

# ISAIAH

Prophet of Punishment  
Herald of Hope

**Sunset Adult Education Series**

January 4 - March 22

Written by Dewey Howard

**Read the entire book of Isaiah in preparation for this study.**

What does this book say about God?

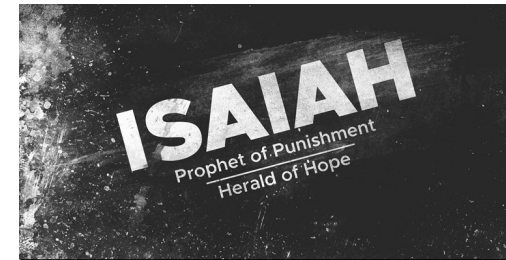
What does the book of Isaiah say about people?

What does the book of Isaiah say about the future?

What does the book of Isaiah say about Jesus?

What themes do you find developing in Isaiah's message?

How will you grow as a disciple from your study?



**Sunday, January 4**

## **Lesson 1**

*Isaiah: The Prophet  
and His Times*

*Introduction to the  
book of Isaiah*

**Read Isaiah 1 - 6 in preparation for this week's study.**

Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

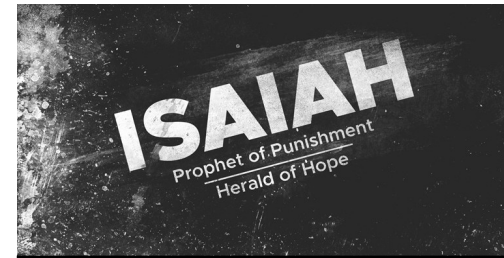
In what ways can you relate with God's view of His people in chapter 1? How might these charges be brought today?

How would you describe the sins of Jerusalem and Judah?

What messages of hope does God give the people in the first six chapters of Isaiah?

Describe the throne room scene. What does it mean to have unclean lips? Why is forgiveness essential in being sent by God?

Where do you find yourself in what Isaiah experienced? What is your need? What is your calling?



**Sunday,**  
**January 11**  
**Lesson 2**  
*When God*  
*Speaks...*

**Read Isaiah 7 - 12 in preparation for this week's study.**

Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

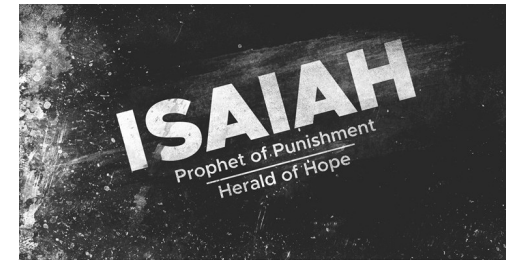
What you do with faith can be your victory or it can bring about your defeat. How does this example of Ahaz bear this out?

When have you found yourself avoiding God, knowing His presence and truth would mess with decisions you had already made without His help?

In what way can God's commands to Ahaz help you in your own crisis of faith: Be careful, keep calm, don't be afraid, and do not lose heart?

Describe what we learn about Jesus from this passage. What description brings you the most comfort? What description challenges you the most?

How does faith cause victory for some and defeat for others? What makes the difference? How do you know whether you are living in victory or defeat?



**Sunday, January  
18**

## **Lesson 3**

*Faith is Your  
Victory or Your  
Defeat*

**Read Isaiah 13 - 20 in preparation for this week's study.**

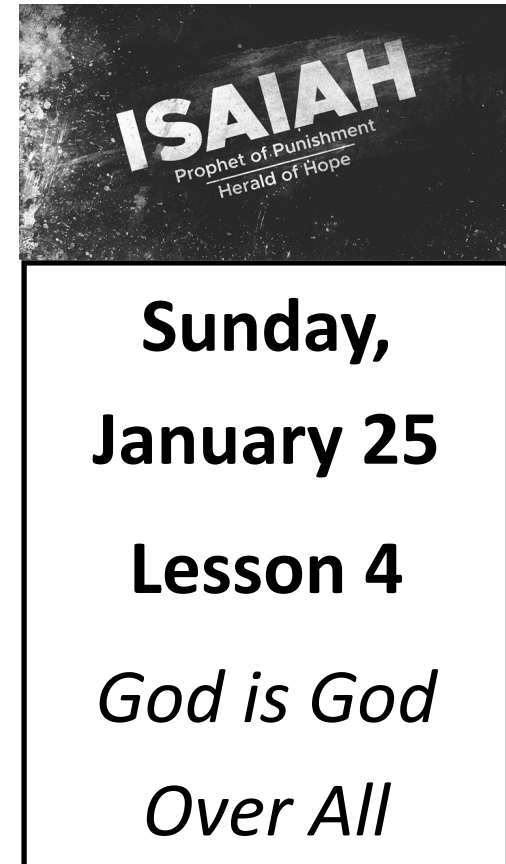
Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

What would be the sins of the following nations?

- Babylon:
- Assyria:
- Moab:
- Damascus (and Israel):
- Cush and Egypt:

What observations can you make about the nations? What observations can we make about God as He deals with the nations?

What parallels are there to the present time we live in?



**Read Isaiah 21 - 27 in preparation for this week's study.**

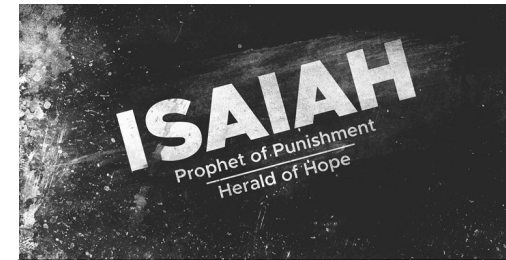
Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

What would be the sins of the following nations?

- Edom:
- Arabia:
- Jerusalem:
- Tyre:

What messages of hope does God bring even in the midst of His judgement on the nations?

What is God's ultimate goal in judging the world?



**Sunday,  
February 1**

**Lesson 5**

*God Has Done  
Wonderful Things*

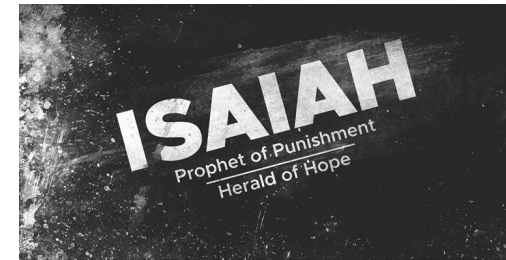
**Read Isaiah 28 - 31 in preparation for this week's study.**

Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

What judgements does God have reserved for the nation of Israel? What makes their judgement worse?

Both Paul (Romans 9:33; 10:11) and Peter (1 Peter 1:6) use Isaiah 28:16 to apply it to Christ and the disciple's faith in Him. Reading this passage in its original context from Isaiah, what lessons do we learn about building a life that will endure?

Jesus saw a parallel between the attitude of God's people in the days of Isaiah and the attitude of God's people in his own day (Matthew 15:7 - 9; Mark 7:6 - 8). This attitude that God is pleased with the mere external professions of His people threatens the life of the church in all generations. How have you found this to be true? In what ways can the "mountain of God" turn into "the realm of the dead" among believers today? How can it be prevented?



**Sunday,  
February 8**

**Lesson 6**

*Judah's House  
of Cards*

**Read Isaiah 32 - 39 in preparation for this week's study.**

Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

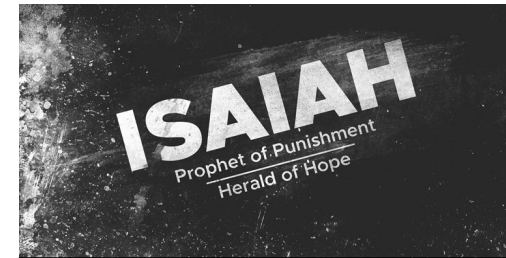
Describe the attack by Sennacherib on the power and character of God?

We have an enemy who, “when he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44). How does our enemy use the same tactics as Sennacherib's field commander?

Why are Hezekiah's actions a godly response to times of crisis? What can help you when you are challenged by your next difficult situation?

What do you find significant about Hezekiah's trusting response to his time of illness? What would you like to emulate in your own life?

Hezekiah was a great man of faith, and yet he showed on at least one occasion that his pride countermanded his trust in God. What warnings or alarms does Hezekiah's example set off for you? How do you pursue keeping pride in check so that trust in God may have control of your life?



**Sunday,  
February 15**

**Lesson 7**

*Isaiah's Case  
Study of Faith  
and Folly*

**Read Isaiah 40 - 44 in preparation for this week's study.**

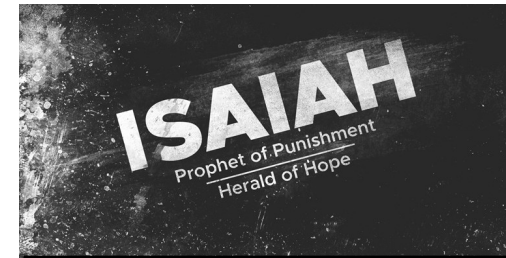
Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

Describe messages of the four voices in Isaiah 40. What do we learn from these four voices?

What images does Isaiah use to illustrate the relationship between God and Israel? What do we learn from these images about the relationship between God and Israel?

In Isaiah 44:6 - 20 he describes the foolishness of idols. What do we learn about idols from this passage? What idols do we tend to follow today? What makes idolatry just as foolish today as it was in the time of Isaiah?

What idols have you had to struggle with in your life? How can God's character and promises help overcome idolatry in our lives?



**Sunday,  
February 22**

**Lesson 8**

*“apart from me  
there is no God”*

**Read Isaiah 45 - 48 in preparation for this week's study.**

Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

What does it mean to be a servant, specifically a servant of God?

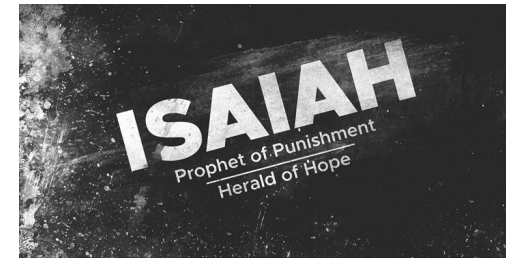
As a servant of God, what tasks was Israel expected to fulfill? (See Isaiah 42:1 - 7; 43:8 - 13; 46:8 - 13)

As a servant of God, how well did Israel fulfill their role as God's servant? (See Isaiah 42:18 - 20; 45:9 - 13; 48:1 - 8; 48:17 - 19)

What was God's promise to Israel as His servant? (See Isaiah 15:1 - 7; 46:1 - 4; 48:9 - 11)

In what ways is God's mission for the church like the mission He gave to Israel? In what ways does God work His mission in us as He did in Israel?

In which aspect of your mission would you most like to grow in?



**Sunday, March 1**

**Lesson 9**

*“for the sake of  
Jacob my  
servant”*

**Read Isaiah 49 - 59 in preparation for this week's study.**

Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

In what ways do discipline, hardships and trials help prepare a person for the mission and service of God? What insight does James 1:2 - 8 help us in this?

How does the description of the Servant in 52:13 - 53:14 fulfill the mission that we read about in chapters 42 and 49?

Although Jesus quoted Isaiah frequently, the Gospels never record that He quoted 52:13 - 53:12. He simply lived it. Even so, this passage is cited more often in the New Testament than any other Old Testament passage. The early Christians considered it the central explanation for Jesus' work on earth.

What phrase is especially significant to you? As you meditate on it, what implication does it have for your life?

How would you describe the peace and healing you have experienced because of the Servant of God?

How will you come to know and appreciate the Servant of God better so that you can become the servant of God for out time?



**Read Isaiah 60 - 66 in preparation for this week's study.**

Summarize your reading. What made an impression on you?

What is the new day coming?

As the book of Isaiah concludes, the Lord describes some of the joys and wonders those who live in the presence of God's glory would experience. Describe each of the aspects of this glorious future.

Renewed Identity (60:15 - 18)

Renewed Presence (60:19 - 22)

Renewed Mission (61:1 - 6)

Renewed Joy (61:7 - 11)

Renewed Honor (62:1 - 5)

Renewed Protection (62:6 - 12)

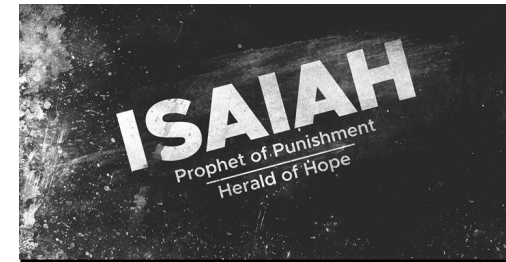
Renewed Compassion (63:7 - 9)

Renewed Submission (64:1 - 8 )

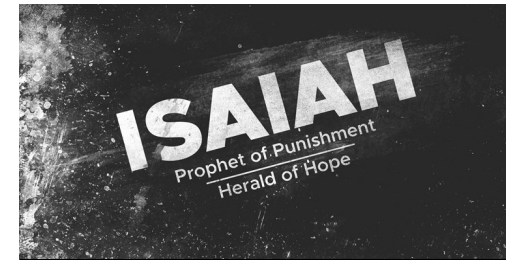
Renewed Call (65:1 - 2, 8 - 9)

Which of these wonders of God's glorious future speak to you the most? How should they shape your life?

Compare Isaiah's reference to "new heavens and a new earth" with Romans 6:4 and 2 Corinthians 5:17. What similarities do you find? What insight do you gain from the new life found in Jesus Christ? What new appreciation do you have for what you have in Christ? How do you experience Isaiah's glorious future of "new heaven and a new earth" today?

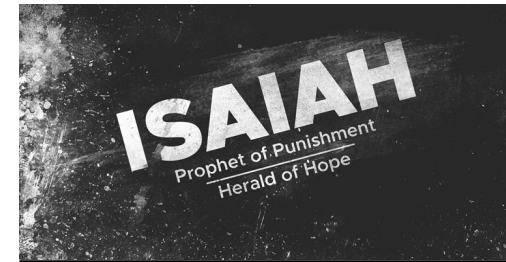


**Sunday,**  
**March 15**  
**Lesson 11**  
*Something*  
*New*



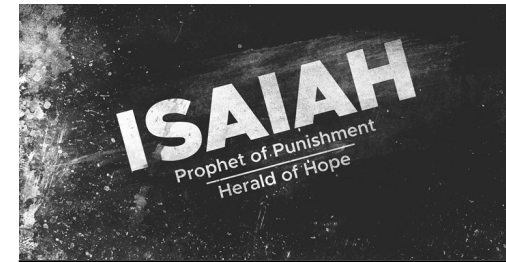
**Notes**

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**Page**



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**Page**