



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 29. Isaiah A

- **Introduction**

- Author: Isaiah
- Date: Covers at least ~739–686 BC, probably written sometime during and/or shortly after that time
- Context:
 - Judah was in a state of spiritual decline, even as some of its kings made efforts at reform, yet it didn't learn from Israel's conquest and dispersion to put away idolatry once and for all.
 - They also faced several external threats but kept turning to other nations for deliverance instead of God.
 - At least four other prophets ministered right before and/or during the time of Isaiah, mostly to Israel, but Israel's capture meant the focus was shifting to Judah.
 - Israel (as a whole) had been given everything it needed under the Old and Davidic Covenants to fulfill God's purpose for them, but they were failing spectacularly at both living in relationship with God and representing His character.

- The big shift in tone and content from the first 39 chapters to the rest of the book has led many skeptical academics to question if one person wrote it all, but the connection between the two is very important.
- Isaiah is the second-most quoted Old Testament book by the New Testament and in many ways set the agenda for how to bridge what God had done before then to what He was and is going to do in the future.

- **Main Themes**

- The _____ of the Holy One of Israel
 - He is a holy God Who deserves to be honored as such.
 - He is more real than any idols.
 - He is sovereign over everything, including the other nations they kept fearing and/or running to instead of Him.
- God's Relationship with *All* of _____
 - Israelites are not exempt from His judgment just because they are His people.
 - He will judge other nations too because He is concerned with their behavior.
 - God has a plan that involves salvation for both Israel and the rest of the world.

- God's sovereignty over the physical Creation is emphasized before later sharing prophecies about how global salvation will involve it too.

- Judgment and _____
 - Israel will be judged for breaking the covenant, but it will be restored because of God's promises.
 - Other nations will be judged for their wickedness and sin against God's people, but one day, salvation will extend to all peoples.
 - The Creation itself will be judged because of sin, but one day, it too will be restored.

- The Coming _____ as the Solution to All
 Theological Concerns
 - The Old Covenant program had been enacted but was failing, so Isaiah shows how the ultimate solution to their problems will come when the right Davidic King rules.
 - This Servant/Branch will accomplish for others:
 1. Liberation for Israel
 2. Rule over Israel and the rest of the world
 3. Peace and justice for the afflicted
 4. Peace and justice all over the world to restore what was lost in the Fall
 5. Salvation to the whole world

- He will endure and be characterized by:
 1. Unheard-of abuse and suffering
 2. Payment for sin
 3. Meekness
 4. The filling of the Spirit
- Most New Testament quotations of Isaiah are found in the Gospels and Acts because this book does the most to show how the Messiah will be the vehicle for how God deals with Israel and the rest of the world.

Discussion:

1. How does Isaiah's expanding focus from Israel to the whole world help keep our eschatology balanced?
2. How do Isaiah's prophecies about the Messiah differ from the way Jesus is portrayed today (even in churches!)?

FOR REFLECTION: What do you tend to fear and/or run to before God? What about God do you need to remember to prevent that?

Blanks: Supremacy, Creation, Restoration, Messiah