

Lesson 2 – Isaiah**Introduction**

Isaiah prophesied from about 750 to 700 BC. His focus was his home country of Judah, though he spoke about Samaria and other nations as well. Under King Uzziah, Judah reached a height of prosperity and military might. Uzziah's successors, Jotham and Ahaz, were very wicked. Although Judah continued its worship of God, it also worshiped false gods and trusted in alliances with pagan nations instead of God. Isaiah and Psalms are, by far, the books most quoted in the New Testament. Isaiah prophesied extensively concerning the Messiah. His prophecies concerning Babylon, Media, and Persia stand out. Throughout Isaiah's lifetime and well after, Assyria was the dominant world power. Its empire was rapidly expanding and showed no signs of falling. Yet, Isaiah foretold that one of its subjects, Babylon, along with Media, would conquer it (c. 609), Babylon would then conquer Judah (c. 586), and the Medes would eventually conquer Babylon (539 BC). Isaiah worked with King Hezekiah to bring Judah to repentance. Tradition says that Manasseh killed Isaiah by sawing him in half (cf. Heb. 11:37).

Questions

1. When did God call Isaiah to go preach? What did Isaiah see? (Isa. 6)
2. How did God view Judah's worship? Why? (Isa. 1)
3. What did Isa. 2:1-4 prophesy?

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4. Isa. 6:9-10 is quoted at least five times in the New Testament. Locate one of these quotes and note the speaker, subjects, and application.
5. What event was prophesied in Isa. 7:14?
6. What would God do to the king of Assyria after he'd used him to punish Judah? (Isa. 10:12)
7. Who was Jesse? Who would be the branch? (Isa. 11:1, 10)
8. Isa. 14:12 has often been misapplied to Satan. To whom does the context clearly apply it? (Isa. 14:4)
9. To whom was Judah inclined to turn when threatened by Assyria and others? (Isa. 30:1-7; 31:1-3)
10. To whom did the prophecy in Isa. 40:3 refer? (Matt. 3:1-3; John 1:19-23)

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11. What does it mean to “wait for the LORD”? (Isa. 40:28-31)
12. Who did Isaiah name as the one God would anoint to restore Judah after its exile? What empire did he rule? How long after Isaiah’s prophecy (c. 700 BC) would this occur? (Isa. 44:24-45:7; 2 Chron. 36:22-23)
13. Choose at least one prophetic detail about the Servant from Isa. 52:13-53:12, and cite its fulfillment in the New Testament.
14. God’s ways and thoughts are higher than ours (Isa. 55:8-9). From the context (verses 6-7), which of God’s qualities is specifically under consideration?
15. What does sin do to our relationship with God? (Isa. 59:1-2)
16. Where did Jesus read the prophecy in Isa. 61:1-3? What did he say about its fulfillment? (Luke 4:16-21)