

ISAIAH

- As the Bible has 66 books of Scripture, Isaiah contains 66 chapters written by a single man (John 12:38-41) utilizing a different focus between chapters 1-39 and chapters 40-66.
- The book of Isaiah is not sequenced chronologically, but it is arranged around themes with the two broad themes of judgment (Isaiah 1-39) and restoration (Isaiah 40-66).

The Two Sections of Isaiah	
Isaiah 1-39 “Former Things”	Isaiah 40-66 “New Things”
Old Testament Sentiment	New Testament Sentiment
Humanity – Man’s Sinfulness	Deity – God’s Faithfulness
Sin & Retribution	Salvation & Redemption
Righteousness & Justice	Righteousness & Mercy
Iniquity & Discipline	Hope & Restoration
Confront/Judgment	Comfort/Advocate
God of Israel	Creator of Everything
Israel-National/Neighbors	International/Nations
God as Fire	God as Father
Fall of Israel to Assyria	Return of Judah Post-Babylon
<i>“Behold, the former things have come to pass; Now I declare new things before they spring forth, I proclaim them to you.” (Isaiah 42:9)</i>	

- Isaiah (means “Jehovah is salvation”), and he was a contemporary of the prophet Micah.
- Isaiah is often referenced as the “greatest” prophet because he speaks so descriptively of the coming Messiah.
 - 47 chapters of Isaiah’s 66 chapters are quoted-from or alluded-to in the New Testament. Isaiah is the second most quoted Old Testament book in the New Testament after Psalms.
 - John records, *“These things Isaiah said because he saw His glory, and he spoke of Him...”* (John 12:41)
 - Isaiah is sometimes called the “fifth gospel”

The Prophet	Of The...
Isaiah	Son
Jeremiah	Father
Ezekiel	Spirit

- Isaiah is quoted over 60 times in the New Testament throughout the gospels, Acts and the epistles.

Scriptural References to Isaiah in the Gospel	
Matthew 3:3	<i>“For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said...”</i>
Matthew 4:14	<i>“...so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled”</i>
Matthew 8:17	<i>“This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah...”</i>
Matthew 12:17	<i>“This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah...”</i>
Matthew 13:14	<i>“Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says...”</i>
Matthew 15:7	<i>“You hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy of you, when he said”</i>
Mark 1:2	<i>“As it is written in Isaiah the prophet...”</i>
Mark 7:6	<i>“And he said to them, “Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written...”</i>

Luke 3:4	"As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet..."
Luke 4:17	"And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him..."
John 1:23	"...as the prophet Isaiah said."
John 12:38	"...so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled"
John 12:39	"For again Isaiah said..."
John 12:41	"Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him..."

- Isaiah was a man of rank with direct access to the king and high priest (2 Kings 19:2); he was the most articulate writer with a broad use of language and word types
 - Ironically, there is often more told of the life of the prophets who did not write their own books (i.e., Elijah, Elisha, etc.) than there is of the prophets who did write their own books (Major/Minor Prophets).
 - These books are not biographies, but instead, they are anthologies of oracles/sermons.
- The time frame of Isaiah's ministry is 740 BC to 680 BC (In 722 BC, the Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria)
- Isaiah and Micah were preaching to the southern kingdom of Judah while Amos and Hosea were preaching to the northern kingdom of Israel.

King	Years	Isaiah's Position	Chapters
Uzziah <i>(Fairly godly)</i>	Died ~740 BC	Commissioned as a Prophet	6
Jotham <i>(Somewhat godly)</i>	~740-735 BC	Young Man; Unpopular	1-6
Ahaz <i>(Ungodly)</i>	~735-715 BC	Young Mid-Age; Well Known & Suspected of Disloyalty	7-12 (15-17?)
Hezekiah <i>(Godly)</i>	~715-687 BC	Middle Age to Elderly; Advisor to the King; Resented rival counselors	13-14 23-35
Manasseh <i>(Ungodly)</i>	~687-642 BC	Elderly; Prophetical	36-66

- The Book of Isaiah Addresses Three Different Historical Periods

Three Historical Time Periods		
Isaiah 1-39	Isaiah's Lifetime	740-700BC
<i>Economic success, peace & prosperity of the Nation</i>		
Isaiah 40-55	The Exile	605-535BC
<i>Babylonian Destruction of the Nation (Deuteronomy 28)</i>		
Isaiah 56-66	The Return	535-400BC
<i>Post-Captivity Restoration of the Nation</i>		

- Isaiah was believed to have been martyred by either being sawed in half by a wooden saw or placed in the hollow of a tree trunk and sawn in two (Heb 11:37)

- In the Jewish canon, Isaiah is the first of the “Latter” Prophets. To a Jew, the “Former” Prophets would include the historical books of Joshua through 2 Kings because only a prophet could write these books for God. Hebrew terms include “Nabi” (prophet) and “Nevi-im” (prophets).
- The “Latter” prophets would include all of the Major and Minor Prophets. The Major and Minor Prophets are determined solely by the length of the book.

The Hebrew Canon (TaNaKh)		
<u>Law (Torah)</u>	<u>Prophets (Nevi'im)</u>	<u>Writings (Kethuv'im)</u>
Genesis	“Former”	Psalms
Exodus	Joshua	Job
Leviticus	Judges	Proverbs
Numbers	Samuel	The Five Scrolls (Megilloth)
Deuteronomy	Kings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Song of Solomon • Ruth • Lamentations • Ecclesiastes (Ooheleth) • Esther
	“Latter”	Daniel
	Isaiah	Ezra/Nehemiah
	Jeremiah	Chronicles
	Ezekiel	
	The Minor Prophets	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hosea • Joel • Amos • Obadiah • Jonah • Micah • Nahum • Habakkuk • Zephaniah • Haggai • Zechariah • Malachi 	

- The “Tanakh” is Jewish Scripture comprised of the Torah, Prophets and Writings.
- The “Talmud” is a collection of oral laws based on the “Torah” which consists of three sections:
 - Mishnah (written record of the oral law – 200AD)
 - Rabbi Judah the Prince wrote down the Mishnah as well as arranging them into six different sections and 63 subsections called "tractates."
 - Gemara (commentaries on the Mishnah – 400AD)
 - Halakha (detailed legal discussions based on the Mishnah- 400AD)
 - In 400AD, Jewish rabbis in Palestine compiled the Jerusalem Talmud from many commentaries (Gemara), and legal discussions (Halakha), which were made about the Mishnah.
 - Over a century later, rabbis in Babylon compiled these documents into the Babylonian Talmud which is almost exclusively used for study by Jewish rabbis in modern times. If "The Talmud" is referenced, typically the Babylonian Talmud is intended.

- The “Talmud” was so large that two summary references were written:
 - “Mishnah Torah” by Maimonides (Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon) in 1190AD
 - “Shulchan Aruch” by Joseph (Yosef) Karo in 1563AD
- Modern Jewish Interpretations are determined by “Responso” (Hebrew “Teshuvot”)
- As in the times of the Pharisees, the Jewish community continues to evolve and increase the requirements of the law through local “Halakha” (legal discussions).

24 Isaiah 1- 3

- **The Introduction of the book of Isaiah (Chapters 1-6) reveals that this is not a story of Isaiah as much as it is a story of God’s sinful people rebelling and being disciplined before reestablishing a relationship with God.**
- **Isaiah is not even introduced until chapter 6 when his calling brings light/understanding to the spiritual state.**
- **Isaiah chapters 1-12 are referenced as the “Book of Immanuel”**

Read Isaiah 1:1-10... Isaiah Identifies the Sin of Israel

- **God’s Call is not until chapter 5 while Isaiah responds to God in chapter 6; however, chapter 1 is similar to a summary sermon of the entire book of Isaiah.**
- 1:1 Isaiah begins with the words “The Vision” which foretells his prophetic slant throughout. Jewish tradition is that Isaiah’s father, Amoz (“strong”), was brother of King Amaziah (2 Ki 12:21, 14:1)
- Isaiah prophecies during a time of wealth and success for the people of Israel
 - Chapter 1 of Isaiah summarizes the remainder of the book.
- 1:2 Isaiah calls on the heavens and earth to hear the message of the Lord (Deuteronomy 4:26, 30:19, 31:28). Although God had raised Israel as His sons, they had rebelled against Him.
- This verse prepares the setting of God bringing His children to court
- 1:3 Israel doesn’t know its master and caregiver. God’s people understand less than dimwitted animals; they do not understand who has the authority to be in charge.
- 1:4 Israel is characterized as having a heavy weight of sin. They left and despised Him, and they turned away from Him. Israel purposefully rebelled resulting in three actions: 1. Abandoned 2. Despised 3. Turned Away
- 1:5 It is only a matter of time before Israel is judged again as long as they remained in their sin. Their minds and hearts were sick with sin. (Mk 2:17; Ex 15:26; Ps 103:3). The rebellious people had been judged head-to-toe (i.e., economic; famine; drought; health).
- 1:6 With a life in pursuit of sin, Israel has been judged time and again. The entire body from head to toe is maimed and unsteady.
- The bodies of believers need renovation projects (1 Cor 6:19-20)
- 1:7 Beyond their personal injuries, their land and residences have been destroyed.
- 1:8 During the harvest season, Israelite farmers would build makeshift (crude and temporary) shacks in the field. After the harvest, the Israelites would return to their homes leaving the lightly constructed shelters to be demolished by the natural elements. Jerusalem was also besieged and destroyed by the Babylonians (586 BC).

1:9-10 God leaves select remnant, but Israel will be like Sodom/Gomorrah at the end times (Rev 11:8). Although Israel hasn't been physically destroyed, they have been spiritually devastated.

- When Isaiah calls these people as Sodom and Gomorrah, it would be similar to someone calling a Christian church an occult movement; it is harsh and jarring. (Gen 18:20, 19:24; Dt 29:23; Jer 23:14)
- **According to Isaiah 1:2, what does God say about His children?**
 - **They rebelled**
- **According to Isaiah 1:4, how did God view Israel?**
 - **God's people were sinful and had rebelled against Him**
- **According to Isaiah 1:6, how did God view His judgment on Israel?**
 - **God's judgment had been thorough and complete, but they would not listen.**
- **According to Isaiah 1:9-10, to whom did God compare Jerusalem?**
 - **Jerusalem was similar to Sodom and Gomorrah**

Read Isaiah 1:11-17... God Rejects the Worship of His People

1:11-12 God wants to be the Lord of His people as they walk in obedience (Isaiah 1:16) – He doesn't want wasted worship and useless sacrifices.

- God desires a people totally committed to Him and not just on exception during meeting times. He is not interested in public declarations without a daily relationship.

1:13-14 God tells His people not to assemble together falsely anymore. The false worship services have become a burden to the Lord, and He hates them.

- The law of Moses had instructed God's people to come together in Jerusalem at the Temple three times each year (Ex 23:14-17), but more important to God was the daily walk with Him.
- God doesn't want an hour of your time each week, He wants your time; God doesn't want 10 percent of your money, He wants your money. God wants all of you.

"Is it not true that for most of us who call ourselves Christians there is no real experience?

We have substituted theological ideas for an arresting encounter; we are full of religious notions, but our great weakness is that for our hearts there is no one there.

Whatever else it embraces, true Christian experience must always include a genuine encounter with God."

— A.W. Tozer, *God's Pursuit of Man*

1:15 God will not listen to prayers of those whose lives are not right with Him (Zechariah 7:13)

- God discerns the heart more than He discerns the actions. (1 Samuel 16:7; Jer 17:10; Ps 44:21; Proverbs 21:2)
- Just because someone raises their hands during worship does not mean that they are sincere and committed to the Lord (Micah 3:4).
- It is less about what one does than the reason why one does what they do.

1:16 Repent and stop doing evil – correct yourself. God calls the people to cleanse and change; beyond a single cleaning, God wants His people to change to a healthy, pure lifestyle of obedience.

1:17 Stop the evil doer; judge and correct him (Titus 3:4). Help the helpless – assist the orphans and widows (James 1:27, Gal 2:10).

- Living correctly and doing good is learned.
- **According to Isaiah 1:13, how does God describe Israel's offerings?**
 - **Israel's offerings were worthless, and God told them not to bring them anymore.**
- **According to Isaiah 1:14, how did God feel about Israel's feast times together?**
 - **God hated them; they were an insincere obligation to Him**
- **According to Isaiah 1:15, how would God receive the prayers of His sinful people?**
 - **God would reject their prayers and not listen to them**
- **According to Isaiah 1:16, what guidance does God give His people to get right with Him?**
 - **Stop sinning; learn to do good; seek justice; correct the merciless; care for the orphan and widow**

Read Isaiah 1:18-20... God Desires to Reason with His People

1:18 *"Come now, and let us reason together," says the LORD, "though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they will be like wool."*

- Scarlet/Red is the color of blood from violence and murder.

1:19 God blesses obedience and good comes from good actions.

1:20 If God's people reject His message, He would destroy them.

- The people have the choice to either eat the good harvests of the land (Isaiah 1:19) or they themselves will be eaten by the sword.
- **According to Isaiah 1:18, what would the Lord make the sins of His people?**
 - **The sins as scarlet will become as white as snow.**
- **According to Isaiah 1:19, what do the people need to do in order to be purified?**
 - **They must choose to be willing and obedient.**
- **According to Isaiah 1:20, what did the Lord warn the people?**
 - **If they refused and rebelled against His word, He would send invaders.**

Read Isaiah 1:21-31... Jerusalem Is Spiritually Fallen, but God will Redeem Zion

1:21 Jerusalem is described as an unfaithful city (Isaiah 23:15-16, 57:3). Instead of being filled with priests of righteousness, the city had become a habitat for murderers.

1:22 The purpose of redemptive blood had become old (dross) and watered down (diluted). The beliefs of His people were no longer strong like wine, but instead, they had become diluted.

1:23 Judicial system that profits judges/lawyers without protecting widows/orphans. The rulers love money instead of loving the needy. (1 Timothy 6:10)

1:24 The Lord considers His people as His enemies/foes.

1:25 The Lord would purify His people through the heat of trial. In order to heat metals to melt away impurities, the heat must be 1950 Degrees Fahrenheit for Gold and 2100 Degrees Fahrenheit for Silver. The addition of "lye" to the boiling liquid attracts the ore/dross to form into an orb/bar that can more easily be removed. The lye also helps increase the heat faster.

1:26 Righteousness is likened to faithfulness

1:27 To "redeem" means to buy back with justice and righteousness.

1:28 Those who transgress what they know to be wrong as well as those who ignorantly live in sin will perish.

1:29 One day, the sinner will be embarrassed by their idol worship. Israel had adopted the idolatrous practices of the surrounding nations as they planted gardens on hilltops and worshipped licentiously on these high places.

1:30 Although an oak is strong and a garden is beautiful, all of that would pass away without the living water of the Holy Spirit.

1:31 A man considered to be strong (but spiritually weak) will perish with their works as they are destroyed together.

- **According to Isaiah 1:21, what had Jerusalem become?**
 - **An unfaithful adulterer/idolater**
- **According to Isaiah 1:24, who does God consider His enemy?**
 - **His people have lifestyles of sin and wickedness.**
- **According to Isaiah 1:28, what will happen to those who sin unknowingly and those who trespass what they know to be right?**
 - **They both will be destroyed together**
- **According to Isaiah 1:30, what does an oak need to remain strong and a garden need to remain pretty?**
 - **Water – the living, life-giving water**
- **According to Isaiah 1:31, what is the conclusion of a man who has rejected God?**
 - **He will be destroyed along with His works.**

Read Isaiah 2:1-11... Jerusalem Is Spiritually Fallen, but God will Redeem Zion

- **The second vision is detailed in 2:1-4, and Isaiah 2:2-4 scripture is repeated in Micah 4:1-3**

2:1 Isaiah “saw” the word (Rev 1:12). Rabbi tradition is that Isaiah was in the Tribe of Judah, and his father Amoz was the brother of King Amaziah.

- Amoz is recorded as Isaiah’s father in Isaiah 1:1; 2:1 and 13:1, and in 2 Kings 19:2, 20; 20:1; however, Scripture does not record anything else about him.

2:2 “Mountains” often represent governments, kingdoms, and authorities, and even Gentiles will come to respect the Lord (Acts 22:21). Jerusalem will be elevated above all cities on earth during the millennium.

- The “last days” refer to the days after the Messiah’s coming (Hebrews 1:2).
- For the Jewish mind, “the last days” can refer to any time after the giving of the Spirit in Acts 2.

2:3 God Himself will teach His people (Ex 33:13, 1 Kings 8:36, 2 Chron 6:27, Ps 25:4, 86:11)

2:4 Peace will reverse defense budgets to productive articles (in contrast to Joel 3:10). *“They will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.”*

2:5 Isaiah invites Judah to walk in His understanding and ways which are made clear by the spiritual light. The “house of Jacob” often represents the physical self-made effort of people instead of the spiritual trust after God changed Jacob’s name to Israel (Gen 32:28)

2:6-8 Israel had 1) pursued exotic mysticism 2) was materialistic 3) had military pride 4) practiced idolatry.

- Idolatry and false religions had influenced God’s people as they descended into moral chaos.

2:9 Humanity is degraded, and God is asked not to show mercy

2:10 “Terror of the Lord” is used three times (Isaiah 2:19, 21), and each time with man hiding in caves of rock, cliffs and dust (Rev 6:15-16).

- The reason that man should humble himself is twofold: 1.Fear of the Lord 2.The Splendor of His Majesty
- Isaiah appeals for Jerusalem and Judah to humble themselves instead of elevating themselves on the high places.

2:11 Instead of men exalting themselves, the Lord alone will be praised. The humility of man and the exaltation of God are the purposes of the “Day of the Lord” (Isaiah 2:12).

- Isaiah repeats and emphasizes that “the Lord alone will be exalted on that day.” (Isaiah 2:17)
- **According to Isaiah 2:1, what did Isaiah see?**
 - **Isaiah “saw” the word (Rev 1:12).**
- **According to Isaiah 2:4, when the Lord reigns, what will happen to weapons?**
 - **Weapon and warfare efforts will be refocused to peaceful and productive articles (in contrast to Joel 3:10).**
- **According to Isaiah 2:11, when the Lord reigns, who will be exalted?**
 - **The Lord alone; men will be humble**

Read Isaiah 2:12-22... A Day of Reckoning & Judgment Would Be Certain

2:12 The Lord will humble the proud (Ps 138:6; Prov 8:13; Jer 50:31; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5)

- All of the prophets allude to the “*Day of the Lord*” with this being the first mention.
- God’s military title is “Lord of Hosts”; the Hebrew word for hosts is “šəbā’ōwṭ” (תְּשׁוּבָה) meaning “armies” (Deuteronomy 20:9).

2:13-16 The Lord will judge lands, strongholds and seafaring strengths

The Lord’s Judgment Would Come Against... (Isaiah 2:12-16)			
1.	2:12	The proud and lofty	The proud would be humbled
2.	2:12	Everyone lifted up	Those exalted would be humbled
3.	2:13	The cedars of Lebanon	Cedars were the royal wood
4.	2:13	The oaks of Bashan	Oaks were the wood of strength.
5.	2:14	The lofty mountains	Well respected leaders/governments
6.	2:14	The hills that are lifted up	Less consequential leaders
7.	2:15	Every high tower	Esteemed refuges of safety
8.	2:15	Every fortified wall	Strongholds
9.	2:16	The ships of Tarshish	Merchant/trade ships (Tarshish possibly Spain)
10.	2:16	The beautiful ships	Beautiful yachts

2:17 The only one exalted on God’s day of judgment is the Lord Himself. Isaiah repeats and emphasizes this point that “the Lord alone will be exalted on that day.” (Isaiah 2:17)

2:18 False religions will disappear.

2:19 Men will fear the Lord’s wrath and seek for the world to provide refuge (Rev 6:15-16). The second coming will be associated with an earthquake (Judges 5:4-5; 2 Samuel 22:8; Ps 18:7; Isaiah 29:6; Nahum 1:5; Zech 14:4; Lk 21:11)

2:20 Moles and bats live hidden in darkness which is where the elaborate idols will be discarded.

2:21 Men will hide themselves in the darkness of the world.

2:22 Do not trust in man (Ps 118:8); what is the value of man? (Job 7:17, 15:15; Ps 8:4, 144:3; Heb 2:6; 1 Chron 29:13)

- **According to Isaiah 2:17, what will change in men at the second coming of Christ?**
 - **Prideful men will be humbled**
- **According to Isaiah 2:22, in whom should men not trust?**
 - **Man**

Read Isaiah 3:1-12... God Will Remove Supplies and Leaders

- **Exile is Symbol of Tribulation**

3:1 God will eliminate provision for Jerusalem as well as basic necessities. Bread (Dt 8:3, Job 23:12, Is 5:13, Heb 5:14) and Water (Is 55:10-11, Amos 8:11-13, Eph 5:26) have spiritual aspects to them.

13 Items God will Remove from Jerusalem (Isaiah 3:1-3)		
1.	3:1	Bread
2.	3:1	Water
3.	3:2	Mighty Man/Hero
4.	3:2	Warrior
5.	3:2	Judge
6.	3:2	Prophet
7.	3:2	Diviner/Fortune Teller
8.	3:2	Elder
9.	3:3	Captain of Fifty/Commander
10.	3:3	Honorable/Dignitary
11.	3:3	Counselor
12.	3:3	Expert Artisan/Cunning Magician
13.	3:3	Skillful Enchanter/ Necromancer/Medium

3:4 Fallen nation has children running things while disrespecting their elders (Isaiah 3:5, 30:9)

3:5 Mob mentality shows the final result of sin as everyone is oppressed. There is no respect for the elderly or honorable. Youth will be disrespectful to elders as are the inferior to the honorable.

3:6 As chaos ensues, Israelites will attempt to make their relatives responsible for them.

- Anyone with a cloak will be seen as being worthy of leading a household.
- Anyone with clothes is deemed wealthy and worthy to lead. Frequently, leaders are chosen by their appearance – “Dress for Success”

3:7 However, the selected leader will reject the responsibility as he knows that there are no rewards or resources to meet the needs of his family and people. In both the exile and tribulation, there will be an abdication of leadership.

3:8 The downfall of Jerusalem/Judah occurred due to Israel’s verbal and active rebellion against the Lord. Although the physical exile and destruction of Jerusalem was a century later, Jerusalem was already destroyed morally and spiritually.

3:9 The countenance portrays a hard, cruel and guilty complexion. Sinners flaunt their wickedness and perversions. These purveyors of wickedness bring evil on themselves.

3:10 Those who pursue righteousness will enjoy the benefits of their actions – if not in this life, then in the here-after. (Jeremiah 39:11-18; Genesis 18:22-23)

3:11 The wicked will also receive their just punishment.

3:12 Another sign of a fallen nation is intimidating gangs of youths and women governing.

- **According to Isaiah 3:4, who will rule over a fallen nation?**
 - **Impulsive, immature children**
- **According to Isaiah 3:6, what will be used to determine the next leader**

- A cloak; a man's attire.
- According to Isaiah 3:9, of what is a fallen nation proud?
 - Perversions and sinful lifestyles.

Read Isaiah 3:13-15... God Will Judge Those Who Ruined His People

3:13 The Lord will not move lackadaisically, but instead He'll stand purposefully and aggressively.

3:14 Instead of serving the people of God, the elders and leaders used their position to strip the poor of what little they had. Amos was a contemporary of Isaiah (Amos 2:6-7)

3:15 The Lord asks a question that reveals what the leaders have done by not only crushing at once, but tortuously grinding God's people.

- According to Isaiah 3:14, who ruined God's people?
 - The leaders and elders.

Read Isaiah 3:16-26... God Will Judge the Women of Jerusalem

3:16 The women of Israel "*held their heads high*" as the women were proud and seductive; the women flirted.

- "Mincing" is like prancing, jumping or dancing; the women were walking like models on a fashion runway.
- The women wanted to call attention to themselves. The anklets testified to sinful intentions instead of the holiness of God.

3:17 It was common practice for the heads of defeated women to be shaved; they may have been shaved so fiercely that their scalps were cut. (Deuteronomy 21:10-12)

- Seductresses will be judged (e.g., venereal diseases) and finery will be lost; it has been said that "Women's clothing is the key to a nation's morals"
- As the women of Israel wanted to flaunt their sexuality, God would give them their desire, and let the invaders strip them naked.

3:18 The wealth, riches and treasures that the Lord had bestowed on Judah were often melted and shaped into idols of false gods (Ezekiel 16:17). Judah would lose their jewels to their invaders. (Ezekiel 23:26)

- The crescent ornaments (now the symbol of Islam) represent the moon goddess Isis/Ashtarte (Judges 8:26).

The Crescent Shape

Judges 8:26



Crescent shaped jewelry was collected from the Israelites immorally for Gideon to manufacture an idolatrous ephod (Judges 8:26). The crescent shape is also mentioned another time in Scripture - Isaiah 3:18 *"In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of their anklets, the headbands, the crescent necklaces."*

Both times that "crescent" is used in Scripture, it has a negative connotation. In Ephesus stands the remains of Artemis/Diana's Temple (Acts 19:24-41). The crescent is a symbol of Artemis/Diana since she is the pagan goddess of hunting (the shape of the bow) and childbirth (the shape of female anatomy)

Another historical city, Byzantium (Constantinople/Istanbul) adopted the crescent moon as their symbol to honor Artemis/Diana. Islam was not affiliated with the crescent moon until the time of the Ottoman Empire when the Turks conquered Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1453; it was then that the Muslims adopted the city's existing flag as their symbol.

So the crescent moon predates Islam by thousands of years and was usually associated with nature and possibly the worship of nature (aka astrology). This is the reason that many Muslims reject the crescent as any kind of symbol today because it was traditionally simply an ancient icon linked to a female pagan goddess.

Items That God Will Remove from the Proud Women of Jerusalem (Isaiah 3:18-23)		
1.	3:18	Anklets
2.	3:18	Headbands
3.	3:18	Crescent Ornaments
4.	3:19	Dangling Earrings
5.	3:19	Bracelets
6.	3:19	Veils
7.	3:20	Headdresses
8.	3:20	Ankle Chains
9.	3:20	Sashes
10.	3:20	Perfume Boxes
11.	3:20	Amulets
12.	3:21	Finger Rings
13.	3:21	Nose Rings
14.	3:22	Festal Robes
15.	3:22	Outer Tunics
16.	3:22	Cloaks
17.	3:22	Money Purses
18.	3:23	Hand Mirrors
19.	3:23	Undergarments
20.	3:23	Turbans
21.	3:23	Veils

Items That God Will Exchange Pleasantries for Trials (Isaiah 3:24)		
	Instead of...	There will be...
1.	Perfume	Decomposition
2.	Belt	A Rope
3.	Hairstyles	Plucked out Scalp
4.	Fine Clothes	Sackcloth
5.	Beauty	Branding

3:25 The men will not be able to save the women as the mighty men will be killed in battle.

3:26 The women will mourn her plight and the loss of her protectors

- **According to Isaiah 3:16, what describes the women of Jerusalem?**
 - **Prideful and seductive**
- **According to Isaiah 3:17, what would be the judgment of Israel's coquettish women?**
 - **Invaders would strip the women of Israel of their clothing and shave their heads in the same manner as prostitutes are treated.**
- **According to Isaiah 3:18, what type of ornaments did the women wear?**
 - **Idolatrous crescent shaped ornaments**
- **Chapter 4 is the shortest chapter in Isaiah (the Millennium)**

Read Isaiah 4:1-6... God Will Judge the Women of Jerusalem

4:1 The church is called the bride of Christ (Eph 5:25, 2 Cor 11:2), and there are seven churches in Revelation who will seize one man (Jesus), and yet want to be self-sufficient (own bread) and self-righteousness (clothing)

4:2 In Scripture, the Branch represents Jesus (Jer 23:5, Zech 6:12) while Israel's survivors are the "remnant". The "fruit of the earth" also speaks of Jesus in His humanity.

- The remnant who survive the tribulation will find their pride and joy in the Messiah.

4:3 A remnant will remain and be called "holy." (Matthew 24:13) Some have been "destined" to live (only positive destiny) while others are destined for calamity (1 Peter 2:8; Job 15:22, 15:28, 27:14; Isaiah 10:6; Hab 1:12; Rev 13:10)

4:4 As the degree of sin was represented by the women of Jerusalem. When the wicked women were cleansed by the spirit of "Judgment" as well as the spirit of "Burning" (Rev 4:5 → Acts 2:3); (Num 9:15, Mt 3:11, Lk 3:16) then the glory of the Lord will return.

4:5-6 The Spirit of the Lord will descend over all of the government of Jerusalem (Mount Zion) as the cloud of Shekinah Glory (1 Ki 8:10-11, Exodus 40:34-35, Isaiah 19:1) that provides shade in the heat of day and warmth/light in the darkness of night. (Exodus 13:20-22; 14:24, 33:10)

- **According to Isaiah 4:1, how many women will desire a man to marry them?**
 - **Seven women will grab a man and state that they will care for their own needs**
- **According to Isaiah 4:2, how is the Messiah referenced in the Millennium?**
 - **As the "Branch of the Lord" and the "Fruit of the Land"**
- **According to Isaiah 4:4, what determines when the Spirit of the Lord will fall upon Jerusalem?**

- When the women are cleansed and the bloodshed is purged.
- According to Isaiah 4:5, how will the Spirit cover Jerusalem?
 - As the cloud of Shekinah Glory (1 Ki 8:10-11, Exodus 40:34-35, Isaiah 19:1) that provides shade in the heat of day and warmth/light in the darkness of night. (Exodus 13:20-22; 14:24, 33:10)
 - Throughout history, man has shown that he cannot rule himself, but there is coming a day when the Lord will reign as King over the earth through the millennium. The second coming of Jesus will establish his kingdom.

Read Isaiah 5:1-7... The Parable of the Vineyard

5:1-7 The Seven verses are the rhythm of a Hebrew “Love Song”

- 5:1 The song draws the comparison between the Lord (the “well beloved”) and the vineyard.
- The vineyard was located in the best location with sufficient drainage facing the sun the entire day.
 - The same Hebrew word for “hill” (bāqeren בָּקְרֵן) is also used for “horn”; the horn (or power) of the hill in the best location.
 - The same Hebrew word for fruitful (šāmen שָׁמֵן) is also used for “oil” (Genesis 35:14; Leviticus 2:6, 14:10, 21, 15:4; 1 Kings 6:23; 2 Kings 4:2)
- 5:2 In ancient days, the same rocks that were cleared from the field would be placed around the border as the wall of protection.
- God planted the vineyard (Hosea 1:4, Mt 21:33; Lk 20:9) with the finest vine being Jesus (Jn 15:1-5) or Israel (Ps 80:8, Jer. 2:21, Hos 10:1) which yielded undesirable fruits.
 - The Hebrew word for “worthless” is bə’uśîm (בְּאוֹשִׁים) which means “foul” or “stinky” grapes. This word (bə’uśîm) is found in Scripture only twice (Isaiah 5:4)
- 5:3 The people of Jerusalem and Judah are represented by the fallen vineyard (Jeremiah 2:21), and they are called to judge themselves against the loving care of the Lord.
- Isaiah (along with Micah) spoke to the southern kingdom of Judah.
- 5:4 The Lord planted the vineyard on a fertile hill and cared for the vineyard in every way; however, worthless grapes were produced.
- Jesus referenced this idea when discussing false prophets. (Matthew 7:15-20)
- 5:5 Removing the hedge of protection (Job 1:10) and letting the consequences of actions overwhelm the vineyard.
- 5:6 Throughout the Bible, thorns are a symbol of the consequences of sin (Gen 3:17-18). Blessing of rain withheld as punishment (Dt 11:10-17, Heb 6:7)
- 5:7 The house of Israel equated to the Northern Kingdom while Judah was the southern “fig tree.” The Lord was looking for the characteristics of justice and righteousness in His people. The characteristics of justice and righteousness are portrayed in 44 verses of Scripture. (Genesis 18:19; 1 Kings 10:9; 2 Chronicles 9:8; Job 37:23; Psalm 33:5, 72:1-2, 89:14, 99:4, 103:6, etc.)
- A nation without justice has bloodshed; a nation without righteousness has an outcry.
 - According to Isaiah 5:1-2, how well did the Lord establish the vineyard (His people)?
 - The vineyard was well established and cared for
 - According to Isaiah 5:4. did the Lord’s people produce good or worthless fruit?
 - Worthless fruits
 - According to Isaiah 5:5, what will the Lord do to His vineyard?

- The Lord will remove the hedge of protection resulting in the vineyard being trampled.

Read Isaiah 5:8-23... Six Woes of the Wicked

Six Woes of the Wicked (Isaiah 5)		
1)	Isaiah 5:8	Coveters/Greedy in business of growing wealth and squeezing out the poor
2)	Isaiah 5:11	Nationwide pursuit of pleasure
3)	Isaiah 5:18	Those who flaunt sinful lifestyle
4)	Isaiah 5:20	Moral relativism with denial of absolutes
5)	Isaiah 5:21	Intelligent and right in their own eyes (Pride)
6)	Isaiah 5:22	Celebrities without character and injustice because respecters of men

5:8 Woe to the greedy landowners. Landowners are condemned who procure adjoining land areas creating reclusive areas.

5:9 The Lord will condemn the houses, so that they would lie uninhabited.

5:10 The produce and returns would not be comparable with the amount of investment.

- In ancient times, an “acre” represented what an ox could plow in a single day, so ten acres is equivalent to the land that an ox could plow in ten days.
- The work of an ox would only produce a single bath (equivalent to 8-10 gallons).
- There were ten ephah’s in a homer (Ezekiel 45:11), so the farmer would receive only a “tithing” of seed – a single ephah from a homer that was ten times the amount.

5:11 Woe to the alcoholics and partiers. Those who wake to alcohol and drink late at night will experience distress.

- The issue is not with the wine itself (Psalm 104:14-15; Proverbs 31:6; Ecclesiastes 9:7; 1 Timothy 5:23), but the sin is with man who misuses the wine (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Peter 4:3; Proverbs 20:1, 31:4-5; Romans 13:13; Galatian 5:19-21).

5:12 The fallen and sinful people enjoy alcohol and music, but they don’t notice God’s creation, activities and handiwork. (James 1:17; Deuteronomy 8:11-20)

5:13 *“Therefore My people go into exile because they lack knowledge”* (Hosea 4:6)

5:14 Sheol represents the grave or the place of the dead (Proverbs 1:12). The splendor of Jerusalem along with the revelry and jubilation will all descend into the grave together.

5:15 All pride will be replaced with humility from the common population to the leaders.

5:16 The “hosts” represent the armies of the Lord, and the Lord in this sense will be exalted in judgment.

5:17 “Lambs” often represent God’s true people and “strangers” might represent the Gentiles who will also accept the truth of the Messiah.

5:18 Woe to those in “Gay Pride Parades” who display and celebrate their perversions. (Matthew 7:22)

5:19 These purveyors of iniquity challenge the Lord to fulfill His Word and judge them quickly, so they will realize that the Lord is real. It is sad that some must experience judgment and sin’s awful consequences before they believe the warning.

- The Hebrew word for “quick/speed/haste” is “meherah” which would be the first part of Isaiah’s son’s name “Maher-shalal-hash-baz” (Isaiah 8:1-3).

5:20 Woe to those supported by liberal schools, media and politicians who claim moral superiority while advancing perversions, sin and rebellion against God.

- The more quickly “wrong” is proclaimed as “right”, the more quickly “right” will be proclaimed as “wrong.”

Modern Examples of Wickedness Being called Good	
Macro-Evolution	Removing a Creator from creation, liberals believe that a complex world evolved from nothing. They claim to believe “science” while rejecting the 1 st and 2 nd laws of thermodynamics.
Gender	Instead of being determined by biology, gender is determined by the desire of the individual.
Racism	All racism is wrong; in the name of equality, reverse-racism is amplified.
Sexuality	Homosexual desires are pursued, paraded and aggressively encouraged.
Abortion	Tortuously killing babies to support good mental health for licentious mothers.
Tolerance	Tolerance is redefined as agreement and acceptance of anti-God principles.
Diverse	Inclusion and agreement are praised as long as everyone intellectually rejects the way of God
Divorce	Self-serving divorce is commended instead of faithful commitment
Sacred	Nothing is revered (especially to comedians) but all topics are open to ridicule
Protests	Assertion replaces reason as “love” is used to perpetuate violence against the peaceful
Capital Punishment	Murderers are living comfortably in penitentiaries for several years before being released
Euthanasia	“Mercy killings” result in politicians and physicians preying on the vulnerable

5:21 Woe to those who are proud about their pseudo-intelligence. (Is 55:9). There is a difference between knowing about God and knowing God personally.

5:22 Woe to those strong men and warriors who relinquish their might to alcohol and substance abuse. People will flaunt their addictions and their lack of self-control.

5:23 The mighty men are bought (as prostitutes) to perform violence against the innocent at the pay of the wicked.

- **According to Isaiah 5:8, against whom is the first woe listed?**
 - **The covetous and greedy.**
- **According to Isaiah 5:9-10, what was the judgment the houses and investments of the wicked?**
 - **They would be made desolate and the returns would be a tenth of what was invested.**
- **According to Isaiah 5:13, why are God’s people exiled?**
 - **“Their lack of knowledge” in that they do not know God or His holiness.**
- **According to Isaiah 5:20, when sin runs its full course, what will evil be called?**
 - **Evil will be called good, and good will be called evil.**

Read Isaiah 5:24-30... The Judgment in Nature and Invasion

5:24 The wicked have rejected the Law (instruction) and despised the Word (Jesus). The Lord of hosts references the armies of God which aligns with the judgment of the Law (Joshua 5:4-5; Isaiah 31:4). The cleansing Word is associated with the Holy One (Eph 5:26).

5:25 Five times, it is repeated “*In all this, His anger is not removed, and His hand is still raised (to strike).*” (Isaiah 9:12, 9:17, 9:21, 10:4)

5:26 A unique characteristic of the Assyrians was their speed. Assyria was used to exile the northern kingdom during Isaiah’s lifetime - a century before Babylon would exile the southern kingdom

5:27 There would be no worldly weakness or way to stop the onslaught from the foreign invasion.

5:28 The weaponry (arrows/bows; horses) would be superlative and ready to destroy.

5:29 The symbol of Babylon was the lion. Both the northern and southern kingdoms would be carried into exile with no defender against the violent empires.

5:30 The assault would come by land and sea with no escape.

- **According to Isaiah 5:24, what have the wicked rejected and despised?**
 - **The wicked have rejected the Law (instruction) and despised the Word (Jesus).**
- **According to Isaiah 5:25, what was not removed or turned away?**
 - ***“In all this, His anger is not removed, and His hand is still raised (to strike).”***
 - **This phrase is repeated five times (Isaiah 9:12, 9:17, 9:21, 10:4)**
- **According to Isaiah 5:26, who would instigate Assyria to move against Israel and flow down into Judah?**
 - **God would incite the invaders to move against His people**

Read Isaiah 6:1-4... Isaiah’s Vision

- **Unlike the other prophets, Isaiah’s “call” to ministry comes in Chapter 6 instead of the first chapter of the book.**

6:1 Although Uzziah/Azariah (2 Kings 15:1, 32) died (circa 740BC), the true King (2 Chronicles 26:21) was not dead; Uzziah was popular, and it wasn’t until Uzziah died the Isaiah saw the Lord.

- King Uzziah had been reigning on the throne of Judah for 52 years; he was a good and godly king.
- Isaiah saw the preincarnate Christ (John 12:41)
- Scripturally, the hem represents righteousness and authority, so it filled the Temple (Ezekiel 43:5) just as His glory fills the whole earth (Isaiah 6:3)
- The death of Uzziah occurred around 740BC, and this was timing of the beginning of Isaiah’s ministry. Throughout this time, Assyria would assault the northern kingdom of Israel repeatedly until its final fall and exile in 722BC.
 - After this point, Israel’s focus seemed to turn towards cautioning the southern kingdom of Judah against trusting worldly alliances (like Egypt) and challenging Judah to trust only in God which is what King Hezekiah finally chose to do.
- Some believe that names ending with “-iah” (like Uzziah, Amaziah, Isaiah) were reserved primarily for individuals of royalty. “-iah” infers the covenant name of God (Yahweh).

6:2 Seraphim means “to burn” (Isaiah 4:4) only referenced twice in the Bible (Is 6:2, 6:6) in contrast to the cherubim who were referenced more often (Ezekiel 1); four wings covering in humble worship while two wings fly for service.

- The seraphim had six wings (six represents the insufficient “number of man” – Rev 13:18).
- The covering of the face represented humility while the covering of the feet sheltered his nakedness
- In the description of the throne room of heaven (Revelation 4:6-9) the four living beasts are described as having faces like the cherubim as well as six wings like the seraphim. They four living beasts are in the place of the seraphim and singing the same song as the seraphim (“Holy, Holy, Holy”). ← The “Trihagion” meaning “thrice holy”.
- A “superlative” is a word that implies a degree (biggest or smallest, most or least). The ancient Hebrew language does not have superlatives.

6:3 The Seraphim were calling out to each other (not to the Lord), but they were talking about the Lord relative to His armies. The Lord’s holiness is repeated and emphasized three times.

- “Holiness” means separation. The Hebrew word for “holy” is qadosh (קָדוֹשׁ) can also be defined as “to cut off/to be cut-off/to be separated”. Holiness means to be in a class uniquely your own.
 - Items cut off and separated for a specific purpose can be made holy (Exodus 40:9-10)
- The glory of the Lord filled the world – including the Assyrian Empire – which God was preparing to use for His judgment.
- Of all the descriptors of God, the term “holy” used most often (637 times) in Scripture (30 times in Isaiah is the phrase “Holy One”). The word “Holy” is only repeated back-to-back twice (Revelation 4:8); “holy” is the only attribute of God repeated three times.

6:4 The smoke may represent the shekinah glory (a visible manifestation of God’s presence on earth; the divine presence).

- The word Hebrew word “shekinah” (שְׁכִינָה) means “dwelling” or “one who dwells.”
- The word “shekinah” is not in the Bible, but instead was used by Jewish Rabbis in the Targum.
- Jesus referenced that Isaiah had seen His glory (John 12:37-43).
- **According to Isaiah 6:1, what did Isaiah see at the death of King Uzziah?**
 - **The Lord on His Throne**
- **According to Isaiah 6:3, what did the Seraphim say to one another?**
 - *“Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of Hosts”*

Read Isaiah 6:5-7... Isaiah Cleansed

6:5 After seeing the Lord’s glory, and who He is, Isaiah considered himself a wicked sinner.

Those in God’s presence have same response of Woe (Ez 1:28; Dan 10:8-10; Rev 1:17).

- Isaiah realized that his sin was also found in the society that he lived. (Job 42:5-6; Luke 5:8). Meeting God humbles an individual as they recognize their sinful state.
- *“Woe is me”* is synonymous with “I am doomed.”

6:6 As soon Isaiah declares his sin, the Lord cleanses him (1 Peter 3:18). Fiery stones are also mentioned in Ez 28:14, 16 which are similar to the sacrifice altar (Lev 6:12-13). It is only through the sacrifice on the altar that men are cleansed.

6:7 Cleansing the lips has a profound meaning (Jer 1:9; Dan 10:16; Mt 12:34, 15:18; Lk 19:22; Rom 3:19; Jn 1:29).

- The Lord also touched Jeremiah’s lips when he was called as well (Jeremiah 1:9-10).
- The term “forgiven” originates from the Hebrew word “Kippur” (כִּפּוּר) which means atonement (“covering”).
 - The mercy seat over the ark of the covenant containing the law was symbolic of the covering where the seven drops of blood would drop on the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) ...
- **According to Isaiah 6:5, what was Isaiah’s response after seeing God’s glory?**
 - **Isaiah realized his sin and the sin found in society.**
- **According to Isaiah 6:7, how was Isaiah touched to show he was forgiven?**
 - **A coal was touched to his mouth**

Read Isaiah 6:8-13... Isaiah’s Calling and Commission

6:8 Trinity is represented in “Who should I send? Who will go for US?”, and after the cleansing, Isaiah’s response was “Send me.” Isaiah did not wait until he understood the overall plan of the Lord; instead, Isaiah made himself available regardless of the call.

- The plurality of the Trinity (Matthew 28:19-20) is represented with “Us” (Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Psalm 110:1).
- The term “Elohim” is a plural word that occurs nearly 2,750 times in the Old Testament.

6:9 It is not meant for some to truly hear (Mt 13:10-13; Mark 4:12; Lk 8:10, 18; John 12:39; Acts 28:25; Rev 22:11). The responsiveness of the people to God’s Word through Isaiah was not a measure of Isaiah’s success.

- While Isaiah readily offered to obey God’s call, the people of Israel and Judah were rebellious against God’s law in a time of economic growth and prosperity.

6:10 Through the preaching of Isaiah, the people would become numb to the truth of God. As the Lord’s word is rejected, the heart grows increasingly cold and callous.

- The judgment of the nation could be circumvented if the people repented and turned; however, the truth of God would become rote and routine.
- The explicit Hebrew descriptor of the “dull” heart means “fat” (shamen מִשְׁמֵן) heart. The people had a covering over their hearts similar to a callous.
- Repentance is a turning from self to a submission to God.

6:11 Isaiah asked how long he was to continue to warn the people of coming judgment, and the Lord told Isaiah to continue to preach until no people remained and the land was desolate.

6:12 The exiles by Assyria of the northern kingdom and by Babylon of the southern kingdom were of God.

6:13 Even the remnant will meet destruction, but Jesus (the Holy Seed) will be as steadfast as a stump; it is said that the “Old Testament prophets pruned the excessive growth while John the Baptist laid the axe to the trunk of the tree”

- **According to Isaiah 6:8, what was Isaiah’s response to the Lord’s question?**
 - *“Here I am, send me.”*
- **According to Isaiah 6:10, how did the people of Israel and Judah respond to the Lord?**
 - **The people were spiritually asleep**
 - **While Isaiah readily offered to obey God’s call, the people of Israel and Judah were rebellious against God’s law in a time of economic growth and prosperity.**

- **Chapters 7-12 of Isaiah focus on the fall of a King and the rise of a King.**
- **Isaiah relays the stories of two different kings with the faithless King Ahaz (Chapters 7-12) contrasted to the faithful King Hezekiah (Chapters 36-39) at the end of the first section of Isaiah.**
 - **However, King Hezekiah falls prey to worldly alliances with Babylon which will lead to Judah’s downfall.**
- **This section is referenced as the “Book of Immanuel” because of the number of prophecies of Christ that are included.**

Read Isaiah 7:1-9... War Against Jerusalem

- **Isaiah changes the book to “history”**

7:1 At the time, the southern kingdom of Judah was being attacked by Syria and the northern kingdom of Israel.

- Israel's King Pekah had staged a coup to become King of the Northern Kingdom (2 Kings 15:25), and God used Pekah by sending attacks on Jerusalem (2 Kings 15:37)
 - Pekah had killed King Azariah in order to usurp power to become King 2 Kings 15:23-25)
- Isaiah had prophesied during the reigns of Judah's Kings Uzziah, Jotham and Ahaz.

7:2 The men of Judah were fearful of the northern alliance between Israel and Syria, and the men were "shaking like a leaf." The northern kingdom of Israel is called "Ephraim" ("being fruitful") after Israel's most powerful tribe.

7:3 Isaiah took his son, Shear-jashub ("a remnant shall return") and calmed Ahaz at the same place that later Sennacherib would hurl insults at Hezekiah years later (Is 36:2). A fuller cleaned and washed laundry. (Isaiah 36:2; 2 Kings 18:17; 2 Chronicles 32:2-4)

- Shear-jashub was likely less than 1 year old:
 - Drinking milk before old enough to eat honey (Isaiah 7:15)
 - Before knowledge of right/wrong (Isaiah 7:16)
 - Before having the ability to say "Dad" or "Mom" (Isaiah 8:4)
- The returning remnant was so important that God had Isaiah name his son "Shear-jashub." Although the majority of Jews will die without the Lord, there will be a remnant who recognize the Messiah (Romans 9:27-29, 11:1-5).
 - The theme of the remnant is throughout Isaiah (Isaiah 10:20-23, 46:3) for both post-Babylon to Jerusalem, but also those coming to Christ as Lord.
 - This remnant is referencing those who find spiritual salvation through the gospel message (Isaiah 11:10-11 → Romans 15:12)
 - Like Isaiah, Micah (a contemporary of Isaiah) also pursues the message of the remnant (Micah 4:6-7, 5:7-8, 7:18). Jeremiah also touches on the remnant (Jeremiah 23:3, 31:7).
 - Just as Jacob had twelve sons (Genesis 35:23-26) which grew to seventy going into Egypt (Genesis 46:27; Exodus 1:5, Deuteronomy 10:22) and eventually became a multitude (Exodus 1:7) – Jesus Christ had twelve disciples (Matthew 10:1, 11:1; Luke 6:13) before sending seventy out (Luke 10:1) that eventually would become a multitude of believers (Acts 12:24, 16:5).

7:4 God sent the prophet and his son, Shear-jashub, (Isaiah 7:16, 8:4) to calm Ahaz encouraged him not to fear Syria and Israel.

- A firebrand refers to the burnt end of a stick (Amos 4:11; Zech 3:2). Although once a torch, the firebrand is smoking and smoldering without any harsh fire.
- Each time that Isaiah references Pekah as the "son of Remaliah", Isaiah is emphasizing the point that Pekah's father was not a king, and Pekah was an illegitimate king.

7:5-6 The term "Tabeel" is transposed means "Remaliah" (Pekah's father), but it's also the encrypted name for Babylon.

- The encryption splits the alphabet to where a letter from the first half of the alphabet references a corresponding different letter from the second half of the alphabet (or vice versa).
- The Hebrew practice of "albam" folds the alphabet into two rows of 11 digits (since the Hebrew alphabet is 22 digits), and then mashes the letters together or flips them. The Midrash posits that

"Tabeel" (TBL) is an ablam of "Remaliah" (RML) where Reish is used for Tet, Mem is used for Beit, and Lamed stays the same.

Row-2	א	ב	ג	ד	ה	ו	ז	ח	ט	י	כ
Row-1	ל	מ	נ	ס	ע	פ	צ	ק	ר	ש	ת

Row-1	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
Row-2	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

7:7 God assured Ahaz that the evil schemes that Syria had planned against Judah would not come to fruition.

7:8 The power of Syria is concentrated in Damascus, and the power of Damascus is concentrated with King Rezin. Sixty-five years is approximately 741 to 676 BC; Assyria defeats Northern Kingdom in 722 BC (Hosea 1:1, 6-9)

7:9 *"If you do not stand firm in your faith, then you will not stand at all."* (Eph 6:11, 13; Jude 1:24; Rom 11:19-21, 14:4; 1 Cor 16:13)

- **According to Isaiah 7:1, who intimidated King Ahaz of Judah?**
 - Syria and Israel (Northern Kingdom)
- **According to Isaiah 7:3, who went with Isaiah to pacify King Ahaz?**
 - Isaiah's son, Shear-jashub (a "PK" – Prophet's Kid)
- **According to Isaiah 7:9, what occurs to the individual that does not stand with God?**
 - He does not "stand" at all.

Read Isaiah 7:10-16...The Child Immanuel

7:10 The Lord spoke to King Ahaz through His prophet Isaiah.

7:11 King Ahaz could have requested any sign offered from depths to heights (end-to-end); however, Ahaz felt that no sign could give him confidence against Israel/Syria nor stop him from allying with Assyria.

7:12 Ahaz feigns piety; however, in reality, Ahaz is saying that it doesn't matter what God says. In not obediently "testing" God, Ahaz instead "tests" God's patience. (2 Chronicles 28:22)

7:13 In calling Ahaz the "house of David", Isaiah reminds Ahaz of who he is as the 11th king in the lineage of David. Under the auspices of being religious, he thought it inconsequential to grieve God's command.

- Although Isaiah refers to God as "your" God in Isaiah 7:11, Isaiah now refers to God as "my" God.

7:14 The sign refers to a child being born soon to a young woman.

- In the longer term, this verse foretells of Jesus being called Immanuel (Matthew 1:22-23). As a "multiple fulfillment" prophecy, this same prophecy is applied to the short and long term (similar to the abomination of desolation – Daniel 11:31)
 - This "sign" may have not been given to King Ahaz, but instead, this would be a future sign to the "House of David" (Isaiah 7:13) about the Messiah born of a virgin (Genesis 3:15)

- Just as God gave Moses a “sign” to confirm his faith (Exodus 3:12) that Moses would not “see” (fulfilled) until the Lord used him in the exodus, this sign may not have been “seen” by King Ahaz.
 - This sign may also reference a natural birth with supernatural timing. The immediate application may have been a young woman who was a virgin that was soon to be taken as a wife:
 - Either of Ahaz – in which case this may have been the mother of Hezekiah, the godly King.
 - Or of the Prophet Isaiah with the prophetess (Isaiah 8:1-4)
 - The Hebrew term “bethulah” (בְּתוּלָה) is the word for “virgin” (Isaiah 23:4) which is not used in this verse. Instead, the Hebrew term “almah” (עַלְמָה) is used in this passage. “Almah” is the Hebrew word meaning “a young woman of marriageable age” which implies virginity.
 - The child would represent God’s presence in the immediate while also being God incarnate at the nativity of “Immanuel” (“God with us”) Isaiah 9:6
- 7:15 Butter/Curd and honey were eaten by wilderness wanderers, so this could speak to poverty. The “curd” represents thick, congealed milk. This could also symbolize a maturing process as babies first drink milk, but should not have honey until 1-2 years old because it might cause infant botulism. (Isaiah 7:22)
- The promised land was promised to be a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex 3:8, 17; 13:5, 33:3; Lev 20:24; Num 13:27; 14:8, 16:13-14; Dt 6:3, 11:9, 26:9, 15, 27:3, 31:20, Joshua 5:6)
- 7:16 God sent Isaiah and his son, Shear-jashub (Isaiah 7:3, 8:4), to calm Ahaz, and before his son, Shear-jashub, would have knowledge of right and wrong, Assyria would have begun exiling Syria and Israel.
- **According to Isaiah 7:11, what did God direct King Ahaz to do?**
 - **Ahaz was to ask for a sign**
 - **According to Isaiah 7:13, who was Ahaz wearying?**
 - **“My” God being Isaiah’s God.**
 - **According to Isaiah 7:16, what would occur before Isaiah’s son had gotten older?**
 - **The land of Syria and Israel would be sent into exile by Assyria**

Read Isaiah 7:17-25...Judgment via Assyria and Egypt

- 7:17 Ephraim was one of the stronger tribes of the northern kingdom and represented all of the northern kingdom (also called “Israel”). Jeroboam led the separation from the southern kingdom of Judah after the death of Solomon during the reign of his son, Rehoboam nearly two centuries prior.
- 7:18 A primary god of Egypt was “the fly”. While Egypt was as bothersome as a fly, the Assyrians would be as harmful and painful as a bee.
- 7:19 The invaders would be numerous and found in every crevice of Judah from steep ravine to ledge to thorn bush as well as every watering hole.
- 7:20 The razor will be the King of Assyria who shaves the head (authority), the legs (national identity), and the beard (priesthood)
- 7:21 This idiom conveys that the cow will not in itself give enough milk so two sheep are also needed.

7:22 Butter/Curd and honey were eaten by wilderness wanderers, so this could speak to poverty. The “curd” represents thick, congealed milk. This could also symbolize a maturing process as babies first drink milk, but should not have honey until 1-2 years old because it might cause infant botulism. (Isaiah 7:22)

- The promised land was promised to be a land flowing with milk and honey (Ex 3:8, 17; 13:5, 33:3; Lev 20:24; Num 13:27; 14:8, 16:13-14; Dt 6:3, 11:9, 26:9, 15, 27:3, 31:20, Joshua 5:6)
- The flies (Egypt) might gather around the curd/milk while the bees gather around the honey (Assyria)

7:23 Silver symbolizes redemption and in Song of Solomon 8:11, 1000 pieces are what is due the field owner, and also, 1000 pieces was given to verify Sarah’s honor (Gn 20:16)

7:23-25 Thorns and briars represent the sin entanglements of this world, and the expression is used three times in the three verses

- **According to Isaiah 7:18, what two nations would invade/occupy Judah?**
 - **While Egypt was as bothersome as a fly, the Assyrians would be as harmful and painful as a bee.**

Read Isaiah 8:1-4... The Longest Name in Scripture as Syria/Israel are Defeated

8:1 The longest name/word in the Bible – Ma-her-shalal-hash-baz meaning “speeding to the plunder” or “hurrying to the spoil” because Assyria would soon begin their conquest of Israel (Is 8:18)

- This term (Ma-her-shalal-hash-baz) was used by conquering armies after they had defeated and conquered opposing armies; this term encouraged “now to the plunder and spoils of the defeated.”

8:2 Two witnesses appointed (Deut 19:15): Uriah (“Jehovah is my light”), Zechariah (“Jehovah remembers”) the son of Jeberechiah (“Jehovah will bless”)

- Uriah was the high priest of King Ahaz, and he was just as wicked. (2 Kings 16:10-16)
- Zechariah would have also have been esteemed and well known (it could have been the father-in-law of Ahaz or the Levitical priest)

8:3 Isaiah was intimate with “the prophetess”

8:4 God had sent Isaiah with his son, Shear-jashub (Isaiah 7:3, 16), to calm Ahaz. Now Shear-jashub has a brother, Maher-shalal-hash-baz, who would witness the downfall of Syria/Israel to Assyria before he learned to say “father” and “mother,” Assyria would have begun exiling Damascus (Syria) and Samaria (Israel/northern kingdom).

- **According to Isaiah 8:1, what was Isaiah to write on a large tablet?**
 - **The longest name/word in the Bible – Maher-shalal-hash-baz meaning “speeding to the plunder” or “hurrying to the spoil” because Assyria would soon begin their conquest of Israel (Is 8:18)**
- **According to Isaiah 8:4, what would happen before Maher-shalal-hash-baz could say father and mother?**
 - **Assyria began exiling Damascus (Syria) and Samaria (Israel/northern kingdom).**

Read Isaiah 8:5-8... Judah Rejected Steady, Faithful Shiloah w/ the Torrential Euphrates

8:5-6 Shiloah (meaning “Peace”) is synonymous with Siloam, a small steady stream flowing down into Jerusalem from Mt. Moriah (where Isaac was offered, and a man born blind was healed - Jn 9:11)

- King Rezin ruled Syria from Damascus.
- Each time that Isaiah references Pekah as the “son of Remaliah”, Isaiah is emphasizing the point that Pekah’s father was not a king, and Pekah was an illegitimate king.

8:7 Assyria was located on the east side of the Euphrates which was the largest river in the Middle East. The Euphrates River is an ancient river mentioned with the garden of Eden (Genesis 2:14) flows for 1,740 miles from eastern Turkey to the Persian Gulf and contains over 50 species of fish. It was a boundary of God’s promised land to Abraham (Genesis 15:18)

8:8 Assyria will be uncontrollable by Jerusalem who has allied with them to defeat Israel and Syria; later when Jonah is called to Assyria’s capitol, Nineveh, he experiences this (Jonah 2:5). As it speaks of being overwhelmed by Assyria, God is called Immanuel “God is with us”

- **According to Isaiah 8:5, what living water had Judah rejected?**
 - **Shiloah (meaning “Peace”) is synonymous with Siloam, a small steady stream flowing down into Jerusalem from Mt. Moriah (where Isaac was offered, and a man born blind was healed - Jn 9:11)**
- **According to Isaiah 8:7, to what is the Assyrian alliance correlated?**
 - **The Euphrates River.**

Read Isaiah 8:9-18...God Will Comfort Those Who Fear Him in Immanent Judgment

8:9 Three times the people are told to do what they like to prepare, and then “be broken”; plans and predictions will fail because Immanuel – “God is with us.” God’s presence brings blessing and accountability.

8:10 It doesn’t matter how the world schemes to defeat God’s people because of Immanuel – God is with us.

- The presence of the Lord brings victory as He was with Samuel (1 Samuel 3:19) and David (1 Sam 16:18; 18:7, 12-14; 2 Samuel 5:10).

8:11 The Lord instructed Isaiah not to call out schemes and conspiracies as the world would respond, but instead trust in the Lord and take refuge in Him.

8:12-13 God directs His people to fear Him instead of other people or things.

8:14 The two houses refer to the whole nation (Israel and Judah) will stumble (Rom 9:32, Lk 20:18 → 1 Peter 2:8) over the stone (Acts 4:10-11)

8:15 Israel would stumble over the cornerstone (Mt 21:44); Paul quotes this Scripture in discussing how Israel would not accept Jesus as Messiah (Romans 9:33).

8:16 As with any communication, Isaiah’s message would be as a rolled scroll that is sealed from those handling it to understand what they are grasping (Is 8:1).

8:17 Isaiah thinks much of waiting on the Lord (Is 25:9, 26:8, 30:18, 33:2, 64:4)

8:18 God gave Isaiah children to be signs and wonders

- **According to Isaiah 8:9, regardless of preparation what would be their outcome?**
 - **The people would be judged and shattered**
- **According to Isaiah 8:10, why do the schemes of the world not worry God’s people?**
 - **Immanuel – because God is with His people.**
- **According to Isaiah 8:11-12, who should believers fear and not fear?**

- **Do not fear the schemes of men, but fear the Holy Lord.**

Read Isaiah 8:19-22...Without God's Word, the World Loses Sight and Understanding

8:19 Israel was warned about consulting the dead (Deut 18:9-12); this may extend to the spiritually dead as well (1 Cor 6:6)

8:20 Instead of seeking counsel in the (spiritually) dead things of this world, mankind should turn to the living word of God - to the Law and to the Testimony (Jesus/Spirit), and if they don't turn to Scripture, it is because they have no light (understanding) or dawning of a new and better day.

8:21 Unbelievers will bear the consequences of their sin (as well as their sinful culture), and they will blame their leaders as well as God for the consequences of their sin.

8:22 After finding no comfort from lifting their eyes and cursing heaven, they will look to the world as they descend into increasing darkness (lack of sight/visibility/reason).

- **According to Isaiah 8:20, where should mankind seek life's answers?**
 - **The living word of God- and His Spirit**
- **According to Isaiah 8:21, who does mankind blame for their consequences of sin?**
 - **Their leaders as well as God**

Read Isaiah 9:1-7...Jesus Will Be Born

9:1 Nazareth (Jesus childhood) was in Zebulun, and Capernaum (Jesus headquarters) was in Naphtali (2 Kings 15:29, Mt 4:13-17, 1 Chron 5:26, 2 Kings 15:19-20). Although Assyria would invade the promise land through the territory of these northern tribes, God would also reveal His glory in these tribes.

9:2 Jesus is the light (John 8:12) and brings a new meaning to "Son Rise" (Mk 16:2) → 2 Tim 1:10

9:3 God has the power to bless a nation to increase and grow in gladness.

9:4 Midian was defeated (Judges 7:20), and Armageddon will also be a horrific scene with 1. trampling boot of battle 2. bloodied garments 3. fire (Isaiah 66 and Joel 2)

- The Midianites were defeated by Gideon's men with the sound of a trumpet, a shout and a flash of a bright light in a dark place (Judges 7:20)

9:5 The attire of the soldier will no longer be necessary for fighting, so they can be made useful by stoking a flame.

9:6 *"For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace"*

- There is a human aspect in "a child will be born for us" and a spiritual aspect with "a son given to us."
- He is "ours" ... "unto us" – this child is ours.
- Samson's father, Manoah, found God's name to be wonderful when he asked the angel of the Lord, "What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?" And the angel of the Lord said to him, "Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?" (Judges 13:17-18)
- The government will be on His shoulders (Luke 1:31-32, Mark 15:2, Luke 23:3) as all of this will be seen on earth during the millennial reign when the Lord Jesus reigns.
- As the "eternal Father", He is the Creator of time while also transcending it.

9:7 The Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16) will be fulfilled with the coming of Jesus as King.

- **According to Isaiah 9:2, what did those who were walking in darkness experience?**
 - A “great light”
- **According to Isaiah 9:6, who was to be given to mankind?**
 - A “Son”
- **According to Isaiah 9:6, what would be the names of the prophetic child?**
 - **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace**

Read Isaiah 9:8-21...Judgment on Israel

9:8 The message came to a single man (Jacob) and the entire nation (Israel)

9:9 As the strongest tribe, Ephraim was an idiom for northern kingdom. As the capital city of the northern kingdom, Samaria was an idiom for the northern kingdom. They knew of their idolatrous practices in rebellion against the one true God, and yet, they pridefully aspired to overcome God’s judgment.

9:10 Although Israel had been dismantled by Assyria (and judged by the Lord), they continued to pridefully dream of rebuilding a better nation when they should have been humbly turning to the Lord.

9:11 The King of Syria would quash whatever ambitions that idolatrous Israel had for themselves.

9:12 The Syrians in the northeast and Philistines in the southwest were invading Israel; however, the Lord continued to judge His people.

9:13-15 The people did not turn to God when disciplined because the leaders misled them; both the Head (Palm, Elder, Honored One) as well as the Tail (Reed, Lying Teacher, False Prophet – symbolized in various animals like Revelation 9:10 and Judges 15:4)

9:16 While the religious leaders were misguiding God’s people, those being guided became confused by various human interpretations.

9:17 God would generally have sympathy with orphans and widows while being pleased with the young men; however, God does not have sympathy or compassion on the weakest individuals (represented by orphans and widows) who are wicked.

9:18 Wickedness consumes and destroys like a fire using the consequences of sin (briars and thorns) as kindling.

9:19 God’s anger lights the sin of the land on fire consuming the people with their sin (Exodus 24:17; Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29; Isaiah 30:27, 30; 33:14)

9:20 No one can satisfy any craving except God (Haggai 1:6)

9:21 Manasseh and Ephraim were “brother tribes” from the same patriarch of Joseph (Gen 41:50-52; 48:8-22), and yet their judgment would include infighting and civil war with each other as well as with the descendants of another brother, Judah.

- **According to Isaiah 9:9, did Israel understand that they were rebelling against the Lord?**
 - **Yes, the rebelled because of their pride.**
- **According to Isaiah 9:15, what did the head and tail symbolize?**
 - **The head was an elder and leader considered honorable (an impressive showcase) while the tail was a false prophet.**

27 Isaiah 10-12

Read Isaiah 10:1-19...The woe of Tyrants as Assyria’s Pride is Broken

- **The Assyrian is a type of Anti-Christ**

10:1 The judicial system is misguided and misused; Judges are supposed to represent God's statutes on earth (2 Chron 19:6, Dt 19:17, Ezra 7:25)

10:2 The leaders and judges misused their power to take from those who were the poor and weakest among them (orphans and widows).

10:3 The sinful leaders have no refuge for themselves or their possessions when others who are stronger attack and plunder them. "The Day of Visitation" will be a judgment of the world.

10:4 Although the wicked leaders exalted themselves above common folks, when the wealthy are attacked, they will then attempt to blend in with the commoners.

10:5 Assyria was used by God for His purpose, but it is still accountable for its actions against Israel; Assyria is symbolic of the future "king of the north" (Daniel 11:6-40) who shall come against Israel in the final days

- The Assyrian represents the anti-Christ.

10:6 God refers to Israel as a "godless nation" that He will send conquerors to judge. Although Israel had adopted many false gods of the neighboring nations, they had no true God. The heinous acts of the attacking nation against His people are no more grievous than His people committing wicked acts themselves.

10:7-8 Assyria will treat Israel as one of many defeated nations while treating the leaders of Assyria as Kings over the empire in their own right.

10:9 Contrasts countries of current victories with historic victories; Calno was city of Nimrod (Gen 10) and Carchemish was where (in 606 BC) Babylon defeated Assyria; Hamath became subject to Assyria at the battle of Qarqar in 854 BC (2 Kings 14:28; Amos 6:2) and Arpad also fell to Assyria (king Tiglath-pileser II) after a siege of three years (B.C. 742)

10:10-11 While considering the peoples destroyed because of their idolatry, do not think that you will be the exception to punishment with your idolatry because you are His chosen. Offenses will occur, but the instrument of evil will still be condemned (Prov 16:4; Rev 17:17; Mt 18:7; Ex 4:21).

10:12 Out of all the wicked deeds performed by Assyria, God hates the pride and arrogance (cause of first sin)

10:13 In the judgment of Israel, God allowed the king of Assyria to remove the nation's boundaries through crossing over and exile of Israel's people. The Anti-Christ/Assyrian would believe that he accomplished on his own power.

10:14 The King of Assyria took pride that other nations could not defend themselves and did not even try. Although birds may chirp when their eggs are being taken, no one would make any protest against the King of Assyria.

10:15 The tool should not pride itself over its maker – even the angels were created to serve until Lucifer tried to elevate himself...and fell

10:16 Although the nations could not defend against the King of Assyria, God would send a plague against them.

10:17 Although Israel could not militarily defend themselves against Assyria, the light of Israel would consume the sin of Assyria.

10:18-19 The numerous Assyrian armies were likened to a forest that would slowly waste away leaving such a small remnant that a child would be able to count their soldiers.

- **According to Isaiah 10:1, woe upon whom?**

- **Politicians who make sinful laws and the media who keep them in power.**

- **According to Isaiah 10:4, what will happen to the rich and famous of a wicked society?**
 - **They will be reduced as commoners when they lose everything including their own lives.**
- **According to Isaiah 10:5-6, who does God use?**
 - **The wicked nation of Assyria**
- **According to Isaiah 10:6, who does God call Israel?**
 - **A godless nation.**
- **According to Isaiah 10:12, what defining characteristic of Assyria's King would be judged?**
 - **His Pride**
- **According to Isaiah 10:13, who does the Anti-Christ/Assyrian believe is responsible to his success?**
 - **Himself**
- **According to Isaiah 10:15, who should get the praise for what man has done?**
 - **God alone; we are simply tools in His hands.**

Read Isaiah 10:20-34... A Remnant of Israel & Judah will be Saved from Assyria

10:20 "In that day" is synonymous with "the Day of Visitation" and "the Day of the Lord."

God's people will lean on Him alone instead of worldly alliances that hurt them.

10:21 Approximately 50,000 Israelites returned after the Babylonian captivity (Nehemiah 7:66-69) When the anti-Christ demands to be worshipped in the Temple, a third of the Jews will survive (Zechariah 13:8-9); many will be preserved in Petra (Isaiah 16).

10:22 After the judgment of the Lord, only a remnant would return to Jerusalem. Although the returning remnant was numerically small, their righteousness would be great.

10:23 Assyria would storm through Israel into Judah although they would be restrained by the Lord for attacking Jerusalem.

10:24 God likens Assyria to Egypt as a strong "bully" of a country. The "Lord of Hosts" is God's military title translated from "Yahweh Tsabaot" 261 times in the Old Testament.

10:25 Although God would use Assyria to judge Israel (722BC), the Assyrian empire would fall to Babylon nearly a century later. These prophecies have a double-fulfillment as the "Assyrian" represents the anti-Christ in the tribulations of the end times.

10:26 God recounts His victories with Gideon (Judges 7) over Midian and Moses at the Red Sea. The Midianites seemed overwhelmingly numerous and powerful.

- Two princes Oreb ("raven") and Zeeb ("wolf") led the Midianites until they were defeated by Gideon (Judges 7:20-25).

10:27 When God judges Assyria, their control over Israel would be lost.

10:28-32 This is a list of cities (similar to a play-by-play announcement - Daniel 11:40-45) with the descriptions of the cities as Assyria comes increasingly closer to Jerusalem:

- Aiath (15 miles north of Jerusalem); Migron (1 Sam 14);
- Geba & Rama (6 miles north of Jerusalem);
- Anathoth (3 miles north);
- Madmenah (dung hill, garbage dump at north side of Jerusalem);
- Nob (North side of Jerusalem) – screams of Gallim (possibly Benjamin) can be heard in Laishah (extreme north of Palestine in Dan)
- **According to Isaiah 10:20, who will God's people lean upon**

- God's people will lean on Him alone instead of worldly alliances that hurt them.
- According to Isaiah 10:21, would God allow Assyria to completely destroy His people?
 - The Lord would save a remnant for Himself

Read Isaiah 11:1-5... The Branch from the Root of Jesse & His Peaceable Kingdom

11:1 Goes through family tree with Jesse as the "humble shepherd, and the "netzer" (branch) is Jesus who was a poor, humble Nazarene (Mt 2:23) that became a live sprout

11:2 Complete (sevenfold) nature of the Spirit (Rev 1:4): 1.of the Lord 2.of wisdom 3.of understanding 4.of counsel 5.of strength 6.of knowledge 7.of the fear of the Lord

11:3 Jesus would welcome the fear of the Lord, but not be swayed by external looks or attractive words. (1 Samuel 16:7; John 7:24)

11:4 He will discipline from His mouth; at Jesus' second coming, he will smite the anti-Christ (Rev 1:16, 2 Thes 2:8)

11:5 Righteousness and faithfulness will both be Christ's belts at His second coming.

Faithfulness enables His hems to be girded up for mobility and action while righteousness will be the surrounding belt over all. This is likened to the armor of God where truth represents the belt (Ephesians 6:14)

- According to Isaiah 11:1, who would be the ancestry of the stem?
 - The family tree with Jesse as the "humble shepherd, and the "nehtzer" (branch) is Jesus who was a poor, humble Nazarene (Mt 2:23) that became a live sprout
 - This verse also sets the stage for the second coming of Jesus.
- According to Isaiah 11:2, what is the nature of the Spirit?
 - The complete (sevenfold) nature of the Spirit (Rev 1:4): 1. of the Lord 2. of wisdom 3. of understanding 4. of counsel 5. of strength 6. of knowledge 7. of the fear of the Lord
- According to Isaiah 11:3, what will the judgment of God not be based upon?
 - God's judgments will not be based on appearances

Read Isaiah 11:6-9... The Curse on Creation is Lifted

11:6 The predator and the defenseless would harmoniously co-exist together as they submit to a young child's leadership.

- This is often misquoted as the lion and the lamb; however, it is the wolf that lies down with the lamb. The lion is associated with the calf.
- These animal pairings are consistent later in Isaiah as well (Isaiah 65:25); all of the fear and aggression will dissipate.
- The earth is going to be restored to the state prior to the fall.

11:7 Carnivores will become herbivores as aggressive animals get along with peaceful animals.

11:8 Even the cursed snakes will not strike easy prey.

11:9 Everyone on earth will have deep knowledge of the Lord. (Jeremiah 31:34; Hebrews 8:11)

- The density of objects is measured in units of mass per unit volume. In oceanography, the density of water has been expressed historically in grams per cubic centimeter.

- While the density of water is 1000 kg/m³, ocean water is denser because of the salt in it. Increased salinity raises the density of sea water is about 1027 kg/m³, and less dense water floats above the denser water.
- At the same time, warmer water will float above colder water, and temperature has a greater effect on the density of water than salt (salinity) does.
 - A layer of water with higher salinity can float above water with lower salinity if the layer with higher salinity is much warmer than the lower salinity water.
- Salinity, temperature and pressure result in water's force. At sea level, air is pressing the human body at 14.5 pounds per square inch, but this is being counterbalanced by the fluids in the body pushing outward with the same force. For every additional 33 feet of depth, another atmosphere of pressure is added. The water pressure for one mile deep into the ocean averages about 2,500 pounds per square inch (PSI).
 - The deepest part of the ocean is in the Mariana(s) Trench located in the western Pacific Ocean. It is just under 7 miles (6.831 miles) deep at its deepest where the pressure reaches over 15,000 pounds per square inch.
 - Several creatures that live in this "deepest" environment are:
 - The Ghostfish.
 - The Barreleye Fish or "Spookfish".
 - The Dumbo Octopus.
 - The Goblin or Vampire Shark.
 - Giant Toxic Amoebas.
 - These creatures survive because pressure is about balance. A key difference between a gas (air) and a liquid is that liquids are only slightly compressible, and these creatures are composed primarily of water (without air pockets), so the pressure differential remains balanced.
 - Deep sea creatures also have "piezolytes" – small, organic molecules that stop the other molecules in the creatures' bodies, such as membranes and proteins, from being crushed by the pressure. Shallow water species have piezolytes; piezolytes give fish their "fishy" smell, so since deep sea species have more piezolytes, they smell much more "fishy."
- **According to Isaiah 11:6-8, how will the millennium change the nature of predators?**
 - **They will become peaceful**
- **According to Isaiah 11:9, how much knowledge of the Lord will be on the earth?**
 - **The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**

Read Isaiah 11:10-16...The Restoration of Israel

11:10 Jesus will be the ensign/standard, and all will seek Him (Galatians 3:8). Everyone in all the world will inquire of Jesus as to how their decisions.

- Jesse was the humble father of King David; Jesus was the root before Jesse and the one who springs from the Davidic line and covenant.

11:11 Re-gathering after the diaspora, and Israel became a nation in May 14, 1948 (Isaiah 44:26)

11:12 Jesus will be exalted (lifted up) and Judah regathered (Zechariah 14:16-18)

- During the Olivet Discourse, Jesus teaches that the Jews who rejected Jesus will mourn as they realize who He is and the Jews are regathered to the sound of a trumpet (Matthew 24:30-31; Isaiah 27:12).

Jewish Population Throughout the World (14-15 Million People)		
1.	Israel	46%
2.	United States	40%
3.	France	3%
4.	Canada	3%
5.	United Kingdom	2%
6.	Russia	1%
7.	Argentina	1%
8.	Germany	1%
9.	Australia	1%
10.	Brazil	1%
Others: Brazil, South Africa, Ukraine, Hungary, Mexico		2%

11:13 Israel will be one nation instead of the northern kingdom against southern kingdom; even in modern times there is a great deal of infighting within Judaism

Modern Judaism Has Five Primary Factions		
1.	Orthodox Jews (a subset is Hasidic Jews)	Retain traditional Jewish laws and customs while demanding full submission to the authority of written and oral laws of Judaism,
2.	The Reform Movement	Arose in Germany in the early 19th century and relaxed the rituals overall while emphasizing the Torah's teachings on ethics.
3.	Conservative "Historical" Judaism	Began in the mid-19th century as a response to the Reform movement. They allow modern dress (education & culture) but keep the use of Hebrew in the liturgy, the observance of dietary laws and the Sabbath, and nearly all Torah rituals.
4.	Reconstructionist Judaism	Founded in 1922 in the U.S. by Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan to adapt classical Judaism to modern ideas on science, art, and reason through secularization opting for a focus on Jewish culture instead of religion.
5.	Messianic Judaism	Accept Jesus Christ (Yeshua HaMashiach) as the Messiah while retaining a Jewish lifestyle by observing Jewish holidays, rituals, and customs.

11:14 Israel and Judah as a united nation will conquer the Philistines in the southwest and the Ammonites on the east.

11:15 The Lord will use wind to dry the waters of Egypt (Ex 14:21), so that men walk over the dried riverbeds in shoes (dry-shod) instead of walking across barefoot for fear of getting their shoes wet.

11:16 Israel would be able to freely return home from their exile just as they had returned in the days of Moses.

- **According to Isaiah 11:12, what will occur for those exiled around the world?**
 - **They will be regathered into Israel**

Read Isaiah 12:1-6...A Hymn of Thanksgiving for the Faithful Mercies of God

12:1 There will be gratitude to the Lord for turning His anger away and comforting His people instead of judging them.

- When all capital letters is used in "LORD", it represents God's covenant name of Yahweh "I am" (Exodus 3:14) while "Adonai" is the term of respect that Jews utilized to reference Yahweh.

12:2 It doesn't say that God provided salvation, but instead God IS my salvation

12:3 God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37). Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 27:3, 32:2 35:7, 41:18, 44:27, 48:21, 55:1, 58:11), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)

12:4 Gratitude for the mercy of the Lord is given to Him and testified to the nations.

12:5 God will be praised in song for the many great things that He has done. (Isaiah 25-26)

12:6 Those who dwell in Zion will be joyful and vocal about the Holy God being with them.

- The Holy One (Jesus) is present with them.
- **According to Isaiah 12:1, what will God’s people give to Him?**
 - **Gratitude**
- **How is salvation defined in Isaiah 12:2?**
 - *“God is my salvation.”*
- **According to Isaiah 12:4, what three actions are God’s people called to take?**
 - **1. Give thanks 2. Call upon His Name 3. Testify to what God has done**
- **According to Isaiah 12:6, where will Jesus be during the millennium?**
 - **He will be with His people in Zion.**

28 Isaiah 13-15

- **Chapters 13-23: The Oracles Against the Nations**
- **Three Passages that share similarities are: Isaiah 13-14, Jeremiah 50-51, Revelation 17-18**

The Oracles Against the Nations (Chapters 13-23)		
1.	Isaiah 13-14:23	Babylon
2.	Isaiah 14:24-27	Assyria
3.	Isaiah 14:28-32	Philistia
4.	Isaiah 15-16	Moab
5.	Isaiah 17	Damascus
6.	Isaiah 18	Ethiopia
7.	Isaiah 19	Egypt
8.	Isaiah 20	Ethiopia & Egypt
9.	Isaiah 21:1-10	Babylon
10.	Isaiah 21:11-17	Edom & Arabia
11.	Isaiah 22	<i>“Valley of Vision”</i>
12.	Isaiah 23	Tyre

Read Isaiah 13:1-5...God Calls the Armies of His Wrath

- **God will call all of the Nations together to witness the Battle of Armageddon (Revelation 19)**

13:1 This oracle about Babylon was given while Babylon was a little community 100 years before Babylon grows to be a world power; Babel was first introduced in Gen 11 as the city of man becoming chaos.

- This is a double-fulfillment (multi-fulfillment) prophecy

- The world power of Babylon only lasted six kings; Nabonious (Belshazzar) placed the Assyrian moon god (Sin) above Babylon's principal god (Marduk), so even Marduk's priests welcomed Cyrus of Persia

13:2 A standard (national flag) is raised on an elevated platform.

13:3 God invokes His creation to carry out His judgment, and the mighty warriors of the Medes will descend into Babylon.

13:4 The intimidating roar of many warriors coming together preceded the invasion of Babylon.

13:5 The Medes and the Persians destroyed the Babylonian Empire which lasted from 625BC until 536BC.

- **According to Isaiah 13:2, what will be positioned on a high place?**
 - A standard (flag) representing the army
- **According to Isaiah 13:3 whose work will the mighty warriors fulfill as they destroy Babylon?**
 - They will execute God's anger

Read Isaiah 13:6-18...God Warns of the Destruction of Babylon by the Medes

- **At the end of the Tribulation period, there will come the downfall of "Religious Babylon" (Revelation 17) and the downfall of "Economic Babylon" (Revelation 18)**
- **Babylon is the epicenter of rebellion against the Lord throughout Scripture that was founded by Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-10) and the first urban locale that man attempted to exalt himself corporately (Genesis 11:1-9)**

13:6 The Day of the Lord is terror, judgment and Armageddon to unbelievers (Isaiah 2:12, Jer 46:10, Joel 2:11, 3:14, Amos 5:18-20), but peace to His followers (Isaiah 58:13, Ez 30:3, 1 Cor 5:5)

13:7 Mankind will not have the heart nor the strength to fight against the Lord at His second coming.

13:8 End of times likened to pregnancy with contractions becoming increasingly frequent (Micah 4:10, 1 Thes 5:3)

13:9 The Lord will exterminate the sinners of the world at His second coming.

13:10 Even the heavenly bodies will dim from stars (including the sun) to the reflective moon.

13:11 The Lord will judge the sin of the world as He eradicates all of the world's pride. Those who are cruel and merciless are acting out of pride, and the Lord will humble them.

13:12 Solomon, Hiram and Jehoshaphat sent ships to trade for gold that was mined on a distant land (1 Kings 9:28; 10:11, 22:48; 1 Chron 29:4; 2 Chron 8:18, 9:10)

- Ophir was also a descendant of Shem (the son of Noah) as were all Jews. (Genesis 10:29; 1 Chron 1:23)
- Ophir was renowned for gold, and Eliphaz referenced Ophir when he cautioned Job to rid himself of his gold for God (Job 22:24)

13:13 At the second coming of Jesus, there will be an earthquake as well as a "heaven-quake" when the Lord returns in anger. (Isaiah 24:30)

- The "polar spin axis wobble" comes from the earth not being perfectly round. When the earth rotates on its spin axis (an imaginary line that passes through the North and South Poles), the earth drifts and wobbles which is scientifically referenced as "polar motion." During the 20th century, the spin axis drifted about 4 inches (10 centimeters) each year.

13:14 The people and armies will be scattered in fear just as the disciples were when Jesus was crucified (Matthew 26:31; Mark 14:27; Zechariah 13:7)

- 13:15 There would be no prisoners – anyone found or captured will be killed.
- 13:16 Babylon had terrorized Jerusalem in this exact same way (Ps 137:8-9; 2 Chron 36:17; Lamentations 5:11); so often in the Old Testament the punishment matched the sin (Nahum 3:10; Hosea 13:16; 2 Kings 8:12; Ex 21:24)
- 13:17 Ancient Babylon had moat and double walls with walls being 350 ft high and 87 ft thick; the Euphrates running through Babylon made it resilient to siege, but the Medes and Persians did overrun Babylon by damming upstream and wading into the city.
- This prophecy was given while Assyria was the global empire with over 150 years passing before the Medes/Persians defeated Babylon in 539BC.
- 13:18 As the arrow does not weigh the youth or ambitions of the enemy, God’s judgment would be total annihilation. If anything, the pregnant mother with the “fruit of the womb” and the infant itself should produce compassion, but no compassion will be given.
- **According to Isaiah 13:6, how does Scripture reference the time of destruction?**
 - “The Day of the Lord”
 - **According to Isaiah 13:9, what is achieved in the Day of the Lord?**
 - **It destroys sinners from the land**

Read Isaiah 13:19-22...The Desolation of Babylon

- 13:19 The Land of the Chaldeans took pride in their city of Babylon, but it would be utterly destroyed as had Sodom and Gomorrah.
- 13:20 Babylon would not be reconstructed as a city after being demolished. Babylon is located ~75 miles south of Baghdad in Iraq and remains uninhabited.
- 13:21 However, wild animals would take refuge in the ruins of Babylon.
- 13:22 Babylon would be destroyed because of her brutality against God’s people.
- **According to Isaiah 13:21, who would move into Babylon after their defeat?**
 - **Only wild animals**

Read Isaiah 14:1-8...God’s Victory over Babel Results in Peace for the World

- 14:1 God will show His people compassion on the man (Jacob – south) and choose them (Israel – the nation) again. This will happen again after the Tribulation as the Millennium rule is established.
- 14:2 Babylon would release the Israelites after 70 years of captivity, and the Babylonians would be favorably disposed to the returning Israelites.
- 14:3 This is stated with certainty that a day will come when Lord gives His people rest from the Babylonians.
- The historian Herodotus (called “The Father of History”) was born in Halicarnassus (the modern Turkish city of Bodrum). Herodotus lived 480-425BC and wrote a description of Babylon:
 - “Babylon lies in a great plain, and in size it is such that each face measures 22½ km (14 miles), the shape of the whole being square; thus, the circumference is 90 km (56 miles). Such is the size of the city of Babylon, and it has magnificence greater than all other cities of which we have knowledge. First there runs round it a deep and broad trench, full of water; then a wall fifty meters (164 feet) in thickness and hundred meters (328 feet = 30 stories) in height... At the top of the wall along the edges they built chambers of one story facing one another; and

between the rows of chambers they left space to drive a four-horse chariot. In the circuit of the wall there are set a hundred gates made of bronze.”

- Persian forces leveraged the Euphrates River which ran through the middle of Babylon from the northwest to the southeast dividing Babylon into two sections. Cyrus diverted the Euphrates into a marsh after positioning soldiers at the points where the Euphrates entered and left Babylon. When the water level dropped, the Persian soldiers waded into the center of Babylon without battle.

14:4 Babylon will no longer pose a threat, so that those who are freed are confident enough to criticize the Babylonian King. God’s people would equate Babylon with oppression and insolent fury.

14:5 The scepter of the King is a representation of authority and could be extended to determine who could approach (Esther 4:11, 8:4)

14:6 The King would use to strike individuals with the scepter and direct the military to attack.

14:7 When Babylon was defeated, King Cyrus returned all exiles to their homelands and the world was at peace. This also references the millennium after the Fall of Babylon during the Tribulation.

14:8 The cypress and cedars of Lebanon were possibly utilized by royalty in building programs even after David and Solomon (1 Kings 5:6, 9; 10:17, 21), so even the forests would have rests. Symbolically, Israel is saying that God would defeat the woodcutters (those who chopped at Israel historically), so that Israel (symbolized by a forest) could be at peace.

- **According to Isaiah 14:7, what was the state of the world when Babylon was destroyed?**
 - **There was peace and joy in the world**

Read Isaiah 14:9-11...Death & Prior Dead Kings Welcome Babylon’s Deceased King

14:9 Death itself looked forward to the death of the Babylonian king, so that he could be introduced to all of the kings he had murdered in his conquest.

14:10 The dead Kings will take solace knowing that the Babylonian has joined them in death.

14:11 All of the pomp and circumstance passed away with the King of Babylon who would now be covered with maggots and worms in his grave.

- **According to Isaiah 14:9, who was excited to meet the King of Babylon?**
 - **Sheol/The Grave**
- **According to Isaiah 14:9, who did the grave arouse to meet the deceased King of Babylon?**
 - **The spirits of the dead leaders of the earth**
- **According to Isaiah 14:10, how is the King of Babylon described after his death?**
 - **He is described by the other world leaders as weak like they were.**
 - **This is a view of the anti-Christ who was powered by Satanic power.**

Read Isaiah 14:12-21...Lucifer Thrown out of Heaven

14:12-21 One of the two longer passages about Satan (Ezekiel 28)

14:12 The Hebrew word in this verse is hēlêl (הֵלֵל) which is translated into “Lucifer” meaning “Light Bearer” or “Morning/Day Star” as a reflection of the glory of God.

- However, the true “Light Bearer” is the Lord Jesus Christ (Rev 21:16). Jesus is the glory of God (John 1:14, 12:41, 17:24; 2 Peter 1:16-17; Matthew 16:27, 25:31; Mark 13:26; Luke 21:27; Colossians 1:19, 2:9)

The Names of Lucifer	
Lucifer (“morning/day star”)	Isaiah 14:12; 2 Corinthians 11:14
The Serpent	Genesis 3:1
The Devil (“false accuser; slanderer”)	Matthew 4:1
Guardian Cherub	Ezekiel 28:16
The Wicked One	Matthew 13:19
The Prince of this World	John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11
The Ruler of the Kingdom of the Air	Ephesians 2:2
The Tempter	1 Thessalonians 3:5
The Dragon	Revelation 12:9
The Accuser of the Brothers	Revelation 12:10

Names of the Evil One		
Job 1:6	Satan	“Adversary” = Fifty-two times in Scripture
Isaiah 14:12	Son of the Morning	Only once in Scripture
Isaiah 14:12	Day Star	Translated Lucifer
Revelation 22:16	Morning Star	Similar to Isaiah’s “Day Star”
Ezekiel 28:14	The Anointed Cherub	Walked among the stones of fire
Matthew 4:1	The Devil (“Slanderer”)	Only appears in the New Testament
Revelation 12:10	Accuser of God’s People	Watching to accuse before God
Matthew 4:3	Tempter	Attempts to tempt even Jesus
Matthew 12:24	Beelzebub	Meaning “Lord of the Flies/Dung”
Matthew 13:19	The Evil One	Snatching God’s Word from men
2 Corinthians 6:15	Belial	The inference is “vileness.”
Matthew 13:39	Enemy	Sows rebels among believers
John 8:44	Father of Lies	There is no truth in him
Revelation 12:9	Deceiver of the Whole World	Persuader of an unbelieving world
2 Corinthians 11:14	Angel of Light	Deceptive appearance
John 8:44	Murderer	He murdered in the Garden of Eden
Revelation 9:11	Abaddon/Apollyon	Angel of the Abyss
Matthew 9:34	Ruler of Demons	Taking 1/3 of the Angels (Rev 12:4)
John 14:30	Ruler of This World	Authority of this world (1 John 5:19)
Ephesians 2:2	Ruler of the Air	Kingdom of the air is current wicked world
2 Corinthians 4:4	God of This Age	Earth will pass away (1 Pet 3:10; Lk20:34-35)
1 Peter 5:8	Roaring Lion	Seeking prey
Revelation 12:9	Dragon	Old Serpent

- The word for serpent in Genesis 3:1 means “shining one”; a very attractive and shiny being. The Hebrew word is nāḥāš (נָחָשׁ) which means glittery/shiny and can be synonymous with bronze, copper or brass.
 - Satan is covered with nine precious gems inlaid in gold (Ezekiel 28:13)
- Lucifer would weaken the nations by impeding blessing where he could (Daniel 10:12-13).
- Jesus witnessed Satan falling like lightning from heaven (Luke 10:18; Revelation 12:9-10)

Lucifer’s Fall	
1. Lucifer once served in heaven	(Ez 28:12, 14)

2. Lucifer was moved out of heaven but continued having access to God	(Ez 28:16, Job 1-2)
3. Lucifer was finally thrown out of heaven and grounded to this world	(Rev 12:9)
4. Lucifer will be bound in the abyss for a thousand years	(Rev 20:1-3)
5. Lucifer will be thrown into hell	(Mt 25:41; Rev 20:7-10)

14:13-14 Lucifer said to himself five “I will...” (1 Timothy 3:6-7)

- 1) ascend to the heavens;
 - Satan did not submit to authority, but was ambitious to rule the heavens.
- 2) set up my throne above the stars of God;
 - The term “stars” represents angels (Revelation 12:4, 9); Satan wants to rule the angels.
- 3) sit on the mount of the [gods'] assembly, in the remotest parts of the North.
 - Jesus will rule in Zion during the millennium, but Satan desires to rule over the earth
- 4) ascend above the highest clouds;
 - The term “clouds” may reference the religious or followers of God (Hebrews 12:1; Jude 1:12); Satan desires to rule God’s people.
- 5) make myself like the “Most High”.
 - Satan desires to be exalted to be like God

Lucifer makes five “I will...” Statements (Isaiah 14:13-14)	
...ascend to the heavens	Satan did not submit to authority, but was ambitious to rule the heavens.
...set up my throne above the stars of God	The term “stars” represents angels (Revelation 12:4, 9); Satan wants to rule the angels.
...sit on the mount of the [gods'] assembly, in the remotest parts of the North	Jesus will rule in Zion during the millennium, but Satan desires to rule over the earth
...ascend above the highest clouds	The term “clouds” may reference the religious or followers of God (Hebrews 12:1; Jude 1:12); Satan desires to rule God’s people.
...make myself like the “Most High	Make myself like the “Most High”.

- Lucifer’s prideful attitude is the opposite of Christ’s humble attitude (Philippians 2:1-11)

14:13 Sacrifices of reconciliation were located north of the altar (Lev 1:11), and Golgotha was north of Jerusalem

14:14 Satan persuaded Eve of the self-sufficiency, and that she could be “like God” (Gen 1:27)

14:15 Those who attempt to exalt themselves usually fall into a humble state.

14:16-17 Satan ends up visibly weak; this is possibly the anti-Christ who was powered by Satan (1 John 4:4)

14:18 Powerful kings throughout history are now dead, but at least they were buried in their own tombs.

14:19 Satan is thrown out like a worthless branch (unlike Jesus in Isaiah 11:1)

Believers Actions in Response to Satan	
Resist him	1 Peter 5:8-9
God’s power in you is greater than his power around you	1 John 4:4
Rely on Scripture as the weapon against temptation	Ephesians 6:17; Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4
Rebuke him in the Lord	Jude 1:9

14:20 Lucifer is not a victor; he is a destroyer. Although he wanted to exalt his own name, he would not be celebrated or remembered into eternity. In the immediate sense, Nebuchadnezzar’s lineage would only last to Belshazzar before it ended.

14:21 The wicked people of Israel were passing idolatrous practices to their children, so the Lord would end their lineage, so the children would not also grow up to become idolatrous with generational sin.

- **According to Isaiah 14:13-14, on whom was Lucifer focused?**
 - **Himself**
- **According to Isaiah 14:16-17, what is the conclusion of Satan?**
 - **A visibly weak and defeated being**

Read Isaiah 14:22-32...God's Plans Against the Assyrian who Threatens Palestine

14:22 The Lord wicked would cut-off the wicked lineage of Nebuchadnezzar.

14:23 God would turn Babylon over to wild animals by sweeping out their wickedness in the same way that one may sweep out any pollution.

14:24 *"The LORD of Hosts has sworn: As I have planned, so it will be; as I have purposed it, so it will happen."*

14:25 Translated "The Assyrian" as he stands for "the coming world leader" (Is 10:24, Mic 5:5-6). When Assyria threatened to attack Jerusalem, the angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night. (2 Kings 19:35-37)

- The army of two million soldiers (Revelation 9:16) could likewise be decimated by the Angel of the Lord at Armageddon.

14:26-27 No matter how mighty the Assyrian army was or how powerful the anti-Christ will be, no one can thwart the plan of the Sovereign God.

14:28 King Ahaz died in 715BC; the northern kingdom of Israel was exiled by Assyria in 722BC

14:29 Philistia might have broken the rod of one master (Exodus 4:1-4, 7:8-13), but another master will come in the first one's place.

- Poisonous snakes bit Israelites, but those who looked upon the brass snake were saved (Numbers 21:4-9)
- Israel's "Saw-scale" vipers are on the "top ten" list of the snakes with the deadliest venom; painful burning bite, reddish color, death by internal bleeding, leaping (flying) strike
 - When disturbed it coils and rubs its rough saw-scales together to create a rasping or buzzing warning.
 - It then will leap (fly) toward the intruder with great speed at a distance that is much greater than its small size would indicate.
 - Saw-scale vipers are responsible for more human deaths than any other snake.
- The term used in Scripture as "poisonous snakes" is literally "fiery serpent" which in Hebrew is very close relation to "Seraph" whose plural is Seraphim (Is 6:2-6).
- The seed of the snake is foretold in Genesis 3:15



14:30 While the hungry will be fed and the needy will be secure, the foundation of the Philistines would be destroyed. Indeed, the Philistines did not survive the Babylonian captivity. The Roman Emperor Hadrian called the land of Israel "Palestine" after their historic foe (the Palestinians) after the Bar Kokhba revolt (132-135AD), but there were no Philistines.

14:31 The smoke from the north might be a reference to the dust being tramped up by a huge army marching through the desert.

14:32 The Lord provided refuge to His people who seek it in Zion.

- **According to Isaiah 14:24, how is the future determined?**
 - **The future is in accordance with God's plan**

Read Isaiah 15:1-9...The Deplorable State of Moab

Chapter 15 is against Moab (descendant of Lot's eldest daughter); Moab pretends to befriend Israel but turned on them time after time (Jeremiah 48). Moab, Amon (from Lot's youngest daughter), and Edom (from Esau) will escape the anti-Christ to be a refuge for the nation of Israel (Daniel 8)

15:1 The night represents a time of darkness without sight/understanding and often a time of trials and testing. Two important Moabite cities are suddenly devastated and destroyed. "Ar of Moab" was the capital city of Moab (also called Rabbath Moab), and Kir is thought to be the city of Kerek/Karak.

15:2 All that is left is for the Moabites to weep to their false gods. Dibon's Temple was used to worship Baal while shaving infers mourning (Jeremiah 7:29). Nebo was a high mountain that Moses used to look over into the promised land before his death (Deuteronomy 32:49, 34:1). Medeba had been a city within the Reubenite territory (Joshua 13:9, 16) until Moab invaded and took it from them.

15:3 Moab demonstrated a public grief with sackcloth in all of their public forums.

15:4 Heshbon and Elealeh were two main towns of Moab that were approximately one mile apart and twenty miles east of the Jordan.

15:5 Moabites would flee to Zoar just as Lot and his daughters did. This symbolizes the flight from the terrorizing destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:22-23). A three-year old heifer is in full strength. Luhith was a mountain (Jer 48:5). Horonaim was another Moabite city that means "two holes", so this may have been a refuge of caves.

15:6 Another city, Nimrim, known for its well-watered pastures had dried. The temporal nature of grass is used throughout Scripture to reflect the fleeting characteristic of a life. (Ps 37:1-2, 90:5-6, 103:15; Isaiah 51:12, 1 Peter 1:24-25; Matthew 6:30; James 1:10-11)

15:7 The Moabites would attempt to save their treasures as they fled over the brook of the willows into Arabia.

15:8 Eglaim was a Moabite city (Eusebius places it 8 miles south of Ar), and Beer-elim means "well of the mighty ones/princes" (Numbers 21:18)

15:9 Dibon (the Moabite city with the Temple of Baal – Isaiah 15:2) had so much bloodshed that it is thought the city was renamed Dimon. God also sent lions to harass those immigrants into the northern kingdom by Assyria (2 Kings 17:25-26).

- **According to Isaiah 15:2, when Moab is destroyed, where do they go for comfort?**
 - **Dibon's Temple for Baal**

29 Isaiah 16-18

Read Isaiah 16:1-8...Moab's Called to Submit to the Throne of David in Spite of Pride

16:1 Moab joined with the Ammonites in rebellion against tribute to Israel (2 Kings 3:4, 2 Chron 20) but should send lambs from Sela (Petra or Bazra – Isaiah 63). The capital of the country of Jordan (where Moab was located) is Ammon.

- During the 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation, the Jews will be in Petra ("Sela" – Judges 1:36; 1 Samuel 23:28; 2 Kings 14:7; Isaiah 16:1, 42:11)

16:2 The fords were to be shallow places in the Arnon river (east of the Dead Sea) that could be waded across, but the Moabites would be floundering to escape.

16:3-4 A remnant of the Moabites were looking for refuge. *“Hide the refugee; do not betray the one who flees. Let my refugees stay with you”* (Deut 23:15)

16:5 This speaks of Jesus’ throne (Mt 19:28, Hebrews 12:2) in the millennial kingdom after His second coming.

16:6 Moab had much pride, so humility was the appropriate judgment. Anger (i.e. impatience) is a common companion of pride.

16:7 There will be universal grief throughout the land of Moab. Kirhareth (“wall of potsherd”) was once a mighty town of Moab (2 Kings 3:25).

16:8 Heshbon was a well-known city of Moab that conquering invaders often sought from Sihon to Israel (Numbers 21:25; Joshua 13:17). Moab reclaimed Heshbon during the Babylonian captivity (Jeremiah 48:2).

- **According to Isaiah 16:6, what was the dominant characteristic of Moab?**
 - **Arrogance, pride and fury**

Read Isaiah 16:9-14...God is Saddened by State of Moab and the Impending Judgment

16:9 God mourns for Moab for the cities of Moab. Moab would no longer celebrate harvests.

16:10 The fields and the vineyards would not produce a harvest; no joy would be had. Celebration would cease.

16:11 The sentiment of God is affected by Moab’s loss. He likens His emotions to a harp.

16:12 Moab’s prayers would be exhaustive and ineffective.

16:13 The Lord warned generally of the judgment coming.

16:14 Now the Lord would assign a time period. This judgment on the Moabites was to occur in three (revelation) years. A hired hand works the agreed upon time frame (no more or less), and in the same way, the three years was not negotiable and would not be varied (Isaiah 21:16).

- **According to Isaiah 16:12, how are Moab’s prayers characterized?**
 - **Fervent and vain**

Read Isaiah 17:1-3...Syria Will Be Judged Like the Northern Kingdom of Israel

Chapter 17 is an oracle against Damascus (Syria), Israel and the Nations

17:1-3 Just as with northern Israel, Damascus was defeated and taken into captivity by Assyria around 800BC (Is 8:3-4; Jer 49:24; Amos 1:4-5) The terrors of Assyria were likened to the tribulation itself, but afterwards, there would be peace for the “flocks” of God’s people.

- **According to Isaiah 17:3, the judgment of Syria is likened to whom?**
 - **The exile of the northern kingdom of Israel**

Read Isaiah 17:4-11...A Remnant Reject Idolatry While Others Are Plagued

17:4 The health of the northern kingdom of Israel would become shriveled and lost.

17:5 The Rephaim had been legends of giants that came to an end, and the Assyrians would also become the “grim reapers” of Israel as they cut them down as one harvesting barley/wheat.

17:6 Israel’s ability to bear fruit and harvests would also be negated.

17:7 After the Lord has judged His people, they will turn from their manmade idols to their Creator. A powerless man puts no trust in his own works; therefore, idols are a function of pride.

17:8 The idols of Asherah and incense stands had simply been homemade “play toys” that were ineffective in truly helping their maker.

17:9 The strong cities of Israel would be emptied like “ghost towns.” Asherah worship often existed on cleared hilltops with “totem poles” that had been stripped of their branches, and in similar fashion, Israel would be stripped of everything.

17:10-11 Israel had forgotten the Source of their salvation and strength, so the efforts and harvests would fail.

- **According to Isaiah 17:7, who would Israel consider in their judgment?**
 - **The God of Israel**
- **According to Isaiah 17:8, who would Israel no longer spend time on?**
 - **The Asherim and incense stands**
- **According to Isaiah 17:10, why was judgment falling on Israel?**
 - **Because they had forgotten the God of their salvation**

Read Isaiah 17:12-14...The Grief of Israel’s Enemies

17:12-13 The chaotic nature of the seas symbolizes the frenzied idiocies of the world systems (Isaiah 57:20).

17:14 Sudden disaster would bring the oppressors to peril, and then vanish in the light.

Read Isaiah 18:1-7... God Would Bring Hardship on Cush (the Ethiopians)

- **Chapter 18 is against Cush (possibly Ethiopia)**

18:1 The reference to the wings of Cush/Ethiopia might be a reference to their coverage/protection of their allies (i.e. Egypt). The wings might also reference the military speed that Cush traveled to offer protection under their wings of sanctuary.

18:2 Cush was a maritime province that was developed and well indulged. The “wings” of the prior verse might also be a reference to the sails of the Cush ships.

18:3 The judgment of Cush would not be in secret, but instead the passage urges attention by the world to the testimony of God’s judgment on Cush.

18:4 The Lord would “*quietly look out from His place*” and cause the crops to be eaten by animals, and afterwards these people would bring a gift to Mount Zion

18:5 Before produce can be harvested, God would cut off new growth and fruitful branches.

18:6 The birds and wild animals would consume the harvests. (Gen 40:16-19)

18:7 Cush was allied with Israel against the terrorizing Assyrian empire, so this tribute may have been in appreciation for Israel being the buffer state between Assyria and Africa.

- The description of Cush is repeated in this passage as “*a people tall and smooth; even from a people feared far and wide; a powerful and oppressive nation; whose land the rivers divide.*”
- **According to Isaiah 18:3, who would witness God’s judgment on Cush?**
 - **The entire world**
- **According to Isaiah 18:4, how would the Lord look down with judgment?**
 - **Quietly – the Lord is not disturbed as He sends disturbances**

30 Isaiah 19-21

Read Isaiah 19:1-17...The Confusion of Egypt and Foolishness of their Princess

- **When Chapter 19 was written, Egypt was in alliance with Judah**

- 19:1 Several times God is pictured on His cloud (Ps 104:3, Isaiah 19:1, Nahum 1:3, Ex 20:21, 34:5, 40:34, Lev 16:2, 1 Kings 8:12, 2 Chron 6:1, Ps 97:2, Lk 21:27, Acts 1:9, 1 The 4:17, Heb 12:1)
- Prior to the Exodus, God used the ten plagues to show His power over the false gods of Egypt (Exodus 12:12, 18:11; Numbers 33:4)
- 19:2 The Lord would provoke civil warfare within the nation of Egypt so that they would destroy themselves.
- 19:3 Egypt would no longer be united, but instead, they would be confused and demoralized.
- God would send confusion (as in Babylon – Genesis 11:7-9) on Egypt, and as a result, Egypt would resort to idols, ghosts of the dead, and mediums (1 Samuel 28:11-15).
- 19:4 After Egypt's history of internal strife and civil wars, they once again became subject to Pharaoh
- 19:5-10 These verses seem to infer that the Nile could be dammed up; in the 1970's the Aswan high dam was completed by Russia and Egypt to gauge and prevent flooding, but the consequences were troublesome
- 19:11 Zoan is Tannis in northeast Egypt was lacking wise advisors to the king, but they considered themselves to be the wise men (magi) of the east (Mt 2:2)
- 19:12 Egypt had no wise men who understood the will or plan of the Lord. (Daniel 2:24-28)
- 19:13 The cornerstone set the direction for the entire framework and foundation; leaders of Egypt had led the nation astray.
- 19:14 The Lord had unleashed a spirit of distortion/falsehood that resulted in a lack of unified direction (this is similar to the “fake news” of America)
- 19:15 Egypt would not be able to achieve anything during this time of stupor.
- 19:16 In this verse, women are characterized as fearful creatures, and in that culture, women were at the mercy of the physical Egyptian men. Egypt would lack courage because of God's hand over them.
- 19:17 The southern kingdom of Judah would be a dread for Egypt and to all surrounding nations because that was the Lord's will and plan.
- **According to Isaiah 19:1, who would tremble before the Lord's judgment?**
 - **The idols of Egypt (possibly an earthquake?)**
 - **According to Isaiah 19:2, who would God cause to war with Egypt?**
 - **Themselves in civil war**
 - **According to Isaiah 19:3, from whom would Egypt resort to seeking assistance?**
 - **Idols, ghosts of the dead and mediums**
 - **According to Isaiah 19:13, who led Egypt astray?**
 - **Their leaders**
 - **According to Isaiah 19:14, what spirit did the Lord mix within Egypt?**
 - **The Lord had unleashed a spirit of distortion/falsehood that resulted in a lack of unified direction (this is similar to the “fake news” of America)**

Read Isaiah 19:18-22...Egypt Called to the Church & Covenant w/ Egypt, Assyria, Israel

19:18 The five cities are not explicitly named, but the meaning is that Judah would have some territory within the Egyptian boundaries that would be a blessing except for one who would adopt Egyptian customs of worship. This Jewish community would be the “city of destruction.”

19:19 The Hebrew term “Matstebah” can mean pillar or monument.

- How can the center of Egypt also be her border?
 - Egypt was separated into upper (fertile Nile-Delta) and lower Egypt (**desert of Egypt**) – **the Pharaoh would wear one crown for the north and a different one for the south. The city on this designated line was “Giza”** which means “border” (now Cairo)
 - The Great pyramid (485 feet high and 761 feet 8 inches wide) is built there with 144,000 white marble stones which are laid so precise that it could not be duplicated with modern technology (the stone cracks are so close together that laser tools could not duplicate).
 - The dimensions of the pyramid correlate to pi π in 54 different ways; many of the aspects of design are also found at “stone henge” – it is thought that both places share the same builders – legend has it that this was possibly Seth.
 - The passages are used as allegories to display the gospel; for instance, one can go down the Pyramid’s descending passage way until coming to a fork with an ascending passage and the descending continuing downward the ascending passage at that point is blocked by a granite plug while the descending passage continue to a place with a deeper well.
 - Oral tradition claims that the Hyksos conquered Egypt in time past by mind control (taking of the psyche of Egypt instead of winning through warfare). As the tale goes, these Hyksos came in, destroyed every polytheistic Temple, built the Great Pyramid, and then left.
 - The capstone of the Great Pyramid is missing (Zechariah 4:7) - treated much as the cornerstone.
 - If we take the *gematria* of Isaiah 19:19-20 (*gematria* is a numerical value or summation of text when numbers are assigned to letters because the Hebrew letters have certain numbers associated with them due to the mathematical nature of the language) the value of the *gematria* for Isaiah 19:19-20 is the value 5449. That is the same height of the Great Pyramid in pyramid inches (to the original summit platform)!
 - To measure the blocks, 1 Royal Cubit equated to 1.86 Feet. If the diameter of the earth were divided 25 million times, it would equate to the exact measurement of a single block/a single royal cubit. The cubit is 1/25,000,000th the diameter from polar end of the earth to the other polar end.
 - If the base of the pyramid is measured from one corner to another corner, the base is 365.242 cubits long which is the exact amount of time it takes for the earth to circle the sun in a year of 365.242 days.
 - The sides of the pyramid line up exactly with the earth’s meridians. The pyramid is a scale model of the northern hemisphere in that if the base of two opposite corners at the base of the pyramid equated to the width of the earth, the top of the pyramid is the exact height from the equator to the northern polar tip.
 - The location of the great pyramid as a coordinate 29.9792458 degrees north, it is the exact speed of light traveling through space at 299,792,458 meters per second.
- 19:20 While the Savior of the world is the same Messiah as that of the Jews, this reference to a savior may infer Alexander the Great who was eagerly received and viewed as a savior by Egypt after the abusive rule of Persia (for instance, Cambyses had killed Egypt’s Apis bull).

Alexander would treat Egypt kindly and transplant Jewish scribes into Egypt. He built a new capital called Alexandria for the Ptolemies after him.

19:21 With the influx of Jews and the Great Library of Alexandria which resulted in the Septuagint (LXX) being written and in turn, may have resulted in an Egyptian revival.

- The name “Septuagint” (from the Latin term “septuaginta” meaning “70”) originated from the 72 translators (6 from each of the 12 tribes of Israel), who crafted the initial Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures during the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-247BC).

19:22 The Lord would discipline Egypt so that they would turn to Him. *“The Lord will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the Lord, and He will respond to them and will heal them.”* (Hebrews 12:6)

19:23 God’s way is that highway (Prov 15:19, 16:17; Isaiah 11:16, 35:8 → Num 20:17, 21:22)

19:24 The millennial 1000 years of peace (Is 11:6-10). Israel is located at the crossroads between Egypt and Assyria.

19:25 The Lord has a unique descriptor for each of the three allied nations: 1. *“Egypt my people”* (a covenant relationship with God) 2. *“Assyria, the work of my hands”* (The Lord has made them powerful and grace-filled) 3. *“Israel My inheritance”* (His lineage and family who have inherited a testimony and land from the patriarchs).

- **According to Isaiah 19:18, what would be in the land of Egypt?**
 - **The five cities are not explicitly named, but the meaning is that Judah would have some territory (Jewish communities) within the Egyptian boundaries that would be a blessing except for one who would adopt Egyptian customs of worship. This Jewish community would be the “city of destruction.”**
- **According to Isaiah 19:19-20, what would be a sign and witness to the Lord?**
 - **The Hebrew term “Matstebah” can mean pillar or monument.**
- **According to Isaiah 19:21, how will the Egyptians respond to a Savior?**
 - **They would worship the Lord with sacrifice and offering while committing to Him.**
- **According to Isaiah 19:22, how will the Lord bring Egypt to Himself?**
 - *“The Lord will strike Egypt, striking but healing; so they will return to the Lord, and He will respond to them and will heal them.”*
- **According to Isaiah 19:23, where will the millennium highway lead?**
 - **Between Egypt and Assyria through Israel.**

Read Isaiah 20:1-6...Isaiah Becomes the Naked Prophet as a Warning of an Alliance with Egypt and Ethiopia

20:1 In 711BC, Sargon invaded the Philistine city of Ashdod.

- Ashdod had been the location that the Philistines had initially brought the Ark of God (1 Samuel 5:1), and it was the location of the Dagon Temple (1 Samuel 5:3).
- This is the only explicit reference to Sargon in the Old Testament.
- Judah was fearful of Assyria’s victory over the northern kingdom of Israel, and now they had gone around Judah and captured Philistine territory in the southwest. Judah began looking for worldly alliances (like Egypt) to fend off Assyria.
- According to Assyrian records, Sargon led Assyria on an invasion of the land of Israel (2 Kings 17:5-6) and placed Israel’s capital city of Samaria under siege for 3 years (725BC-

722BC). According to Assyrian records, there were 27,290 people from Samaria that went into exile (Hosea 13:16).

Kings of Assyria Chronology		
Years of Reign	Assyrian King	References
745-727BC	Tiglath-Pileser III (Pul)	2 Kings 15:19, 29-30; 16:7-10; 1 Chron 5:6, 26; 2 Chron 28:20
727-722BC	Shalmaneser V	2 Kings 17
722-705BC	Sargon II	2 Kings 17
705-681BC	Sennacherib	2 Kings 18

20:2 God told Isaiah to loosen his sackcloth and go barefoot as a sign of the way that the other nations would be taken into Assyrian captivity.

- The Hebrew word for naked is “ā·rōm” which means without any clothing like a newborn baby. (Job 1:21; Ecclesiastes 5:15).
- The loose sackcloth may have simply been an opening in the back, exposing Isaiah’s backside (Isaiah 20:4); in whatever regard, the exposure was humiliating.
- God did not tell Isaiah the amount of time that he must walk around naked; after the fact, God would say that Isaiah did this for three years.

20:3 Isaiah went naked for three years, so God made the point of his people understanding what was awaiting them in Assyrian exile (also time frame of second half of the Tribulation)

- God is warning Israel about making an Egyptian alliance

20:4 Isaiah’s nakedness was a metaphor for Assyria’s exile of Egypt and Cush.

20:5 Egypt’s pride resulted in boasting as they hoped in Cush’s power to save them.

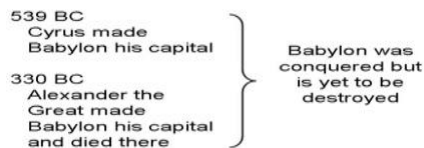
20:6 Judah had made an alliance with Assyria to defeat Israel and Syria (2 Kings 16:7-9), but no one was capable of saving them from Assyria.

- **According to Isaiah 20:2, what did God instruct Isaiah to do?**
 - **God told Isaiah to loosen his sackcloth and go barefoot as a sign of the way that the other nations (Egypt, Cush) would be taken into Assyrian captivity.**

Read Isaiah 21:1-10...The Prophecy of the Medes and the Persians

21:1 The wilderness of the sea represents Babylon.

21:2 Isaiah accurately names the two groups (Elam/ forbearers of Persians and Media/the Medes) who conquered Babylon on October 12th in 539 BC. Elam was an important province of Persia which was on the southeast border of the Median empire.



21:3-4 The vision was so horrific that he was physically ill afterwards. Isaiah experienced the same physical conditions as Belshazzar upon reading the writing on the wall (Daniel 5:6).

21:5 Prior to the writing on the wall, Belshazzar held a banquet (Daniel 5:1-4)

21:6 The watchman would be Isaiah as God tells him to set a watchman to report the vision.

21:7 “A troop is coming two by two.” The war horses were a shared army while the donkeys represented Darius and the Medes while camels represent Cyrus and the Persians. The donkeys and camels were utilized to move supplies and weaponry.

21:8 The lion was a symbol of Babylon (Daniel 7:4). The sentry watches day and night.

21:9 Babylon is claimed as having fallen three times in Scripture (Jer 51:8; Rev 18:2); this verse actually relates to the Revelation reference and the end of times because Cyrus embraced the gods of those defeated and did not break them

21:10 The threshing floor time and again references the end of times (Ruth 3:2, Jer 51:33, Dan 2:35, Mt 3:12, Lk 3:17)

Read Isaiah 21:11-12...Edom Is Called to Seek the Lord

21:11 There is a “masa” (heavy burden) against Dumah (descended from Ishmael – Gn 25:15, 1 Chron 1:30). Edom called fervently/urgently to Isaiah, the watchman, asking how close they are to the morning – how much of the night had passed.

21:12 The watchman cautions that morning may come, but the night would also come again. Isaiah the watchman encourages Edom that any time is a good time to begin seeking the Lord. If good times come to the sinner, it will be followed by night.

Read Isaiah 21:13-17...Arabia’s Calamity

21:13 The forest is where the Dedanites (Jer 25:23) were to hide in the night (the time of trial).

21:14 The refugees from Tema (Job 6:19) would need water and bread.

21:15 They had fled the swords and bows of battle attacks.

21:16 The expression used in this verse is that of a contractual agreement. Now the Lord would assign a time period. This judgment on the Arabians was to occur in a year. A hired hand works the agreed upon time frame (no more or less), and in the same way, a single year was not negotiable and would not be varied (Isaiah 16:14).

21:17 Kedar was second son of Ishmael who settled in Kuwait (Saddam Hussein and Mohammed from Kedar). The Lord had proclaimed the outcome and the time period which would not be altered.

OCTOBER

1 Isaiah 22, 23

Read Isaiah 22:1-7...Isaiah Grieves the Invasion into Judah

- In Chapter 22, Isaiah warns Hezekiah of Assyria preparations to begin a siege on Jerusalem to starve the inhabitants (2 Kings 18; Isaiah 36). In Scripture, Jerusalem can also reflect God’s people in general.

22:1 Jerusalem is called the “valley of vision” because of all the prophets who came from Jerusalem. Scripture correlates “valley” to a low point in life. As the inhabitants of Jerusalem have gone to their roofs to celebrate, they can see the enemy amassed against them.

- The vision of what is to occur is also spiritually available by enlightened men.
- Even if the signs of the time are evident, man continues in his daily distractions (Mt 24:37-39).

22:2-3 The chaos of everyday life and celebration continues as Assyria never attacks the city (Is 37:33). Only those who fled from fear were captured by the enemy.

22:4 As Hezekiah would weep for his own life (2 Kings 20:2-3; Isaiah 38:2-3), Isaiah was now weeping for God’s people.

22:5 This threat of violence and punishment was established by the Lord to humble His people.

22:6-7 Elam represents the Persians while Ker represents the Medes. Eventually, these two nations would jointly topple Babylon, but now they were serving the Assyrian military.

Read Isaiah 22:8-14...Isaiah Condemns Worldly Protection and Futile Joy

- 22:8 Weapons had decorated the House of the Forest by Solomon (1 Kings 7:2-6, 10:16-17); these decorative weapons were for show, not function. Believers should beware of a show of spirituality when true spiritual weaponry is needed (Eph 6:10-17).
- 22:9 Reference to the pool of Siloam (Isaiah 8:6) where the source of the water (Gihon Spring) was hidden outside of the city and a secret tunnel (750 ft long and 3 feet deep) had been made to an inside pool
- 22:10 The walls are so insecure that houses are destroyed to use materials to supplement city walls
- 22:11 The people developed a strategy without God (Isaiah 30:1)
- 22:12 God calls for repentance, sadness and humility versus irrational pursuit of vain joy in Isaiah 22:13 where people live to get as much out of their mortal lives before death when they should be preparing for death. This speaks to the “I want to do this/that or go here/there before I die” or “Get the most out of [this] life” mentality.
- 22:13 *“There is joy and revelry, slaughtering of cattle and killing of sheep.”* Believers should realize that God’s followers are symbolized by Ox and Sheep throughout the Bible.
- *“Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we may die.”* (1 Cor 15:32)
- 22:14 This gleeful submission to pleasure with the knowledge that it brings death was so egregious to the Lord that it would not be forgiven in their lifetime. The rush for pleasure (“list of 10 things to do before I die”) in the face of eminent death is not the way to prepare for death. (James 1:15)

Read Isaiah 22:15-25...Shebna will be Replaced with Eliakim

- 22:15-21 Shebna (meaning “who built: tarry, I pray” wanting praise for his accomplishments) was the master or controller of Hezekiah’s palace - a contemptuous treasurer and an egotistical man, so prideful Shebna will be replaced by Eliakim (Isaiah 22:20)
- 22:16 Shebna prepares for death by building a mausoleum as a testimony to his greatness – an attempt to perpetuate his own glory. This is not the correct way to prepare for death.
- 22:17-19 The ignorant, young, prideful politician was to be judged by the Lord.
- 22:20-21 Eliakim (“whom God will raise up”) led the conversations with the Assyrian army as well as with Isaiah the prophet (2 Ki 18:18, 19:2; Is 36:3, 37:2). The royal covering was placed on him as the Lord exalted Eliakim.
- 22:22-25 These verses are an allusion to Jesus Christ
- 22:22 Jesus offers an open door of salvation to His people which no one can shut (Rev 3:7-8).
- 22:23 Jesus is seen as peg holding the remnant firmly for the day of salvation (Zech 10:4; Ezra 9:8)
- 22:24 Jesus bore the sins of the world as He was crucified on the cross at Calvary. All of His people are different types of vessels to be used in service to Him (2 Tim 2:19-21).
- 22:25 As nails (pegs) were used to bear Jesus on the cross before He died and then overcame death in the resurrection as He destroyed the load of sin that He bore.

Nebuchadnezzar
laid siege to Tyre for
13 years.

Tyre had an
incredibly strong
navy/fleet and
relocated the entire
town one mile off
shore to an island,
so Babylon stopped
their assault.

Alexander the Great
made great his fame
by having a
causeway built from
the mainland to the
Tyre island.
(Ezekiel 26:3-16)

Read Isaiah 23:1-18...A Prophecy against Tyre with Metaphors for Phoenician Sea Men

- 23:1 Tyre represents the society of commerce. Tarshish was a wealthy destination (possibly Britain or Spain) across the Mediterranean Sea (2 Chron 9:21).
- 23:2-3 These professionals were told to be still in contrast their hurried schedules of business and trade. Sihor is a term for the upper Nile.
- 23:4 Sidon grieves the loss of Tyre since Tyre was founded and “raised” by the sister city of Sidon.
- 23:5-6 All of the business partners (Egypt, Tarshish) would grieve Tyre’s demise.
- 23:7 This either refers to being taken into captivity into a foreign land or inhabiting foreign lands instead of caring for home.
- 23:8-9 The Lord has purposed to rid the earth of all vain prideful things. Two errors that Believers make are that the God of the Old Testament is different than the God of the New Testament. The other is that God would never bring destruction. The Bible is one book about one God who judges righteously.
- 23:10-12 The inhabitants of this rebellious metropolis were encouraged to flee danger.
- 23:13 The attention of Tyre is called to focus on Babylon (the Chaldeans) who were only a little trampled community, but who would grow to attack Tyre.
- 23:14 The fleet of ships was the only way to retrieve the riches from Tarshish.
- 23:15 Just as Jerusalem was taken into Babylonian captivity for seventy years, so too was Tyre’s influence, reputation and prowess devastated for the reign of one king. This may have happened during the attack of the Assyrian king Ashurbanipal (668BC) or Nebuchadnezzar’s (573BC) attack. After being restored, Alexander the Great (332BC) utterly destroyed the city (Ez 26:3-12) but it was rebuilt in another location (on the causeway possibly after seventy years) without ever having been rebuilt on the mainland.
- 23:16-17 Men and women sell themselves as prostitutes to trade and commerce each day.
- 23:18 The Jewish nation would gain much wealth via the revived trade of Tyre.

2 Isaiah 24-26

- **Transition from national focus to worldwide in what is termed “The Little Apocalypse” of chapters 24-27**
- **The term “Apocalypse” means to “unveil” as when the Temple curtain was torn (Luke 23:44-45) or when Rebekah saw Isaac (Genesis 24:64-65). The gospel remains veiled for those who are perishing (2 Corinthians 4:3).**

The “Little Apocalypse”	
Isaiah 24	Judgment on the Whole Earth
Isaiah 25	God Swallows Up Death

Isaiah 26	Joy for God's People
Isaiah 27	Israel will be Exalted

Read Isaiah 24:1-12...God's Judgments upon the Land

- **Symbolic of the Period of Tribulation**
 - **Devastation (the Earth is Destroyed)**
 - **Dispersion (the People Scattered)**

24:1 The Lord's judgment on sin often brings eviction and exile, so in the same way, the people of the earth would be scattered as He destroys the earth.

- The word "earth" (Hebrew "erets") is repeated in this chapter.
- The planet will be "distorted" as in shaken, stirred and turned upside down.

The Lord is no respecter of persons and will punish authority and subordinate alike (Isaiah 24:2)		
	Subordinate	Authority
1	People	Priest
2	Servant	Master
3	Maid	Mistress
4	Buyer	Seller
5	Lender	Borrower
6	Creditor	Debtor

24:3 There are no superlatives in Hebrew, so repetition is used.

- *"Erets (the earth) baqaq baqaq (emptied emptied) bazaz bazaz (plundered plundered) Yahweh (God's covenant name) dabar dabar (Word Word)."*

24:4 It is re-emphasized that the earth will be made bare, ravaged and hiding nothing as it withers and wastes away. (Zephaniah 1:2; Revelation 8:5, 7; 16:1-4)

Believers are to keep themselves from being polluted by this world (Isaiah 24:5)			
1.	Transgressed	The Law/Teachings	Moral Laws
2.	Overstepped	The Ordinance/Decrees	Positive Statutes
3.	Frustrated	The everlasting covenant	National Covenant

"Everlasting Covenants" in Scripture (עוֹלָם: בְּרִית - 'ōwlām bərit)	
Genesis 9:16 (Noah)	<i>"The bow will be in the clouds, and I will look at it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all the living creatures on earth."</i>
Genesis 17:7 (Abram)	<i>"I will keep My covenant between Me and you, and your future offspring throughout their generations, as an everlasting covenant to be your God and the God of your offspring after you."</i>
Genesis 17:13 (Abram)	<i>"My covenant will be marked in your flesh as an everlasting covenant."</i>
Genesis 17:19 (Abram)	<i>"But God said, "No. Your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will name him Isaac. I will confirm My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his future offspring."</i>
2 Samuel 23:5 (David)	<i>"Is it not true my house is with God? For He has established an everlasting covenant with me, ordered and secured in every detail. Will He not bring about my whole salvation and my every desire?"</i>
1 Chronicles 16:16-17 (Abraham)	<i>"The covenant He made with Abraham, swore to Isaac, and confirmed to Jacob as a decree, and to Israel as an everlasting covenant."</i>
Psalms 105:9-10 (Abraham)	<i>"The covenant He made with Abraham, swore to Isaac, and confirmed to Jacob as a decree and to Israel as an everlasting covenant:"</i>

Isaiah 24:5 (Inhabitants in Jerusalem)	<i>"The earth is polluted by its inhabitants, for they have transgressed teachings, overstepped decrees, and broken the everlasting covenant."</i>
Isaiah 55:3 (David)	<i>"Pay attention and come to Me; listen, so that you will live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, the promises assured to David."</i>
Isaiah 61:8 (Inhabitants in Jerusalem)	<i>"For I Yahweh love justice; I hate robbery and injustice; I will faithfully reward them and make an everlasting covenant with them."</i>
Jeremiah 32:40 (God's Regathered People)	<i>"I will make an everlasting covenant with them: I will never turn away from doing good to them, and I will put fear of Me in their hearts so they will never again turn away from Me."</i>
Jeremiah 50:5 (God's Regathered People)	<i>"They will ask about Zion, turning their faces to this road. They will come and join themselves to the LORD in an everlasting covenant that will never be forgotten."</i>
Ezekiel 16:60 (Inhabitants in Jerusalem)	<i>"But I will remember the covenant I made with you in the days of your youth, and I will establish an everlasting covenant with you."</i>
Ezekiel 37:26 (God's Regathered People)	<i>"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be everlasting covenant with them. I will establish and multiply them and will set My sanctuary among them forever."</i>
Hebrews 13:20 (Believers)	<i>"Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead our Lord Jesus—the great Shepherd of the sheep—with the blood of the everlasting covenant."</i>

24:6 The judgment of "burning" is the manner that God deals with unholiness and sin (Ex 15:7, Num 11:1, Ps 106:18, Jer 5:14, 21:14, 51:58, Ez 22:31, Amos 5:6, Zeph 1:18, 3:8, Heb 10:26-27, Rev 20:9)

- Sinful people are the greatest environmental threat to the earth ('erets). (Genesis 6:5, 11; Numbers 35:33; Jeremiah 3:1)

24:7-9 Although wine is the scriptural metaphor of joy (Ps 104:15), this time of tribulation will result in great sorrow without relief.

24:10 Indeed, this world is a "city of chaos." While safety is found inside the doors of the household, people are locked out in danger (Gen 19:3; Ex 12:7; Judges 19:18).

24:11 During the tribulation, joy itself will be banished into exile. Believers look forward to a heavenly home where pain is similarly exiled.

24:12 Gates were places of strength and defense, but during this time they are broken and useless.

- **According to Isaiah 24:2, who would be in a better position?**
 - **No one; the Lord would punish those in authority as well as those under their authority.**

Read Isaiah 24:13-23...A Remnant will Praise & God's Judgments will Advance His Kingdom

24:13 Although olive trees and grape vines were expected to be filled with harvests, they would be bare, and the world would experience a physical (as well as a spiritual) famine.

24:14-15 The tribulation will bring cries to God from the Gentile nations (islands) while Israel is encouraged to also accept the Lord's salvation.

24:16 The ruin and misery are emphasized as the dangerous deceitful (e.g. Hollywood, news media, politicians) continue in their arrogant deception.

24:17 Fear is response to the pit (Rev 9:1,2, 11; 11:17; 17:8; 20:1, 3) and the snare will eternally hold one there (Luke 21:35, Rom 11:9)

24:18 The Beast comes from the pit (Rev 13:1, 11) as the windows of heaven open to pour curses on the earth.

24:19 The earth will experience a great earthquake during the tribulation (Rev 6:12, 11:13; Is 29:6; Zech 14:5).

24:20 The world will stagger and fall not to rise again

24:21 God will punish the fallen angels and those worldly leaders (Ps 2:2) who have led their followers astray (2 Cor 10:3-5, Eph 6:12, Rev 17:10-14)

24:22 The evil will be held until the day of judgment (2 Peter 2:4; Jude 1:6).

24:23 As Jesus reigns in His brilliance throughout the millennium (Revelation 19:6), the testimony of believers would pale in comparison to His testimony. This could occur after the first resurrection, but before the millennium (a category over time vs. an event).

Read Isaiah 25:1-12...In the Midst of Destruction, the City of God is a Refuge

- **Symbolic of the Period of Millennium**
- **Isaiah 25 & 26 are songs that will be sung in the Millennium (Isaiah 12; Revelation 19:5)**

25:1 The wrath and judgment of the Lord is a testament to the promises in His Word. The covenant name (Yahweh) is claimed as their personal God. The LORD's plans have come true as His will is certain.

25:2 Babylon is a heap of ruins; the same outcome will occur with the symbolic Babylon of Revelation. From beginning to end, Babylon represents rebellion whereas Jerusalem represents God's peace.

- Babylon is the epicenter of rebellion against the Lord throughout Scripture that was founded by Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-10) and the first urban locale that man attempted to exalt himself corporately (Genesis 11:1-9)
- At the end of the Tribulation period, there will come the downfall of "Religious Babylon" (Revelation 17) and the downfall of "Economic Babylon" (Revelation 18)

25:3 The other nations who historically persecuted Israel will now be fearful of the LORD ruling from Zion during the millennium.

25:4 The city of the Lord (Zion) is a place of rest and protection for the poor and humble.

25:5 Although the Lord approves of military might and corporate judgment, the boast/song of violent men who are vicious and aggressive will be quieted by the Lord.

25:6 When Jesus establishes His millennial kingdom, he will hold a feast for all people.

25:7 This death veil over the nations of the world blinds them to the truth (2 Cor 3:14-16)

25:8 The term "swallowed" is used as the outlook for death (1 Corinthians 15:54-55) because death will be consumed in the lake of fire (Revelation 19:14) → Isaiah 30:27; Jeremiah 5:14; Revelation 11:5 → 2 Samuel 22:9; Psalm 18:8; Isaiah 29:6, 30:27, 30, 33:14).

- Eternity will be without tears and sorrow (Revelation 7:17, 21:4).

25:9 Believers should have peace as they wait on the Lord.

25:10 Moab was an abusive relative of God's people, Israel (Gen 19:37); they were violent mid-easterners claiming to be God's people but were not. Moab is figurative for false profession and living sinfully in the flesh. During the millennium, the false reconciliation between continual pursuit of sin and a life as a Believer will be eradicated.

25:11-12 A swimmer must pull himself out of the chaos of the water to breathe and live, but Moab will drown in the chaotic judgment surrounding him.

- **According to Isaiah 24:8, what will occur to death at the end of time?**
 - **The Lord will swallow up death forever.**
 - **The Lord will also become the comfort of His people**

Read Isaiah 26:1-14...Peace Comes from God & Not from This World

26:1 Salvation is likened to a strong city.

26:2 The righteous will enter through the gates (Psalms 118:19, Revelation 4:1). The righteous are determined by those who keep the faith.

26:3 “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” (Philippians 4:5, 6). Believers should look to the Lord as the peace instead of focusing on the world’s chaos.

- “Perfect peace” is translated from “shalom shalom” or “šālōwm šālōwm” (שָׁלוֹם שָׁלוֹם)

26:4 The Lord is the refuge and strength Who will eternally protect His people.

26:5-6 Babylon (the world system) will be destroyed, and the humble people of the Lord will walk above the destruction.

26:7-8 The path of the Believer is according to the Lord’s will as the desire of the Believer is for the Lord’s name to be worshipped and praised.

26:9 Believers should dwell on God in the night, and seek Him early in the morning.

- Sheep feed in the morning (Lk 21:37, Gn 19:27; Ex 8:20; 24:4; 34:4; Job 1:5; 7:18; Ps 5:3; 63:1; Is 50:4, 26:9; Mt 6:33; 20:1; Jn 8:2; Acts 5:19-21 → Jer 7:13)

26:10-11 The worldly who are successful will not understand the truth of the Lord. The worldly successful do not realize His imminent judgment.

26:12 “LORD, You will establish peace for us, for You have also done all our work for us.”

- Success is not through man’s effort, but God’s intervention. (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 11:6; Galatians 2:16; 2 Timothy 1:9)

26:13 Satan is prince of this world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11), and all of the idols that he has led the worldly to wrongly worship are dead without spirits.

26:14 The memories of the world’s false gods will be forgotten.

- **According to Isaiah 26:2, who are the righteous that enter the city of salvation?**
 - **Those who keep the faith.**
- **According to Isaiah 26:3, what is the consequence of one trusting in the Lord?**
 - **God will support the individual and give him peace.**
- **According to Isaiah 26:14, what will happen to memories of the world’s false gods?**
 - **The memories of the false gods will be forgotten.**

Read Isaiah 26:15-16...Israel Will Seek God in Sufferings

26:15 Israel became increasingly important throughout the Old Testament, but even now, for such a small nation, it is the focus of all of the world.

26:16 When the Lord judged Israel, they would seek Him because of the painful sufferings. The Tribulation is called the “Time of Jacob’s Trouble” (Jeremiah 31)

Read Isaiah 26:17-21...An Overview of the End Times

26:17 The “labor pangs” of the world become more frequent and intense during the end times (Romans 8:22; 1 Thessalonians 5:3).

26:18 Israel never realized that they had provided the Messiah as Jesus’ first coming was as a peaceful sacrifice while His second coming will be a powerful ruler of wrath. Often the Believer feels that he has not succeeded materially, but it is impossible to weigh the spiritual accomplishments.

26:19 The dead shall live in resurrected bodies at the pre-Tribulation rapture (Zephaniah 2:3, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Joel 2:15-16)

26:20 God invites His people to “Come” (Joel 2:15) as special chambers have been prepared for each (John 14:1-3; Joel 2:15-16); indignation (Tribulation – Jeremiah 30:7, Daniel 12:1, Revelation 14:10) will soon be past.

- During the 3 ½ years of the Great Tribulation, the Jews will be in Petra (“Sela” – Judges 1:36; 1 Samuel 23:28; 2 Kings 14:7; Isaiah 16:1, 42:11)
- 26:21 The Lord will bring judgment to the earth in the “days of wrath” (1 Thessalonians 5:9)
- **According to Isaiah 26:19, what will happen to the deceased?**
 - **In the end times, they will live.**
 - **According to Isaiah 26:20, from what should God’s people hide themselves?**
 - **God’s fury...the time of indignation...the Tribulation**

3 Isaiah 27, 28

Read Isaiah 27:1-13...God Will Re-establish His People

- 27:1 Rahab (Ps 87:4) in Job 9:13 (“the proud or boisterous one”) was a legendary sea (Rev 13:1) serpent/dragon (Leviathan Job 41) that was punished at the time of creation (Job 26:12, Psalm 89:10, Isaiah 51:9), but Leviathan will be conquered at the end of times (Is 27:1).
- 27:2 God treats His people as a vineyard that bear fruit for Him as He sends living water (John 14) to water those who obey Him (Deut 11:14; Zech 14:17)
- 27:3 God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37). Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 32:2 35:7, 41:18, 44:27, 48:21, 55:1, 58:11), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
- 27:4 God would burn the entanglements of this world; briars and thorns symbolize sin.
- 27:5 Israel will return to God. The saying of “making peace with the Lord before death” is a worthy ambition, but the only way to accomplish this is through His son, Jesus Christ.
- 27:6 Even now, there is a distinct contrast with fertile land west of the Jordan and desert east of the Jordan; Israel is the third largest exporter of fruit in the world.
- 27:7 Although the Lord disciplines His people, He will annihilate those who come against them.
- 27:8 The Babylonian captivity would serve to correct the hearts of His disobedient people.
- 27:9 Quite often the Lord destroys the idols of His people reconciling them to Himself. However, when a Believer repents and turns to the Lord, the Believer should destroy every vestige of the fallen way (e.g. friendships, habits, etc.).
- 27:10-11 While worldly men go about trying to “make the most” of every situation, only those with spiritual understanding realize that the Lord sent the test, trial or catastrophe. The Jewish people were broken off from the Lord’s inheritance, but they also will be grafted in again (Rom 11:17).
- 27:12 The Lord knows those who are His (the grain) and will collect them from the scattered world. Judah will be regathered (Zechariah 14:16-18)
- During the Olivet Discourse, Jesus teaches that the Jews who rejected Jesus will mourn as they realize who He is and the Jews are regathered to the sound of a trumpet (Matthew 24:30-31; Isaiah 11:12-13).
- 27:13 There will be a great trumpet sounding the rapture of His people (Joel 2:15-16).

God is outside of time as Isaiah Tells of the Future		
Near	100 Years	End of Time
Assyria over the Northern Kingdom	Babylon over Judea	Jesus over Satan
Isaiah 19:24 Tri-fold blessing of Israel, Egypt, Assyria		

- **Chapters 28-35: A Series of Woes against Israel**

Read Isaiah 28:1-15... Assyrians Utilized to Judge the Northern Kingdom for Idolatry

28:1 Ephraim represents the Northern Kingdom which would lose its glory; those who dealt with worldly concerns in worldly manners (e.g. alcohol) would also experience grief.

- “The proud crown” could be the capital city of Samaria.
- Some were conquered/overcome by the Assyrians, but this verse is directed to those who were conquered/overcome by alcohol (Isaiah 28:7).
- This prophecy was actually as an example of the people of Judah.

28:2 This imagery foretells a human version of Egypt’s 7th plague as Assyria assaults (hail) in such an enormous force (flood).

28:3 There is an emphasis on the intake of alcohol by Israel as they sought joy through the judgment. These proud Israelites refused to pay tribute to the Assyrians after they had been conquered. They claimed to be the exceptional people of God, but they pursued pleasures and the worship of false gods.

28:4 All the worldly fashions that man glories and prides himself in will be lost instantly. The Lord likens the northern kingdom with the fleeting taste of a ripe fruit that is quickly picked and eaten.

28:5 Ultimately, the Lord will be His people’s glory, and His people will be His crown of glory as well (Isaiah 62:3).

28:6 As for the people of God (in the millennium), the judges will understand justice and the protectors will have strength.

28:7-8 Alcohol abuse (alcoholism, drunkenness) was an issue with the priests of Israel; false prophets were a bane to Israel (Jer 23:11-15; Ez 13:1-16, Micah 3:5-12). As the Israelites consume their strong drinks, they are also consumed by their strong drinks.

28:9 There was no mature believer in Israel for God to teach knowledge nor understanding (Is 5:13)

28:10 Important concepts are scattered throughout all of Scripture for the mature to glean

28:11 Assyrian and Babylonian were foreign languages, and Babylon was used to force Sabbath rest on Israel and the land (2 Chron 36:20, 21)

28:12 God’s Word is meant to give solace and peace to the weary, but the people would not accept His peace.

28:13 To those without His spirit nor enlightenment, the Word of God is confusing and complex (Mt 3:13, 1 Cor 2:13)

28:14-15 Israel mocks God’s plan (Daniel 9:27) as they relied on their lies and deceit to protect them from death.

- **According to Isaiah 28:3, how does God view the northern kingdom of Israel?**
 - **Drunkards**
- **According to Isaiah 28:12, what is God’s Word meant to give?**
 - **Rest and repose to the weary.**
 - **Those who obey Him and rest in Him can be at peace.**
- **According to Isaiah 28:13, how did God’s people view His Word?**
 - **A list or precepts, lists and lines that would ultimately brake and snare His people.**

Read Isaiah 26:16-29...The Cornerstone is the only Refuge or Death is Certain

- 28:16 Jesus is this stone (Deut 32:3; Ps 118:22; 1 Peter 2:6-8) who is the safeguard of His people. Characteristics of the stone were that it had been tested and that it was precious.
- The literal Hebrew translation states that he who believes “will not be in a hurry”; the cornerstone would be the only one at rest instead of being uneasy, anxious and nervous.
- 28:17 The measuring line enables fair judgment based on candor and integrity.
- 28:18 Some of the Israelites acted that they had an agreement with death that it would not come upon them, but when death occurred, it would pass through them as well.
- 28:19 Every time that death passed through, it would seize them without regard to the time of day or anything else.
- 28:20 News will be continual causing perpetual worry without even the bed bringing rest.
- 28:21 God supernaturally intervenes like Mount Perazim’s idol worship (2 Sam 5:20) and Gibeon (Joshua 10:12) while Kings run for shelter in the caves
- 28:22 The land has been predestined/destined for destruction (Daniel 9:24, 26, 27), but for those who were scoffers and mockers, the slavery would be increasingly intense and harsh.
- 28:23 The people were urged to hear and obey.
- 28:24, 26, 29 God teaches His people how to sow seed (Mt 13:3-9). The Lord states that even the farmer doesn’t continue to plow time and again perpetually, but there is a time to stop plowing and plant and harvest.
- 28:25 Each seed is dealt with differently (Lev 19:19) for instance, spelt is the poor man’s grain for bread planted on the edges for the poor.
- 28:26 Through years and centuries of experience of the weather cycles, God teaches the farmer what is to come and how to alter his behavior.
- 28:27-28 The Lord matures His people differently, and His people should use spiritual discernment and guidance for how best to plant the seed and harvest.
- **According to Isaiah 28:16, how has God provided for a refuge?**
 - **God has provided a cornerstone. Jesus is this stone (Deut 32:3; Ps 118:22; 1 Peter 2:6-8) who is the safeguard of His people.**
 - **Characteristics of the stone were that it had been tested and that it was precious.**
 - **According to Isaiah 28:22, what was the consequence of those who mocked God’s warning?**
 - **The slavery would be increasingly intense and harsh for those who scoffed.**
 - **According to Isaiah 28:24-28, what is a good example of God’s judgment?**
 - **The farmer who prepares the soil, plants according to the crop, harvests the crop, and threshes it accordingly.**
 - **There is a time for warning and a time for judgment.**

4 Isaiah 29, 30

Read Isaiah 29:1-16...God’s Judgment Upon Jerusalem

29:1-2 Ariel (meaning “lion of God” and “altar covered with blood”) represents Jerusalem. Ariel sounds like the Hebrew word for altar. God is likening Jerusalem to the altar which is a place covered with blood.

- Year after year, Jerusalem had followed the religious traditions without having a meaningful and faithful relationship with the Lord.

29:3, 7 Assyria laid siege, but would not prevail. So, it would be with all nations during the end times (Zech 12:3, 14:2, Ps 2:1) God is claiming to be the source of the attacks that would be coming upon Jerusalem. Although the people see the enemies, God would be the threatening force.

29:4-5 Jerusalem would be humbled lying prostrate on the ground as a “spirit from the ground.”

29:6 God will defend His fallen Jerusalem with six natural disasters 1.thunder 2.earthquake 3.noise 4.storm 5.tempest 6.fire

29:7-8 The power of all the nations of the world will be amassed against God’s fallen people, but they will not be allowed to touch them. The desire of the nations will be unsatisfied.

29:9 The signs of the times are so evident, but the worldly are intoxicated with rebellion and continual pursuit of sin. The wicked rationalize based on biased opinion. (Hos 4:17; Ez 20:39; Zech 11:9; Rev 22:11)

29:10 “*For the LORD has poured out on you an overwhelming urge to sleep; He has shut your eyes—the prophets, and covered your heads—the seers.*” The Lord sends spiritual unawareness.

29:11-12 The end times prophecies and visions cannot be understood by those blinded by themselves.

29:13-14 “*The Lord said: ‘Because these people approach Me with their mouths to honor Me with lip service, yet their hearts are far from Me, and their worship consists of manmade rules learned by rote, therefore I will again confound these people with wonder after wonder. The wisdom of their wise men will vanish, and the understanding of the perceptive will be hidden.’*” (Mark 7:5-7)

29:15 Many have a lack of integrity in their lives as they attempt to hide their evil propensities from the Lord who can see everything from His heavenly dwelling (Job 22:12-16; Ps 33:13-14, 139:7-8; Prov 15:3; Jer 16:17, 23:24)

29:16 Macro-evolution subscribes to the prideful idea of the self-made man (Jer 18:1-6, Rom 9:21-22). The worldly vessel and clay pot cannot understand what the potter is crafting, and its purpose. (Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6; Lamentations 4:2). The human vessel (the pot) can be destroyed making it useless (Isaiah 30:14).

- **According to Isaiah 29:1-2, what term did God call Jerusalem?**
 - **Ariel (meaning “lion of God” and “altar covered with blood”)** represents Jerusalem. Ariel sounds like the Hebrew word for altar.
 - **God is likening Jerusalem to the altar which is a place covered with blood.**
- **According to Isaiah 29:10-11, what was the consequence of the God given spirit?**
 - **The people are spiritually asleep and do not understand God’s word**
- **According to Isaiah 29:13, how did God describe the people’s religion?**
 - **It was lip service instead of a sincere heartfelt commitment**
 - **God looks at the heart (Mark 7:5-7)**
- **According to Isaiah 29:16, what is a sign of a fallen society?**
 - **Human pride and arrogance over the Creator**

Read Isaiah 29:17-24...God’s Promise to Sanctify His People

29:17 The forests of Lebanon known for their strength would become fruit producing orchards of harvests. God can bring His people from certain judgment (e.g. siege) into productivity as He did by sending Assyria away and will do again in the millennium.

29:18 -19, 24 In the end, God will supernaturally reveal His truth to the poor and lacking

29:20-21 The deserving will receive righteous judgment and justice will be served.

29:22-23 The literal Israel (represented by Jacob) will finally turn to God once again, and the spiritual family of God (Israel) will stand in awe of what God has done.

- The title “the Holy One of Israel” is used repeatedly by the prophet, Isaiah, but this is the only time that he uses the phrase “the Holy One of Jacob” (Isaiah 1:4, 5:19, 24, 10:20, 12:6, 17:7, 29:19, 30:11, 12, 15, 31:1, 37:23, 41:14, 16, 20, 43:3, 14, 45:11, 47:4, 48:17, 49:7, 54:5, 55:5, 60:9, 14)

29:24 The redeemed will understand the error of their ways and will accept instruction. One of the most revealing signs of one who walks with the Lord is that their heart is changeable.

- **According to Isaiah 29:18-19, in the end times, who will understand God’s Word?**
 - **Those who are helpless and lack sufficiency, God will grant understanding.**

Read Isaiah 30:1-7...God Threatens the Confidence of His People in Egypt

- **Isaiah’s message to Hezekiah is to not align with what once held you captive; Trust God**

30:1 The people developed a manmade strategy without God (Isaiah 22:11; Hosea 8:4)

30:2 God’s people looked to the world for advice and counsel instead of God

30:3-6 When the cares of this world (e.g. Assyria) assail the Believer, the strength of this world will be of no defense, but the Lord can bring salvation.

30:7 Egypt will bring effort/struggle without purpose. “Rahab” is the ancient name for Egypt whose root is “pride/arrogance”; Rahab-Hem-shebeth means “Rahab sits idle”

- The Leviathan is detailed in Job 41 with characteristics of Satan (41:4, 33-34). Water existed prior to the Genesis Creation account and the sea serpent is claimed to be as well (Job 7:12).
- There are two creatures named “Rahab” mentioned in the Bible:
 - The prostitute Rahab of Jericho who bore Boaz (Joshua 2 & 6, Mt 1:5, Heb 11:31, James 2:25)
 - The Rahab in Job 9:13 (“the proud or boisterous one”) who was a legendary sea serpent/dragon (Leviathan Job 41) that was conquered at the time of creation (Job 26:12, Ps 89:10, Is 51:9)
- **According to Isaiah 30:1-2, where was Judah’s hope?**
 - **Judah hoped in a worldly alliance with Egypt instead of relying upon God**
 - **Judah continued to solve and resolve the consequences of their sin instead of turning to the Lord**
- **According to Isaiah 30:7, what term did the Lord use to describe Egypt?**
 - **Rahab**

Read Isaiah 30:8-17...Indicators of Contempt for God’s Word

30:8 Not only did Judah consent to a trust in the world, but contracts were signed and unfaithfulness is evidenced.

30:9 Children are an indication of the state of the nation – a fallen nation is one with lying children who don’t know God’s word (Isaiah 3:4-5, 12)

30:10 Sermons are influenced by popularity instead of God’s revelation; to paraphrase the author of Pollyanna – no one should own a church.

30:11-13 God's fallen people believe His word is obstructing their safety when in fact security
14 only He can offer salvation. Their very faithlessness and fear cause a breach in the
defensive wall around them.

30:14 If the pottery cannot be used, He will break it into so many pieces that even the broken
pieces cannot be used for the most minor task (Ps 2:9. Jer 18:1-6).

- It was an Egyptian practice to put the names of their enemies on a jar and break it (similar to a voodoo doll).
- The worldly vessel and clay pot cannot understand what the potter is crafting, and its purpose. (Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6; Lamentations 4:2).

30:15 *"In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength."*

- "Don't let the tyranny of self-sufficiency rob you of the miraculous"

30:16-17 While worldly plans do offer some capability to flee, worldly capabilities will not be
enough to escape. Great fear will result from the elements of this world until the fallen
believer is all alone without fellowship or faith.

- **According to Isaiah 30:10, what did Judah say to their seers and prophets?**
 - **They asked them not to see visions or tell them what was right; instead, Judah desired agreeable words couple with conjured illusions.**

Read Isaiah 30:18-26...God Will Have Mercy Towards His People

30:18 God is waiting for His people to wait on Him (Isaiah 40:31, 64:4, Ps 27:14, 62:1, Eccl
7:8, 2 Chron 7:14, Micah 7:7)

30:19-20 Although the Lord continues to send trials to refine, instead of crying, His people will
just bring their concerns to Him and He will listen (Isaiah 32:18-19)

30:21 God will give explicit instructions on how to walk and when to turn (John 10:3, 7, 16, 27)

30:22 All self-made objects of redemption (silver) and glory (gold) will be thrown away like
used menstrual cloths (Isaiah 31:7)

30:23 God will bless and prosper the seeds that His people have sown (Deut 11:10-17).

30:24 Even the base workers (domesticated animals) will be nourished with the food of man.

30:25 The living water will flow through each authority (mountain).

30:26 As the Believers reflect the Lord, they will shine increasingly brighter in this dark world,
and the Lord will heal the people from their sin (Mk 2:17; James 5:16; 1 Pet 2:24).

- **According to Isaiah 30:18, what does the Lord desire?**
 - **To be gracious with compassion towards His people**
- **According to Isaiah 30:21, how difficult will it be for Judah to understand God's will?**
 - **Judah will hear God's explicit directions**

Read Isaiah 30:27-33...The Destruction of Assyria

30:27 God's tongue is like a devouring fire as is His breath (Is 30:27, Jam 3:6, Jer 5:14, Rev
11:5). God is likened to a consuming fire several times in Scripture (Exodus 24:17;
Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29; Isaiah 9:19, 30:30; 33:14).

30:28 The bridle is literally "hooks" in the jaws of people that causes them to err

30:29 "Mighty One" literally means "rock" as the Lord is the stronghold and refuge for His
people.

- 30:30 The verdict of blasphemy was always death by stoning, so the Lord would God send hailstones as an appropriate measure of judgment (Rev 16:21)
- 30:31 Assyria was literally destroyed in the past while the same end will come to the anti-Christ at the end times.
- 30:32 The “appointed staff” would be used in protection of His sheep as He is the great Shepherd.
- 30:33 Tophet is the lowest part of the valley of Hinnom; the location of Molech that later becomes the city dump – Gehenna (Jer 7:31, 19:2-13; Joshua 15:8, 18:16)
- **According to Isaiah 30:27, how is the Lord’s tongue described?**
 - **As a consuming fire**
 - **According to Isaiah 30:33, what would the breath of the Lord do to Gehenna?**
 - *“The breath of the Lord, like a torrent of brimstone, sets it afire”*
 - **The Greek word “Gehenna” originates from the Hebrew word “Hinnom” and is used in the New Testament for “hell”.**

5 Isaiah 31-33

Read Isaiah 31:1-9...Foolishness to Trust in Worldly Strength Like Egypt or Assyria

- 31:1, 3 Do not trust in human alliances when faith should be in God; never put faith in flesh versus Spirit
- 31:2, 4 Those who assist will pay the price for offering to help against God (Jonah 1:4)
- 31:5, 8 The Lord will pass over to defend Jerusalem supernaturally
- 31:8 185,000 Assyrian men dead (2 Kings 19) and many young men will become slaves (forced labor)
- 31:9 His fire is in Zion and His furnace is in Jerusalem

Read Isaiah 32:1-8...The Blessings of Christ’s Kingdom

- 32:1 Jesus will reign in righteousness (Isaiah 9:7, Romans 5:17, 21)
- 32:2 Jesus is the man Who is the rock and shelter; *“like streams of water in the dry land”* (Is 35:6). God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37). Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 27:3, 35:7, 41:18, 44:27, 48:21, 55:1, 58:11), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
- 32:3-4 Upon being filled with the Holy Spirit, spiritual truths become evident that were otherwise hidden from the worldly and secular man (Isaiah 33:19)
- 32:5 The world elevates the jester (i.e. the comedian) and those who loot and steal are described as heroes (i.e. Robin Hood).
- 32:6 A fool makes ridiculous statements and acts out wickedly. The fool theorizes on religion but does not understand the Lord or His Word.
- The secular individual will no longer be thought good and important; their foolish behavior will reveal their falsity and deceit.
 - Although the fool attempts to share the Lord, the spiritual needs of the listeners are not satisfied (Jd 1:12).
- 32:7 Although the impoverished and afflicted share spiritual insight, the wicked sinner plots and plans wicked schemes.
- 32:8 The noble man can be identified by his aspirations and plans. Noble plans help the noble man stand.

- **According to Isaiah 32:1, how would the coming king reign?**
 - **Righteously**

Read Isaiah 32:9-14...Complacent Women Should Be Concerned About Their Sin

32:9 Isaiah attempts to reach women who are comfortable in their current situation.

32:10 Isaiah gives a timeline of just over a year that the complacent women will not have wine and will be troubled.

32:11 The women are called to understand their spiritual state and the judgment that is coming. The complacent women should tremble at the eminent judgment and wear sackcloth.

32:12 The women should mourn for the end of the bygone fields of harvests and vines that are no longer fruitful.

32:13 The towns will be left desolate as thorns and briars symbolize the consequences of sin.

32:14 These verses give instruction to complacent women that they should understand enough to be concerned. This will be amplified during the tribulation, but it is also true in common life without the Lord.

- **According to Isaiah 32:9-11, what description is repeated for Judah’s women through three verses?**
 - **The women were complacent**

Read Isaiah 32:15-20...The Restorative Power of the Spirit

32:15-16 The Spirit will be poured out which brings fruit and peace

32:17 *“The work of righteousness will be peace, and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.”*

32:18-19 Judgment and ruin (hail) will come to the worldly shelter while God’s people will rest in peace (Isaiah 30:19-20).

32:20 As the seed is the Word of the Lord blessed by the Living Water, the harvests of new Believers in troubled times will be great; the ox and donkey represent the spiritual laborers who minister freely throughout the world without restriction and restraint.

Assyria’s Failure is the Way of All the Fallen World (2 Chronicles 32; 2 Kings 18-19)			
1.	Jonah	760BC	Hope of Salvation
2.	Sennacherib	705BC	Pride and Conquest
3.	Nahum	660BC	Judgment

- **According to Isaiah 32:17, what would be the outcome of righteousness?**
 - **Peace, quietness and confidence**

Read Isaiah 33:1-12...The Judgment of God

33:1 Assyria would be plundered in retribution by Babylon. Jonah (760 BC) witnessed to Nineveh which was the Capital of Assyria; now Sennacherib was the Assyrian ruler (705 BC).

33:2 The Lord is the strength of the Believer every morning (daily).

33:3 The sound of the Lord’s thunderous voice causes fear and abandonment in the unbeliever.

33:4 God’s people would pilferage freely the remains of the Assyrian camp after they had fled.

33:5 God’s dwelling place is abounding in justice (judgment) and righteousness (mercy).

33:6 The fear of the Lord is a spiritual treasure of: 1.salvation 2.wisdom 3.knowledge

33:7 The mighty of this world who struggle for peace will end in loss without Christ.
 33:8 The ways of the world that facilitate temporary peace and success (e.g. travel; agreements; metropolis; human dignity) will be abandoned.
 33:9 Lebanon is known for mighty oaks; Sharon for flowers; Bashan and Carmel for highland beauty but all will become desolate
 33:10 At the worst possible point, the Lord will be exalted.
 33:11 The words, admissions and boasting of the sinner will bring judgment from the Lord.
 33:12 All of the worldly waste will be incinerated in judgment (1 Cor 3:12-15).

- **According to Isaiah 33:2, for what did God’s people wait?**
 - **For the Lord as strength and salvation**

Read Isaiah 33:13-24...The Testimony of Zion

33:13 All of creation will understand the sovereignty of the Lord.
 33:14 The righteous in Zion will dwell with the devouring fire (the everlasting burning); the “devouring fire” is used six times (2 Sam 22:9; Ps 18:8; Is 29:6; 30:27, 30; 33:14)
 • God is likened to a consuming fire several times in Scripture (Exodus 24:17; Deuteronomy 4:24; Hebrews 12:29; Isaiah 9:19, 30:30; 33:14).
 33:15 The way that God’s people should live: 1.Walk righteously 2.Speak uprightly 3.Despise gain by oppression 4.Refuse bribes 5.Doesn’t listen to bloodshed 6.Closes eyes to evil
 33:16 The Believer will be exalted as the Lord is his: 1.refuge 2.food 3.water
 33:17-19 The wicked oppressors of this world will be replaced by the righteous King.
 33:20 Jerusalem will be seen as a quiet home with a permanent Tabernacle

The Lord Himself fulfills all three branches of our Government (Isaiah 33:22)		
1	Our Judge	Judicial
2	Our Lawgiver	Legislative
3	Our King	Executive

33:24 Inhabitants of Jerusalem will no longer be sick, but instead be forgiven (1 Peter 2:24)
 • **According to Isaiah 33:15, what does the righteous stop his ears from hearing?**
 ○ **About bloodshed**

6 Isaiah 34-36

Read Isaiah 34:1-17...Judgments that Avenge the People of God

34:1-2 The wrath of God (Is 30:30, Micah 7:9) is against all nations (Isaiah 29:7, 40:17)
 34:3 There wouldn’t be an honorable burial for the dead, but instead their corpses would be discarded like their lives.
 34:4 The heavens shall be rolled up like a scroll (Rev 6:13, 14) while currently the heavens are “stretched out” – much like science’s expanding universe (Isaiah 40:22, 42:5, 44:24, 45:12, 51:13; Jer 10:12, 51:15; Zechariah 12:1; Job 9:8; Psalms 104:2)
 34:5 Edom as descendants from Esau were always trying to take their brother Jacob’s “life” as perpetual enemies of Israel (Isaiah 63)
 34:6-7 The sword of the Lord will be filled with blood (Ez 5:17; Jer 46:10, 48:10) as the remnant hide in Bozrah (Petra). All of the sacrificial animals (lambs, goats, rams, oxen) will be slain and their fat (excess) strewn over the earth.

- 34:8 The Lord has a very specific day scheduled for revenge.
- 34:9 With characteristic judgment of hell, there will be an endless fire of sulfur (brimstone).
- 34:10 The imagery is of hell itself (Revelation 14:11) as there would be no respite for the destruction. No one would want to travel through much less live there (Jer 49:18).
- 34:11 Measuring lines were meant to bring order, but this time they are used for confusion (2 Ki 21:13; Job 38:5; Isaiah 28:17; Ezekiel 40:3, 47:3; Zech 1:16, 2:1)
- 34:12-13 There will no longer be noble, righteous men to proclaim the testimony of the King Jesus as the places of authority are replete with sin (thorns).
- 34:14-15 The wild beasts will make dwelling places in the ruins of esteemed men.
- 34:16 Mankind is encouraged to search God's Word and read what God has commanded and His Spirit has accomplished
- 34:17 God has used (Prov 16:33) the line of righteousness (Is 28:17) to fairly judge and allocate their permanent homes
- **According to Isaiah 34:2, which nations will God's wrath come against?**
 - **All nations and every army**

Read Isaiah 35:1-10...Restoration of Jerusalem after All Nations Destroyed in Chapter 34

- 35:1 Although Edom will experience on-going waste, the remainder of the world (desert wilderness) will become fruitful during the millennium.
- The crocus is a perennial flower that is native to the middle east and grows in the Fall, Winter and Spring. The saffron spice comes from the Crocus flower stigma.
- 35:2 Those historic gardens of beauty (Carmel, Sharon) and strength (Lebanon) will also be fruitful.
- 35:3-4 Believers should trust in the Lord for all strength and salvation (2 Corinthians 12:10; Isaiah 30:15)
- 35:5-6 The spiritually disabled will be healed with spiritual insight, ears sensitive to the Lord's voice, legs able to walk the spiritually separated walk, and mouths that sing His praises. The Lord will provide Streams (of living water) in the desert (wilderness)
- 35:7 The living water would be a defining characteristic of Zion (Ps 46:4; Rev 22:1, Ez 47:1-12). God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37). Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 27:3, 32:2, 41:18, 44:27, 48:21, 55:1, 58:11), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
- 35:8 God's way is that highway (Prov 15:19, 16:17; Isaiah 11:16, 19:23 → Num 20:17, 21:22); also, John 14:6, Acts 9:2, Isaiah 40:3, Luke 14:23
- 35:8 God will even guide the simplest of men along His way (1 Cor 1:27, 3:18; Jn 14:6)
- 35:9-10 Believers will no longer be assaulted by the persecution of this world as they worship the Lord.
- **According to Isaiah 35:4, how are the anxious to be encouraged?**
 - **A reminder not to fear because God will come to save His people**

Chapters 36-39 convey a Historical Story Line of Hezekiah's salvation and failings

- **Isaiah relays the stories of two different kings with the faithless King Ahaz (Chapters 7-12) contrasted to the faithful King Hezekiah (Chapters 36-39) at the end of the first section of Isaiah. However, King Hezekiah falls prey to worldly alliances with Babylon which will be Judah's downfall.**

Read Isaiah 36:1-22...Assyria Invades the Peace of Jerusalem w/ Rabshakeh's Words

36:1 Sennacherib was able to conquer every perimeter city except for Jerusalem

36:2 While the Assyrian King was fighting at Lachish ("who walks") thirty-five miles away, he sent messengers to berate Jerusalem into submission. (2 Chronicles 32:9).

- The upper pool was the exact location that Isaiah had conveyed his message to Ahaz to be calm & quiet when Ahaz was turning to the worldly alliance of Assyria (Isaiah 7:3).

36:3 Eliakim ("whom God will raise up" or "whom God resurrects"); Shebna ("who is now captive"); Joah ("brother of the Lord") are three men selected to represent King Hezekiah ("Strength of the Lord"). Eliakim's father is Hilkiyah ("God is my portion") and Joah's father is Asaph ("who convenes") – Shebna's father is not mentioned.

36:4-5 Assailant asks "who do you trust?" Rabshakeh is the name given to the chief cup-bearer or the vizier of the Assyrian court

36:6 Assyria mocked an alliance with Egypt, and it was true that God would not bless the worldly alliances of Judah.

36:7 The world misjudges righteous acts. The world subjectively determine that centralized worship is irreverent.

36:8 Assyria mocks riding/defense capability of Jerusalem

36:9-10 The Assyrians offered a medley of lies to support their persecution of God's people including falsely claiming a calling by God Himself.

36:11 Aramaic was the worldwide (diplomatic) language while Hebrew was spoken from times past by the Jewish nation, but Rabshakeh wants to spread propaganda (Isaiah 36:12)

36:12 Rabshakeh threatens a siege of Jerusalem using crass language and explicit imagery. Even today, world leaders appeal to the population of enemy nations to revolt against their leaders.

36:13-14 The worldly Assyrians proclaim their allegiance loudly to a fallen human king while the Lord's people are called to listen to the true King.

36:15 Rabshakeh threatens that the people not let Hezekiah have them trust in the Lord (Is 37:8).

36:16-17 Instead of the Lord's sacrament, the world offers their own grain and wine that celebrates every man himself.

36:18-20 Rabshakeh compares the Lord with the gods of the defeated nations making the issue God's reputation and good name

36:21 God's people did not answer Rabshakeh's threats in obedience to the King (Isaiah 30:15)

36:22 The three messengers of the King were visibly fearful because of the threats of the world (Assyrians).

- **According to Isaiah 36:2, where did Assyria's Rabshakeh bring his threatening message?**
 - **The upper pool was the exact location that Isaiah had conveyed his message to Ahaz to be calm & quiet when Ahaz was turning to the worldly alliance of Assyria (Isaiah 7:3).**
- **According to Isaiah 36:15, what does Rabshakeh tell Jerusalem not to do?**
 - **Trust in the Lord**

Read Isaiah 37:1-7...Isaiah Comforts Hezekiah

- 37:1 When King Hezekiah hears of the threats of Assyria, he responds in three ways (Esther 4:1): 1.Grief (torn clothes) 2.Humility(sackcloth) 3 Seeking God (house of the Lord)
- 37:2 Hezekiah sent the three categories of representatives to Isaiah (“*Jehovah is Salvation*”): 1.Palace Authority 2.Scribe 3.Elder Priests (Isaiah 37:4), but not the record keeper. The record keeper, Joah (“Brother of the Lord”) was only needed to record sins of Assyria.
- 37:3 The Jews had not been able yet to produce their Messiah/salvation (Rev 12).
- 37:4 Hezekiah hoped that God had heard the mockery of the oppressors while praying for the remnant of God’s people.
- 37:5-6 Isaiah responded for Hezekiah not to fear (Mt 10:28-31, 2 Tim 1:7)
- 37:7 God has many spirits at His disposal to work His purpose (Judges 9:23, 1 Sam 16:14, 18:10, 19:9, 1 Kings 22:22, 2 Chron 18:21)

Read Isaiah 37:8-13...Assyria’s Sennacherib Sends Foreboding Letter to Hezekiah

- 37:8 The worldly king had left his stronghold at Lachish (2 Ki 18:14-17; 2 Chron 32:9) to fight against Libnah (“whiteness” – purity/righteousness).
- 37:9 Rumor was that the Tirhakah (“inquirer, examiner”), the king of Ethiopia (Cush – “black”) was fighting also Assyria. Rumors (e.g. News media frequently call good “evil” or as it were calling white “black”).
- 37:10-11 Assyria, like the world, warns Hezekiah not to trust in God’s word. Believers can either trust in the news of this world or in the promises of the Lord.

Assyrian Conquests (Isaiah 37:12-13)		
1. Gozan	fleece; pasture; who nourishes the body	One offers nourishment in exalted places as the strength and joy behind the wall needing the light of redemption from the contrasting view that brings trouble and ruin
2. Haran	Mountainous Country	
3. Rezepth	Stone; burning coal	
4. Edenites	Delight	
5. Hamath	Anger; heat; a Wall	
6. Arpad	Light of Redemption	
7. Sepharvaim	Two Books; two scribes	
8. Hena	Troubling	
9. Ivvah	Ruin	
<i>As Assyria berated God’s people behind the wall, the Lord provided.</i>		

- **According to Isaiah 37:10, what did Rabshakeh warn about God?**
 - **Rabshakeh warned Jerusalem not to let God deceive His people**

Read Isaiah 37:14-20...Hezekiah’s Prayer

- 37:14 Christians might literally spread burdens before the Lord – bring to Him the issue (e.g. bill, newspaper, etc.) and talk to Him honestly
- 37:15 Hezekiah had a personal relationship with the Lord and prayed directly to Him.
- 37:16 He is God alone, and His salvation of His people is a testimony to His name (Is 37:20)
- 37:17 Hezekiah calls God’s attention the mockery of the world as the Lord would call the Believer’s attention to Himself instead of the world (Mt 14:29-31).

- Hezekiah ties his life as a testimony to God; when the world mocks or threatens Hezekiah, he views the attack as a spiritual attack on the Lord in Whom is his identity.
- 37:18-19 Hezekiah admits that the claims of the world have an element of truth, but their arguments are moot when relating to the sovereign Lord.
- Hezekiah does not deny that evil does seem to have victories in this world.
- 37:20 Hezekiah prays for salvation that would result in a testimony to the Lord. The ultimate reason for God's intervention is His glory.
- Hezekiah prays a very short and effective prayer.
 - **According to Isaiah 36:14-15, what did King Hezekiah do with the threatening Assyrian letter?**
 - **Hezekiah spread the letter out before the Lord to pray to the Lord about it.**
 - **According to Isaiah 36:17, who does Hezekiah claim that the world is mocking?**
 - **Hezekiah does not take worldly attacks personal, but considers them attacks at God**
 - **According to Isaiah 36:18-19, does Hezekiah deny that the wicked when in this world at times?**
 - **Hezekiah reasonably admits that the wicked of the world do seem to have victories.**
 - **According to Isaiah 36:20, what is the ultimate benefit of God providing a victory to Hezekiah?**
 - **A victory for Hezekiah will bring glory to God**

Read Isaiah 37:21-35...God Encourages Hezekiah Through Isaiah's Prophecy

37:21 God relates the power of prayer through Isaiah (James 5:16).

37:22 The godly (spiritual – Zion) woman (Rev 12) rejects the world while denouncing in the physical (Jerusalem) realm.

37:23 The world does not know with Whom they contest in pride. God asks Assyria if they understand that when they boast, they are taking credit for the things that God has done.

37:24-25 Those who are mighty in this world testify to their successes in this world as if they have any bearing on the God of all creation. It was the Lord Who orchestrated their victories and not themselves. Also noted that the victories (e.g. sports) of the world are destructive, not constructive.

37:26 *“Have you not heard? Long ago I did it, from ancient times I planned it; now I have brought it to pass, that you should turn fortified cities into ruinous heaps.”*

37:27 Those defeated in this world are as temporal, transient and futile as the world's victors.

37:28 God knows the schemes and plans of man (Ps 121: 8).

37:29 God will curtail the success of the worldly because of their disdain for Him as He reverses them back as a horse (war) or donkey (rebellious) along their way of destruction.

37:30 The third year was promised to be one of revelation/resurrection. The land would literally support God's people without their labor for two years, and on the third year, they would be able to once again freely work the soil without care of danger and invasion.

37:31 The literal crops symbolize that God would provide harvests for a time, and then His people would once again bear the fruit as He intended.

- This is an effective prayer regarding spiritual walks as His people *“take root downward”* in Him while *“bearing fruit upward.”* (John 15:8, 16; Colossians 1:10)

37:32 The zeal of the Lord acts on behalf of His people resulting in a remnant who go out testifying to His salvation.

37:33-34 God would not even allow a battle at all or any kind of Assyrian assault, but would be turned away (2 Kings 19:32-33).

37:35 God acts because of His name and faithfulness to promises (Ezekiel 36:22; Psalm 106:8)

- **According to Isaiah 37:26, whose plan was being fulfilled through Assyria?**
 - **God's plan**
- **According to Isaiah 37:30, how would those remaining in the promised land have food to eat?**
 - **God would ensure that the crops could be harvested for three years without having to plant in the interim.**

Read Isaiah 37:36-38...The Destruction of Assyria

37:36-37 The angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrians overnight, so Sennacherib returned to Nineveh only to be murdered by his two sons

37:38 King Sennacherib killed by two (witness) sons while worshipping his false god, Nisroch. This is the only account (2 Kings 19:37) of Nisroch ("*flight; proof; temptation*") in Scripture. Counter to their names, Adrammelech ("the cloak/covering") and Sharezer ("may Bel/god protect the king") killed their father before fleeing to Ararat ("a curse/trembling").

- The third son, Esar-haddon ("Assur has gladly given a brother"), succeeded Sennacherib as king. Assur/Ashur was a false god of Assyria.
- **According to Isaiah 37:36, how many Assyrians were killed in a single night?**
 - **185,000 Assyrians died**
- **According to Isaiah 37:38, who killed the King of Assyria?**
 - **The sons of the King of Assyria killed him**
- **According to Isaiah 37:38, where was the King of Assyria when he was assassinated?**
 - **He was worshipping in the temple of his false god**

Read Isaiah 38:1-8...King Hezekiah's Life is Lengthened

38:1 The same year that the Assyrians threatened invasion of Jerusalem, Hezekiah became critically ill.

- Sennacherib threatened Jerusalem (701 B.C.), and Hezekiah died 15 years later in 686 B.C. Isaiah informed Hezekiah that he was to die, so that Hezekiah could put his affairs in order.
- Through prophets like Isaiah, God had forewarned Israel and Judah of impending captivity, so that they could both get their "affairs in order."
- Prophecy was a "gift" (a temporary anointing - Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25; 1 Samuel 10:10-11) as well as the official position of "Prophet" (a theocratic office – Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:9-22).
- Israel was a theocracy ("the rule of God") which stems from the Greek terms: "theos" (God) and "kratos" (rule). Israel's theocracy had three offices: Prophet, Priest, King
 - Three Positions of the Theocracy:
 - Prophet (most powerful): spoke for God to man (Deuteronomy 13:1-5; 18:9-12)
 - Priest: spoke for man to God

- King: example of man wholly committed to God
 - God as King (Isaiah 43:15):
 - God established His Law
 - The Temple would be likened to a palace
 - God's people brought Him tributes (tithes)
- 38:2 Hezekiah prayed and wept for God to remember his allegiance. Some believe that praying to God is like “speaking to a wall,” but God shows that He listens and might even alter such eminent things as death.
- 38:3 Hezekiah tearfully asked God to remember three characteristics of his life: 1.walking faithfully (longevity/breadth) 2.walking wholeheartedly (depth) 3.doing what is good in God's sight.
- 38:4 The plea and answer came very quickly as Isaiah was still in the inner court.
- 38:5 God tells Isaiah to comfort Hezekiah with word from God that he will live another 15 years. Now Hezekiah knows how much time he has left on this earth; in spite of this, he backslides and becomes arrogant with God's blessings. He also has a son, Manasseh (age 12 at Hezekiah's death – 2 Chron 33:1) who turns out to be a wicked king (2 Kings 21, 2 Chron 33:1-18, Jer 15:3-4)
- 38:6 As God gives Hezekiah new life from his disease, He will also give new life to Jerusalem by not handing it over to the Assyrians.
- 38:7-8 Hezekiah's sign was of light where the shadow went back 10 steps (causing the light of day to be extended to him)

Read Isaiah 38:9-22...Hezekiah's Song of Thanksgiving

- 38:9 After restoration and healing, Hezekiah testifies to the Lord's blessing and healing
- 38:10-11 In middle age, Hezekiah felt that he would die and never see the Lord move in this life anymore.
- 38:12 Hezekiah likened his transient life as a mobile shepherd's tent (as he led the Lord's flock). The Lord takes the threads of life to construct a beautiful tapestry, but Hezekiah felt prematurely cut off and folded (Job 7:6).
- 38:13 Until daylight (spiritual enlightenment) shown in the morning, Hezekiah considered death to be certain.
- 38:14 *“My eyes grow weak looking upward. Lord, I am oppressed; support me.”* Hezekiah was as weak and helpless as a dove.
- 38:15-16 The Lord gives life and salvation.
- 38:17 God puts all of His people's sin behind Him (Psalm 32:1-5; 51:2-9; 103:3-12)
- 38:18 Death and the grave do not thank the Lord for giving to them.
- 38:19 Only those with eternal life can show gratitude to God (Jn 5:21; Rom 8:10)
- 38:20 The salvation of the Lord will bring Him praise.
- 38:21 God could have healed Hezekiah outright, but obedience and application was required for the healing. Skin disease represents sin, but the pressed (tried/tested/disciplined) figs (Israel) were the remedy for the sin.
- 38:22 As a post-script and concluding this story, Hezekiah had requested a sign of assurance as to when he would be able to worship in the Lord's Temple again. This request for a sign seems to be in direct contrast with his father Ahaz's failure (Isaiah 7).

Read Isaiah 39:1-8...Hezekiah Shows Babylon His Treasures

39:1 Believers should be wary of worldly flattery and not extravagant with God’s blessings. The testimony should be focused on God instead of possessions.

- Merodach-baladan (“thy rebellion-Baal is Lord”) discovered wealth of Israel.
- Hezekiah seems to be pursuing a worldly alliance instead of relying on the Lord.

39:2 As Believers befriend the world, they expose themselves to later onslaughts by the world.

39:3 Hezekiah (representing Believers associated with the world) did not admit what was spoken, but instead attempted to distance himself from far-away Babylon (the chaotic world).

39:4 Hezekiah had boasted about everything in his palace and storehouses. There is no mention of taking these worldly Babylonians to the Temple or any discussion of the Lord.

39:5 Isaiah calls attention to the Lord of Hosts (spiritual armies of the Lord) as the Babylonians would represent a formidable military power.

39:6 Isaiah’s prophecy is fulfilled in the Babylonian exile occurring between 586 – 582 BC which was approximately 150 years later; Chapters 40-55 of Isaiah are concentrated on this Babylonian captivity

39:7 In the first of three conquests of Babylon over Jerusalem, the royal youths and advisors were taken from Jerusalem into the Babylonian palace (Daniel 1:1-3)

39:8 Hezekiah’s response betrays self-centeredness instead of repentance.

- **Chapters 40-43: The Transition to Israel’s Transformation & Restoration**
 - **Israel had failed to live faithfully with the Lord through the first section of Isaiah, so now God’s answer (the solution) is introduced.**
 - **The transfer of ownership from man’s fallen nature to God’s holy nature.**
 - **The transfer from Israel being called to be the servant of God to God’s introduction of a new servant (Isaiah 42). Then man is posed with a question as to whom they will serve idols or God’s servant (Isaiah 44-53).**

Structure of Latter Section of Isaiah				
Chapters 40-66 New Testament	Chapters 40-48 (Comfort)	Chapters 40-42		
		Chapters 43-45		
		Chapters 46-48		
	Chapters 49-57 (Servant)	Chapters 49-51		
		Chapters 52-54	Chapter 52	
			Chapter 53	Isaiah 53:5
			Chapter 54	
	Chapters 58-66 (Glory)	Chapters 55-57		
		Chapters 58-60		
		Chapters 61-63		
Chapters 64-66				

Read Isaiah 40:1-8...The Preaching of John the Baptist

- **Chapter 40 changes from condemnation of past generations to consolation (comfort and blessing) to a future generation**
- **George Frideric Handel (1685-1759) referenced Isaiah 40 various times in Handel’s Messiah**

40:1 The Lord repeats and emphasizes comfort for His people. This is prophetic in that God has provided a Comforter (John 14:26; 16:7), and He will reign during the millennium. Life is desperate when there is no Comforter (Eccl 4:1; Lamentations 1:9, 16)

Comfort of God <i>(Isaiah 40:1)</i>	
Father	2 Corinthians 1:3
Jesus	Isaiah 61:2
Spirit	Acts 9:31

40:2 Israel is God's firstborn (versus the Gentile church) and as such, Israel receives double the portion of blessings, or in this instance – curses (Exodus 4:22; Deuteronomy 21:17; Jeremiah 16:18; Isaiah 61:7)

40:3 This voice is identified as John the Baptist (Mt 3:3; Mk 1:3; Jn 1:20) in preparation of the true Way - Jesus (Jn 14:6; Acts 9:2, 19:9 & 23, 24:14 & 22) which is the "straight" (Acts 9:11, 13:9-10, 14:10, 16:11) "highway" (Prov 15:19, 16:17; Isaiah 11:16, 35:8 → Num 20:17, 21:22)

- Essene tradition applied this verse literally, so the desert area east of Jerusalem into the Dead Sea valley was the wilderness monastery that the Essenes prepared for the coming of the Lord.
 - In the year 152BC, the Maccabean king (Jonathan Apphus) took over as High Priest in a political maneuver, and then he changed the Jewish laws. At that point, the Qumran (monastic) community was restored by Moreh ha-Tzedek ("the Teacher of Righteousness") in rebellion against the liberal Temple practices.
 - The identity of "The Teacher" is not known, but it is believed that he was from the priestly lineage of Zadok (the first High Priest during David's reign).
 - These Essenes called themselves as a "Temple of human beings" while offering their prayers and sufferings as sacrifices. (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 6:19-20)
 - Some believe that John the Baptist also joined this community of Jewish Monks. (Matthew 3:1)
 - Just as John the Baptist came before Jesus' first incarnation (Luke 1:17; Matthew 17:10-13), Elijah will also prepare the way for the second coming of the Lord (Malachi 4:5-6)
- In ancient times, roads would be constructed, cleared and cleaned for the coming of royalty that would give the commoners gifts as they traveled in a parade type movement down the road.

40:4 This straight way can only be facilitated by the Lord's power (Eccl 1:15; 7:13)

40:5 All of mankind will experience the glory of the Lord (Rom 14:11; Philippians 2:10)

40:6-8 This transience of our lives and perpetuity of God's Word is quoted as Gospel by Peter (1 Peter 1:24-25); as people are likened to grass (Ps 37:2, 90:5-6, 103:15-16, Is 40:6-8, 1 Pet 1:24), this could give insight into Rev 8:7 & 9:4

- **According to Isaiah 40:1, what does God want to emphasize for His people?**
 - **Comfort which He repeats**
- **According to Isaiah 40:3, whose way is being made ready for His coming?**
 - **God's highway – the entry of the King (the first and second incarnation of Jesus)**
- **According to Isaiah 40:5, what shall all people witness?**
 - **The glory of God**

- **According to Isaiah 40:6, what message is to be proclaimed?**
 - **Man’s mortality is fleeting**
- **According to Isaiah 40:8, what lasts longer than all creation?**
 - **The Word of God**

Read Isaiah 40:9-11...The Preaching of the Apostles

40:9 Zion/Jerusalem is the messenger of the Gospel (1 Cor 15:1-4; Lk 2:9-11; Acts 5:42, 10:36)

40:10 The reward of the Lord Jesus will be granted to His faithful Believers (Isaiah 62:11; Revelation 22:12).

40:11 Jesus is the great shepherd (Mk 6:34; Lk 16:23; Jn 1:11, 18; 13:23)

- **According to Isaiah 40:9, what is Zion called?**
 - **A “herald of good news”**
 - **God’s people were always supposed to be the testimony of the good news**
- **According to Isaiah 40:10, whose plan was being fulfilled through Assyria?**
 - **God will reward His people**
- **According to Isaiah 40:11, whose plan was being fulfilled through Assyria?**
 - **God would tend His people of Israel**

Read Isaiah 40:12-25...The Incomparability of the Omnipotent God

40:12 Job-like questions are posed: waters (Job 28:25); heavens (Job 38:37); dust (Job 38:38); mountains (Job 9:5); hills (Job 38:14)

40:13 God alone (Jesus) has the power to direct His Spirit (John 15:26, 16:7)

40:15 The origin of the famous phrase “drop in the bucket”. “Nations” represent the kingdoms of men.

40:16 The legendary and massive cedar forests of Lebanon would not provide enough wood to fuel the fires, and all of the animals in the forests would not be enough to sufficiently sacrifice to the Lord.

- **The things of the world do not equate to the greatness of God.**

40:17 Worldly abundance means so little to the sovereign Lord.

40:18-19 God is incomparable...especially to worthless idols (Isaiah 40:25)

40:20 God observes the impoverished man who cannot afford an offering to the true God; this impoverished man somehow scrounges and purchases valuable wood and a skilled craftsman.

40:21 God has declared Himself from the beginning of time (Romans 1:19-20). God is the Creator of all creation (Isaiah 40:28).

40:22 The earth is viewed as a globe. The heavens are similar to the spreading of a cloth (Ps 104:2; Isaiah 34:4, 42:5, 44:24, 48:13, 51:13).

40:23 Those who are exalted in this world pale in comparison to the Lord’s greatness.

40:24 Scripture often compares the transience of man to grass (Is 40:8) while the chaos of the world is symbolized by whirlwinds (Proverbs 1:27).

40:25 There is no dualism because the sovereign Creator God (Yahweh) is God alone. There is no one like Him.

- **What is the correct answer to each of the dozen questions in Isaiah 40:12-14?**
 - **No one**
- **According to Isaiah 40:17, how much does the Lord value the nations of men?**

- **Very little. The individual man matters more than the complex national constructs of men.**
- **According to Isaiah 40:22 at 700BC, what shape did Isaiah describe the earth to be?**
 - **A round globe.**

Read Isaiah 40:26-31...God’s Attributes Comfort His People

40:26 God calls the stars (e.g. constellations) by name (Ps 147:4).

40:27 “Jacob” represents the flesh while “Israel” represents the spiritual as both deny the Lord’s sovereignty in every matter.

- God understands the ways of man and hears the requests of His people.
- God’s promises surpass and supersede man’s feelings.
 - Yes, He sees you and hears your prayers.
 - Yes, He cares for you.

40:28 God, who created this entire world, has boundless energy and understanding (Isaiah 40:21)

40:29-30 Do not trust in the strength of youth, but in the sustenance of the Lord. The hope of the future does not lie in the children of today, the future lies in the Lord.

40:31 *“Those who trust in the LORD will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.”* (Dt 32:11; 2 Sam 1:23; Ps 103:5)

- **According to Isaiah 40:27, what does the sovereign God ask His people?**
 - **He asks how they can pretend He doesn’t see them.**
 - **Considering the greatness and omniscience of God (Isaiah 40:28), His people should understand that God knows.**
- **According to Isaiah 40:29, who should people not trust?**
 - **They should not trust themselves nor their strength.**
- **According to Isaiah 40:31, who has renewed strength?**
 - **Those who trust in the Lord will be re-energized.**
 - **Instead of struggling, God’s people can wait on Him**

9 Isaiah 41, 42

God Says “I Will...” (Isaiah 41)	
Isaiah 41:10	“I will strengthen you...”
Isaiah 41:10	“I will help you...”
Isaiah 41:10	“I will uphold you with My righteous right hand”
Isaiah 41:15	“I will make you into a new threshing sledge”
Isaiah 41:18	“I will open rivers on the bare heights.”
Isaiah 41:18	“I will make the wilderness a pool of water.”
Isaiah 41:19	“I will put in the wilderness the cedar, the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive”
Isaiah 41:19	“I will set in the desert the cypress”

Read Isaiah 41:1-9...God Shows Mercy towards His People

41:1 The islands represent the Gentile nations worldwide as the nations are utilized for judgment in this “trial.”

- 41:2-3 Cyrus will lead Persia from the east to defeat Babylon in 539BC while Isaiah is prophesying circa ~700BC.
- 41:4 While man attributes judgments and “acts of God” to natural causes and man’s effort, the Lord is the cause of judgment on sinful people. God is from the first to last (Rev 1:8, 17; 21:6; 22:13; Is 43:13; 44:6; 46:4; 48:12; Zech 12:10).
- 41:5-7 All of this sinful world support each other with false hope and comfort. Financial markets work together to circumvent judgment, and news agencies share the deceit.
- 41:8 Jesus considers His followers as His friends (John 15:14-15)
- 41:9 Although the Lord will judge His people, He will not abandon them; even after the diaspora, He will bring them together again.
- **According to Isaiah 41:1, for what reason does God draw the nations together?**
 - **For a time of judgment**
 - **According to Isaiah 41:2, who inspires Assyria, Babylon and Persia to march to war?**
 - **God stirs the spirits of the Kings**
 - **According to Isaiah 41:4, how does the Lord describe Himself?**
 - **As the first and the last – the beginning and the end**
 - **When “LORD” is spelled with all capital letters, the Hebrew is the covenant name of Yahweh.**

Read Isaiah 41:10-20...God’s Promises to His People

- **Promises of Restoration (Millennial Kingdom)**
- 41:10 This is a verse from the song “How Firm a Foundation” as He holds His people with His righteousness and not our own (Isaiah 54:17)
- 41:11-12 Those who come against God are decreased to nothing (Isaiah 41:24; Genesis 12:3)
- 41:13 As with a child, God holds our hand as we walk through this life (Is 41:10; 42:6; 64:7; Hosea 11:3; Psalms 37:24; 73:23; 77:2; 139:10)
- 41:14 Although God’s people are described as worms, they have a powerful redeemer. Jesus is the believer’s Goel; He is the Kinsman Redeemer who paid the debt (Rev 5; Ruth 3:9)
- 41:15 A threshing sledge is used to grind wheat, and the Lord would make His people powerful to grind their enemies.
- 41:16 God’s people would have victory over their enemies, so that they would praise the Lord for all that He had done.
- 41:17 God will take care of the poor and needy (James 2:5)
- 41:18 The Lord would provide His people with living water (Jer 17:13; John 4:14, 7:38).
- God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37).
 - Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 27:3, 32:2, 35:7, 44:27, 48:21, 55:1, 58:11), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
 - During the millennium, the world may return to a water canopy as the polar arctics melt (Genesis 1:7)
- 41:19 During the millennium, there will be forests instead of deserts. Seven trees that are indigenous to Israel are listed: 1.Cedar 2.Acacia 3.Myrtle 4.Olive 5.Cypress 6.Elm 7. Box
- 41:20 All of the world will see the blessings of the world and realize that the One True God has done this.
- **According to Isaiah 41:10, why does God tell His people not to fear?**

- Because of His presence
- According to Isaiah 41:14, how does God describe the descendants of Jacob?
 - “You worm”
- According to Isaiah 41:15, what will God make of His people?
 - A threshing sledge that crushes the wheat
- According to Isaiah 41:17, what will the Lord provide to His people?
 - Water

Read Isaiah 41:21-29...The Vanity of Idols

41:21 God calls people to reason and consideration of facts.
 41:22 God tells people to test their idols concerning fortune telling to determine their accuracy.
 41:23 Sinners look for someone who can foretell the future to entitle a god (Is 47:13), but only God knows the future (Daniel 2:11, Isaiah 42:9) because He initiates the future (Isaiah 43:19; 48:3, 5), but the world will not listen to Him (Isaiah 41:26)
 41:24 The lives of the worldly are vain and futile (Is 41:11-12)
 41:25 God as the potter who treads over the mud (Ps 2:9; Jer 18:1-6)
 41:26 The world pleads “ignorance” to God’s truths as if no one has: 1.announced it 2.told it 3.heard it.
 41:27 The Lord preached the gospel message (“good news”) to His people in Zion (Mark 1:15)
 41:28 Unlike Believers who have the Spirit of God, His people had no Counselor to provide answers (Jn 14:16, 26, 15:26).
 41:29 The works of those who do not know the Lord are vain and temporal. The Messiah will have God’s Spirit; the Targum (a Judean translation (paraphrase) of the Jewish Scriptures written in their Aramaic language) says, “Behold, My servant the Messiah”

The Four Servant Songs of Isaiah	
1.	Isaiah 42:1-9 Introduction to the Servant of God
2.	Isaiah 49:1-13 The Messiah’s Accomplishments as the Servant
3.	Isaiah 50:4-11 The contrast of Israel’s Sin with the Servant’s Obedience
4.	Isaiah 52-53:12 The suffering sacrifice and victory of the Servant
Israel could not fulfill the role as a servant (Isaiah 41:8; 44:1-2), but a Messiah would fulfill the role of a Servant (Acts 3:13).	

Read Isaiah 42:1-4...The Servant will Bring Justice

- This is the first of four servant songs
- Israel had failed to be the servant that God had called them to be, so God introduces a new servant.

The Servant of God’s Mission (Isaiah 42:1-4; 59:15-16)			
Reference	What He will do...	What He will not do...	Meaning
Is 42:1	Bring Justice to the nations		
Is 42:2		Cry out, shout nor make His voice heard in the streets	As a fully informed and truthful judge, He will not win justice by argument and emotion

Is 42:3		Break a bruised reed	A worthless instrument not seen as having value; the meek of this world will not be abused by Him
Is 42:3		Put out a smoldering wick	Trimming the Lamp while it still has a little spark; those with a small amount of faith will not be cut off
Is 42:3	Faithfully bring Justice		
Is 42:4		Grow weak	He bore the sins of the world
Is 42:4		Be discouraged	He persevered through antagonism and persecution - even to death
Is 42:4	Establish Justice on Earth		

42:1 At the baptism of Jesus, God the Father identifies Jesus as His Son Whom He is well pleased (Luke 3:22)

- The term “Servant” is often capitalized in this verse to reflect the reference of Jesus (John 14:31). The term “servant” is also used for Israel (Isaiah 41:8, 44:1, 48:20).
- Jesus humbled Himself to be incarnated as a Servant (Philippians 2:7) instead of coming in His divine glory (Matthew 17:1-5) knowing everything (Matthew 24:36).
- When Scripture references the Spirit coming “on” or “upon”, it is a reference to empowering or enabling. (Numbers 24:2; Judges 3:10, 11:29; 1 Samuel 19:20; 2 Chronicles 15:1, 20:14; Acts 10:44, 11:15, 19:6)
- Jesus would bring justice for the Gentile nations:
 - During His first incarnation when He satisfied God’s justice (Romans 3:24-26)
 - During His second incarnation when He reigns during the millennium.

42:2 Jesus repeatedly told people not to tell others because of the humility, gentleness and purpose of the first incarnation of Jesus. (Matthew 12:15-19)

42:3 The first incarnation of Jesus would not even injure the slightest and weakest objects. (Matthew 11:29; 2 Corinthians 10:1; Hebrews 5:2; Galatians 6:1)

42:4 Even the Gentiles (distant lands – “islands”) will have part of His justice

- **According to Isaiah 42:1, in Whom does God the Father’s soul delight?**
 - **His Servant – Jesus Christ**
- **According to Isaiah 42:1, what does the Father put onto His Servant?**
 - **The Father’s Spirit (Matthew 3:16)**
- **According to Isaiah 42:2, of how much shouting would the ministry of Jesus consist?**
 - **None (Matthew 12:15-19)**
- **According to Isaiah 42:3, how much gentleness was exhibited at the first incarnation of Jesus?**
 - **The first incarnation of Jesus, He would be gentle.**
 - **Gentile nations around the world longed for justice. (Matthew 12:20-21)**

Read Isaiah 42:5-9...The Power of the Lord to Declare New Things

42:5 The Lord’s power is underscored by creation which resulted from His words. The Lord references the expanding universe that wasn’t discovered by Edwin Hubble until 1929 (Job 17:18, Isaiah 44:24, 45:12, 48:13)

42:6-7 God has called His Israel to testify to His name; from Abraham (the first Gentile-turned-Jew (Gal 3:17), God wanted Israel to be a light to the world (Acts 13:47)

42:8 God's actions and responses are because of his name, and He will not share glory with idols
42:9 Scripture emphasizes the past fulfillment of prophecies as well as foretelling the future.

- **According to Isaiah 42:9, what does God declare?**
 - **New and future things; the future is as easily seen by the Lord as the past.**

Read Isaiah 42:10-13...A New Song to the Lord

42:10 Every Believer should have daily praises offered as "new songs" from a regenerate heart (Psalms 33:3; 40:3, 96:1, 98:1, 144:9, 149:1, Rev 5:9, 14:3).

42:11 What had once been desert without living water had now been evangelized. Kedar ("blackness; sorrow") is the second son of Ishmael (Gn 25:13) became Northwest Arabia while Sela (rock") was the mountainous capital of Edom. Arab voices are encouraged to join in the song of praise.

42:12-13 While the converted are praising the Lord, the Almighty Lord noisily pursues conquest of all His enemies.

- **According to Isaiah 42:13, what does Jesus stir up?**
 - **Jesus stirs up His zeal**
 - **The second incarnation (Avenger of Wrath) is much different than the first incarnation (Kinsman Redeemer) of Jesus.**

Read Isaiah 42:14-17...The Blindness of the People

42:14 After millennia of soft whispers and quiet tones, the day of the Lord will bring cries and noise as a woman in pregnancy.

42:15 The powers and authorities of the earth will be laid bare as the Lord reveals His sovereignty.

42:16 The Lord will give sight to the blind (Mt 23:16-17, 19, 24, 26), and spiritual discernment to those who were lost. He will show the spiritually blind His way.

42:17 These converts will be ashamed of the past allegiance to false gods.

- **According to Isaiah 42:14, what had the Lord done for a long time?**
 - **The Lord had spoken quietly**
- **According to Isaiah 42:16, what does the Lord do for some at His second coming?**
 - **While some are ashamed (Isaiah 42:17), the Lord will open the spiritual eyes of others.**

Read Isaiah 42:18-25...The Deafness of the People

42:18-20 God's people were called to testify to the darkened world, but instead their enlightenment did not result in spiritual insight because of their disobedience.

42:21 The only One to fully please God was Jesus Christ Who came to fulfill the law (Mt 5:17; Lk 24:44)

42:22-23 When God's people reject Him, they have no assistance when afflicted and oppressed by the world. However, God calls attentive Believers to obedience.

42:24 God gave His people over to persecution because of national sin. Isaiah identifies with Israel's sin as he claims that "we" sinned against the Lord.

42:25 The Lord judged His people with His wrath, but they continued with their lives unaware of His calling.

- **According to Isaiah 42:22, how were God's rebellious people described?**
 - **God's people had been abused – plundered, looted, trapped and hidden.**

- **According to Isaiah 42:24, who was responsible for God’s people being looted and plundered?**
 - **The LORD (Yahweh – God’s covenant name)**

10 Isaiah 43, 44

Read Isaiah 43:1-7...Israel will be Redeemed

- **God’s Personal Message to a Backslidden Nation**
- 43:1 God calls His people on a personal level – He knows each name as they are personally called (Jn 11:43; 1 Thessalonians 4:16; Revelation 2:17)
- God has redeemed (purchased – 1 Peter 1:18-19) His people, and they are His. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). God’s people are not their own, but instead, they belong to God.
 - God created/formed, redeemed and called His people.
- 43:2 God enables His people to pass through the tests of this world (Ps 66:12, 124:4-5) without being overwhelmed (Isaiah 43:16, 51:10).
- Although danger and trials are certain, God assures His people that He will be with His people during the certain tough times. (Matthew 7:24-25)
- 43:3 God describes Himself as being the Holy One of Israel and the Savior. When the name of “LORD” is capitalized, it is a translation of God’s covenant name of Yahweh.
- Assyria was distracted away from Jerusalem to battle Egypt, Cush and Seba instead of invading Jerusalem. (Isaiah 37:8-10, 45:14)
 - Seba was a nation probably located in northeast Africa (Isaiah 45:14; Ps 72:10)
- 43:4 The Lord exalts His people, and sacrifices others in the place of His people and others pay in exchange for the lives of His people. All of creation is a witness to His people (Romans 9:22-23).
- 43:5 The restoration of Israel includes Israelites returning from the east (Jordan) and the west (Europe).
- 43:6 After the diaspora, God would call the lands in the north (Russia) and the South (Africa) to return His people. God would return His people after their exiles by Assyria and Babylon. He would also reestablish Israel as a nation in May 14, 1948 after the great diaspora.
- 43:7 God’s children are called by His name and created for the purpose of His glory (Isaiah 43:21)
- **According to Isaiah 43:1, what does God tell His people not to do?**
 - **God says fear not.**
 - **According to Isaiah 43:5, what will God do for His people?**
 - **God would call His people back to the Promised Land and re-establish them.**

Read Isaiah 43:8-13...Israel is God’s Witness

- 43:8 Although some can see and hear, they cannot understand and believe the truth of God. (Matthew 11:15, 13:9, 43; Mk 4:9; Luke 8:8, 14:35; Rev 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9)
- 43:9 By “former” things, God challenges the nations to share their predictions that have come to fruition.
- 43:10 God chose His servants to 1. Know Him 2. Believe Him 3. Understand Him as they testify as witnesses that He alone is God (Isaiah 43:12; Exodus 3:14)
- God challenges the idolatrous practices of the Babylonians who cannot see, hear or tell the future – the Babylonian astral worship is fraudulent and powerless.

43:11 The Messiah and God of Israel is the only Savior of mankind (Jude 1:25; Acts 4:12; John 14:6). *“I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior.”*

- There is only one God as Elohim – three in one (John 1:1-3, 10:30, 14:7).

43:12 God’s people witnessed that it was the Lord who declared, saved and proclaimed, and that He is God alone.

43:13 The Lord has always been God alone, and no one has the ability to prevent what He purposes to do. God is sovereign.

- **According to Isaiah 43:10, what does God call His people to be?**
 - **God’s people are to be His witnesses**
 - **The term “Protestant” originates from two Latin words: “Pro” (meaning “for”) and “Testari” (meaning “witness”).**
- **According to Isaiah 43:11, how many gods are there?**
 - **There is only one God.**
- **According to Isaiah 43:11, mankind has how many saviors?**
 - **Man has only one Savior (Luke 2:11)**
- **According to Isaiah 43:13, who can impede God’s plans?**
 - **No one can negate God’s plans.**

Read Isaiah 43:14-21...Babylon will be Destroyed

- **Predictive prophecy more than a century before Babylon was the world power.**

43:14 Babylon does not rise to power as a world empire for another century

43:15 The Lord has a unique relationship with His people as the Holy One (set apart). God is the Creator of all things including the nation of Israel. The Lord is the rightful King of Israel (1 Samuel 8:7).

- God as King:
 - God established His Law
 - The Temple would be likened to a palace
 - God’s people brought Him tributes (tithes)

43:16 God parts the sea for His followers (Psalms 77:19; Exodus 14:21-22), and the “sea” represents this world system (Isaiah 57:20). God enables His people to pass through the tests of this world (Ps 66:12, 124:4-5) without being overwhelmed (Isaiah 43:2, 16, 51:10).

43:17 The Lord drew the Pharaoh’s Egyptian army into the Red Sea to be destroyed (Exodus 14:24-25, 15:4).

43:18 God’s people will not need to rely on testimonies of God’s past accomplishments and might.

43:19 God would take new action and establish a river in the desert (Is 32:2). The Lord will produce life giving water in a parched land.

43:20 The reason that God places water in the desert is to give drink to His people, but wild animals (jackals and ostriches) will also recognize the Lord for His gift.

43:21 The people of God were formed by Him and for Him, and they will praise Him. *“...the people whom I formed for myself that they might declare my praise.”*

- **According to Isaiah 43:15, who is King of Israel?**
 - **The Lord; the Holy One.**
- **According to Isaiah 43:18, what does God tell His people not to do?**
 - **God’s people should not solely recount testimonies of the past**
 - **God is doing new things and continuously working in the lives of His people.**

- **According to Isaiah 43:19, what does God ask of His people as He does new things?**
 - **God's asks his people if they perceive His works and the new thing He is doing.**
- **According to Isaiah 43:21, what will God's people do who He formed for Himself?**
 - **God's people will declare His praise.**

Read Isaiah 43:22-28...The Failings of Israel

43:22 Jacob was a usurper who depended on his own strength (Genesis 25:26-32:30). His name was changed to Israel to rely upon the Lord and become a great nation, but Israel's commitment waned over time.

43:23 Israel did not recognize their sin and bring sacrifices to the Temple. Israel did not recognize God as their King and bring offerings as tribute. Israel did not pray to the Lord as the smoke of incense rising.

- God did not burden His people with obligations

43:24 God's people had not made efforts to please the Lord or be in His favor. Instead of offerings and sacrifices, God's people burdened Him with their sin and iniquities.

- God's people did burden God with their sins.

43:25 In the end, the sacrifices of the people would not appease God, but it is He alone (for His name's sake) who dismisses the sins of His peoples. Having said that, sacrifices would reflect an understanding of their fallen state and an appreciation for God's worthiness to be praised.

- *"I, I am He Who blots out your transgressions for My Own sake, and I will not remember your sins."*

43:26 The Lord calls His people to reason with Him and find that He is right.

43:27 The very first man, Adam, had sinned. Men who were committed to the message of God (i.e. priests) also sinned. (Hebrews 7:26-27)

43:28 Religious and political leaders would become polluted until Jacob is exiled from the land and the nation is detested. The exiles occurred as just judgment on the sin of God's people.

- **According to Isaiah 43:22, what did God's people not do?**
 - **They did not call upon the name of the Lord.**
- **According to Isaiah 43:23, what did God not do?**
 - **Burden His people with obligations**
- **According to Isaiah 43:24, what did God's people do?**
 - **Burden God with their sins**
- **According to Isaiah 43:25, who determined the forgiveness of God's people?**
 - **God Himself chose to forgive His rebellious people for His name's sake.**
- **According to Isaiah 43:27, which of God's people had sinned?**
 - **Everyone sinned from the first man (Adam) to the priests who mediated between God's people and Himself.**

- **Chapters 44-53: Decision to Serve the Servant or an Idol**

Read Isaiah 44:1-8...God's Servants and Witnesses

44:1 "Jacob" was a name symbolic for a man of self-effort, but in this verse, Jacob is identified as the Lord's servant – performing God's will instead of his own. Jacob's name was changed

to Israel which became a great nation that the Lord had predestined according to His own purposes.

44:2 Jeshurun means “The upright one” and is the poetic name for Israel

44:3 The water is likened to the Spirit refreshing a parched ground (life) with blessings

44:4 The poplar (meaning “white”) tree was common in Palestine (Gen 30:37; Hosea 4:13) with pale leaves and white flowers. Also known as the “storax”, it is mentioned as aromatic (Ex 24:15).

44:5 God’s mark on His people will be as evident as His name written on the Hand (Ex 13:9, 16; Dt 6:8; 11:18) versus the sign of this world and the mark of the Beast (Rev 14:9; 20:4)

44:6 God is the first and the last (Is 41:4; 43:10; 48:12; Rev 1:8, 17; 21:6; 22:13)

44:7 The Lord emphasizes His uniquely singular nature in that there is no one else like Him. The Lord validates His power through His fulfilled prophecies of events that occurred just as He said they would.

44:8 The Lord states something that He doesn’t know – a God as powerful and omniscient as Himself. The Lord encourages His people not to fear the events of the day because God has foretold these events and He is the rock and refuge of His people who are meant to be His witnesses.

- **According to Isaiah 44:2, who is active in the formation of the baby in the womb?**
 - **The Lord forms those in the womb.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:3, what does the Lord provide for His people in desert lands?**
 - **The Lord provides living water for His people (Isaiah 12:3; John 4:14, 7:38)**
- **According to Isaiah 44:5, what will be written on the hand of God’s people?**
 - **“Belonging to the Lord”**
 - **The hand often represents what one does**
- **According to Isaiah 44:6, how is God defined?**
 - **He is the first and the last with none other like Him.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:8, because God is the only true God, how should His people respond?**
 - **They should not be fearful, but instead they should be His witnesses**

Read Isaiah 44:9-20...The Foolishness of Idolatry

44:9 Those who construct their own idols will act in vanity. Others who witness these false gods will not see the value or worth of these objects.

44:10 God asks to identify those who created a futile idol.

44:11 Those associated with these false gods should be afraid and put to shame.

44:12 God provides sustenance while man wearies himself pursuing self-made idols (Is 46:7)

44:13-14 While the human woodworker attempts to animate inhuman objects, the true woodworker (Jesus – Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3) symbolizes man by types of trees (Mk 8:24).

- Trees represent different types of man in the Bible.
 - Some men listen to the Word of God (Ps 1:1-3; Is 61:3; Rev 11:4), and some men are evil (Jude 1:12; James 3:12) – even to the point of the anti-Christ (Ez 31:3-9).
 - Some have been grafted into God’s family (Rom 11:17, 24).
- The tree will be known by its fruit and judged as such (Mt 7:17, 12:33, 3:10; Joel 1:12; Rev 7:1-3; 22:14).

44:15-17 Man consumes things of this world and makes idols of the leftovers

44:18-19 God has blinded these idolaters from the ignorance of their ways (Mt 13:13; Rom 11:7; 9:30-32; Is 6:10)

44:20 Idolaters form their “gods” in vain, but the True God formed His people for His purpose

- **According to Isaiah 44:9, what is vain for men to do?**
 - **It is vanity for men to construct false gods that cannot help them.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:12, what is the impact on the man constructing his own false god?**
 - **The man making his own false god gets hungry, thirsty and tired for all of his efforts and the vain object cannot help replenish him.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:15, what is ironic about the wood made to construct an idol?**
 - **Part of the wood is used to form a false god and the other part of the wood is used to burn in the fire to make heat for dinner. The wood for heat is more productive than the false god.**
 - **The Longmen Grottoes in China contains thousands of Buddha’s carved into the rock of a mountain, but since 1951 a number of concerted efforts have been made to carry out expensive and expansive restoration projects to protect the Buddha’s. As is often the case, men must work hard and sacrifice much to protect their false gods.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:18, why can the world not see their vain and destructive behavior?**
 - **God has distorted their sight and their hearts, so that they cannot understand what is blatantly clear.**

Read Isaiah 44:21-28...God Forgives and Redeems

44:21 In contrast to the preceding verse (Isaiah 44:20), the Lord will sustain His servants. Man cannot save himself (Ps 144:8); however, God will save His people.

44:22 God has forgiven the sins of His people (Ps 103:12; Jer 31:34; Heb 8:12)

44:23 Creation should exult in joy because the true God has acted to redeem His people.

44:24 The Lord alone is the Creator without assistance from anyone else. The same God who redeemed His people also formed them. The Lord references the expanding universe that wasn’t discovered by Edwin Hubble until 1929 (Job 17:18, Isaiah 42:5, 45:12, 48:13)

44:25 The Lord alone (as the Creator) has the answers, and prideful men posing as diviners and wise men are shown not to understand what they thought that they did.

44:26 The Lord confirms His promise to reestablish Jerusalem after Babylonian captivity as well as the rebirth of the nation after the diaspora. Israel became a nation in May 14, 1948 (Isaiah 11:11)

44:27 God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37). Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 27:3, 32:2, 35:7, 41:18, 48:21, 55:1, 58:11), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)

44:28 150 years before Persia lowers the level of the Euphrates to invade Babylon, Isaiah speaks Cyrus name – the leader of the Persians (Daniel 5)

- **According to Isaiah 44:22, what has the Lord done for His people?**
 - **The Lord has wiped out their transgressions/sins and redeemed His people.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:23, why does the Lord call on creation to celebrate?**
 - **Creation should celebrate the redemption of God’s people**
- **According to Isaiah 44:24, who assisted God in creating everything?**

- No one; God alone created the world and all that is in it.
- According to Isaiah 44:26, what showed the power of God?
 - His prophecy that Jerusalem and Judah would be reestablished. The Lord confirms His promise to reestablish Jerusalem after Babylonian captivity as well as the rebirth of the nation after the diaspora. Israel became a nation in May 14, 1948 (Isaiah 11:11)
- According to Isaiah 44:27, beyond giving living water in the desert to His people, what else can God do?
 - He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
- According to Isaiah 44:28, who does God call by name 150 years before Persia defeats Babylon?
 - Isaiah prophesies Cyrus by name 150 years before Persia lowers the level of the Euphrates to invade Babylon; Cyrus was the leader of the Persians (Daniel 5)

11 Isaiah 45-47

Read Isaiah 45:1-7...God Has Called Cyrus By Name

45:1 As in the last verse of the prior chapter (Isaiah 44:28), Isaiah repeats “Cyrus” by name as the Persian leader who overcomes Babylon 150 years later and returns Israel to their land.

45:2 The Lord repeats that He will open doors for Cyrus and the powerful gates of the city that are meant for defense will not be closed to him.

45:3-4 God will call His people by a new name (Rev 2:17, 3:12; Is 62:2, 65:15; Eccl 7:1)

45:5 “*I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides Me there is no God.*” God chose to support His people before they even knew Who He is.

45:6 God would support his people as a testimony to Himself as the one true God.

45:7 I form light and create darkness, I make success and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.

Another Side of God’s Nature (Isaiah 45:7 versus Psalm 145)	
Sovereignty of God	Genesis 18:14, Jeremiah 32:27, Jeremiah 32:17, Job 23:13, Psalms 115:3, 135:6 Daniel 4:35, Luke 1:37, Mt 19:26
God Created All Things	Colossians 1:16, Revelation 4:11, Romans 11:36
God Creates Unpleasant Things	Isaiah 45:7; Exodus 4:11
God Uses Lying Spirits	1 Kings 22:22; 2 Chronicles 18:21, 2 Thessalonians 2:11
God Uses Evil Spirits	1 Samuel 16:14, 15, 16, 23 & 18:10 & 19:9

God Causes Some to Suffer and Fail	Exodus 21:13; 2 Chronicles 15:6, 21:14-16, 25:8; Job 5:18, 9:24, 12:14-25; Ps 71:20, 80:5-6; Ecclesiastes 7:13-14 ; Isaiah 19:2&22, 42:24; Jeremiah 11:11, 29:17-19, 32:23, 42, 44:27, 45:5; Lamentations 1:5, 12, 3:37-38; Ezekiel 4:16-17, 5:10, 7:9, 14:9, 23; Zech 7:10; 1 Peter 3:17, 4:17; Acts 9:15-16; John 9:3
Hearts are Swayed by God for His Purposes	Ephesians 1:11; Psalms 33:15, 105:25; Isaiah 63:17; Jeremiah 32:39-40; 1 Kings 18:37; Revelation 17:17

- **According to Isaiah 44:28, who does God call by name 150 years before Persia defeats Babylon?**
 - **Isaiah prophesies Cyrus by name 150 years before Persia lowers the level of the Euphrates to invade Babylon; Cyrus was the leader of the Persians (Daniel 5)**
- **According to Isaiah 44:3, why would God provide secret treasures and wealth to Cyrus?**
 - **So that Cyrus would understand that it was God who called him by name more than a century earlier.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:5, what was done to earn God’s support?**
 - **Nothing – God supported His people before they even knew Who He is.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:7, who is it that creates darkness and calamity?**
 - **The one true God**

Read Isaiah 45:8-13...God’s Sovereign and Unquestionable Plan

45:8 Rain is compared to righteousness with good fruit of the Spirit being brought to bear (Galatians 5:22-23). The Lord created all of nature, nourishment and harvests.

45:9 The creation should not be in conflict against God – do not argue with God (Romans 9:20-21). The worldly vessel and clay pot cannot understand what the potter is crafting, and its purpose. (Isaiah 29:16, 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6; Lamentations 4:2). The human vessel (the pot) can be destroyed making it useless (Isaiah 30:14).

45:10 Unlike questioning the Lord, one might ask a father or mother what gender they are making together, but the gender is outside of the couple’s control.

45:11 However, if God’s people seek His plan (as the Lord, the Holy One of Israel and the Creator), God has full control to bring His plan to fruition. The question infers the correct understanding that God is in control to work His plan.

45:12 “Coincidence is the world’s way of trying to make God anonymous.” The Lord repeatedly references the expanding universe that wasn’t discovered by Edwin Hubble until 1929 (Job 17:18, Isaiah 42:5, 44:24, 45:12, 48:13)

45:13 The Lord again prophesies that Cyrus will allow the Israelites who have been exiled to Babylon to return and rebuild Jerusalem. (Isaiah 49:17, 51:11, 58:12).

- **According to Isaiah 44:8, what does the Lord direct to rain?**
 - **The Lord directs the heavens to rain righteousness with good fruit of the Spirit being produced (Galatians 5:22-23).**
- **According to Isaiah 44:9, who will receive woe?**
 - **The one who quarrels with his Creator.**
- **According to Isaiah 44:11, what does God say to do?**
 - **The Lord says to ask Him about coming events for His people**

- **The question infers the correct understanding that God is in control to work His plan.**

Read Isaiah 45:14-17...Those Who Make Idols will be Defeated

45:14 The Lord will cause the defeat of Egypt, Cush and the Sabeans to Persia because of the idols that they produced. God would humble these three nations as a testimony that He is the only God, and those who walk in His presence will have victory.

- Assyria was distracted away from Jerusalem to battle Egypt, Cush and Seba instead of invading Jerusalem. (Isaiah 37:8-10; 43:3)
- Seba was a nation probably located in northeast Africa (Ps 72:10)

45:15 God's ways seem hidden to the nations of the world (Isaiah 45:19, 55:9), and God reveals Himself only to those who are His people (Amos 3:7).

45:16 Those who make idols will be defeated in humiliation; the idols that they constructed would have any power to save them.

45:17 Salvation is eternal, and Israel will forever be able to depend on the Lord their God.

- **According to Isaiah 45:16, what would come of the nations who manufactured idols?**
 - **They would be defeated and humbly led away in chains.**
- **According to Isaiah 45:17, how long would the salvation of God's people last?**
 - **Through all eternity**

Read Isaiah 45:18-25...God the Creator Has Made His Way Known

45:18 This verse is used in support of the "Gap Theory" between Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2.

- Since God did not create the earth without form and void ("Tohu" meaning "topsy-turvy"/a wreck/a waste/a ruin) then something must have happened to devolve the earth to that state (Psalms 104:30)
- God formed the earth for its inhabitants

45:19 Although the world has not seen God (Isaiah 45:15), God has revealed Himself through His Word, His people and His Creation (Romans 1:19-21)

45:20 God calls for those who have found Him to come to Him out of the godless, idolatrous nations that do not know Him. The nations of the world have chosen to worship false, manmade gods that cannot save them.

45:21 There is no other God besides Yahweh. It is wonderful that He is righteous and a Savior because mankind is fallen.

45:22 God calls all of the nations. "*Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.*"

45:23 There is nothing greater than God Himself to swear by. God's Word is righteous and, in the end, every knee will bow to Him (Philippians 2:10; Romans 14:11).

45:24 Only in God's righteousness will anyone be saved. Anyone who rebels against the Lord will be humbled.

45:25 God's people would be justified in Him.

- **According to Isaiah 45:18, what did the Lord have in mind when He created the earth?**
 - **He formed it to be inhabited.**
- **According to Isaiah 45:19, what has the Lord not done?**
 - **He has not hidden the truth.**

- **According to Isaiah 45:20, what does God tell His people in idolatrous nations to do?**
 - **God is calling His people to Himself out of the idolatrous nations who pray to futile false gods.**
- **According to Isaiah 45:21, how does God describe Himself?**
 - **The only God – one who is righteous and a Savior of His people**
- **According to Isaiah 45:22, what does God ask His people to do?**
 - **Turn to the Lord and be saved.**

Read Isaiah 46:1-13...Powerless Idols Cannot Compare to God’s Saving Power

46:1 False gods would be humiliated before the one true God (1 Samuel 5:1-5).

- Marduk was the primary god of Babylon which eventually came to be known as Bel/Baal.
- Nebo was considered to be the son of Marduk as the god of literature and science; Nebo was associated with the planet Mercury.

46:2 The idols of the false gods would be knocked over and exiled for show instead of power.

46:3 The Lord calls His people to pay attention to His Words.

46:4 God will sustain His people even in elderly years and old age. When thinking of someone being carried and cared for, one might think of an infant, but God states that He will carry the elderly who belong to Him.

46:5 The Lord asks a rhetorical question that there is no one with whom to compare Him.

46:6 Fallen people spend a great deal of money investing in false gods.

46:7 Earthly idols are burdens that frustrate their owners (Isaiah 44:12)

46:8-9 God has given His Word to testify the many times that He has brought salvation to His people. All of his speaks to the uniqueness of the one and only God.

46:10-11 God’s plan will occur and His will be satisfied. The Lord will bring Cyrus to free His people from Babylon while bringing judgment on the idolatrous nations.

46:12 The identifying characteristic is stubbornness for those who lived wickedly and were not near to God.

46:13 God’s salvation was made readily for His people in Zion and His glory for the nation of Israel.

- **According to Isaiah 46:1, what is wearisome for the people?**
 - **Idols are wearisome and burdensome.**
- **According to Isaiah 46:4, what will God do to the elderly of His people?**
 - **God would carry His elderly people.**
- **According to Isaiah 46:6, what do the idolaters lose with their idols?**
 - **Idolaters waste their gold and silver on futile idols**
- **According to Isaiah 46:9-10, what are people called to remember?**
 - **The prophecies of God’s Word that He has brought to fruition.**
- **According to Isaiah 46:12, what does God call those who are “*far from righteousness*”?**
 - **God calls them stubborn**
- **Chapter 47 is likened to Revelation 17 & 18 with the fall of Babylon**

Read Isaiah 47:1-15...God's Judgment on Babylon

47:1 Chaldea is an actual town on the Euphrates. After Babylon was conquered by Persia, it would eventually be destroyed.

47:2 Instead of living lives of leisure, the Babylonians become manual laborers.

47:3 All must give an account with every thought/deed/statement revealed (Heb 4:13; Is 47:10)

47:4 The Lord of hosts is the redeemer of His people...but not of the idolatrous Babylonians.

47:5 The Babylonians exiled God's people and followed idolatrous practices, so they would no longer be an envied kingdom. Babylon is compared to a Queen in her beauty, but also in her helplessness to defend herself.

47:6 The Babylonians were not merciful when God utilized them to judge His people. God emphasizes the poor treatment by Babylonians of God's elderly people.

47:7 The Babylonians had declared a long-lasting reign, but in worshipping false gods, they ensured a swift defeat.

47:8 As Babylon was likened to a queen, she is now called sensual as she pursued pleasures in her confidence as she denied an impending judgment.

47:9 The witchcraft of Babylon would not be enough to save her from a quick and total loss of power and position.

47:10 The downfall of knowledge – don't be prideful of intelligence (Eccl 1:13). Babylon felt that no one was as great as they were, and they called themselves "I Am" which was the position of Yahweh (Exodus 3:14).

47:11 Judgment would come suddenly, and Babylon would have no time to use charm or seduction to save herself from tragedy. Babylon's end would occur as suddenly as the seductress Jezebel (2 Kings 9:30-33).

47:12 Babylon's dark magic that had been practiced by the idolatrous inhabitants their entire lives for intimidation and profit would not be able to save them from judgment.

47:13 Babylon was steeped in the worship of the heavens, but this would be the downfall of her astrology and horoscopes.

47:14 A destructive fire would consume Babylon with no deliverance.

47:15 This would be the downfall of earthly alliances including business partners who have profited from their lives. Every man's interest was his own ("every man for himself"), and he cannot even save himself – much less you

- **According to Isaiah 47:3, what did the Lord plan to do with Babylon?**
 - **God would judge Babylon and take revenge on their evil deeds**
- **According to Isaiah 47:6, why was Babylon able to conquer Israel?**
 - **God was angry with Israel, so He allowed Babylon to exile them.**
- **According to Isaiah 47:10, what had Babylon said to themselves?**
 - **Babylon felt that no one was as great as they were, and they called themselves "I Am" which was the position of Yahweh (Exodus 3:14).**
- **According to Isaiah 47:11, what would Babylon not be able to do when judgment came?**
 - **Judgment would come suddenly, and Babylon would have no time to use charm or seduction to save herself from tragedy. Babylon's end would occur as suddenly as the seductress Jezebel (2 Kings 9:30-33).**
- **According to Isaiah 47:13, who does God tell Babylon to go to for salvation?**
 - **God tells Babylon to depend on her astrologers.**
- **According to Isaiah 47:15, who would be able to save Babylon from judgment?**

- **No one can save Babylon.**

12 Isaiah 48, 49

Read Isaiah 48:1-11...Israel Stubbornly Refused to Follow the One They Call God

48:1 The people of Israel pretend to exalt the Lord, but they do not walk with Him in truth or righteousness.

48:2 Israel claimed to be set apart and holy to God, and they depended on Yahweh for their needs.

48:3 The Lord would convey His reality via a three-step approach: 1. God Proclaimed 2. God Acted 3. Events Occurred

48:4 The Lord emphasizes how stubborn and obstinate His people were in not following His ways.

48:5 Sinners look for someone who can foretell the future to entitle a god (Is 41:23; 47:13), but only God knows the future (Daniel 2:11, Isaiah 42:9) because He initiates the future (Isaiah 43:19; 48:3, 5), but the world will not listen to Him (Isaiah 41:26)

48:6 The Lord had established Israel to testify to the Lord and live as His people; however, they had continually failed to live faithfully, so the Lord would give them a new covenant with the coming Messiah as the foundation.

48:7 As the Creator, nothing is impossible for God. No one can claim to have a complete understanding of the Lord because He creates beyond what is familiar.

48:8 Although God revealed much to Israel, they had chosen not to hear and understand; instead, Israel was rebellious.

48:9 The Lord could cut His people off, but He has been patient with His rebellious people.

48:10 The Lord continued to refine His people through affliction.

48:11 For the Lord's sake, He would contend. Knowing the truth of His own glory, the Lord could not be passive as his people misuse His name and glorify anyone else.

- **According to Isaiah 48:1, what does the Lord find Israel to be doing wrong?**
 - **They are not following His law (in righteousness), and they are not sincerely submitting to His will as their God (in truth).**
- **According to Isaiah 48:4, what does God know about His people?**
 - **They are hardheaded and stiff-necked; God's people are obstinate.**
- **According to Isaiah 48:6-7, why had Israel not heard what the Lord would proclaim?**
 - **The Lord creating something new that didn't exist before this time.**
- **According to Isaiah 48:10, how had God refined His people?**
 - **God refined His people through affliction**

Read Isaiah 48:12-22...God Urges His People to Obedience & Delivers Them from Babylon

48:12 God is from the first to the last (Rev 1:8, 17; 21:6; 22:13; Is 41:4, 43:13; 44:6; 46:4; Zech 12:10)

48:13 The Lord references the expanding universe that wasn't discovered by Edwin Hubble until 1929 (Job 17:18, Isaiah 42:5, 44:24, 45:12)

- 48:14 The no higher privilege or greater power than these words – “*The Lord loves him.*”
Although God would use Babylon to refine His people, He would also redeem them from exile.
- 48:15 The Lord’s words are powerful because the almighty God has desired to convey them.
The Lord has taken three past actions: 1. God has spoken 2. God has called him 3. God has brought him ...and now God will take a future action in making his ways successful.
- God would use Cyrus to liberate Israel from Babylon
- 48:16 The Trinity speaks as one; God has not hidden anything from the beginning (John 1:1-3).
This verse literally reads “from the time anything existed – There I Am.”
- 48:17 This triune God teaches mankind for man’s benefit.
- 48:18 Obedience to the Lord brings blessing and righteousness.
- 48:19 A faithful lineage of obedient people would not be cut off from the Heavenly King’s presence.
- 48:20 God’s people are told to flee from Babylon with joyful shouting (Jeremiah 51:6, 9; Revelation 18:4, 20)
- 48:21 God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37). Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 27:3, 32:2, 35:7, 41:18, 44:27, 55:1, 58:11), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
- 48:22 “*There is no peace,*” says the LORD, “*for the wicked.*” (Is 57:21 vs. Is 32:17; Rom 5:1)
- **According to Isaiah 48:12, how does God describe Himself?**
 - **God is the first to last (Rev 1:8, 17; 21:6; 22:13; Is 41:4, 43:13; 44:6; 46:4; Zech 12:10).**
 - **According to Isaiah 48:13, what did God’s right hand do?**
 - **He spread out the heavens; The Lord references the expanding universe that wasn’t discovered by Edwin Hubble until 1929 (Job 17:18, Isaiah 42:5, 44:24, 45:12)**
 - **According to Isaiah 48:18-19, what would be the consequences of obedience to God?**
 - **Well-being and righteousness with descendants who would live in God’s presence**
 - **According to Isaiah 48:20, how are God’s people told to flee Babylon?**
 - **God’s people are told to flee from Babylon with joyful shouting (Jeremiah 51:6, 9; Revelation 18:4, 20)**
 - **According to Isaiah 48:22, what do the wicked not have?**
 - **Peace**

The Four Servant Songs of Isaiah	
1.	Isaiah 42:1-9 Introduction to the Servant of God
2.	Isaiah 49:1-13 The Messiah’s Accomplishments as the Servant
3.	Isaiah 50:4-11 The contrast of Israel’s Sin with the Servant’s Obedience
4.	Isaiah 52-53:12 The suffering sacrifice and victory of the Servant
Israel could not fulfill the role as a servant (Isaiah 41:8; 44:1-2), but a Messiah would fulfill the role of a Servant (Acts 3:13).	

Read Isaiah 49:1-13...Christ is Sent to the Jews First and Then to the Gentiles

49:1, 5 One set apart from his mother’s womb for Jesus’ service (Judges 16:17, Ps 22:10, Isaiah 49:1, 49:5, Jer 1:5, Lk 1:15, Gal 1:15) versus those who are evil from the womb (Ps 58:3, Isaiah 48:8)

- Scripture often refers to Gentile nations as “islands.”
 - The Lord is calling the attention of the Gentile world to the foreordained plan of the Messiah.
- 49:2 The Word of the Lord is a powerful sword to help and to harm (Hebrews 4:12; Rev 1:16; 19:15). An arrow goes forth (Ps 127:4), but this secret arrow would go forth unexpectedly.
- God makes our words like a sword (Heb 4:12; Rev 1:16, 2:12, 16)
 - God hides us in the shadow of His hand (Ps 121:5; Lk 1:35)
- 49:3 This verse is a transition from a call of the Servant to the nation (Israel) who is delivering the servant to show God’s glory to redeem His people with Christ’s blood.
- 49:4 The servant nation of Israel struggled to be a testimony, and in the end, God needed to provide another Servant who could fulfill His purpose.
- Justice and salvation are ultimately with the Lord.
- 49:5 God used Israel to bring His Servant as a Messiah, and the Messiah would bring Israel (Jacob symbolizing self-effort) to Himself.
- 49:6 The magnitude of the Servant Savior would transcend Israel to an offer of salvation to the Gentiles as well.
- 49:7 God addresses the Servant through verse 12. The Messiah would be rejected by His nation of Israel, but Kings and Princes would ultimately bow down because of the faithfulness of the Lord. (Philippians 2:10-11; Romans 14:11).
- 49:8 The Lord Jesus would provide the new covenant for restoration and inheritance of God’s people (Jeremiah 31:31-34). Paul claims Christ’s death and resurrection as bringing the “acceptable time” (1 Corinthians 6:2).
- 49:9 The Servant Savior will regather, restore and free Israel from slavery and darkness
- 49:10 The Servant Savior is the Good Shepherd (Psalm 23; John 10:11-18)
- 49:11 God makes His way exalted on the earth.
- 49:12 Israel was returned after the diaspora to once again become a nation on May 14, 1948, but also in the Millennium, all of the nations will pay tribute in Jerusalem (Isaiah 60:1-7; Zechariah 14:16-19). Sinim represents China in the far east
- 49:13 Let all creation celebrate that God is compassionate and comforts His people
- **According to Isaiah 49:2, what would the mouth of the Servant Savior be like?**
 - **A powerful sword to help and to harm (Hebrews 4:12; Rev 1:16; 19:15)**
 - **According to Isaiah 49:4, how did Israel feel after failing as an appropriate servant of God?**
 - **They had struggled in vain, but their justice and reward were to be found in the Lord.**
 - **According to Isaiah 49:6, to whom would the Suffering Servant bring salvation?**
 - **Beyond Israel, Christ’s death would bring salvation to the Gentiles.**
 - **According to Isaiah 49:7, who would abhor the Suffering Servant and who would worship Him?**
 - **His nation of Israel would despise Him, but the Kings and Princes of the world would worship Him.**
 - **According to Isaiah 49:8, how would the new covenant be provided?**
 - **God would give the Suffering Servant for the new covenant.**

Read Isaiah 49:14-26...God Loves His People and Will Restore Them

- 49:14 Zion might feel that the Lord has forgotten and forsaken them, but feelings are rarely barometers of truth. Emotions are often driven by what a person dwells on (Philippians 4:8)
- 49:15 Although a mother might forget the infant that she is nursing or a pregnant woman not have any compassion for the baby in her womb, God will not forget His people.
- Abortion is murder and often, abortion is a torturous murder.
- 49:16 God will not forget His children because they are marked on His hands (John 20:27)
- 49:17 The Israelites who will have been exiled to Babylon will not be forgotten by the Lord, but He will call them out of Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem as He removes Israel's enemies (Isaiah 45:13, 49:17, 51:11, 58:12).
- 49:18 This is the first mention of the term "bride" as Israel is seen as the Bride of Christ (Isaiah 61:10; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:31-32; Rev 14:6-7, 21:2, 9-10)
- 49:19 The land designated to Israel will be too small for the population of inhabitants (Gen 15:18)
- 49:20 As with much of Isaiah, this verse might have a near term as well as long-term fulfillment (Isaiah 51:11)
- The near term would be those of Israel descent who arise out of the Babylonian captivity to repopulate the land of Israel in spite of the battles (with Egypt) and exiles (to Assyria and Babylon).
 - This might also point to the church age where much of Israel rejects Jesus as Christ and Lord, but Gentiles increase the family of God substantially.
- 49:21 God's people will be amazed at the miraculous growth of their faith and fellowship.
- 49:22 The Lord will call His people to return to Jerusalem, and with their return, Gentiles will also join the fellowship under Yahweh (Isaiah 11:11-12).
- 49:23 The Lord will exalt His exiled and persecuted people, and they will know that He is the mighty and sovereign God. "...you will know that I am the Lord; those who hopefully wait for Me will not be put to shame."
- 49:24 Mankind has examples of being held onto by a mighty man or a tyrant, but even these examples fall short of the way that the Lord will grip His people.
- 49:25 Although powerful men might fail to hold onto who they have, God will contend with those who contend with His children.
- 49:26 Those who persecute God's people will end up hurting themselves instead. The world will know God is the Savior and Lord by the manner that He sustains His people.
- **According to Isaiah 49:14-15, are the feelings of God's people accurate?**
 - **No - God's people might feel that the Lord has forgotten and forsaken them, but feelings are deceptive.**
 - **God will hold tightly to His people and contend for them (Isaiah 49:25).**
 - **Emotions are often driven by what a person dwells on (Philippians 4:8)**
 - **According to Isaiah 49:15, who does God epitomize as an example of who should have compassion?**
 - **A pregnant mother towards her unborn child**
 - **According to Isaiah 49:16, where have God's people been inscribed to be continually before Him?**
 - **The palms of God's hands. (Luke 24:39-40; John 20:20, 27)**
 - **According to Isaiah 49:23, who will not be put to shame?**
 - **Those who wait in hope for the Lord.**

Read Isaiah 50:1-3...Israel’s Abandonment of God

Three Speakers of the Trinity	
1. Isaiah 50:1-3	Jehovah/God the Father
2. Isaiah 50:4-9	The Suffering Servant
3. Isaiah 50:10-11	The Holy Spirit

50:1 God refers to Israel as the adulterous wife who might be divorced (Hosea chapters 1-2).

God asks Israel to show Him the bill of divorce, but Israel cannot show the evidence that He divorced her. Instead, Israel sold themselves into slavery because of their iniquity.

50:2 God’s hand is never too short to accomplish His will (Psalms 130:7). In those days, a father could sell his child to the one who he owes, but the Heavenly Father is saying that he has not done that – there is no bill of sale (Isaiah 52:3). God has the ability to pay and deliver.

- When God the Father called, no one in Israel answered.
- Questions are used by God as a teaching device to His people (Job 38-41).

50:3 God is omnipotent and has control over all of nature. The immense heavens are clothed by God and referenced in mourning with the darkness of sackcloth. This darkness of the heavens is a common theme (Jer 4:28; Ez 32:7; Joel 2:10; 3:15; Mt 24:29; Mk 13:24; Lk 21:25; Rev 6:12)

- **According to Isaiah 50:2, who answered when God called?**
 - **No one**
 - **God suggests that His people are not answering Him because they believe Him to be too weak to act on their behalf.**

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3. Isaiah 50:4-11	The contrast of Israel’s Sin with the Servant’s Obedience
4. Isaiah 52-53:12	The suffering sacrifice and victory of the Servant
Israel could not fulfill the role as a servant (Isaiah 41:8; 44:1-2), but a Messiah would fulfill the role of a Servant (Acts 3:13).	

Read Isaiah 50:4-11...Man Cannot Save Themselves; Salvation Comes from God Alone

- **Scholars organize this Servant Song into four sections that each begin with the “Sovereign Lord” or the “Lord God” (Isaiah 50:4, 5, 7, 9)**
- **In Hebrew, God (Yahweh) is coupled with the Lord (Adonai); Adonai is translated as "Lord" which symbolizes "sovereignty."**
- **The One speaking is the Servant of the Lord**

50:4 The Suffering Servant listened for God’s message each morning. Quiet times at the beginning of each day are so important for hearing His instruction (Gn 19:27; Ex 8:20; 24:4; 34:4; Job 1:5; 7:18; Ps 5:3; 63:1; Is 26:9; Mt 6:33; 20:1; Jn 8:2; Acts 5:19-21 → Jer 7:13)

- Although Israel didn’t listen to God’s call, the Suffering Servant did listen.

50:5 As He conveys His calling, we serve as a bond slave (free will) with pierced ears (Exodus 21:6). Jesus spoke the words of the Father (John 1:1, 8:28, 14:7-11).

- God opens the ears of His people to hear as they open their hearts to obey.

50:6 Jesus offered His body at crucifixion for torture (Micah 5:1) as should we (Romans 8:36-37). The Lord did not cover or defend Himself from pain or humiliation. God’s people might

also listen to God's call to endure persecution (Mt 5:10; 2 Corinthians 12:10; 2 Timothy 3:12).

50:7 The Suffering Servant would be steadfast in the faith that the Father would help Him. The Suffering Servant would not be disgraced nor ashamed; although the Suffering Servant would die by crucifixion, he would be exalted in His resurrection – this has become known as “acquittal by resurrection.”

- The phrase “setting my face like a flint” infers unwavering in spite of the challenge. “Flint” is viewed as being extremely hard (Ezekiel 3:9)

50:8 The Suffering Servant needs no other supporter than the Father; those who condemn are temporal and deficient. (Romans 8:31, 14:4)

50:9 No prosecutor can bring a charge against God's redeemed (Romans 8:33-34; Zech 3:1-5). Garments were critical in ancient days, and although a moth is weak by nature, it is disastrous when it ruins the coverings of people.

50:10 God's obedient people should take comfort in Him no matter how bleak the situation or sad the emotions. Those who feel lost without understanding should lean on Jesus.

- *“Who is among you that fears the Lord, that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.”*

50:11 If a person tries to find his own light (his own understanding), and light his own way; he will feel the heat of God's light in an altogether different way – torment (Rev 14:9-10)

- **According to Isaiah 50:4, why did the Lord God provide an instructive tongue?**
 - *“To sustain with a word, him who is weary.”*
 - **The word of God strengthens the weary; opinions often distract from God's comfort and counsel (Hebrews 4:12)**
- **According to Isaiah 50:6, what would occur to the Servant?**
 - **His beard would be struck; His beard pulled out; He would be spat upon.**
- **According to Isaiah 50:7, why would shameful persecution not be a disgrace?**
 - *“The Lord God helps me”*
- **According to Isaiah 50:10, what two characteristics is God seeking among His people?**
 - **Fear of the Lord and obedience to His Servant (Jesus)**
- **According to Isaiah 50:10, what should the individual do who is walking in darkness and has no light?**
 - **He should “trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God” (John 8:12)**
 - **Throughout Scripture, the term “light” represents “understanding.” To walk in the light means to have the understanding that the individual is a sinner in need of a Savior (1 John 1:7).**
- **According to Isaiah 50:11, what will happen to those who follow their own light (understanding)?**
 - **Those who follow their own reasoning and self-made truths will experience the judgment of God.**

Read Isaiah 51:1-8...As with Abraham, God's People are Called to Trust His Promises

- **A Series of Exhortations from the Lord to His People Asking Them to Listen**

51:1 God encouraged the Israelites to reflect on their humble beginnings through a single pilgrim, Abraham who was married to a barren wife.

51:2 Abraham was a single man, but the Lord blessed and multiplied him into a great nation (Genesis 15:5, 22:17; Hebrews 11:12)

- Just as God called Abraham to look ahead in faith, God calls Israel to also look ahead in faith with the knowledge of God’s past blessings on their nation.

51:3 In the millennial reign, the wilderness and desert location of Jerusalem/Zion will be like the garden of Eden (Isaiah 55:12).

- Attributes that the Lord uses to describe Zion include: 1. Garden 2. Joyful 3. Glad 4. Thankful 5. Musical
- “Waste places” is a reference to locations that have been “laid waste” or ruined by attacking nations. The Lord comforts those places.

51:4 God calls the world to listen attentively to His Word that brings a new “law” of faith and the gospel message to the nations (Gal 3:24).

51:5 God’s righteousness and salvation will be extended to the nations. God’s arm is viewed as the instrument to accomplish His will – the coming Messiah. The Gentile nations would wait for the coming gospel of the Messiah.

God’s Salvation & Righteousness	
Isaiah 51:5	<i>“My righteousness is near; My salvation has gone forth.”</i>
Isaiah 51:6	<i>“My salvation will be forever, and My righteousness will not wane.”</i>
Isaiah 51:8	<i>“My righteousness will be forever, and My salvation to all generations.”</i>

51:6 Counter to evolution that teaches ever-improving conditions, the second law of thermodynamics will be witnessed as the earth wastes away.

- However, God’s salvation will be the sustained and eternal. (Matthew 24:35)

51:7 God calls on those who have more than “head knowledge” but are sincerely walking in obedience with their hearts to not be concerned about the criticism and condemnation of fellow man. (2 Timothy 3:12)

51:8 Those who torment God’s people will pass away, but God’s righteousness and salvation are eternal.

- **According to Isaiah 51:1, who does God instruct to listen to Him?**
 - **Those who pursue righteousness and seek the LORD**
- **According to Isaiah 51:2-3, to what does Abraham’s lineage of Israel testify?**
 - **That God can bless and multiply anyone at any time regardless of the meager condition.**
 - **God reminds His faithful followers that He began the Jewish community with a single couple.**
- **According to Isaiah 51:7, what does God tell those who keep His law in their heart not to do?**
 - **They should not fear their fellow man’s criticism or be discouraged by the insults and illogical arguments of others.**
- **According to Isaiah 51:8, what is eternal?**
 - **God’s salvation and righteousness**

Read Isaiah 51:9-16...God’s People Do Not Need to Fear Men

51:9 The arm of the Lord is the instrument in which God carries out His will. Jesus Christ is the arm of the Lord who works the Father’s will on earth (Isaiah 40:10-11, 53:1).

- Much like Jonah in the turbulent ship, God directs the arm of the Lord to awake and prepare! (Jonah 1:6)

- The Sea represents this world system (Is 57:20). God enables His people to pass through the tests of this world (Ps 66:12, 124:4-5) without being overwhelmed (Isaiah 43:2, 16). 7:12
 - “Rahab” is often viewed as a poetic name for Egypt.
 - There are two creatures named “Rahab” mentioned in the Bible:
 - The prostitute Rahab of Jericho who bore Boaz (Joshua 2 & 6, Mt 1:5, Heb 11:31, James 2:25)
 - The Rahab in Job 9:13 (“the proud or boisterous one”) who was a legendary sea serpent/dragon (Leviathan - Job 7:12; Job 41) that was conquered at the time of creation (Job 26:12, Ps 89:10, Is 51:9)
 - The Leviathan is detailed in Job 41 with characteristics of Satan (41:4, 33-34).
 - Water was created prior to the Genesis Creation account and the Sea Serpent may have been as well.

51:10 Jesus (the arm of the Lord) parted the Red Sea (Isaiah 63:12) just as God continues to part “the sea” (chaotic society) for His followers (Isaiah 43:16; Psalms 77:19)

- Jesus encouraged Peter to keep his eyes on Him and walk on the water (Matthew 14:28-32)

51:11 As with much of Isaiah, this verse might have a near term as well as long-term fulfillment (Isaiah 45:13, 49:17, 20, 58:12).

- The near-term would be Israelites who arise out of the Babylonian captivity to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 3:10-11).
- This might also point to the church age where believers are redeemed (purchased back) in joy and gratitude. (Luke 1:14; John 15:11; Philippians 4:4; 1 John 1:4; Psalm 51:12)
- There will be an excitement and joy where grief and moaning will be eradicated.

51:12 The Lord Himself comforts His people and encourages His people not to fear temporal man (Matthew 10:28).

51:13 God encourages His people not to focus on their tormentors, but instead, meditate on and trust in the Creator of heaven and earth.

- God spread out the heavens; The Lord references the expanding universe that wasn’t discovered by Edwin Hubble until 1929 (Job 17:18, Isaiah 42:5, 44:24, 45:12)

51:14 God would free His people from bondage (in Babylon as well as “to sin”), but He would liberate them and nourish them. (John 6:31-33, 41, 48-50, 58). Those returning from exile would receive care from the Lord and not go hungry.

51:15 The Lord divided the chaotic Red Sea, so that His people could pass safely through while the world (Egypt’s armies) were engulfed. (Exodus 14:21; Joshua 2:10, 4:23; Psalm 106:9, 114:3, 136:13; 1 Corinthians 10:1-2)

51:16 God puts His words into the mouths of humans for His purposes (Dt 18:18, Is 59:21, Jer 1:9). Jesus spoke the very words of the Father (John 1:1, 14:8-11), and the Father has mentioned prior that He would care for the Suffering Servant in “the shadow of His hand” (Isaiah 49:2). All things were created through Jesus and for Jesus (Colossians 1:16).

- **According to Isaiah 51:9, what did the arm of the Lord (Jesus) do to Rahab?**
 - **Jesus cut Rahab to pieces as he pierced the dragon.**
- **According to Isaiah 51:10, who parted the Red Sea for His people to cross?**
 - **The arm of the Lord (Jesus)**
- **According to Isaiah 51:12, why should God’s people not fear fellow men?**

- The eternal God comforts His people while fellow men are temporary
- According to Isaiah 51:14, what does God promise to do for the oppressed?
 - The Lord will sustain him and not let him die; the Lord will provide food for him.

Read Isaiah 51:17-23...God is Saddened by the Afflictions of Jerusalem & Will Deliver

51:17 The imagery of Israel in Babylon is similar to an inebriated man who has fallen without the power to rise. Israel had drunk from the Lord’s cup of anger.

51:18 The “inebriated” nation needs guidance and support, but no one on earth can meet their need.

51:19 The number “two” in Scripture often represents a witness. Israel had fallen away from the Lord which resulted in God’s judgment: 1. Devastation/Famine 2. Destruction/Sword

51:20 Those in the lineage of Israel had been judged by the Lord and had fallen under His wrath.

51:21 God’s people, whom He had judged, were afflicted to the characteristics of one who was inebriated – fallen; not able to stand on their own; unable to find their way or discern truth.

51:22 The Lord God was Israel’s God who defends His people. The Lord had removed His judgment that they would not have to drink it again.

- This clearly refers to the final restoration of Israel, but the Lord is also releasing Israel from Babylon so that they wouldn’t be enslaved in Babylon any longer.

51:23 Babylon would not have the power to enslave Israel again because they would now drink from the chalice of God’s wrath and fall to the ground unable to rise again.

- According to Isaiah 51:17, to what does God compare Israel when they are judged?
 - God’s people, whom He had judged, were afflicted to the characteristics of one who was inebriated – fallen; not able to stand on their own; unable to find their way or discern truth.
- According to Isaiah 51:19, what does God ask Israel’s oppressors?
 - When they have experienced devastation/destruction, famine/sword – who will comfort them?
 - The Lord understands that these idolatrous nations have no true and caring God.
- According to Isaiah 51:22-23, what does God do with His cup of wrath?
 - God removes the cup of wrath from His people, and God puts the cup of wrath into the hand of their tormentors.

The Four Servant Songs of Isaiah	
1. Isaiah 42:1-9	Introduction to the Servant of God
2. Isaiah 49:1-13	The Messiah’s Accomplishments as the Servant
3. Isaiah 50:4-11	The contrast of Israel’s Sin with the Servant’s Obedience
4. Isaiah 52-53:12	The suffering sacrifice and victory of the Servant
Israel could not fulfill the role as a servant (Isaiah 41:8; 44:1-2), but a Messiah would fulfill the role of a Servant (Acts 3:13).	

Read Isaiah 52:1-8...God’s People will be Redeemed to Zion & Receive the Good News

- God speaks of the restoration of His people post-captivity, but He will also prophecy of the Lord’s incarnation and the millennial kingdom

52:1 Zion can now be who the Lord chose her to be instead of how the people of the world mistreated her. Only true worshippers of God would be able to experience the glory of Jerusalem. (Ephesians 5:14)

- The Lord calls His people to wake up from their spiritual slumber. (Mark 13:35-36; Romans 13:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; Isaiah 29:10)

52:2 Sitting on the cursed ground (Genesis 3:17-19) in the dust is a sign of mourning (Job 2:13). After conquering Jerusalem (70AD), Vespasian minted a number of coins with insignia's that visualized Israel's defeat. One such coin depicted a woman sitting in the dust, with this inscription, "Judaea Capta."



- The Lord instructs His people to shake the worldly incumbrances that bind them.

52:3 Because of their sin, Israel sold themselves into slavery for no return (Isaiah 50:2). God redeems His people with Christ's blood (1 Peter 1:18).

52:4 Jacob's family of seventy chose to go down to Egypt on their own accord (Genesis 46:27; Exodus 1:5; Acts 7:14) just as Abraham had done before them (Genesis 12:10).

- Isaac and Israel were told not to take refuge in Egypt (Genesis 26:2; Deuteronomy 17:16).
- During the 400 year captivity of Israel, Assyria may have defeated Egypt and the Pharaoh of Egypt may have become Assyrian (Exodus 1:8)

52:5 God's people continue to find themselves in bondage in this world – first to the Egyptians, then to the Assyrians, and soon to the Babylonians. Those who enslave God's people multiply their wrong by cursing and blaspheming Him.

52:6 Through the Lord's power and salvation, His people will know His essence – who He is. The Lord loves and redeems His people while judging the wicked and cruel world.

52:7 *"How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, who proclaims peace, who brings news of good things, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"* (Ephesians 6:15)

- Paul quotes this when he discusses the expansion of the gospel (Romans 10:13-15)

52:8 Those attentive to God's work in this world joyfully watch Jerusalem restored and Israel become a thriving nation.

- **According to Isaiah 52:1, what does God call His people to do twice at the beginning of the chapter?**
 - **The Lord calls His people to wake up from their spiritual slumber. (Mark 13:35-36; Romans 13:11-12; 1 Thessalonians 5:6; Isaiah 29:10)**

Read Isaiah 52:9-15...God Calls His People to Go Out from Their Places of Bondage

52:9 Those that God has restored to Jerusalem should be comforted by Him as He has redeemed them from exile.

52:10 This is likened to a man "rolling up his sleeves" to go to work, or a mighty man baring his biceps to show strength.

52:11 God calls His people to return from exile in Babylon primarily so that they will no longer be polluted by her wicked culture. The stated reason that the Lord desires pure people is that they should perform His service in righteousness.

52:12 God’s people do not need to flee in terror or as outlaws, but in honor and confidence that the Lord leads them and protects behind them as well. (Isaiah 58:8)

52:13-15 Begins the description of Jesus’ crucifixion; “excruciating” comes from the root word “crucifixion”; Isaiah 52:14 is Jesus’ first coming while Isaiah 52:15 is Jesus’ second coming

52:13 Jesus would be high and lifted up – even on the cross (John 3:14)

The Three Times of “Behold, My Servant”		
1. Isaiah 42:1	<i>“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.”</i>	
2. Isaiah 52:13	<i>“Behold, My Servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted.”</i>	
3. Matthew 12:18	<i>“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations.”</i>	

52:14 Jesus was so disfigured that his face did not even resemble that of a man’s (Isaiah 50:6; Micah 5:1 → Luke 4:16, 37; John 20:15; 21:4) giving the appearance of a lamb that had been slain (Rev 5:6)

- “The only man-made thing in heaven will be the scars of Jesus.”

52:15 Just as He suffered in the preceding verse, He will sprinkle His salvation (blood) to the Gentile nations. Although the Gentiles were unfamiliar with this gospel through the Messiah, the Holy Spirit will give them understanding beyond themselves. (Jeremiah 31:34)

- “Kings” might represent the entire nation.
- Throughout Isaiah, he told Israel that although they saw, they didn’t see – and although they heard, they didn’t hear. (Is 26:11, 65:12)

14 Isaiah 53-55

- **Isaiah 53 and Psalms 22 are prophetic occurrences of Jesus’ crucifixion**

Read Isaiah 53:1-12...Prophecy of Christ’s Death on the Cross

53:1 The arm of the Lord is His strength which is Jesus; in John 12:37-38, this references unbelievers.

- The arm is where the work of the will is carried out, but Israel was not expecting a Suffering Servant; instead, they were anticipating a military leader.

53:2 Jesus as a “young” plant (also translated “tender” or “only”) filled with the living water (Zech 3:8; John 15:1; Rev 5:5) in a desert land (Isaiah 60:21)

- This is the only Biblical reference of Jesus’ physical appearance
- The dry ground represents the desert/wilderness of Israel’s spiritual state.

53:3 The Messiah would be rejected by Israel; the word “despised” is used in this verse twice. Jesus may have been stoic in nature although it was not His personal sorrows and griefs that saddened Him.

53:4 It was the grief and sorrow of His people that He took upon Himself. Jesus bore the griefs and sorrows of His people so that they wouldn’t need to bear what He has already bore.

53:5 Jesus was pierced for the transgressions of each sinner (Zechariah 12:10; Ps 89:32)

His Death for Man		
Pierced	Transgressions	(Zechariah 12:10; Ps 89:32)
Crushed	Iniquities	(Ps 34:18; 74:14; Rom 16:20; 2 Cor 4:8)

Punished	Peace	(2 Cor 2:6; 1 Jn 4:18)
Wounded	Healing	(Dt 32:39; Job 5:18)

- Peter quotes this verse in reference to spiritual healing (1 Peter 2:24).
- This verse is also quoted in reference to the healing ministry during the first incarnation of Jesus (Matthew 8:16-17).

53:6 *“We all went astray like sheep; we all have turned to our own way; and the LORD has punished Him for the iniquity of us all.”*

- Man’s rebellious way leads to death (Proverbs 14:12, 16:25)

53:7 The Messiah did not retaliate when being mistreated and falsely accused (John 19:9); instead, Jesus entrusted Himself to the Father’s will (1 Peter 2:23).

- This was the verse that the Ethiopian Eunuch was reading when Philip met him (Acts 8:32).

53:8 The killing of the Messiah referenced as “cut off” is a reference to Jesus symbolized by a plant (Is 53:1)

53:9 His crucifixion occurred between two wicked thieves (Lk 23:32) and the wealthy Joseph of Arimathea (Lk 23:51) buried Jesus in a tomb within the city

53:10 Through His anguish, the Messiah saw the will of the Father completed, and Christ was satisfied.

53:11 The Righteous One/The Servant is Jesus who was sinless and will justify many whose sins He bore.

53:12 “To pour out one’s soul” occurs three times in the Bible (Job 30:16; 1 Sam 1:15)

- **Chapters 54-63: The Restoration of Israel & the Nations**

Read Isaiah 54:1-8...The Miraculous Offspring of God’s Barren People

54:1 The greatest blessing in ancient times was to have a child while the greatest curse was to be barren. However, God calls for His people to rejoice because they will miraculously be restored and multiply.

- The barren woman represented Israel who God had chosen to proclaim His blessing to the world.
- Although Israel had not given birth to the nations, during the millennial reign, Israel will be a mother to the nations.

54:2 Israel is called to build for the expansion of God’s people.

54:3 Faith in Yahweh would spread beyond Israel to the Gentile nations of the world.

54:4 God would renew His people from Babylon (in the near future) and from the global diaspora (before the millennium), and Israel would be elevated beyond the disgrace of the past.

54:5 Israel is seen as the Bride of Christ (Isaiah 49:18; 61:10; 2 Cor 11:2; Eph 5:31-32; Rev 14:6-7, 21:2, 9-10)

54:6 The Lord restores the marriage after His wayward wife deserted Him (Lk 19:42)

54:7 The Lord allowed Israel to fall away from Him momentarily, but then restored her with compassion.

54:8 The Lord was temporarily angry with the rebellion of His people, but His eternal kindness drew His people back with compassion.

- **According to Isaiah 54:1, who does God tell to sing for joy?**
 - **A barren woman (symbolizing Israel)**

Read Isaiah 54:9-17...God's People Would Be Similarly Protected Even from Himself

- 54:9 God recalls the covenant that He made with Noah and extends that same grace to His people. (Matthew 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27)
- 54:10 The circumstances around God's people might be shaken and unsettled, but God's love with His people and compassion towards His people will remain secure. (Psalm 16:8)
- 54:11-12 Beyond providing stability to His people, the Lord would set their foundations as beautiful jewels. The New Jerusalem will be jeweled from the foundation (Revelation 21:10-14).
- 54:13 Future generations will learn Spiritual truths, and their lives will be blessed because of it. The Prince of Peace will reign in Zion during the millennium. (Isaiah 9:6; Romans 5:1; John 14:27)
- 54:14 God's people will have a foundation of righteousness that is removed from oppression, fear and terrorists.
- 54:15 *"If anyone attacks you, it is not from Me; whoever attacks you will fall before you;"* all attacks of this world are not from God, although some are (Is 45:7). When the worldly attacks occur without His endorsement, God will squelch them.
- 54:16 God has created those who manufacture weapons as well as those who use the weapons to destroy.
- 54:17 God is the source of His people's righteousness (Ps 71:16)
- **According to Isaiah 54:17, how is righteousness received?**
 - **Righteousness comes from the Lord**

Read Isaiah 55:1-7...God's People Are Called to Faith and Repentance

- **God Calls the Hungry to His Banquet**
- 55:1 God offers living waters to those who are thirsty (Mt 25:37; John 4:14; Rev 21:6, 22:17), and we can buy His sustenance without money (Rev 3:18), but with the payment of Christ.
- God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37).
 - Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 27:3, 32:2, 35:7, 41:18, 44:27, 48:21, 58:11),
 - He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
- 55:2 The fulfilling "bread of life" is Jesus (John 6:35) versus the pursuits of this world which will never satisfy (Haggai 1:6; Proverbs 14:12; 15:25, 23:4; Psalms 39:6; 44:3; 127:2; Isaiah 9:20; Hosea 4:10)
- When God's people listen carefully to Him, it is similar to partaking of an abundant banquet.
- 55:3 God will pour out the same love for His people as He gave to David (2 Samuel 7:11-13)
- *"Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live."*
- 55:4 David was a witness of God's faithfulness while Jesus was the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant. Jesus would be the witness to the world (Revelation 1:5), but Israel has a special relationship with God (Jeremiah 30:9).
- 55:5 Although the Gentiles did not know to watch for the Jewish Messiah, during the church age, Gentiles would understand that the Messiah was the fulfillment of the Jewish Law and Savior of the world. (Matthew 5:17)
- 55:6 Pursue the Lord; the opportunity to seek Him is not endless (John 17:34; Lk 13:23-28 – Hebrews 4:7)

55:7 God is ready to abundantly forgive the repentant (Psalm 130:7; John 10:10). The Lord calls the wicked to stop acting out his sinful ways as well as the unrighteous man to stop dwelling on those sinful thoughts (Philippians 4:8).

- Jesus teaches the wickedness of evil thoughts in His sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7)
- **According to Isaiah 55:1, who does God call to His banquet of blessings?**
 - **Those without money who thirst**
- **According to Isaiah 55:2, on what does man spend his resources?**
 - **Things other than bread that do not satisfy.**
- **According to Isaiah 55:6, what is emphasized about seeking and calling upon the Lord?**
 - **There is limited time to seek and call upon the Lord. (2 Corinthians 6:2; Hebrews 4:7)**
- **According to Isaiah 55:7, beyond the way of the wicked, what does God call the unrighteous to forsake?**
 - **Man must forsake his wicked thoughts**
- **According to Isaiah 55:7, what will the Lord give abundantly?**
 - **Mercy and pardon.**

Read Isaiah 55:8-13...God's Ways Are Higher Than Man's & His Word Is Fruitful

55:8 *"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, and your ways are not My ways."*

55:9 God's thoughts and ways are much higher than ours with a much greater breadth of view

55:10 The rain and the snow fall from above and have natural beneficial consequences in making plants grow, and God's Word has a similar impact.

55:11 *"so My word that comes from My mouth will not return to Me empty, but it will accomplish what I please, and will prosper in what I send it [to do]."* (Jeremiah 1:12)

55:12 The millennial reign will be filled with joy and singing (Isaiah 51:3)

55:13 Instead of worthless thorns and briars, the plants that would come from the Word of God would be beautiful, valuable and useful as the fir and myrtle trees. The fruitful growth would be a memorial to the Lord.

- **According to Isaiah 55:8-9, does the Lord reason in the same manner as a human?**
 - **No, the reasonings of the omniscient Lord are better than that of a human**
- **According to Isaiah 55:11, what does God emphasize about His Word?**
 - **God's Word will accomplish the will of the Father and His truths will never fail (Matthew 24:35; Luke 21:33; Mark 13:31)**
 - **God's blessings and warnings will come to pass without exception**

15 Isaiah 56-58

Read Isaiah 56:1-8...Obedience is Encouraged by Jew and Gentile

56:1 The Lord's righteousness would be available through the coming Messiah and the gospel message; however, God called for man to pursue acts of justice and righteous.

56:2 The secret to being happy is "keeping the Sabbath" (rest and worship of the Lord) while keeping your life pure from evil.

- Three times in Chapter 56, "keeping the Sabbath" is stressed (Isaiah 56:2, 4, 6 → Isaiah 58:13)

56:3 Foreigners will be grafted into God's family with new names (Isaiah 62:2; 66:22; Rev 2:17) that are better than earthly legacies; the Eunuch in Acts 8:26-40 may have also been interested in this while he read Isaiah 53:6-7.

- Both foreigners and eunuchs were forbidden to enter the Temple or Temple worship; however, God now opens the way for those who had been cut off.
 - The foreigner had felt segregated to the outer court, but now God would welcome the foreigner as one of His own (Galatians 3:28)
 - The eunuch had felt removed from worship because of his physical circumstances, but the Lord would open His house to them.
- The eunuch can represent anyone with a limitation. Limitations should not define God's people (Matthew 19:26)

56:4 A eunuch may have been a castrated male or simply a royal advisor (Matthew 19:11-12). The Lord states that He will bless those who: 1. Keep His Sabbaths 2. Choose to Please God 3. Hold Fast to His Covenant

- The Sabbath includes setting aside work and self-effort for the worship of the Lord. The Jewish Sabbath was scheduled for Saturdays while the Church celebrates on Sundays because Christ was resurrected on the first day of the week (Sundays).
- God's people should be focused on living lives that are pleasing to the Lord instead of satisfying their sinful nature.
- God's people were called to a relational walk with the covenant God (Yahweh); all that is involved in a right relationship with fellowship and honesty should be characteristic of a walk with the Lord. (Isaiah 28:18, 42:6, 49:8, 54:10)
- To "keep the Sabbath" consists of resting, and Jesus fulfilled the Sabbath with His finished work on the cross (Hebrews 4:1-10). God's people can "rest" in Christ's payment for our sin.

56:5 As in any adoption, the Lord will open His house and rename those who belong to Him. Throughout Scripture, as someone is called by the Lord, the individual is renamed for the calling (Abram/Abraham, Sarai/Sarah, Jacob/Israel, Saul/Paul, Simon/Peter). (Revelation 2:17, 3:12)

56:6 But Jews and Gentiles will be blessed who rest in Sabbath of the Lord (Matthew 12:8; Hebrews 4:9-10) and walk in a covenant relationship with the Lord.

56:7 God's church is a "house of prayer" which infers interaction, fellowship and attentiveness (Mt 21:13; Mk 11:17; Lk 19:46).

- The outsiders (foreigners and eunuchs) would also be brought to Zion as they worship joyfully with prayer and dedications.

56:8 Although Israel would be exiled by Assyria and Babylon, the Lord would bring them back to the Promised Land.

- Although Jerusalem would be defeated in 70AD under Vespasian/Titus and Israel would be exiled to a global diaspora under Emperor Hadrian following the Bar Kokhba revolt (132-136AD), the nation of Israel would be reestablished on May 14th, 1948 (Isaiah 66:8; Psalm 90:2; Ezekiel 20:34; Amos 9:14-15)
- **According to Isaiah 56:1, what did the Lord reveal?**
 - **His righteousness (Jesus – Romans 3:21-22)**
 - **God's righteousness did not come through the law, but instead, God's righteousness comes through faith.**

- According to Isaiah 56:5, what will the name that God gives the outsiders be better than?
 - The name that God gives the outsiders (foreigners, eunuchs) will be better than that of sons and daughters.
- According to Isaiah 56:8, who would the Lord gather to Himself?
 - “Others besides those who are gathered to Him.”
 - The Lord would open His Temple worship to the Gentile nations as well.

Read Isaiah 56:9-12...Leadership is Blind & Greedy while the World is Beastly

56:9 Isaiah calls to the wild nations of the world to come and take the resources of Israel. This was occurring at the time as Assyria invaded Israel, and it would occur at a future time when Babylon would invade Judah.

56:10 The leadership of God’s people were supposed to be keep watch against the world, but the leaders of God’s people were ignorant and lazy enjoying spiritual sleep and unable to caution the people of impending danger.

56:11 Every leader of God’s people was greedy without understanding. Instead of following God’s way, they followed their own way (Haggai 1:5, 7; Psalm 119:59; Proverbs 14:12; 16:25). “The dogs are greedy, they are not satisfied, and they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way; each one to his unjust gain, to the last one.”

56:12 Israel’s leaders are symbolized by intoxication who have irrational optimism towards the future.

- According to Isaiah 56:10, who were blind and ignorant?
 - Israel’s watchmen were in spiritual sleep.
- According to Isaiah 56:11, how does God describe the shepherds of Israel?
 - They are greedy and selfish
- According to Isaiah 56:12, why are the leaders of Israel optimistic about the future?
 - The leaders are confused (as if intoxicated), and they plan on taking even more for themselves.

The Sins of God’s People (Isaiah 57-59)	
1. Chapter 57	Adulterous Idolatry
2. Chapter 58	Selfish, Insincere Fasting
3. Chapter 59	Injustice
<i>These may have been written during the reign of King Manasseh – the most wicked King of Judah.</i>	

Read Isaiah 57:1-2...The Death of the Righteous Compared to the Life of the Idolater

- The righteousness in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:20)

57:1 The righteous may die while saving the sinner from the judgment of God. In the case of ethics, the morality of past decades has died off and is viewed as old fashioned while immorality is being paraded and applauded.

57:2 When the righteous die, they enter into peace; however, the unrighteous remain to struggle in the world before being judged by God.

- The righteous are allowed to die instead of experiencing a prolonged existence in a godless world. (1 Kings 14:12-13)

- The rapture might have little effect on the world.
- **According to Isaiah 57:2, what does the righteous experience when they die?**
 - **Peace**

Read Isaiah 57:3-8...Idolatrous Practices

57:3 Those who are left are characterized in three terms: 1. Sorceress 2. Adulterer 3. Prostitute.

- The three definitions of their heritage reference the idolatrous practices.
 - The sorcerer has dealings with occult practices of dark magic.
 - The adulterer had a prior obligation and covenant that was transgressed.
 - The prostitute was one who sold themselves for something in return.

57:4 There is an ancient (immature) practice of sticking the tongue out at one being mocked.

The sin of Israel is generational, secretive and rebellious.

57:5 High places were used to worship Asherah and Baal through licentious acts while offspring from those intimate acts might be offered as sacrifices. The reference of slaughtered children is directed towards Molech worship.

57:6 Any smooth or unique stone might be perverted into a false god that the idolaters worshipped. The idolaters established their own form of worship in any way or time that they desired.

57:7 The High Places were used for Asherah and Baal worship through licentious acts. In the same way, the people had rejected the One True God of heaven for false gods of this world.

57:8 Messages towards times and places for sexual acts of idolatry were being communicated on doors and doorposts (much like a suggestive phone number in a public restroom).

- The Jewish community affixes a mezuzah in their homes to the right side of the door as one enters a room. The mezuzah has Hebrew verses from the Torah (Deuteronomy 6:4–9, 11:13–21) which consist of the Shema (a Jewish prayer) that begins with the phrase “*Hear, O Israel, the Lord (is) our God, the Lord is One*” to fulfil Deuteronomy 6:9.
- Although the doorpost might reflect a faithfulness to God, this verse reveals that behind the doorpost, Israel is worshipping false gods.
- **According to Isaiah 57:4, how did the idolaters respond to the God’s message?**
 - **Idolaters ridiculed and mocked God’s faithful people.**
- **According to Isaiah 57:5, how did the licentious idolaters care for their children?**
 - **The idolaters used their children as human sacrifices by burning them to death in the Valley of Hinnom (Gehenna).**
 - **The Greek word “Gehenna” originates from the Hebrew word “Hinnom” and is used in the New Testament for “hell”.**
 - **The location of Molech later becomes the city dump – Gehenna (Jer 7:31, 19:2-13; Joshua 15:8, 18:16)**

Read Isaiah 57:9-13...Idolaters Trust in Things of the World

57:9 The idolaters “play the political games” of trading oil for perfumes from the King as they send envoys on business trips that end in the death of those going.

57:10 Although the individual running the “rat race” may have been exhaustive by the pursuit of the world’s lies (“the American dream”), they continued to persevere in the pursuit of materialism (1 John 2:16). The world gives a sense of false security.

57:11 The idolatrous workers gave no thought to their Creator nor did they fear Him.

57:12 The righteousness of man will fail.

57:13 God encourages those who took pleasure in worshipping idols to call to their idols in times of need when the very idols will be swept away. This is contrasted to those who walk with the Lord and take refuge in Him.

- **According to Isaiah 57:12, of what benefit is the righteousness of men?**
 - **Man's righteous works are meaningless without God's righteousness.**
- **According to Isaiah 57:13, in what does God tell the idolaters to trust for salvation?**
 - **The same idols that they worshipped during good times; they should trust during the difficult times...to their own destruction.**

Read Isaiah 57:14-18... Yahweh Can Heal and Restore

57:14 A highway will be established for God's people to return to Him as exiled Israel returned to Jerusalem after their Babylonian captivity.

- This is similar to the way of the coming Messiah which would be the spiritual return and reconciliation of God's people. (Isaiah 40:3)
- *"Heap it up"* was typically a call to remove barriers and obstacles from the road of the coming King, but this verse also focuses on removing the barriers of His people who want to come to the King.

57:15 The eternal God whose very name is "Holy" has compassion on the broken hearted. While the Lord Himself is exalted on His throne *"high and lifted up"* (Isaiah 6:1), He also dwells with the lowly and contrite of heart.

57:16 The Lord understands the sinful tendencies and iniquities of His people, but He will not hold onto His anger as His rebellious people die before Him.

57:17 God's anger against His people stemmed from their greed (Proverbs 15:27; Is 57:17; Jeremiah 6:13, 8:10; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 5:3; 2 Peter 2:14), and in spite of His discipline, they continued to pursue their evil, selfish desires (Proverbs 26:11)

57:18 The Lord understands the polluted and perverted hearts of His people, but the Lord compassionately heals, leads and restores the broken hearted. (Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 66:2).

- **According to Isaiah 57:14, how is the way prepared?**
 - **Obstacles and stumbling blocks are removed from the way of the people trying to come to the King.**
- **According to Isaiah 57:15, where does the high and exalted One dwell?**
 - **With the humble, lowly and contrite in spirit.**
- **According to Isaiah 57:17, what sin caused God to angrily strike His people?**
 - **The sin of greed and covetousness. (1 Timothy 6:10; Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:15; Ephesians 5:3; Exodus 20:17; Deuteronomy 5:21; Romans 7:7-8)**

Read Isaiah 57:19-21...The Wicked Have No Peace

57:19 The Lord can provide peace as He heals. The Lord emphasizes perfect peace ("shalom shalom") to those whom the Lord heals; the Hebrew language has no superlative, so repetition is used for emphasis.

57:20 The Gentiles are depicted as "the Sea" (Jude 1:13; Rev 13:1), but God can lift up those Gentiles (evaporation) into Spiritual heights to rain and water the seed. The storm-tossed sea refers to the double minded nature (James 1:6) of man

57:21 *"There is no peace for the wicked," says my God.*" (Isaiah 48:22)

- **According to Isaiah 57:20, what does the sea represent?**
 - **The worrisome lives of the wicked as they are tossed here and there.**

- According to Isaiah 57:21, what will the wicked lack?
 - The wicked have no peace.

Read Isaiah 58:1-5...Fasts That Do Not Please the Lord

58:1 The Lord calls for the transgressions of His people to be trumpeted and proclaimed, so that they will have an accurate view of God’s view of them and not be self-deceived.
 58:2 The Lord chastises the academic head knowledge of His people who want to understand (intellectually) about God without changing their heart and repenting of their sin.
 58:3 God’s people ask why the Lord has not blessed their fasts while on the day of their fasts, they seek to fulfill their own desires while mistreating those around them.
 58:4 Do not expect blessings for doing the right things for the wrong reasons. There are a variety of evidences towards pride and self-focus including strife, anger and demands.
 58:5 God calls His people to true humility instead of showcasing one’s sacrifice.

Read Isaiah 58:6-12...Fasts That Please the Lord

58:6 The purpose of a fast is to focus on God and others (not one’s self). A fast is meant to relieve one of the bonds of sin and addiction.
 58:7 A true fast includes giving to others as a sacrifice of one’s self instead of hiding from the needy through segregation.
 58:8 With a selfless heart, others will see the light of the Lord through the testimony, and their righteousness will have meaning and impact. The Lord will lead his people in front while protecting His people behind (Isaiah 52:12).

The “Fasting” that God encourages is doing His work in spreading freedom in Christ versus bondage to self, flesh, desires (Isaiah 58:6)	
1	To break the chains of wickedness
2	To untie the ropes of the yoke (Mt 11:29-30)
3	To set the oppressed free,
4	To tear off every yoke (Gal 5:1)
5	To share your bread with the hungry
6	To bring the poor and homeless into your house
7	To clothe the naked when you see him
8	To not ignore your own flesh and blood?

Freedom Needs
James 1:27

58:9 If we pursue this “true fasting”, God will then hear our prayers (in contrast to Isaiah 59:2). God calls His people to stop cursing, gossiping and accusing each other.
 58:10 The testimony of God’s people is amplified as they meet the needs of the poor and needy.
 58:11 God provides the Living Water (1 Cor 10:4, Jn 4:4, 7:37). Just as the Lord can cause streams in the desert for His people (Isaiah 12:3; 27:3, 32:2, 35:7, 41:18, 44:27, 48:21, 55:1), He can also remove any water from those who come against Him. (Isaiah 19:8)
 58:12 As with much of Isaiah, this verse might have a near term as well as long-term fulfillment (Isaiah 45:13, 49:17, 20 51:11, 58:12).

- The near-term would be Israelites who arise out of the Babylonian captivity to rebuild Jerusalem (Ezra 3:10-11).
- This might also point to the church age where believers are redeemed in joy and gratitude. (Luke 1:14; John 15:11; Philippians 4:4; 1 John 1:4; Psalm 51:12)

Read Isaiah 58:13-14...Keeping the Sabbath & Delighting in the Lord

58:13 As His people we should forego our will for His; Sabbaths should be days dedicated to His pleasure instead of our own.

58:14 As God’s people pursue the right lives towards God, the desires and wills of His people become increasingly aligned to Him. The Lord proclaims this a truth.

16 Isaiah 59-61

- **The outline of Isaiah 59 follows the three-step redemption process of conviction, confession and salvation.**

Read Isaiah 59:1-8... Conviction of Sin

59:1 The sovereign God can act and the omniscient God can hear what they are saying. God’s lack of action is not because He lacks the power or knowledge of the situation.

59:2 Instead, it is the sin of Israel that is the obstacle. Our sin hinders our prayers; God does not listen when His people are living in sin (Isaiah 1:15; Zechariah 7:13)

The Sins of the Israelites (Isaiah 59:3-13)		
1.	Isaiah 59:3	Hands of Blood (murder/cruelty)
2.	Isaiah 59:3	Spoke Falsehoods (gossip/false doctrine)
3.	Isaiah 59:4	Unrighteous Lawsuits
4.	Isaiah 59:4	Dishonest Positioning for Court/Media
5.	Isaiah 59:4	Trust in Confusion
6.	Isaiah 59:4	Lies
7.	Isaiah 59:4	Wicked Plans of Evil Intent
8.	Isaiah 59:6	Violence
9.	Isaiah 59:7	Rush to Evil
10.	Isaiah 59:7	Hurt Innocent People
11.	Isaiah 59:7	Thoughts of Iniquity
12.	Isaiah 59:8	Chaos and Crooked
13.	Isaiah 59:8	No Justice

59:3 The hand, lips and tongue are being used for sin.

59:4 Misuse of the legislative system; the courtroom is not about justice, but instead it is simply based on word games. The innocent are judged, and the guilty are rewarded.

59:5 An adder is a serpent; those who eat the egg will die, and if one attempts to crush the egg, a dangerous snake comes out. Instead of nourishment from these eggs, they bring death.

59:6 Although spider webs are beautiful and intricate, they are not useful for clothing or cover for safety. In fact, spider webs are death traps for the spider to kill those who are ensnared.

- Man’s attempts of righteousness do not please God

59:7 Instead of God’s people preventing sin, they hurried to be a part of the sin. Instead of thinking on the things of God (Galatians 5:22; Psalm 19:14), their minds meditated on fantasies of sin. (Genesis 6:5)

59:8 Those who followed the wicked leaders did not experience lives of peace. Judah followed sinful idols.

Read Isaiah 59:9-15... Confession of Sin

- 59:9 The hope for light and brightness are not consistent with the dark and wicked lifestyles. The actions reveal that the desire to walk in darkness is stronger than the desire for light.
- Confession requires that an individual view themselves as God see them; the individual sees themselves as they really are.
- 59:10 The descriptions of hopelessness originate from a lack of understanding and sight; Judah was spiritually blind to the will of God. God had provided the light of His Word, but Israel was stumbling in darkness at midday.
- Moses had warned Israel that groping as blind men in the darkness would be Israel's outcome if they turned from the Lord (Deuteronomy 28:28-29).
- 59:11 The violent sinner growls while the peaceful sinner moans sadly; regardless of the individual's disposition, there was no hope for justice or salvation. The sounds betrayed their helpless state.
- 59:12 A confession requires one to acknowledge their sin and fallen state. Even a clear conscious does not justify an individual (1 Corinthians 4:4; Jeremiah 17:9) before an all-knowing God who searches the heart (Romans 8:27; Jeremiah 17:10; Revelation 2:23; 1 Chronicles 28:9). *"For our transgressions are multiplied before You. and our sins testify against us; For our transgressions are with us, and we know our iniquities."*
- 59:13 God's people acknowledged that they had rejected the Lord while speaking rebelliously (a protest); in their hearts, they created lies.
- 59:14 Truth had collapsed in the thoroughfares (among the public), and without truth, justice is denied. Righteousness and uprightness cannot enter where there is no truth among the population.
- 59:15 In this society without truth, a man must either accept, tolerate and encourage the wickedness of the culture (i.e., abortion, homosexuality, licentiousness, etc.) or the man would become a target for the mob, media and merchants. Justice was warped and skewed (Isaiah 42:1-4; 61:8).
- The Lord was attentive to the wicked culture and fallen society, and He was displeased at the lack of justice.

Read Isaiah 59:16-21...Salvation is Only of God

- 59:16 The people had no one to intercede for them, so God provided His own justice. Although God was displeased, He acted in love and compassion.
- The arm of the Lord is the instrument in which God carries out His will.
 - Jesus Christ is the arm of the Lord who works the Father's will on earth (Isaiah 40:10-11, 51:9, 53:1).
- 59:17 Jesus clothed Himself to pursue justice (Eph 6:14-17) in the exact same way that God now clothes His people (Isaiah 61:10).

God Incarnate (Jesus Christ)	
Clothed Himself for Spiritual Battle	
1. Righteousness	Breastplate
2. Salvation	Helmet
3. Vengeance	Clothing
4. Zeal	Mantle

- 59:18 The enemies of God's people would be judged. In those days, God's judgment would have fallen on Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Syria and others. Each person will be repaid for their deeds (1 Peter 1:17)

- 59:19 From the west to the rising of the sun (in the east) would acknowledge God's power; this would include the gospel coming to the Gentiles. The world will know that Jesus is Lord (Isaiah 11:10)
- 59:20 God's people must give up any thought that they might save themselves. Jesus Christ is the Redeemer who saves those who repent (Luke 5:32, 13:3-5, 15:10, 24:47; Acts 2:38, 3:19, 11:18, 17:30, 20:21; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Hebrews 6:1; 2 Peter 3:9 Revelation 2:5, 16, 22, 3:3, 3:19). *"A Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," declares the Lord.*"
- 59:21 God's Word will continue to be in His people, and this is a prophetic promise that God's people would be filled with His Spirit (Jeremiah 31:33-34; Romans 8:13-16). *"As for Me, this is My covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit which is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart from your mouth."*

Read Isaiah 60:1-14...Zion is Esteemed by the World

- **The Remainder of Isaiah is Prophetical Towards a "Better Day" – the Millennium**
- 60:1 Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12; John 1:5-9; 2 Corinthians 4:6). As the sun shines on the people of the world, God the Son also shines on the world.
- 60:2 Without God, there is darkness (Amos 8:11; Ex 10:22). The world is naturally dark when it turns away from the sun, but when it turns toward the sun, the world can see in the light.
- 60:3 Wise men have always sought and followed the light (Mt 2:1-2). The Gentiles of the nations are attracted to the light of Jesus. The Hebrew word "Goiim"/"Goyim" is literally the "nations", but it is used to symbolize the Gentiles.
- 60:4 Gentiles are in the family of God as sons and daughters (Ephesians 1:5).
- 60:5 The "wealth of the nations" will be given to His people (Isaiah 9:1; 60:11, 16; 66:12)
- 60:6 Gold represents "glory/royalty" while frankincense represents "deity/prayer"; no myrrh is mentioned because there will be not death (Mt 2:11)
- 60:7 Ishmael's second son settled in Kuwait (Kedar – Isaiah 21:16) while Ishmael's first son was Nebaioth (1 Chron 1:29)
- 60:8 Some conjecture that this might be those Jews around the world who are flown back to Israel after the rebirth of the nation.
- The immigration of Jews from the global diaspora when returning to the nation of Israel is called "Aliyah" (the Hebrew word for "Ascent").
- 60:9 The islands represent the Gentile nations and Tarshish (an unknown place – possibly Spain or England) represents the wealth of the world (Ps 72:10; Is 40:15, 66:19; Rev 16:20)
- 60:10 God's wrath brought the judgment of exile that utilized foreign powers; however, the Lord can slo utilize foreign authorities to help God's people (Cyrus, Constantine, etc.)
- 60:11 While the closed gate is meant to keep thieves from stealing the treasure of Jerusalem, the open gates would result in on-going tribute from the Gentiles around the world.
- 60:12 The nations of the world must understand God's authority and not deny His people or they will perish (Matthew 25:31-46)
- 60:13 Jerusalem would be as fruitful as the forests of Lebanon who were renown for their beautiful nature. The feet represent the touch point where God interacts with this world. The ark of the covenant would be God's interaction (footstool) with this world (1 Chronicles 28:2; Psalms 99:5, 132:7; Isaiah 66:1).
- 60:14 The pride of the world is futile; all nations will serve the one Lord (Gen 7:9)

60:15 The city of Zion (like faith in the gospel) was despised by the world with few pilgrims finding God's way (Matthew 7:14; John 14:6)

Read Isaiah 60:15-22...God's Blessings Will Follow Affliction

60:16 Part of the term "El Shaddai" is "Shaddai" which literally means "Breast Provider" for nourishment. Whatever is treasured and nourishes other nations will be shared with Jerusalem. When God's people experience the blessings from others, God's people attribute those gifts to the Lord.

60:17 Righteousness will govern, and peace will protect. When society accepts and lives by righteousness, there is a unity to accept God's way instead of uprisings, protests and bribes. When peace is achieved, there is no need for conflict, strife and dissatisfaction.

60:18 Violence will disappear. The refuge of the city is salvation, and the entry of gates is through the praise of God's people.

60:19 Truth will be clearly seen illumined by God (Rev 21:23, 22:5; Eph 5:8); The shekinah glory is a visible manifestation of the divine presence as described in Jewish theology.

60:20 Jesus will be the light for sight and understanding (Revelation 21:23, 22:5). God's word is a light in this world even in dire times (Psalm 119:105; Luke 2:32; John 8:12)

60:21 Israel is the branch that God planted to bring Him glory (Isaiah 53:2)

60:22 When the appointed time comes, God will act quickly and decisively (1 Thes 5:6)

Read Isaiah 61:1-11...Good News for the Afflicted

61:1 Jesus references this verse about Himself (Luke 4:16-21; 7:18-23) which descended on Jesus at the beginning of His ministry with John's baptism (Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 12:32). The term "Messiah" means the "anointed one."

- The Spirit of Yahweh Adonai is referenced; Yahweh is the covenant name "I am" while "Adonai" is the term of respect that Jews utilized to reference Yahweh.
 - "Adonai" is in Scripture 434 times with 200 of those being in Ezekiel.
- This passage speaks of the two-fold position of kinsman redeemer and the avenger of blood.
 - The kinsman redeemer pays for his relative's debt while the avenger of blood settles the debts of others to his relative (Numbers 35; Deuteronomy 19:15, 19).
 - Jesus read this passage (Lk 4:18-19) as it relates to His first coming – Jesus stopped reading before He got to the avenger of blood because that relates to His second coming at the end of time (1 Thessalonians 4:6).
- Jesus came to minister to the outcasts who had no ability to help themselves (the afflicted, broken-hearted, captives, prisoners)

61:2 The year of Jubilee was scheduled every fifty years to free those in bondage and debt while restoring one to their family position (Leviticus 25:10).

- The Jewish belief was that the coming Messiah would be a time of wrath (on the Jewish enemies) and blessing (on the Jews). The 13th day of the 12th month in Esther was a day of Jewish vengeance and blessing – Purim (Esther 9:1).
- In the same way, judgment will be a day of judgment or reward depending if the individual is one of God's people.
- *"To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God."* (Isaiah 63:4) A "year" of mercy contrasted to a "day" of judgment – the Lord's kindness and mercy far outweigh His anger and punishment.

61:3 This verse contrasts judgment with reward from the prior verse. Garland was worn on the head for victory while ashes were put on the head for mourning. Oil was used to celebrate (Psalm 45:7). The energetic praise of joy is contrasted to the weak and tired spirit of those being condemned,

- God’s people are referenced as “oaks of righteousness” with the Planter (predestination) being God Himself. The term “oak” speaks of “strength” as one who will stand for righteousness.

61:4 The kingdom of God involves restoration and revival (Isaiah 49:8; 58:12; 60:10). This was experienced in the short term with the rebuilding of Jerusalem during post-Babylonian captivity.

61:5 Nations will recognize God’s chosen as His priests (1 Pet 2:5, 9; Rev 1:6, 5:10; 20:6)

61:6-7 Foreigners would serve God’s people in the menial daily tasks that free up God’s people to adequately fulfill their calling as priests of the Lord (Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6)

- The first born received a double portion of blessing (Deuteronomy 21:7). God’s people (Israel) are recognized as His firstborn (Exodus 4:22), and the New testament church is called “the church of the firstborn.” (Hebrews 12:23)
- “*Everlasting joy will be theirs.*”

61:8 The Lord loves justice instead of one who steals. The burnt offering was a total dedication, so a thief might steal what had been dedicated to God. The Lord is faithful in His judgment as well as in His love. Israel continually broke the first covenant, so the Lord established a new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-35).

61:9 God’s people were always meant to be a blessing to the world (Isaiah 62:2, 11); God vowed to bless the world through Abraham at the beginning of the Jewish nation (Genesis 12:3).

61:10 Just as in Isaiah 59:17, Jesus clothed Himself in salvation and righteousness – Christians do too (2 Chron 6:41; Eph 6:14-17; Zech 3:4) as Israel is recognized as the bride of Christ (Isaiah 49:18, 62:5; Joel 2:16).

- Throughout Scripture, clothing has spiritual meaning such as the “*robe of righteousness*” (Job 29:14; Revelation 19:8; Isaiah 59:17; 64:6; Psalm 132:9)

61:11 The Lord will bring about righteousness and praise throughout the Gentile nations. (In English translations, LORD is translated Yahweh while Lord is translated Adonai).

17 Isaiah 62-64

Read Isaiah 62:1-12...Zion Will Be Exalted from Desolation

62:1 Zion and Jerusalem are used in parallel, synonymous passages although the Temple is on Mt. Moriah (not Mt. Zion). Mt. Zion represents all of Jerusalem as the abode of God’s people. God’s people are to light the world (Mt 5:14-16) providing understanding in dark times.

Synonymous Terms (Isaiah 62:1)			
Zion	Silent	Jerusalem	Quiet
Righteousness	Brightness	Salvation	Torch Burning

62:2 All nations will recognize the righteousness of God’s followers (Rev 19:6-7), and God will give His people a new name (Rev 21:2, 9-10).

62:3 God’s people will be a crown of glory (Prov 4:9, 16:31; Isaiah 28:5; 1 Pet 5:4)

Synonymous Terms

(Isaiah 62:3)			
Crown of Beauty	Hand of the Lord	Royal Diadem	Hand of your God

62:4 The Hebrew word for “Married” is “Beulah.” God is viewed as the husband of His people just as Jesus is considered the husband of the church in the New Testament (Ephesians 5:23-33)

Acronyms (Isaiah 62:4)	
Forsaken	Desolate
My delight is in her	Married

62:5 God considers his people – His bride. (Isaiah 61:10). “*As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so your God will rejoice over you.*” The most intimate relationships represent the walk with the Lord.

62:6 The watchman represents God’s prophets who foresee future events; however, Jewish Rabbi’s believe the watchmen to be angels (Zechariah 1:12-17).

- God limits His actions to some extent to the prayers of His people (Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 14:13-14, 15:7, 16:23; James 4:2; 1 John 5:14)
 - Several truths of God: Not all answers are answered in the affirmative; Some blessings of God are not given because there is no prayerful request (James 4:3).
- God’s people are priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6, 5:10), and the role of a priest is to represent the people to God. God’s Temple is called the “House of Prayer” (Isaiah 56:7; Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46) and God’s people are “Temples” (1 Corinthians 3:16-19).

62:7 God’s people should watch and pray for Jesus’ second coming (Mk 13:32-37; Rev 22:20)

62:8 The Lord swears by His personal integrity; Jesus’s is the right hand of God which carries out His will on this earth.

- During the millennial rule, Jesus will reign on this earth.
- God will reinstitute His covenant in spite of the past failings of His people (Deuteronomy 28:30-33).

62:9 Although the Lord’s Supper is reminiscent of the Passover meal, it is also representative of the “Fellowship” Offering meal as a communion between God, the priest and the offeror (Deuteronomy 12:18; Revelation 3:20).

- If any were unclean who ate of the Fellowship offering, they would be cut off (Leviticus 7:20), and in the same way, those who partake of the Lord’s Supper must examine himself (1 Corinthians 11:27-30).

62:10 This was analogous to the Post-Babylon exiles returning to Jerusalem (Isaiah 35:8-10, 40:3-4), but it symbolizes the freedom from the sinful bondage as those come to Jesus without stumbling stones. God’s way is higher than man’s way.

62:11 Israel is a testimony to the world as He is faithful to His promises while Israel is unfaithful to Him. God comes to man with love and grace before the carnal man becomes spiritually awakened (Isaiah 40:10).

62:12 Israel is called a uniquely holy people (Exodus 19:5-6) as priests to bring the world to God. The world will worship the Lord during the millennium in Jerusalem.

Isaiah 63:1-4 Inspired the “Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Read Isaiah 63:1-6...God’s Vengeance on the Nations

- **The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus**

63:1 Jesus will be wearing a red stained robe of white (Revelation 19:3) – remember that apparel/garments relate to righteousness. Jesus blood stained garments from Bozrah (also Petra) where Jews will flee from Jerusalem at the Abomination of Desolation to call for Christ (Hosea 6)

- There has already been one model of the “abomination (Deuteronomy 7:25) of desecration” by Antiochus Epiphanes who slaughtered a pig on the altar and erected an image of Zeus in the holy of holies (2 Thessalonians 2:4). In 138 BC, there was a Maccabean Revolt against Greek/Syrian oppression which is celebrated at Hanukkah in remembrance of the purification of the Temple.

- Jesus has the power to save (Matthew 1:21; Acts 15:11, 16:31; 1 Timothy 1:15). *“I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”*

63:2-3 One whose clothing is white has now been stained red with blood (Lamentations 1:15; Joel 3:13; Revelation 14:19-20, 19:13-15). Of God’s people, there was none with Him (on God’s side).

63:4 The exact day of vengeance has been planned beforehand (Hebrews 4:7; Mark 13:32)

- *“For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come.”* (Isaiah 61:2) A “year” of mercy contrasted to a “day” of judgment – the Lord’s kindness and mercy far outweigh His anger and punishment.

63:5 The Lord was astonished to find no one who was pleasing and faithful to Him. God’s arm refers to Jesus Christ who brings salvation and judgment.

63:6 The people being judged staggered under God’s wrath. (Revelation 16:6)

- **According to Isaiah 63:1, what is glorious about the coming One?**
 - **His apparel which represents righteousness and authority (Revelation 19:8)**
- **According to Isaiah 63:3, why is the Lord’s garment red?**
 - **The Lord judges and is covered with the blood from those judged.**

Read Isaiah 63:7-14...God Becomes the Enemy of His People

63:7 The Lord had compassion on Israel and blessed the nation with great goodness.

63:8 The Lord believed that His covenant people would not live deceitfully towards Him, so He brought salvation to Israel numerous times. The Lord desires a true and sincere walk with His people. Jesus relates to the affliction and persecution of His people (Acts 9:4).

63:9 Jesus empathizes with His people and suffered in their suffering. *“The angel of His presence”* walked with Israel literally through the wilderness, the Tent of Meeting and the Tabernacle.

63:10 God became the enemy of His people because of their rebellion. The people grieved His Holy Spirit, so He fought against them. (Jeremiah 21:1-10)

63:11 God sent His Holy Spirit among His people (Isaiah 63:14)

63:12 Jesus, the right arm of the Father, walked with Moses and Israel (Isaiah 51:10).

63:13 The Lord watched after His people in the wilderness, so they would not stumble.

63:14 The Spirit of the Lord led His people to rest in order to glorify His own name.

- **According to Isaiah 63:10, who did God select as an enemy?**
 - **God became the enemy of His people**

Read Isaiah 63:15-19...God’s People Repent & Call Out to God Who Has Forsaken Them

63:15 While God the Father is exalted in Heaven, His sinful people pray for Him to notice them and have compassion.

63:16 Twice (witness) it is emphasized that God is Father and Redeemer. Abraham and Israel had begun as a family long ago, and may not recognize Israel in their fallen, sinful state; however, God's people are praying that he will recognize them as His.

- *“For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed.”*
(Malachi 3:6)

63:17 God is charged with making His people stray and hardening their hearts so that they have no fear of Him (Ephesians 1:11; Psalms 105:25; Jeremiah 32:39-40; Revelation 17:17)

63:18 Although Israel had constructed a Temple for the Lord, it had been pillaged throughout the Kings and would ultimately be demolished by Babylon.

63:19 Israel had fallen to the state of the wicked Gentile who had no relationship with the Lord.

- **Chapters 64-66: Summary of Isaiah**

Read Isaiah 64:1-4...God's People Ask to Experience the Presence of the Lord Again

64:1 God's fallen people prayed for the Lord to open heaven and come down. The presence of the Lord brought victory to Samuel and David (1 Samuel 2:11, 21). The mountains shake in the presence of God. (Matthew 17:20, 21:21; Mark 11:23)

64:2 The Lord's presence is compared to fire that burns worthless brushwood and boils water.

64:3 God's people reminisce on times when the Lord descended in power to assist their cause.

64:4 *“From ancient times no one has heard, no one has listened, no eye has seen any God except You, who acts on behalf of the one who waits for Him.”*

Read Isaiah 64:5-7...Unrighteousness Breaks Fellowship with the Holy God

64:5 The Lord communes with those who enjoy righteousness and walk in His ways.

64:6 Clothing signifies in righteousness, and our personal clothing/righteousness, outside of Christ, is as filthy as a used menstrual cloth (Ez 36:17) whereas His righteousness is truly pure (Isaiah 61:10; Rev 19:8); Adam and Eve attempted to cover their shame with a leaf that was just as inadequate - Gen 3:7 leading to Gen 3:21

- Scripture frequently references the chaff that is carried away by the wind (Psalm 1:4, 35:5, 83:13); burning wind will be their portion (Psalm 11:6, 104:4, 148:8)

64:7 In a fallen nation (or life), people are not able to grasp the Lord (Acts 17:27; Lk 8:44; 11:9-10). Sin needs to be addressed before favor with the Lord is reestablished.

Read Isaiah 64:8-12...Israel's Request for God to Conclude Judgment

64:8 God is the potter shaping us into His vessel (Rom 9:20-23). The worldly vessel and clay pot cannot understand what the potter is crafting, and its purpose. (Isaiah 29:16, 45:9, 64:8; Jeremiah 18:6; Lamentations 4:2). The human vessel (the pot) can be destroyed making it useless (Isaiah 30:14).

64:9 God's people plead for the Lord to see their repentant attitudes, and for the Lord not to remember their past rebellion and sin.

64:10 Although God had dedicated to promised land to His purpose and testimony, the Lord gave them over to destruction after Israel sinned and fell away.

64:11 While Israel was in Babylon, the Temple was annihilated, and then the Temple was destroyed again forty years after Jesus was crucified.

64:12 God's people asked whether the Lord would continue to not act on behalf of His people.

18 Isaiah 65, 66

Isaiah 65-66 focus on the New Heaven and the New Earth which would include the Jews (Isaiah 65) and the Gentiles (Isaiah 66).

Read Isaiah 65:1-10...God's Availability to Israel

65:1 This is God's response to Israel's question as to whether the Lord would forgive their rebellion, so that they could experience Him again (Isaiah 63-64). God was always willing to be found by His people if they only repented and turned from their idolatry.

- Paul uses Isaiah 65:1 to reference the Gentiles and Isaiah 65:2 to reference the Jews (Romans 10:20-21).
- Abraham was called by God without a knowledge of God, but for most of Israel's Old Testament history, they called on God along with other idols. They were not committed and faithful to God alone, so they did not sincerely seek Him.
- Twice, the Lord repeats "*Here am I; Here am I*" because He wants to be found. It has been said that world religions seek after the divine, but Christianity is the Divine seeking after man.

65:2 Jesus hands were spread to all men on the cross to save them from the consequences of following their own thoughts (Judges 21:25; Deuteronomy 6:18, 12:8, 13:18; Proverbs 12:22, 14:12, 16:25)

Six Practices of False Idol Worship that Provoke God (Isaiah 65:3-4)	
1 Sacrificing in gardens	Worship of Trees; High Places under Trees (Isaiah 1:29, 66:17)
2 Burning incense on bricks	Altar (possibly hewn stones)
3 Sitting among the graves	Worship/Communication with the Dead
4 Spending nights in secret places	Hidden Sin in the Dark Depths of Night
5 Eating swine's flesh	Unclean food (Leviticus 11:7)
6 Putting polluted broth in their bowls	Unclean food

65:5 In spite of man's polluted state, the self-sufficient "good" man incorrectly views himself as "holier than thou" (Isaiah 66:5). These people who pretend to be religious are an irritant to the Lord (like smoke in the nostrils).

65:6 The Lord will ensure that unconfessed sin is judged (Galatians 6:7).

65:7 Learned and generational sin would be judged; idolatrous worship in the high places would also be judged. The bosom symbolizes that judgment would occur to the depth of the individual, but it also might be detrimental towards bearing children – the lineage would be affected just as generational sin affects children. (Isaiah 29:13)

Read Isaiah 65:8-10...The Believing Jew That Has Turned to God

65:8 Transition from corporate focus to the individual focus of the New Testament (Ezekiel 18:1-9; Jeremiah 31:31-34). The Lord will not destroy everyone, but will retain a remnant that seek Him.

65:9 God chosen ones are those servants who seek to obey His will.

65:10 Those who seek the Lord will have rest/peace.

Read Isaiah 65:11-16...Judgments on the Wicked & Blessings on the Godly

65:11 Mankind entertains fortune and destiny instead of pursuing the Lord. God’s holy mountain is not a reference to Sinai, but instead it is a reference to God’s relationship with His people on Zion/Jerusalem (Isaiah 66:20).

- Fortune/Destiny are a reference to fortune tellers using astrology, horoscopes and heavenly beings.
- Babylon was renowned for worshipping the heavens which were the origins of the Magi.
- Israel had begun worshipping the “queen of Heaven” – Venus (Jeremiah 7:18, 44:17).

65:12 God spoke to His people, but they did not hear Him; instead, they chose evil (Isaiah 66:4; Jeremiah 35:17; Zechariah 7:13).

Contrast God’s servants to the Rebellious (Isaiah 65:13-15)	
God’s Servants	Rebellious
1. Eat	Hungry
2. Drink	Thirsty
3. Rejoice	Shame
4. Shout Joyfully	Cry Out / Wail
5. Glad Heart	Heavy Heart / Broken Spirit
6. Another Name	Name for a Curse

65:15 God will call His people by a new name (Rev 2:17, 3:12; Is 45:3-4; 62:2; Eccl 7:1)

65:16 Earthly blessing come from the Lord (James 1:17); to “swear by” or take an oath on” reveals authority and certainty/trust. “Former troubles being hidden from God’s sight” is a Hebrew metaphor of forgiveness.

Read Isaiah 65:17-25...The Blessed Condition of the New Jerusalem

65:17 God’s people will spend eternity in a new heaven and new earth (Is 66:22; Rom 8:19-21; 2 Pt 3:10, 13; Rev 21:1).

- Things of this old, corrupt earth will not be remembered when God’s people enter eternity (Eccl 2:16)

65:18 The inhabitants of Jerusalem will be for rejoicing; God’s people are created for gladness.

65:19 As God’s people rejoice and are glad in God, so does God rejoice and is glad in His people. On the New Earth, there will be no more crying – no more tears (Isaiah 25:8, 30:19, 35:10, 51:11, Revelation 21:4)

65:20 In the millennium, death still occurs, but at a very old age. Mortality grows as infant death is eradicated.

65:21 A Hebrew term of blessing was that someone would have their own house, plant their own vineyard and eat their own fruit (2 Kings 18:31-32; Isaiah 36:16-17). Isaiah may have heard Rabshakeh the Assyrian use these very words.

65:22 God’s people will enjoy the fruits of their labor, and enjoy the outcome of their efforts. God’s people would live so long, that they will watch their assets age and depreciate more quickly than they themselves do.

65:24 God will answer the requests of His people before they are even asked (Mt 6:8) – Instantaneous prayer.

65:25 Even in the millennial times, the serpent (sinner) will continue to eat dust (Gn 3:14; Jer 17:13). Men and animals will be reconciled to live in peace (Isaiah 11:6-9)

- This is often misquoted as the lion and the lamb; however, it is the wolf that lies down with the lamb. The lion is associated with the calf.

- These animal pairings are consistent earlier in Isaiah as well (Isaiah 11:6)

Read Isaiah 66:1-2...God Made All of Creation

66:1 At the end times, the earth will be Jesus' footstool (1 Chron 28:2; Ps 110:1; Mt 5:35; Lk 20:43; Acts 2:35, 7:49; Heb 1:13; 10:13)

- The Gentiles were found by God (Romans 9:30)
- Solomon used these words in the dedication of God's Temple (1 Kings 8:27; Acts 7:47-48)

66:2 Creation came through Jesus (John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2; Proverbs 8:22). God looks favorably on someone who has these three characteristics:

- One who is humble (Ps 51:17; Is 57:15)
- One submissive in Spirit
- One who trembles at God's Word

Read Isaiah 66:3-9...Men & Nations Do Both Good and Evil

66:3 Men makes good and bad choices, and God will judge accordingly (Isaiah 66:4). Israel was so far from God that they thought they were morally right when they were pursuing evil.

66:4 God conveys His truth, but men reject God's truth, so the Lord will determine the judgment for each man according to what that man fears.

- God is not impressed with ritual alone, but seeks a sincere walk (Isaiah 65:12)

66:5 Religious men will pretend to be upright while ostracizing those who sincerely fear the Lord and desire to follow His Word. The Lord will shame the hard-hearted men who did not change according to His Word, but instead based their opinions on the man's organizations.

66:6 Jesus would share the truth in Jerusalem and His Temple, and the hard-hearted Pharisees who did not listen to truth will be judged.

66:7 Jesus was born supernaturally (Revelation 12:1-2, 7:4-8). Along the miraculous line of thought is that believing Jews will also come about as will believing Gentiles.

66:8 Israel became a nation on May 14th, 1948 (Psalm 90:2; Ezekiel 20:34; Amos 9:14-15)

66:9 The meaning of this verse is that God brings His plans to pass. A Messiah would come, the Jews would be reestablished in their homeland and Gentiles would come to Jesus Christ.

Read Isaiah 66:10-24...After God's Judgment Comes a New Heaven & Earth

66:10 Those who care about Jerusalem should be glad that the Lord has a plan to reestablish and rebuild the city before ruling from it during the millennium.

66:11 Jerusalem will ultimately provide for the sustenance of the world.

66:12 God will make peace flow like a river (Isaiah 48:18) as He cares for His people.

66:13 God will comfort His people in Jerusalem.

66:14 God's people will understand the way that the Lord works (His hand) and be glad.

66:15 Fire accompanies God to rebuke evil (Is 30:27, Jam 3:6, Jer 5:14, Rev 11:5) The description of God's "whirlwind chariot" is like the vehicle used by Elijah (2 Kings 2:11)

66:16 God's judgment will occur via hell as well as His second coming.

66:17 Those who pursue licentious, idolatrous worship on the high places (Isaiah 65:3) while consuming unclean things will come to an end.

66:18 All of the Gentile nations will come to the Lord; this might be when the nations of the world unite to attack Jerusalem at the end time (Zechariah 12:3, 9; 14:2-3, 16).

66:19 This sign will be similar to the plagues of Egypt, and those who survive will bear witness (testimony) to the surrounding Gentile nations. These countries were located around the Mediterranean in that known world in ancient times.

66:20 Converted Gentiles nations will send Jews back to Israel. Grain often represent God's people – the body of Christ (John 6:32-35; Luke 22:19; Matthew 26:26)

66:21 God will utilize some of the converted Jews for His service. During the millennium, there will be priests and Levites.

66:22 The lineages of God's people will endure before Him just as the heavens and earth endure.

66:23 In the future, all mankind will worship the Lord

66:24 The dead bodies of those in hell, who have rebelled against God, will be a testimony of horror to all mankind (Mk 9:44-48) – their maggots will never die and the fire will never go out (Ps 140:10; Jude 1:7)