Verses 9–14 describe the judgment that was to come on the land and the people. The women referred to were guilty of complacency, having put their faith in their presently secure surroundings rather than urgently seeking refuge in the Lord’s will. Examine your own life and identify any areas where you are complacent with the world around you and are not actively pursuing God’s will. What steps will you take to rectify this?
4. According to verse 15, who will accomplish the restoration along with the King?
5. In verses 15–20, which covenant promises are fulfilled in the description of the kingdom?
6. The doctrine of kingship was central in Isaiah’s theology as the means to solving Israel’s problems. With this in mind, re-read 2 Samuel 7:8–16 and summarize briefly its importance in redemptive history.
7. In these chapters, Isaiah presents a portrait of God’s transforming holiness and steadfast love for His people and points to the fulfillment of His covenant promises for this nation. As you reflect upon God’s faithfulness, write a brief prayer of thanks for His magnificent redemptive plan.