



Series: Bible Survey

Lesson: 30. Isaiah 1–12

- **Review**

- Isaiah covers a significant period of decline in Israel's history where Judah was failing to learn from its northern brothers.
- It shows how God had a solution for Israel's inability to follow God under the Law.
- It uniquely manages to relate both Israel's contemporary problems and the grand plan of redemption in great depth in ways that help us understand both better.
- Main themes:
 - The supremacy of the Holy One of Israel
 - God's relationship with *all* of Creation
 - Judgment and restoration
 - The coming Messiah

- The _____ **Against Judah and Jerusalem (1–5)**

- It is unclear if these chapters came before or after Isaiah's 'commission' in chapter 6.
- The first chapter lays out the 'case' against Judah, followed by four chapters alternating between the future that awaits Judah when it has been redeemed and the consequences of their disobedience that will come first.
- The key themes:
 - How much God hates hypocrisy (religiously and ethically)
 - How God intends to sanctify both Israel and the rest of the world
 - How God's judgment will come about
 - The imminence of judgment

- Isaiah's _____ **(6)**

- It is unclear if this is Isaiah's initial calling or a 'second calling' to a more difficult kind of ministry.
- How this functions within Isaiah:
 - To enlarge our vision of God in order to reinforce the later arguments based on His supremacy

- To validate Isaiah as God’s messenger in an era full of false prophets
 - To set the tone for the rest of his prophecies that even though he will largely preach to a stubborn people, there will be a remnant who will listen
- This passage also provides key insights into:
 - Our understanding of angels
 - Our separation from God and the need for sanctification to be in relationship with Him and prepared for service
 - The connection between sanctification and proactive obedience
 - How sharing God’s Word is itself an act of obedience, not a means to an end
- **The _____ Before the Messiah’s Rule (7–12)**
 - For context on Ahaz, see 2 Kings 16; 2 Chronicles 28.
 - Ahaz refuses to trust God, so God sends a message of judgment focused primarily on the people’s reliance on earthly powers and knowledge instead of on Him.
 - It expands as it goes into condemnation for pride, as well as prophecies about the Messiah Who will set all things right.

- The key refrain in the first half is the phrase 'Immanuel' ('God with us'), used three ways before being explained in chapter 9:
 - Reassuringly in 7:14 to remind people of God's promises before He pronounces judgments
 - Ironically in 8:8 to criticize the people for earning judgment for going to others when God was 'with' them all along
 - Triumphantly in 8:10 to show that the other nations attacking them were ultimately hopeless against the people God was with.

- The Messianic prophecy of 7:14 (quoted in Matt. 1:23) *functions in Isaiah* to show that Israel's history is moving toward this promised birth that will signify God's presence with them.
 - **HP: Before you look for how Old Testament prophecies are fulfilled in the New, look first to what message God was sending the people *back then* by giving them that prophecy.**

- Chapter 9 begins by explaining more about Who this Immanuel is: He will be more than just a sign of God's favor or presence; He will *be* God's presence among the people as the ruler with all power and authority to liberate them and rule the whole world.

- The rest of chapters 9 and 10 continues by pronouncing judgment on:
 - Judah's Israelite neighbors for attacking them and remaining stubborn in the face of chastisement

- The wealthy and powerful of Judah who oppress the weak and poor
 - The Assyrians who will carry out part of the chastisement but ignore God's sovereignty enabling them to do so
- Chapter 11 develops the Branch metaphor for the Messiah by promising that:
- God's Spirit will rest on Him.
 - He will rule with righteousness.
 - His righteous rule will bring about Edenic peace.
 - People from all nations will place their faith in Him.
 - He will usher in a new Exodus by regathering the remnant of Israel from all over the world and giving them victory over their enemies.
- **HP: In Old Testament eschatology, prophecies about the Millennium and about the New Earth are often conflated for the sake of making the point the author wants to make.**
- Chapter 12 finishes the section by recording the thankfulness the people will have when they see God's anger with them turned to salvation.

Discussion:

1. Why do you think the Messiah is first described as the One Who will rule and set things right before He is described as the Savior from sin?
2. Can you think of other examples where New Testament fulfillments of prophecy are greatly expanded/enhanced by knowing their Old Testament context?

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: Case, Call, Judgment