

Isaiah 19-23 Notes

Precept study on Isaiah Part 1, Lesson 8

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1 Review

- Isaiah 1-5: God judges his people: Woe! as result of their sin. Calls them to repentance. Promise of future restoration.
- Isaiah 6: Isaiah before God's throne. His own sin, confession, atonement, call, and sending to a people who will not listen.
- Isaiah 7-9: Isaiah's message to King Ahaz: do not fear what they fear. Trust God, not man. Fear God, not man.
- Isaiah 9-12: "In spite of all this, His anger does not turn away." Judgement on Israel and Assyria. Then a promise of restoration (Isaiah 11: the branch), and His anger turns away (Isaiah 12).
- Isaiah 13-14: Oracle concerning Babylon. Babylon used by God to punish Israel, but became proud. LORD humbles and destroys Babylon in Sheol. Symbolic of the world. Israel again chosen (Is 14:1-4).
- Isaiah 14:28-32: Philistia (Asdod, Gaza, Gath, Ekron, Ashkelon). Soothsayers (like King Ahaz). Used by the LORD to punish Israel. But the remnant of Israel will destroy them.
- Isaiah 15-16: Moab. Son of Lot. Ruth a Moabitess. Ruined in a night, weeping. The LORD weeps too. Yet they pray to idols.
- Isaiah 17: Damascus. capital of Aram (modern Syria). Focus of Is. 17 shifts to Jacob; they will be few, look to the LORD, trashing their idols. Raging against the LORD will fail.
- Isaiah 18: Cush (Ethiopia). And all the earth.
- Recall Psalm 2:

1 Why are the nations in an uproar
And the peoples devising a vain thing?

...

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs,
The Lord scoffs at them.

5 Then He will speak to them in His anger
And terrify them in His fury, saying,
6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King
Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

...

12 Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way,
For His wrath may soon be kindled
How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

2 Isaiah 19-20: Oracle concerning Egypt

2.1 19:1-15: A cruel master given because their leaders are fools

- Discuss 19:1-4: what is the LORD going to do? Do we learn why, yet?
The LORD comes and the idols tremble. Egypt delivered into the hands of a cruel master. We do not yet see why.
- 19:5-10: the Nile dried up. Why is this significant?
The Nile is the source of Egypt's entire economy: food, water, transport, clothing (flax).
- 19:11-15: we now learn why Egypt is being punished.
Leaders are fools, leading the people astray. The LORD sends a spirit of distortion, *allowing* the leaders to lead them astray.

2.2 19:16-25: the LORD's plan

- what is the LORD's plan? Has all this happened yet?
To strike them, so that they repent and seek the LORD. They repent *because* He strikes them. The Egyptians will worship the LORD, and He will heal them. He will even send them a Savior, *after* sending a cruel master (v4). And even more stunning, the LORD calls Egypt *My people*, and along with Assyria and Israel, a blessing in the earth.
- Who is the Savior and Champion?
Who else could it be but Messiah, Jesus?
- Applications?
The LORD disciplines those He loves. (Heb 12:5-6).
Consider it all JOY (James 1), just like He did (Heb 12): for the JOY set before Him, endured the cross. JOY is a fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:19-21). Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. (John 15:2).
"Happy" is from "hap" (chance, fortune). Walk by the Spirit instead (Gal 5:16), for true joy.

2.3 20: the sign of Isaiah's nakedness

- 20:1: Assyria captured Ashdod in 711BC.
- *naked*: means either fully nude, or merely ill-dressed. See Isaiah 58:7, for example, for the latter meaning. The meaning here is ill-clad, because why else would the text also add *barefoot*? Also, captives were not normally led away completely nude.

3 Isaiah 21:1-10 Oracle concerning the Wilderness of the Sea

- A harsh vision. Discuss Isaiah's response. (v 3-4, 10)
Isaiah is in pain, bewildered, terrified, mind reeling, horror overwhelming, trembles. Cries out for his people.
- any application?
It can be a serious burden to hear the word of the LORD.
- Who is this against?
From v9, it seems to be Babylon, which fell to the Medes and Persians in 538BC (Elam and Media, v2).

4 Isaiah 21:11-12 Oracle concerning Edom

- Edom: now part of the country of Jordan, and part of the Negev, south of the Dead Sea and south of Judah. East of the Jordan river.
- Some commentators: *night* is judgement. v 12 may refer to repentance (*come back again*). This oracle is not clear.

5 Isaiah 21:12-13 Oracle about Arabia

- sons of Ishmael
- A battle causes fugitives to flee (who are the fugitives?). Dedanites and Tema are part of Arabia.

6 Isaiah 22: Oracle concerning the Valley of Vision

- Who is this oracle about?
Jerusalem, the city of David.

- v1-3: what happens?
The leaders of Judah flee without giving battle.
- v4: what is Isaiah's response
To weep.
- v5-8: what did the LORD do to Judah and their defenses?
He broke them down. He brought them panic, subjugation, and confusion.
- What was Judah's response to their weak defenses?
To try to build them back up, but they did not trust the LORD. They trusted in their own strength.
- Key verse: 22:11.

And you made a reservoir between the two walls
For the waters of the old pool.
But you did not depend on Him who made it,
Nor did you take into consideration Him who planned it long ago.

- 22:12-14 Did Judah repent when the LORD struck them?
No. The LORD wanted them to weep, but they partied instead.
- v15-19: Shebna and v20-25: Eliakim

Shebna	Eliakim
self-regarding	the LORD's servant, father to house of Judah
unstable (like a ball)	stable (a peg)
disgrace	honour
deposed	fixed in place by the LORD

7 Isaiah 23: Oracle concerning Tyre (and Sidon): Phoenicia

- What will happen to Tyre (and Sidon)?
They will wail, destroyed, without house or harbor. Strongholds demolished. But then after 70 years, their commerce will start again, but its profits will go to those who dwell in the presence of the LORD (v17-18).
- Why?
v9: the pride of their own beauty, v12: they will exalt no more.

8 Oracle comparison

- **Judah (ch 1-6, 22):**

what they did:

- proud
- leaders lead them astray
- idolatry, false worship
- sinful nation
- murder
- influences from the East
- consulting mediums
- trusted their own defenses, not the LORD (ch 22)
- rejoiced when they should weep (ch 22)

what the LORD does:

- abase their pride
- leaders taken away
- desolation
- exile
- hides His eyes when they pray
- wicked perish
- make them toss their idols
- + nations will come to the LORD
- + repentant ones redeemed
- + will again choose Israel
- makes the leaders flee without giving battle (ch 22)

- **Ephraim / Israel (ch 1, 5, 7, 9, 10)**

what they did:

- most of the above (ch 1, 5 mentions Israel too)
- ch 7: attacks Judah

what the LORD does:

- no longer a people
- ch 9: civil war
- + ch 9: a light will shine, a child given
- + ch 10: a remnant will return

- **Assyria (ch 10)**

what they did:

- overstepped its authority
- attacked Israel and Judah more harshly than the LORD desired
- pride

what the LORD does:

- fire will burn them
- abase their authority
- + makes them a blessing in the earth (ch 19)

- **Babylon (ch 13-14)**

what they did:

- pride
- King of Babylon exalted himself to heaven

what the LORD does:

- abase their pride
- they will be terrified
- destroyed
- sinners exterminated
- desolation
- King of Babylon brought down to Sheol

- **Philistia (14:28-32)**

what they did:

- soothsayers
- used by the LORD to punish Israel

what the LORD does:

- destroyed
- kill off their survivors

- **Moab (ch 15-16)**

what they did:

- pride

what the LORD does:

- devastated
- land ruined
- remnant small and impotent
- asks them to repent, but they do not
- + weeps over them

- **Aram / Damascus (ch 17)**

what they did:

- attacked Judah

what the LORD does:

- they become a fallen ruin

- **Cush (ch 18)**

what they did:

- (unclear)

what the LORD does:

- land devastated
- + causes them to bring homage to the LORD

- **Egypt (ch 19-20)**

what they did:

- idolatry
- consulting mediums
- leaders lead them astray

what the LORD does:

- civil war
- cruel master
- Nile dried up
- taken captive by Assyria
- + causes them to seek the LORD
- + gives them a Savior
- + makes them a blessing in the earth

- **Edom (ch 21)**

what they did:

- (unclear)

what the LORD does:

- (unclear)

- **Arabia (ch 21)**

what they did:

- (unclear)

what the LORD does:

- terminates their splendor
- warriors few

- **Tyre and Sidon (ch 23)**

what they did:

- pride

what the LORD does:

- destroyed, without house or harbor
- strongholds demolished
- + restored 70 years later, but humbled
- + gives tribute to the LORD