

Introduction

“Only the redeemed, the holy people of God can ever hope to enjoy the everlasting covenant promised to David and his followers (55:3). Isaiah’s messages attempted to persuade his audiences to repent of their sins (59:20) and to transform their lives so that they could enjoy the glories of Yahweh’s wonderful kingdom. To strengthen his appeal, Isaiah pictured the amazing glories of the new kingdom and contrasted the wonderful joy of being there with the ghastly horror of suffering under God’s wrath.”

Gary V. Smith

“Isaiah,” *What the Old Testament Authors Really Cared About*, p. 290

This year we are memorizing Isaiah 40. This week’s verse is Isaiah 40:24...

“Scarcely have they been planted, scarcely have they been sown, scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, but He merely blows on them, and they wither, and the storm carries them away like stubble.”

Day One

Read Isaiah 60; The Future Glory of Zion

1. What did you find particularly convicting or encouraging from last week’s lesson or lecture?
2. In Isaiah 60:1–5, what promises did the prophet envision for Zion in the future?
3. According to verses 6–14, how will Israel’s relationship with formerly hostile nations change?
 - a. According to verse 9, why are these nations interested in Zion?
4. Read verses 19–20 and Genesis 1:14–18. What is the significance of the new role of the sun and moon after the Lord brings His glory to Jerusalem?
5. Chapter 60 emphasizes a return to Jerusalem. What hope this would have offered to the exilic community, especially as they recalled God’s promises in the Abrahamic Covenant?
6. As you read this chapter and consider your place in the new creation, which aspects give you hope, and why?

Day Two

Read Isaiah 61–62; The Lord’s Anointed One Announces Zion’s Salvation

1. In Isaiah 61:1–3, what are the ministries of the Lord’s anointed one?
 - a. From verses 4–7, list the benefits of His work for His people. How does this relate to the fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant?
2. From verses 8–9, how does the description of the Lord’s character relate to the blessing bestowed on His people?
3. In 61:10–62:5, what does God promise to do for His people?

4. Compare the description of God's people in Isaiah 62:1–5 with that in chapter 1. What do you think accounts for the change?
5. From 62:6–7, what do you think is the role of the watchmen?
 - a. What application from this illustration can be drawn for the church today?
6. In verses 6–12, what do you find encouraging as you consider Isaiah's vision of Christ's return and Zion's future glory?

Day Three

Read Isaiah 63:7–64:12; A Lesson in Prayer

1. From Isaiah 63:7–14, list some of God's works that Isaiah recited.
 - a. What is the value in remembering God's mercies, both for the original audience and for believers today?
 - b. Write down some specific mercies God has shown you this week, and take a moment to thank Him.
2. In verses 15–19, on what basis did Isaiah ask the Lord to be merciful again?
 - a. What lessons can you draw from this section of Isaiah's prayer?
3. In 64:6, how did Isaiah describe the people's actions and its consequences?
 - a. How does that description deepen your understanding of God's holiness and your own sin?
4. In verse 8, what image of God and His people is given? How does this demonstrate a right understanding of a believer's relationship with the Father?
5. Read 64:9–12. On what basis is this petition made to God? How does this relate to redemptive history?
6. As you consider Isaiah's prayer as a whole, what lessons could you apply to your own prayer life?

Day Four

Read Isaiah 65; Judgment and Salvation

1. Isaiah 65:1–5 helps explain the alienation from God referred to in chapter 64. According to these verses, how did God respond to Israel?

2. From Isaiah 65:1–7, what aspects of God’s character are revealed?
3. Following the promise of judgment in verses 6–7, what hope is found in verse 8. How does that relate to the bigger picture of redemptive history?
4. According to verses 17–19, what effect will the new creation have on the following areas?
 - a. The old creation
 - b. The people of God
 - c. God Himself
5. According to verses 20–25, what will people do in the new creation?
6. According to verse 24, what will be different in the future about believers’ communication with God?
7. Why do you think a study of things to come might be helpful for believers today?

Day Five

Read *Isaiah 66*; **Looking Forward to a New Creation**

1. According to verse 2 what does God esteem?
 - a. What would this kind of life look like today? Is this true of you today?
2. In verses 7–9, what comparison was Isaiah making, and what will be the end result?
3. In verse 10, to whom is Isaiah speaking?
4. In verse 14, what word is used to describe the faithful? (See also 65:13–16.) In light of last week’s study, why is this significant?
5. In verses 15–18, to what does Isaiah return once again, amidst his descriptions of future hope and glory? Why do you think he does this?
6. What event is described in verses 17–21?
7. After studying these chapters in Isaiah, what is your impression of the new heavens and the new earth? How does this deeper understanding affect your daily, practical devotion to God?



Women of Grace

• Lesson 19 • Isaiah, Part 4 •

LaGeorge

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