



The Book of Isaiah 24-43

Discussion/Reflection Questions

Chapter 24

Isaiah opens this chapter with the word, “Behold”. Behold means to gaze upon or to observe. Isaiah is inviting us to take a closer look at God’s unfolding judgement on the earth. During the Great Tribulation, many will die, and the earth will seem empty. God’s judgment will touch everyone and everything. No one and nothing will be excluded. But we see in verse 14, that even in the midst of judgement there will be those who rejoice in their salvation.

If you have an extra minute, turn to Revelation 7:9-14 and look at the many who will trust in Jesus during the Great Tribulation. Those of us who know the Lord, can see God’s goodness and glory even in his judgement. We can see that God is ushering in an entire new world that is glorious. When you look at the chaos and brokenness of this world, how does your future hope of justice and an eternity in heaven give you strength?

Chapter 25

We see in verse one that God’s word is reliable. What he says he will do, he will do. All of God’s plans will take place, just as he said they will take place. After God’s judgement, there will be peace. All of the death and destruction that no one was escaping --will be swallowed up forever! Then, there will be a great feast to celebrate God’s victory.

Verse 8 says that the Lord will wipe away all the tears from their faces. At the end of the Bible, in Revelation 21:4 it says the same: *“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”*

We see the gentleness and tenderness of our Heavenly Father here, as he does not just hand us a Kleenex, but he himself wipes the tears away. How many tears does it say he will wipe away? And how is this passage comforting to you as a child of God?

Chapter 26

Isaiah 26 is a song that will be sung on the day when the Messiah reigns. The people will celebrate their safety and salvation because they have trusted in the Lord. The word shalom is used in verse 3 for the peace that his people will experience. In the Hebrew, it says, "*shalom shalom*", which emphasizes an intense peace - so in the English - it says he will keep them in "*perfect peace*". What a wonderful promise! He is an everlasting rock to his people.

A wonderful promise of peace is given to those whose mind is fixed on God because they trust in him. In order to have perfect peace, we must focus on the Lord rather than our problems. Satan wants us to do the opposite and so the battle for peace is first won in our minds. But we can't just do this once - we have to do it over and over and keep our mind "stayed" on him. Is there something in your life that is making you anxious? What is stealing your peace today? How can you refocus your mind on the Lord and trust him more today?

Chapter 27

In the day of Lord, the Lord will defeat Satan and bring his people back to himself. He says a great trumpet will be blown that will cause all those who were driven away to return and worship the Lord. We see in the Old Testament a trumpet was used in Numbers 10:1 to gather the people together and a trumpet was blown on the day of atonement. (Lev. 25:9). We also see in the New Testament, that when it speaks of the return of Jesus, the angels will give a loud trumpet call to gather the elect from the ends of the earth. And then in the end, in Revelation 11:15, an angel will blow a trumpet signaling God's kingly rule.

Trumpets were used to signal war, gather people for an assembly, to signal the start of a great feast and to announce a victory. Like a trumpet cry, the gospel message calls out for those who are lost, to turn to the Lord. It is a battle cry against sin and God has won the victory! In the end, all of those who have responded to the gospel will hear the last trumpet and gather together with all the saints, to worship the Lord on his throne. Until then, how can you rejoice in knowing that the victory is sure? We live in a world where many feel hopeless, how does this future hope give you strength even in difficult times?

Chapter 28

Isaiah 28:16 is quoted in 1 Peter 2:6 and it reveals that Jesus is the sure foundation for our lives. The word "*foundation*" means a structure that supports from underneath. This can either be stone or concrete or it can refer to an idea, principle or fact that supports something. God says Jesus is to be our rock! He is "*a precious cornerstone.*" The cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of the foundation. All other stones will be set in reference to this stone and determine the position of the entire structure.

Is Jesus your cornerstone? The foundation this world offers is weak and full of lies. Anything we build on the foundation of this world, will fail in the long run. Jesus is a steady, secure, strong foundation and anything we build with him will last forever. When our lives are built on his sure promises, we have no reason to fear. What or who are you tempted to make the foundation of your life and why? What changes do you need to make today, to make Jesus the foundation of your life?

Chapter 29

The people of Israel were able to talk spiritual and sound spiritual, but their hearts were far from the Lord. They were focusing more on following the commands, rituals and rules man had created rather than following God. But their rebellion was evident to God because God looks at the heart. He saw past their words and their external image and knew their hearts were not near to him.

Times have not changed. In Matthew 15:7-9, Jesus quoted Isaiah saying: "*You hypocrites! Did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said: 'This people honor me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.'*" This was a problem in Isaiah's times, in Jesus' times and it is still a problem in the church today. We can't always trust what people say. We have to watch actions, over a long period of time to determine the heart of someone.

But let's reflect on our own hearts for a minute. Are you ever tempted to appear to be nearer to God than you really are? Do you ever honor God with your lips, while your heart is far from him? On a scale of 1 to 10, how near do you feel to God today? God has not moved. He is near to you. But you must draw near to him as well. What do you need to repent of or change in order to be closer to God?

Chapter 30

Israel had rebelled against God and put their trust in Egypt rather than in God. As a result, God was about to bring them low. Their adversity would enable them to hear the voice of God once again. And so, we see God's graciousness as he waits for the right timing to show mercy and justice to his people.

We see in Isaiah, that the Lord's delay had a purpose. There was a built-in blessing to his delay. It can be hard to wait on God's timing when we are in trouble and he seems silent. Sometimes we can be tempted to take revenge or say or do something we should not do just because we are desperate to resolve a matter. It's easy to get ahead of God and try to resolve things on our own rather than waiting for God to help us. Isaiah says, *"blessed are those who wait for him."* Is there an area of your life where you have grown impatient with God? Consider that he may have a blessing waiting for you that you cannot think of or imagine. Determine to not get ahead of God and trust that God hears your prayers, keeps his promises, knows your heart and he loves you. Write a prayer below handing over the situation you are trusting God with today.

Chapter 31

The children of Israel thought they could be delivered from the Assyrians by Egyptian horses and chariots rather than by God. They trusted in a weak human army over the strength of the almighty Lord! How very wrong they were. They failed to look to the Holy One of Israel and Isaiah shows them all the reasons why God is so much better. He is wiser, he is faithful to his words and when he stretches out his hand toward an enemy, he wins. He is like a lion, who has no fear, and he protects, delivers and rescues his people, when they put their trust in him.

In times of trouble, it can be tempting to trust in other people, our own strength or in money rather than in God. God is wiser and stronger than anyone or anything we choose to put our trust in. Everything and everyone else will fall short. God will help us fight our battles when we look to him. Where is the first place you turn in times of trouble? Is there someone or something that you are trusting in more than God? How can you trust him more today?

Chapter 32

Isaiah called on the women who were living complacent and at ease, to rise up. He wanted them to prepare for the arrival of the righteous king. God used the Assyrian army to humble Israel and turn them back to the Lord and now he was going to pour out his Spirit on them. The Spirit brought about fruitfulness, justice and righteousness in the land. As a result, they would experience peace, a quiet confidence and true security in the Lord.

It was dangerous for the women to be complacent because they were resting when trouble was coming. They were unaware of the danger they were in and living in a false security. We live in a world where evil is multiplying. It is not a time for Christian women to be complacent. Good and evil are at war with one another and we must walk in the Spirit, so we will not gratify the desires of the flesh. (Galatians 5:16). You see, the Spirit does not remove our wrong desires. We will still be tempted and have fleshly desires, but the Spirit will help us not *gratify* our desires. The Spirit helps us live in righteousness and the effect of righteousness is peace. Have you grown complacent in any area of your life? The effect of righteousness will be peace. What do you need to change so you can experience more of the peace of God in your life?

Chapter 33

As the Assyrian army seeks to destroy them, we see that God will destroy them instead. Finally, God's people have stopped looking to the Egyptians for help, and they are crying out to God in prayer. After they have prayed, they are waiting on the Lord and trusting in him to be gracious to them and to be their salvation. Because Israel was brought low, God is finally being exalted. And because God is being exalted, he will deliver them.

Is there an area in your life where you are feeling defeated? Sometimes it takes coming to the end of ourselves to realize that we are not strong enough to fight on our own. We need the help of the Lord. While it is painful to go through defeat, the defeat is a blessing because it turns our focus to where it should have been all along - on God. Write a prayer below about the area of defeat you are suffering. Ask God to be your strength every morning and let him be your salvation in times of trouble.

Chapter 34

Isaiah calls on the nations to listen up and give him their attention. This prophecy is for them, not the people of God. As he talks about the coming judgement of the Assyrians, there is a double prophecy as he is also speaking of the Great Tribulation. Verse 4 talks about the sky rolling up like a scroll and the heavens rotting away. Jesus says of his second coming in Matthew 24:29: *“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”*

Take a moment and read Acts 2:20 and then turn to Revelation 6 and look at verses 13 & 14. Revelation shows us that just as the Lord unrolled the heavens in creation, in the end, he will roll the heavens back up. Christ’s return will cause an earthly environmental catastrophe like no one has ever seen before. While the book of Revelation and the book of Isaiah speak much of God’s coming judgement, we see that they are also books full of hope. Isaiah contains more prophecy of the coming Messiah than any other book in the Old Testament. Revelation ends in chapter 23 verse 21 saying: *“The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.”*

God’s word ends with grace. As believers, we do not need to fear his coming wrath. Though we may face hardship, his love and grace are with us and we are saved. Do you look forward to the coming of Christ? And do you have a loved one who does not know the Lord yet? Write a prayer for their salvation below.

Chapter 35

After God’s judgement in chapter 34, he promised rejoicing and restoration. God’s spirit would not only transform people but nature too. While God’s judgement would make people feel physically weak, he wanted them to have courage. Hebrews 12:12 quotes Isaiah 35:4 in the context of discipline. It says: *“Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees.”* The hope of the coming restoration was to give them strength, in the midst of their fears.

Are you fearful or anxious about something today? Even followers of God grow weary and feel weak at times. The hardships of life mixed with the uncertainty of what the future holds, can lead to worry. If you are in that place right now – these words are for you: *“Be strong; fear not!”* With the help of God, you can withstand great pressure! Turn your worries and fears over to God now. Write a prayer below asking God to strengthen any areas in your life where you are feeling weak.

Chapter 36

From Isaiah chapters 1 through 35, Isaiah was prophesying that the Assyrian invasion would come. Now in chapter 36 we get the historical narrative of the invasion just as he prophesied. As the battle begins, the bigger battle as to who they would trust begins to play out. Judah was tempted to trust in Egypt and then the king of Assyria tempted them with food and drink. Hezekiah was strong and continued to put his trust in God alone.

One main theme of the book of Isaiah is trusting in the Lord. This world and the enemy seek to lure us away from trusting in God, but our God is a promise keeper. Everything he says he will do; he will do. Is there something in your life that feels like a battle? What is the battle you are facing today? Name it and hand it over to God. Trust him. He loves you.

Chapter 37

When King Hezekiah tore his clothes and covered himself with sackcloth, he was showing humility, repentance and a dependence on God. Isaiah encouraged Hezekiah to not be afraid and to trust in the Lord. But Sennacherib tried to persuade him not to trust God by questioning God's ability. So, Hezekiah spread out his problem before the Lord and cried out to him for deliverance. Since this was a military battle, he cried out to God as the Lord of hosts - or the Lord of armies. God answered his prayers and destroyed the Assyrians in just one night.

Nothing is too hard for our God. It took just one angel to answer Hezekiah's prayers. But it did take humility, repentance, and Hezekiah spreading out his problem before the Lord, to experience deliverance. When was the last time you went into the presence of God in a purposeful manner and laid out your problem before him? Often times we lay out our problems before friends and counselors instead of God. Take some time now, to get on your knees, and spread out your problem before the Lord. Imagine God on his throne as Hezekiah did and give God all of the details. The Lord of hosts, our living God, sees and hears you. Pray boldly today.

Chapter 38

When Hezekiah learned that he would die soon, once again, he cried out to the Lord. God heard his prayer and gave him an extra 15 years of life. God even gave him a sign to reassure him. This was another act of mercy as God did not have to give him a sign.

We have no control over how many days our life will be. But what we do know is that God is always near to us and he hears our prayers. Had Hezekiah not prayed, he would have died. Prayer matters. I once heard a pastor say that in the end, all of our time wasted on social media will be evidence that indeed, we did have time to pray. What stands in the way of your prayer life? What change should you make in your daily life, so that you can devote more time to prayer?

Chapter 39

Isaiah questioned Hezekiah because he was trusting in his wealth and alliance with Babylon, rather than in the Lord. When Isaiah prophesied about the coming Babylonian exile, Hezekiah selfishly said that this was a good word because there would be peace and security in his lifetime. He showed no concern for his children's children.

All Hezekiah cared about was himself. He was not concerned about the future generations of his people, who would face exile. God gave him 15 extra years to live and during that time he was only focused on his own comfort and success. Age does not always equal wisdom and having more time does not always mean that we are making good use of our time. Only God knows the numbers of years you will live. What will you do with the time God has given you? Will you spend it seeking comfort and success for yourself or will you use it for God's glory? What is one area of your life where you have become selfish? What changes do you need to make so that you are not wasting the years God has given you, on only yourself?

Chapter 40

Though Israel had rebelled, they are still God's people and greatly loved by him. God's word stands forever, and his greatness is revealed in nature. Not only is God sovereign over all creation but he is sovereign over all the powers of this world. He is self-existent and never grows tired. There is none comparable to him.

Even the young grow weary and weak. God's great power is available to us but it's not for those who are prideful and self-confident. The only way to receive God's strength is to acknowledge our weaknesses and ask him for it. Then our strength will be renewed and refreshed as we walk forward in God's purpose. In what area of your life are you feeling weary and tired today? God gives us a beautiful picture of the strength he wants to give you to walk, run and even soar. Admit to God your feelings of weariness. Seek the Lord and his strength. And as you go forward, wait on the Lord to give you HIS strength for the challenges ahead.

Chapter 41

Isaiah calls on the nations to see the sovereignty of God. He is the beginning and the end, and everything is always under his control. He commands Israel to not give in to fear because God promises that he is with them. He says he will strengthen and help them and uphold them with his righteous right hand.

When the all-powerful and sovereign God of the universe says to not be afraid because he is with you – you can trust him. It can be scary to feel alone, but as God's children, we are never alone. God is always with us. His love is tender, and he wants to help you. Name a time when you were afraid, and God helped you. Is there something you are afraid of right now? Close your eyes and imagine for a moment holding God's right hand. Tell him about your fear and put that fear into his hand. Now leave it there with him and trust him to strengthen and help you.

Chapter 42

God's affection and love for Israel is expressed as he talks about how he chose them, delights in them and has put his spirit on them. We see God's tenderness as he compares them to a bruised reed that he will not break. A reed is a fragile plant and can be easily broken, especially if it's already bruised. A faintly burning wick is also fragile and can easily go out. But God is gentle and he will not let the reed break or the wick be quenched.

Life is hard. Sometimes we can feel bruised and battered from the twists and turns of life. God does not just toss a bruised reed or faintly burning wick aside. Instead, he seeks to heal the reed and help the flickering wick to burn more brightly. In what area of your life do you feel bruised? God loves you and he wants to heal your brokenness. Do not be afraid to tell him how you are feeling. He is gentle. You can trust him with your hurt and pain. If you are not hurting today, think about someone else who is hurting and be the hands and feet of Jesus to that person today. Deal with them tenderly and be a blessing in their life.

Chapter 43

Isaiah 43 is a beautiful ending to the second part of our study through Isaiah. The Lord promises his people that when they go through the affliction of exile, he is with them. He is their creator, and he knows them by name. He will walk through the fire with them because he loves them. He wants them to forget their past sin and failures and look ahead to the new things God is about to do. Between Babylon and their return to Israel would be a wilderness but God would make a way in the wilderness and cause rivers in the desert. He would deliver them.

God knows you by name. You are precious in God's eyes and loved. What a great comfort it is to know that through every trial God is with us and he will not let it overwhelm us to the point of ruin. While we want to remember all that God has done for us, we need to let go of past sin and failures and make room for God to do a new thing in our lives. What is in your past that you need to stop thinking about over and over? What do you need to let go of from your former years of life? Let. It. Go. God wants to do a new thing in your life and keep walking with the King.