

Correspondence Bible Study

Lesson #22 – Isaiah (Part 1)

PRAYER OF PRAISE: Read Chapter 25

Notes on Isaiah:

His name means “The Lord Saves.” The years of his ministry were from 740 B.C. to 681 B.C. He would have seen the fall of the Northern Kingdom in 722 B.C. Isaiah enjoyed his greatest influence under King Hezekiah from 715-686 B.C. Tradition has it that Isaiah was sawed in half during the reign of the evil King Manasseh.

Some have compared the Book of Isaiah to the whole Bible. It has 66 chapters just like the Bible has 66 books. There is a natural division at the end of chapter 39 and the beginning of chapter 40. This point also is like the Bible which has 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. The general themes of the first and second parts of Isaiah are similar to the Bible. Part 1 (Chapters 1-39) is called the Book of Judgment and Praise. Part 2 (Chapters 40-66) is called the Book of Comfort.

Isaiah, like the other prophets, has a two-fold goal. He points out the people’s sin and directs them to repent and change their ways. He also shares with them the loving heart of God. His prophecies concerning Christ are striking. It is as if he were there at the cross.

The style and variety of Isaiah’s words are beautiful. In many ways, he rivals John’s use of language as he draws word pictures.

Questions:

1. Read chapter 1. What were some of the accusations against Isaiah by God?
2. In 1:11-15 why was God not accepting their offerings? What does this tell us about proper motivation!
3. Read chapter 5:1-7. The parable of Jesus in Matthew 21:33-44 seems to be based on the same thoughts. What are some major thoughts you see in these parables?
4. Chapter 6 is Isaiah’s commission from the Lord. What is an indirect reference to the Trinity in 6:3?

5. Isaiah's reply in 6:8 is wonderful. In what ways can we echo his words in our lives?

6. Chapters 36-37 – This historical event happened close to 701 B.C. How did Hezekiah show his trust in the Lord?

7. Chapter 44:6-10 – How does this section show that worshipping idols makes no sense?

8. Chapters 55:8-9 – How can these words help us to know that God is always doing what is best for us?

9. Chapters 55:10-11 – The Holy Spirit can only work where the Word of God is shared. What do these words tell us about our obligation to get the word out?

10. Chapter 64:8 – What does it mean to you?

Your questions on Isaiah...