

Isaiah 6 Notes

Precept study on Isaiah Part 1, Lesson 3

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1 Review: Isaiah 3-5

- **Isaiah 3: Judgment on Leadership**

Leaders have led the people astray, grinding the faces of the poor. So the LORD contends (lawsuit) and they are taken away, leaving women and children to rule and oppress them. Then even the women will be humbled and enslaved.

Outline:

- 3:1-5: leadership removed
- 3:6-7: leader scramble
- 3:8-12: people's rebellion, leaders have led them astray. The first 2 woes (see below).
- 3:10: it will go well for the righteous
- 3:13-15: leaders oppress the people
- 3:16-4:1: beauty/pride of women taken away, enslaved

Key passage: 3:10-11: Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, For they will eat the fruit of their actions. Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, For what he deserves will be done to him.

- **Isaiah 4: the Branch of the LORD**

Survivors washed, bloodshed purged by a spirit of judgment and burning. LORD will protect them. Has not yet happened.

see also 2:1-3.

Outline:

- 2: the Branch of the LORD
- 2: fruit of the earth will be the pride and adornment of Israel (contrast with 3:16-4:1, the women's adornment)
- 3: the holy remnant
- 4: filth washed away, bloodshed purged, by judgment and burning
- 5-6: the LORD will be their shelter

Jeremiah 33:14-16: “Behold, days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will fulfill the good word which I have spoken concerning the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch of David to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness on the earth. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in safety; and this is the name by which she will be called: the LORD is our righteousness.”

- **Isaiah 5: the Song of the Vineyard**

Outline:

- 1-2 the song of the vineyard
- 3-7 the song, applied to Israel: judgement
- 8-12 woes
- 13-15 exile
- 16-17 the LORD exalted
- 18-23 woes
- 24-25 judgement
- 26-30 calling the distant nation

The Song of the Vineyard (5:1-7 and 3:13-15). Planted Israel on a fertile hill, removed the stones. Expected good grapes, got worthless ones. Thus, hedge removed, wall broken, laid waste.

5:7 vineyard = Israel, instead of justice and righteousness, bloodshed and cry of distress (see 5:30)

Isaiah 3,5: The eight woes (3:8-12 and 5:11-30): leaders lead astray, oppression of the poor, injustice, drag sin to themselves, drunkenness, call evil/good, light/dark, bitter/sweet; self-wise. Despised the Word of the LORD.

Judgement is desolation and exile to distant nation.

2 Isaiah 6:1-4: Holy, Holy, Holy

2.1 In the year King Uzziah died ...

- Who was this king, and what was it like in Israel then?
Good king but proud, struck by leprosy. Israel prosperous, but people acting corruptly. Assyria and Egypt increasing their pressure. Geopolitically tense and unstable. Time of uncertainty ... adding to that is the death of the king.

2.2 Application

what is it like now, in our culture? In your life?

2.3 Before the Throne

- Compare Revelation 4:2-10, Ezekiel 1-3, with Isaiah 6.
 - the Holy One on the throne, worshipped
 - He alone is worthy to receive glory
 - Living creatures
 - Ezekiel: “a figure with the appearance of a man”
- contrast with 1 Cor 13:12. We do not (yet!) stand before the throne. But we can still give Him glory.
- Holy, Holy, Holy: repeated 3 times for emphasis. Only in Is 6:3 and Rev 4:8. Compare that with 1 Peter 1:16 and Lev 19:2.

Revelation 4:2-3,8:

- 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.
- 3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.
- 5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;
- 8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, ”HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

Ezekiel 1:26,28a:

- 26 Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man.
- 28a As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.

1 Cor 13:12

- For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully just as I also have been fully known.

Lev 19:2

- Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. '

2.4 Application

The LORD is Holy. We are called to the same. The people of Isaiah's time were acting corruptly. They too were called to be Holy.

3 Isaiah 6:5 A man of unclean lips

3.1 Consider the text, compare/contrast with other text, discuss

- What was Isaiah's response when he saw the LORD's presence, in glory?
Woe is me! I am a man of unclean lips.
- Compare that with Ezekiel's response to the LORD's glorious presence.
Ezekiel 1:28b: And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.
- Now compare with the people of Isaiah's time:
Mainly Isaiah 3:8.
 - 8 For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen, Because their speech and their actions are against the LORD, **To rebel against His glorious presence.**
 - 9 The expression of their faces bears witness against them, And they display their sin like Sodom; They do not even conceal it Woe to them! For they have brought evil on themselves.
 - 10 Say to the righteous that it will go well with them, For they will eat the fruit of their actions.
 - 11 Woe to the wicked! It will go badly with him, For what he deserves will be done to him.
- Compare with the response of the 24 elders in Revelation
They too, fell on their faces, but they no longer needed to repent of their sin. It had already been taken away.
Rev 4:9-10
 - 9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

- 10a the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne ...
- Now compare that with the gospel message
 - 1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

3.2 Application

How do we respond when seeing the LORD?

4 Isaiah 6:6-7 Your sin is forgiven

4.1 Consider the text, compare/contrast with other text, discuss

- Why the lips? Consider Matthew 12:33-37 and 15:18-19.
 - Matthew 12:34-37:
 - 34 "You brood of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak what is good? For the mouth speaks out of that which fills the heart.
 - 35 "The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil.
 - 36 "But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment.
 - 37 "For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."
 - Matthew 15:18-19:
 - 18 "But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man.
 - 19 "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.
- Consider the coals. These were taken from either the bronze altar where the sacrifices for sin were made, or from the altar of incense, where the smoke from the incense filled the temple. The coals were always burning, with the altar of incense filled from the coals from the bronze altar.
- Consider Hebrews 10:14-23
 - 14 For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.
 - 15 And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us; for after saying,
 - 16 "THIS IS THE COVENANT THAT I WILL MAKE WITH THEM AFTER THOSE DAYS, SAYS THE LORD: I WILL PUT MY LAWS UPON THEIR HEART, AND ON THEIR MIND I WILL WRITE THEM," He then says,

- 17 “AND THEIR SINS AND THEIR LAWLESS DEEDS I WILL REMEMBER NO MORE.” (quoting Jeremiah 31:33-34)
- 18 Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.
- 19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus,
- 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh,
- 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God,
- 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.
- 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

- Compare the burning coals with Jesus’ sacrifice

Isaiah’s sin was taken away by the burning coals of the sacrifice. Our sin is taken away, once and for all, by Jesus’ sacrifice.

4.2 Application

What about *our* lips? What sin of our own is on our lips?

5 Isaiah 6:8-13 Who will go for Us?

5.1 Consider the text, compare/contrast with other text, discuss

- God calls, what is Isaiah’s response?
Send me!
- Compare with Matthew 28:18-20
 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, ”All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
 - 19 ”Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
 - 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
- Isaiah is sent. Will the people listen?
- Consider Acts 28:24-27
 - 24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.
 - 25 And when they did not agree with one another, they began leaving after Paul had spoken one parting word, ”The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers, ... (Paul then quotes Isaiah 6:9-10)

- How many would listen and repent?

Isaiah 6:13: a tenth, a remnant

5.2 Application

Isaiah was sent. We are sent. Was Isaiah successful? Jesus? Paul? Did the people listen to *any* prophet? So will people listen to us? Do we go anyway?

6 Isaiah 6 and the Gospel

Compare Isaiah 6 with the gospel message:

- We are confronted with God's holiness
- We see our own unholiness, and confess our sins
- God provides a sacrifice for sin, which we accept
- God then asks, who will go?
- We are sent, but few will listen