

Reformation Fellowship Notes • March 29, 2015
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Handout #5
Isaiah Highlights (Chapters 1-55)

1) Introductory chapters (1-5)

People of Israel are lost and ungrateful (1:2-3).

Like rebellious sons

More stupid than an animal; even an ox knows who feeds him.

God has already disciplined Israel severely (1:5-6).

Does God really need to apply more discipline?

What does God ask? (1:16-17)

Repent and do good.

A day of reckoning is coming (2:12-22).

When God acts, the weakness of the great will become clear.

A righteous remnant will remain (4:3).

Analogy of the vineyard (5:1-6).

God's way of dealing with Israel's rebelliousness.

2) Prophetic warnings against allying with Israel and Aram (6-12)

Isaiah was commissioned as prophet (6:8-9).

Isaiah was sent to Ahaz to warn him not to join the alliance (7:4).

Israel is destined to be great (9:2-7).

A king of Israel will be key for this development.

To prepare Israel for this destiny God is sending foe after foe.

In spite of this his anger, does not turn away (9:12 etc.).

For injustice (10:1-2).

The foes will punish Israel, but those foes will be punished in turn.

Assyria (10:5-7)

The glorious future of the world (11:1-6, 10).

Peace and righteousness

Jews gathered from every part of the world (11:12)

Praise be to God for this.

He turned from his anger (12:1).

3) Destruction of the Nations (13-23)

I understand this section least.

I will not go through it in detail.

Describes the fate of the neighbors of Israel:

Babylon

Assyria

Philistia

Moab

Damascus

Ethiopia

Egypt

Edom

Arabia

Tyre

Wilderness of the Sea

Valley of Vision (This appears to be Jerusalem.)

The nature of the prophecies:

1) Most describe destruction.

a) Short term or long term?

- Sometimes a short term date.
- But sometimes hyperbolic descriptions.
- I think it is long term destruction with short term down payment.

b) Sometimes an upside (a righteous remnant).

4) Destruction of the world (24-27)

The world is destroyed (24:1-6).

Glory to God for pulling off this marvelous chain of events (25:1).

We waited for God to save us and he did it! (25:9)

So let us endure a little longer (26:20-21).

In the end God will care for his people like his vineyard (27:2-6).

5) Prophetic warnings against allying with Egypt (28-35)

Ephraim and Judah deserve punishment.

Charge against Ephraim (28:1-2)

Charge against Judah (28:14-15)

Jerusalem will be besieged (29:3).

But those who try to destroy Israel will fail (29:8).

Don't seek refuge in an alliance with Egypt (30:1-3).

Judah will not listen to God (30:9-10).

God is eager to be gracious (30:18-23).

Egypt can't really help (31:1-3).

Israel has a glorious future (32:1-4).

God will destroy the destroyer (33:1-2).

No more foreign oppressors (33:19-20).

God will completely destroy the nations (34:1-2).

Recompense for the cause of Zion (34:8).

Zion will be made joyful (35:5-6, 10).

6) Historical realization of short-term prophecies (36-39)

Assyrian Siege

The Assyrian messenger belittled Yahweh (36:13-15, 18-20).

Isaiah responds on behalf of God (37:6-7).

Assyrian army leaves suddenly (37:36-38).

Hezekiah's life is extended 15 years (38:5).

Hezekiah showed his treasures (39:1-2).

Prediction of Babylonian captivity (39:6).

7) Only Yahweh is in control of history (40-48).

My people's suffering is coming to an end (40:1-2).

God is firmly in control of what nations do (40:17).

No idol can compare to him (40:18).

Rulers can't compare to him (40:22-23).

But he gives strength to those who wait on him (40:31).

God challenges the idols to make sense of the past and predict the future (41:21-24).

God is producing his servant (42:1-4).

The things God predicted earlier have happened, now new things (42:9).

Gathering his people (43:5-6).

Israel is God's witness that God is God (43:10-11).

No other god can assure what is going to happen (44:7-8).

God announces new things.

God has anointed Cyrus for a historic mission (45:1-3).

He will show that God is the only God (45:5-7).

No other god can show such control of history (45:20-25).

God will make it happen for sure (46:8-11).

Babylon will be punished for arrogance (47:10-11).

Sorcery and astrology will not help you (47:12-15).

God announces new things so they can't say, "I knew that." (48:6-8)

"Leave Babylon!" (48:20-22)

8) Servant is God's agent to bring salvation to the world (49-55).

God's Servant will bring salvation to the ends of the world (49:6).

All the world powers will help bring Israel's children back (49:20-23).

God's Servant is obedient even though humiliated (50:5-7).

The ransomed of the Lord will return (51:11).

You will not drink of God's wrath again; it will be given to your foes (51:22-23).

God has redeemed Jerusalem (52:9-10).

The Servant did not look impressive and was despised, but took our sins (53:1-6).

There will be no more judgment (54:9-10).

No more oppression or fear (54:14).

Seek the Lord while he may be found (55:6-9).

God's word will be a thing accomplished (55:11-13).

9) Worldwide reign of righteousness (56-66)