

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



Study Guide

Week #2

“Control vs. Influence”

Isaiah 14:12-15
Bruce Humphrey
October 22/23, 2011

www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-isaiah/

Next Week: *“Reversing the Purity Rules”*
Isaiah 19:18-25
Bruce Humphrey

"Mark Up Isaiah"
Isaiah 14:12-15

Read and reflect on the following scriptures:

Isaiah 14:12-15

*How you have fallen from heaven,
morning star, son of the dawn!
You have been cast down to the earth,
you who once laid low the nations!
¹³ You said in your heart,
"I will ascend to heaven;
I will raise my throne
above the stars of God;
I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly,
on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon.
¹⁴ I will ascend above the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High."
¹⁵ But you are brought down to the realm of the dead,
to the depths of the pit.*

Notes:

Luke 4:5-8

⁵ *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world.* ⁶ *And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to."* ⁷ *If you worship me, it will all be yours."*
⁸ *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"*

Notes:

"Mark Up Isaiah"
Isaiah 14:12-15

Discussion Guide

Scripture

1. Read the Isaiah scripture. To whom is Isaiah referring in this passage?
2. By what power does he think he "ascend to heaven?"
3. Why does this kind of "ascension" seem to be so desirable? Is it really? Explain.
4. Who is the "Most High?"
5. What does this scripture say about God's judgment of those that seek power?

6. Read the Luke scripture. How strong is the devil's power?
7. Can the devil really give what he says he can give? Why or why not?
8. Why would Jesus quote an Old Testament scripture in his response to the devil?
9. What is Jesus trying to teach us as to how we should respond to temptation?

10. Bonus question: Where in the Old Testament is it written, *'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only?'*

Sermon

"Isaiah's warning rings out through the ages: power corrupts. It is the same story throughout history. Whether it is ancient Babylon, the British Empire, or Nazi Germany; empires and nations collapse when they become intoxicated with their own power."
Bruce Humphrey

1. Define the difference between *power* and *influence*.
2. How does power corrupt?
3. What specifically does it corrupt? Who suffers? Does anyone benefit?
4. Share one way you might influence others without exerting power.
5. What do you think the devil is trying to accomplish by the temptation of power over others?
6. What happens to the power the devil has promised when someone succumbs to the temptation?
7. What is God's promise to those that refuse the temptation?

Prayer

Personal: Pray that you would be open to speaking Jesus' love language of humility and sacrifice and that you would be resistant to the temptation of power.

Group: Pray for the gentle influence of your group members on their families, co-workers, communities – that each would strive to be humble servants in the image of Jesus.

