

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



Week #12
Study Guide

Isaiah

Posting date: March 23, 2011

www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Overview

The prophet Isaiah ministered during a time when God's people were in a downward spiral. Isaiah spoke directly to the people, rather than focusing on the king, as did the former prophets. He warned them to turn from their sin and idolatry or face God's judgment. He reiterated God's compassion, mercy, forgiveness, love, and promise of restoration. This book also includes clear prophecies about the coming Messiah.

Scripture Study

Open your Bible and read the following scriptures:

Isaiah 1:16-20

1. Why does God need to be so specific with his instructions?
2. What is God's promise if his people obey these instructions?
3. What does he promise if they disobey?
3. What is the value of God making your sins as "white as snow?" Why is that desirable?

Isaiah 6:1-8

1. What was Isaiah's initial reaction to seeing God?
2. What was the significance of the seraph touching the live coal to Isaiah's lips?
3. Why did God *ask*, "Whom shall I send?" as opposed to just *telling* Isaiah to do it?
4. How did this experience transform Isaiah's life and ministry?

Isaiah 43:1-6

1. Why does God assure us not to be afraid? Why does He care?
2. What does this tell you about the nature of God?
3. How does God want his people to respond to his promises? What does he expect?
4. Is this passage a comfort to you? Explain.

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, 53:1-6

1. What was the value of Messianic prophecy to God's people in Isaiah's time?
2. What was the value of this prophecy as Jesus began his ministry 700 years later?
3. How does *sinfulness* in chap. 53 relate back to what you read in chap. 1?
4. How does this demonstrate how much God loves his people? How much he loves you?

Key Concepts

1. Prophecy is not just prediction of the future, it is a revelation of the nature of God.
2. God has a plan and uses people to accomplish it.
3. God is trustworthy.

As time allows, re-read the scriptures above and discuss how they relate to these key concepts.

Reflection

Isaiah not only gives the people warnings and instructions for daily life, but also gives them hope for the future through revealing the promise of the coming Messiah. Observing how God has repeatedly fulfilled his promises to his people, reflect on how he will do the same for you.

Prayer

Practice a Lectio Divina with ***Isaiah 6:1-8***. If you are in a small group, perhaps ask a different person to do each one of the readings.

First Reading: Listen to the passage for the overall story and context.

Second Reading: Listen for a specific word, or phrase, that stands out to you.

Third Reading: Reflect on how this passage might touch or impact your life right now. Share.

Homework

Read ***Daniel 6:16-23***, in preparation for the sermon on Apr. 9/10, "*Daniel in the Lion's Den.*" Mark words, or phrases, that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections:

