

A rustic wooden study with a window, desk, and bookshelves. The room is filled with warm, dark wood paneling and a large window that lets in bright light. A wooden desk with a chair is in the foreground, and a bookshelf is on the right. The overall atmosphere is quiet and scholarly.

*Judgment and
Salvation*

OUTLINES OF THE CHAPTERS IN ISAIAH

A
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Teaching Series

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Judgment and Salvation

Outlines of the Chapters in the Book of Isaiah

CHAPTER 1:

*The INDICTMENT of the Lord:

- 1) The *ROOT* of their sin-disease (vv23,29; IE, a wicked heart)
- 2) The *FRUIT* of their sin-disease (vv4,15,,21-23)
- 3) The *DESCRIPTION* of their sin-disease:
 - A) God's precious children have become as *REBELLIOUS SONS* (vv2,5-6)
 - B) God's holy nation has become as *SODOM* and *GOMORRAH* (vv9-10)
 - C) God's chosen people have become as a *HARLOT* (v21)
- 4) The *RESULT* of their sin-disease:
 - A) *TEMPORAL* consequences (vv7-9)
 - B) *ETERNAL* consequences (vv20,28,31)

*The CHARACTER of the Lord:

- 1) *He hates mere external formality of worship* (vv11-15)
- 2) *He wants a righteousness that begins inwardly and flows outwardly* (vv16-17)

*An INVITATION from the Lord:

- 1) The *NATURE* of the invitation (vv16-18; IE, to receive cleansing and forgiveness)
- 2) The *RECEIPIENTS* of the invitation (vv15-18; IE, a sinful people)
- 3) The *REQUIREMENT* of the invitation (vv18-20; IE, the necessity of a response)
- 4) The *BASIS* of the invitation (IE, v4d together with 53:6; vv5-6 together with 53:5)

CHAPTER 2:

*A day of SALVATION is coming:

- 1) Its *PROMISE* (v2; IE, a worldwide awakening)
- 2) Its *SCOPE* (v3a; IE, all nations)
- 3) Its *NATURE* (v3b; IE, a true work of grace in the hearts of men)
- 4) Its *INSTRUMENT* (v3c; IE, the Word of God)
- 5) Its *RESULT* (v4; IE, instruments of war become tools of harvest)

*A day of JUDGMENT is coming:

- 1) Its *BASIS* (vv6-8; IE, just punishment for lawlessness)
- 2) Its *NATURE* (vv9-12,19-21; IE, it will be terrible)
- 3) Its *OBJECTS* (vv6ff; IE, includes professing believers inside the church)
- 3) Its *SCOPE* (vv12-17; IE, none will slip through the cracks)

*APPLICATIONS for us:

- 1) Are we *READY* for Christ (vv2,10,12)?
- 2) Are we *WALKING* with Christ (v5)?
- 3) Are we *HOPING* in Christ (v22)?
- 4) Are we *SPEAKING* of Christ (v3-5)?

CHAPTER 3:

*The *NATURE* of the coming judgment (vv1-7,18-26; IE, a physical judgment that typifies the final judgment)

*The *AUTHOR* of the coming judgment (vv1,4,13,17-18; IE, the Lord himself)

*The *OBJECTS* of the coming judgment (vv1,8,12; IE, the unrepentant inside the church)

*The *BASIS* of the coming judgment (vv8-9; IE, bad fruit that evidences a bad root):

- 1) The wickedness of the *MEN* in the church (vv2,8-9)
- 2) The pride of the *WOMEN* in the church (vv16-17)
- 3) The corruption of the *LEADERS* of the church (vv12-15)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) A WARNING: Not all who profess Christ truly know Christ (v11)
- 2) A COMFORT: It is well for the righteous in Christ (v10)
- 3) AN EXHORTATION: How we live now will echo throughout eternity (vv10-11)

CHAPTER 4:

- *The AUTHOR of redemption (v2; cf. 11:1; Zech.3:8; 6:12; *IE, Christ*)
- *The EFFECTS of redemption (v2; *IE, gospel success*; cf. 27:6; 37:31-32; Ps.67:6; Jn.12:24; Col.1:6; 1Thess.2:19-20)
- *The BLESSINGS of redemption:
 - 1) They are *CHOSEN* in Christ (v3)
 - 2) They are *JUSTIFIED* in Christ (v4)
 - 3) They are *SANCTIFIED* in Christ (vv3-4)
 - 4) They will *PERSEVERE* in Christ (vv3,5-6)
- *The OBJECTS of redemption:
 - 1) All will not be saved (vv1,3-4)
 - 2) It is the remnant who will be saved (vv2-3)
- *APPLYING redemption:
 - 1) To all: Are you reconciled to Christ (vv1-4)?
 - 2) To believers: Are you living upon all that is yours in Christ (vv3-6)?
 - 3) To believers: Are you living as though “only what’s done for Christ will last” (v2)?

CHAPTER 5:

- *The BASIS of the coming judgment illustrated (vv1-7)
- *The NATURE of the coming judgment revealed (vv13,26-30; *IE, the exile*)
- *The OBJECTS of the coming judgment described (vv3,7; *IE, Israel and Judah*):
 - 1) The *PRESUMPTUOUS* (vv18-19)
 - 2) The *REBELLIOUS* (v20)
 - 3) The *PROUD* (v21)
 - 4) The *IDOLATROUS* (vv8-12,22-23; cf. Col.3:5-6):
 - A) Loving PROPERTY more than God (vv8-10)
 - B) Loving TEMPORAL PLEASURES more than God (vv11-12,22)
 - C) Loving MONEY more than God (v23)

CHAPTER 6:

- *A few INSIGHTS:
 - 1) The “Woe” of verse 5 is all the more significant against the backdrop of 5:8,11,18,20,21,22
 - 2) This was not Isaiah’s conversion, but his call to the ministry—he was a believer here
 - 3) The coals taken from the brazen altar were soaked with the blood of atonement (v7; Ex.29:28-32)
- *The GOD who commissions:
 - 1) He is *ALMIGHTY* (v1-2,5)
 - 2) He is *HOLY* (v3)
 - 3) He is *GRACIOUS* (v7)
- *The AMBASSADORS who are sent:
 - 1) Have seen the *LORD* (vv1,5; cf. 1Jn.1:1-3)
 - 2) Have felt their *SIN* (v5; cf. Lk.22:60-62)
 - 3) Have received His *FORGIVENESS* (v7; cf. Lk.7:47)
- *The RESULT of the delivered message:
 - 1) The preached Word of God will *HARDEN* many (vv9-12)
 - 2) The preached Word of God will *BRING HOME* the remnant (v13)
- *A few APPLICATIONS:
 - 1) We need to behold both God’s holiness and His mercy for *CONVERSION*:
 - A) Apart from God’s holiness we see no need of a Savior
 - B) Apart from God’s mercy we have no hope for salvation
 - 2) We need to behold both God’s holiness and His mercy for *SANCTIFICATION*:
 - A) He wants us to live in brokenness over our sin (v5)
 - B) He wants us to live in the grace He died to win us (v7)

CHAPTER 7:

- *The INTERPRETATIONS of the text:
 - 1) A *SINGLE fulfillment*:
 - A) The single fulfillment of the prophecy is the birth of Jesus

B) Isaiah's message: "Judah cannot yet be destroyed b/c the Messiah must first come of Judah"

2) A **DOUBLE** fulfillment:

A) The **NEAR/PARTIAL** fulfillment: *A son of Isaiah*

B) The **FAR/COMPLETE** fulfillment: *The Son of God*

I) He would be fully GOD (meaning of Immanuel, v14)

II) He would be fully MAN (a child born of a virgin, v14)

*The **MESSAGE** of the prophet:

1) *The Lord will send SALVATION:*

A) He will deliver His people **TEMPORALLY** from Israel and Aram (vv5-7)

B) He will deliver His people **ETERNALLY** by sending His Christ (v14)

2) *The Lord will send JUDGMENT:*

A) The **INSTRUMENT** of the coming temporal judgment: *The Assyrians (vv17-25)*

B) The **BASIS** of both coming temporal and eternal judgments: *Unbelief (v9)*

*The **APPLICATIONS** for us:

1) *Am I RECONCILED to Christ?*

A) Because **JUDGMENT** is coming to the earth (vv17-25 as a type of coming judgment)

B) Because **SALVATION** has come in a child (v14)

2) *Am I RUNNING to Christ (cf. 2Chron.28:16-21)?*

A) To find all my **SECURITY** (versus training, past success, gifts, reputation, etc)?

B) To deliver me from all my **TROUBLES** (versus a pay-check, insurance plan, etc)?

C) To satisfy all my **LONGINGS** (versus food, etc)?

CHAPTER 8:

*The **DECLARATIONS** of the Lord:

1) *He will JUDGE the earth (vv1-7,9-10,21-22)*

2) *He will SIFT the church (vv5-8,14-15)*

3) *He will KEEP the remnant (vv10,16)*

*The **QUESTIONS** for us:

1) *Am I reconciled to the SON of God (vv14-15)?*

A) Am I submitting to His **WORD** (vv16,20)?

B) Am I walking in His **WAYS** (v19)?

2) *Am I living in the FEAR of God (vv12-13)?*

3) *Am I longing for the GLORY of God (v17)?*

CHAPTER 9:

*The **SALVATION** of the Lord is coming (vv1-7):

1) *The AUTHOR of salvation (vv3,7)*

2) *The PERFECTOR of salvation (v7)*

3) *The IMAGRY of salvation:*

A) **RESTORATION** from exile (v1)

B) **LIGHT** from darkness (v2)

C) **DELIVERANCE** from bondage (v4)

4) *The EFFECTS of salvation:*

A) **GLADNESS** in the Lord (v3):

I) As at the joy of gathering the HARVEST from the field

II) As at the joy of gathering the SPOIL from battle

B) **PEACE** from the Lord (vv5-7):

I) A PRESENT peace with God in Christ

II) A FUTURE universal peace under God in Christ

5) *The BASIS of salvation (vv6-7):*

A) Jesus, the son of **MARY** (*His humanity*)

B) Jesus, the Son of **GOD** (*His deity*)

6) *The DURATION of salvation (v7)*

7) *Final APPLICATIONS:*

A) Calling upon God to do what He has promised in the world

B) Trusting in God to do what He has promised for His people

*The **JUDGMENT** of the Lord is coming (vv8-21):

1) *The AUTHOR of judgment (vv8,11-14,19,21; IE, the Lord)*

2) *The OBJECTS of judgment (vv8-9,21; IE, the unrepentant among God's people)*

3) *The BASIS of judgment:*

A) The **PRESENCE** of great wickedness (vv8-10,16-21)

B) The **ABSENCE** of any repentance (v13)

- 4) *The FORM of judgment (v11-12; IE, temporal judgments as typifying final judgment)*
- 5) *The EXTENT of judgment (vv12,17,21; IE, an unquenchable wrath)*
- 6) *The SATISFACTION of judgment (God's anger only removed in Jesus; cf. 12:1 w/ 11:10; 53:5-8)*
- 7) *Final APPLICATIONS:*
 - A) For those yet unreconciled to God: will you come to Christ today?
 - B) For those reconciled to God through Christ: will you live in the reality of the finished work of Christ (12:1 with 11:10 in light of 9:12,17,21)?

CHAPTER 10:

- *The **RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT** of the Lord:
 - 1) *Its FORM:*
 - A) The Lord will punish Israel with Assyria (vv5-6)
 - B) The Lord will punish Assyria himself (vv12,16-19,33-34)
 - 2) *Its BASIS (vv1-2, 6,12-15)*
 - 3) *Its APPLICATION: A weighty question (v3)*
- *The **SOVEREIGN POWER** of the Lord:
 - 1) *EXTENDS over the rise and fall of kingdoms (vv5-6)*
 - 2) *EMPLOYS men as tools for His purposes:*
 - A) Despite their **CONTRARY MOTIVES** (v7)
 - B) Despite their **UNFOUNDED ARROGANCE** (v15)
 - 3) *NECESSITATES humility and the fear of God*
- *The **SAVING PURPOSES** of the Lord (vv20-27; cf. Rom.9:27-28):
 - 1) *To SAVE a remnant: comforts and encouragements (vv20-22; cf. Matt.11:28-30)*
 - 2) *To save A REMNANT: warnings and exhortations (vv20-22; cf. Lk.13:24-30)*

CHAPTER 11:

- *The **ROYAL LINEAGE** of the Christ (v1)
- *The **LIFE and WORK** of the Christ:
 - 1) *The SOURCE of His POWER (v2)*
 - 2) *The DELIGHT of His SOUL (v3)*
 - 3) *The NATURE of His MINISTRY:*
 - A) He will **VINDICATE** the righteous (v4a)
 - B) He will **JUDGE** the wicked (v4b)
- *The **BLOOD-BOUGHT PROMISES** of the Christ:
 - 1) *He will GATHER His people (vv10-12,15-16; both Jew and Gentile)*
 - 2) *He will TRANSFORM His people (v7c, unclean sinners given new natures)*
 - 3) *He will UNIFY His people (v13; contra 9:20-21):*
 - A) Pictured in the dwelling together of clean and unclean animals (vv6-9)
 - B) Pictured in a joint military conquest between Israel and Judah (vv13-14)
- *The **APPLICATIONS:**
 - 1) *Am I LIVING by the Spirit of Christ (v2)?*
 - 2) *Am I DELIGHTING in the fear of Christ (v3)?*
 - 3) *Am I LONGING for the glory of Christ (vv6-16)?*

CHAPTER 12:

- *The **AUTHOR** of salvation:
 - 1) *The Lord, the STRENGTH of His people (v2)*
 - 2) *The Lord, the SONG of His people (v2)*
 - 3) *The Lord, the SALVATION of His people (v2)*
- *The **NATURE** of salvation (v1)
- *The **BASIS** of salvation (cf. context of 5:25; 9:12,17,21; 11:10):
 - 1) *The atoning work of a DIVINE Savior (v2)*
 - 2) *The atoning work of a HUMAN Savior (cf. 11:10)*
- *The **APPROPRIATE RESPONSE** to salvation:
 - 1) *A heart that TRUSTS in Him (v2; cf. Rom.8:31-32)*
 - 2) *A mouth that SINGS of Him (vv1-2,5-6; cf. Hos.2:15)*
- *The **APPLICATIONS:**
 - 1) *Are you living upon the finished work of Christ, that God's anger has truly been satisfied (v1)?*
 - 2) *Are you drawing fresh strength and grace from the bottomless wells of salvation (v3, cf. Ps.65:9; 2Sam.23:15)?*
 - 3) *Are you experiencing this kind of joy? If not, what would hold you back?*

CHAPTER 13:

*The NATURE of the coming judgment:

- 1) A *SPECIFIC* fulfillment: *Babylon would be judged by the Medes (vv1,17,19-20)*
- 2) A *GENERAL* application: *the world will be judged by God (vv5,11)*

*The AUTHOR of the coming judgment (vv3-6,9,11-13,17; *IE, the Lord*)

*The DESCRIPTION of the coming judgment:

- 1) *It will be SOON (vv6,22)*
- 2) *It will be INESCAPABLE (v7; IE, "all" means none will fall through the cracks)*
- 3) *It will be IMPARTIAL (v7; IE, "all" means both rich and poor, etc)*
- 4) *It will be TERRIFYING (vv7-8)*
- 5) *It will be UNEXPECTED (v8)*
- 6) *It will be HORRIFIC (vv9,15-16,18)*
- 7) *It will be FOREVER (vv19-21)*

*The BASIS of the coming judgment (v11; *IE, God's righteous judgment for sin*)

*APPLICATIONS in light of the coming judgment:

- 1) *Be RECONCILED to Christ*
- 2) *Be READY for Christ*
- 3) *Be RESTRAINED in Christ (IE, leaving all vengeance to the One who knows how to avenge)*

CHAPTER 14:

*A HOLY TAUNT foretold: God's people will be VICTORIOUS over Babylon (vv1-23):

- 1) *The necessary BACKDROP:*
 - A) The COMING of the Babylonian exile (Babylon would be judged for their treatment of God's people)
 - B) The TIMING of Isaiah's writing (Important to note that the Babylonian exile wouldn't take place until over 100 years after Isaiah wrote this)
 - C) The UNDERSTANDING of the place of eternal shame and honor in the Scriptures (cf. Is.45:16-17)
- 2) *Those who TAUNT (v1; IE, both Jewish and Gentile believers):*
 - A) This is never proper in the PRESENT—God's people are called to endure suffering with humility and grace
 - B) But one day soon, at THE JUDGMENT, all those who hated God and His people will be put to shame
- 3) *Those who are TAUNTED:*
 - A) Its NEAR fulfillment: the ruler of BABYLON and his people (vv4,22)
 - B) Its FAR fulfillment: the ruler of THIS WORLD and his people (vv6,9,,12-14,16-17)
- 4) *The APPLICATIONS:*
 - A) *Christian:* wait for the Lord; trust in Him who has promised; and live for your King
 - B) *Unbelieving friend:* don't be found in the city of destruction—learn a lesson from Rahab (Josh.2)

*A SOLEMN OATH taken: God's people will be DELIVERED from Assyria (vv24-27):

- 1) *The BACKDROP of the oath:*
 - A) Assyria would soon exile ISRAEL in the north from their land (cf. 2 Kings 17)
 - B) Assyria would later attempt to exile JUDAH in the south from their land (cf. Is.36-39)
- 2) *The MEANING of the oath:*
 - A) Its NEAR fulfillment: God's people will be delivered from ASSYRIA (v25)
 - B) Its FAR fulfillment: God's people will be delivered from all their ENEMIES (vv25-27; cf. Lk.1:71-75):
 - I) *We have been delivered from the GUILT of our sin in JUSTIFICATION*
 - II) *We have been delivered from the POWER of our sin in REGENERATION*
 - III) *We will be delivered from the PRESENCE of our sin in GLORIFICATION*
- 3) *The CERTAINTY of the oath (vv24,27)*

*An UNEXPECTED JUDGMENT revealed: God's people will be VINDICATED over Philistia

- 1) *The OBJECTS of the judgment (v29; IE, the Philistines)*
- 2) *The DETAILS of the judgment:*
 - A) What we DON'T know:
 - I) *Who had struck the Philistines (v29; House of David? Assyria?)*
 - II) *Who is the flying serpent (v29; Hezekiah? Babylon?)*
 - B) What we DO know:
 - I) *They thought they were safe because their earthly enemies were taken away (v29)*
 - II) *They were unprepared for the judgment that would come from the Lord (vv30-31)*
- 3) *The PROMISE in the judgment (vv30,32):*
 - A) The Lord will PRESERVE His people
 - B) The Lord will PROTECT His people
- 4) *The LESSON of the judgment:*
 - A) Don't trust in any earthly refuge for your security
 - B) Don't forget that the day is soon coming when the Lord will turn the tables (vv30,32)

CHAPTER 15:

*What is one day COMING:

- 1) *The NATURE of the coming judgment:*
 - A) It will be SUDDEN (v1; cf. Matt.24:27)
 - B) It will be PERSONAL (names of individual cities mentioned; cf. Rom.14:12)
 - C) It will be EXHAUSTIVE (v3; cf. Jn.15:2)
- 2) *The APPLICATIONS in light of it:*
 - A) Are you safe in Christ? If no—let Ruth be your pattern (Ruth 1).
 - B) Does it bother you that many are not (v5)?

*What is eternally LASTING:

- 1) *The TRUTH before us (v7):*
 - A) We CANNOT take anything in this life with us
 - B) We CAN live for what will last eternally
- 2) *The QUESTION for us:* Are we living for what will last? Or are we investing in sand-castles?

CHAPTER 16:

*An OVERVIEW: Isaiah is describing the Assyrian invasion of Moab (cf. 10:5, etc)

*A WARNING: A day of destruction is coming quickly (vv6-14)

*An INVITATION: A call to flee from the city of destruction before its too late (vv1-5)

*An EXHORTATION: For God's people to receive the fugitive Moabites (vv2-4; powerful in light of Josh.24:9, etc)

*An EXAMPLE: A prophet who not only faithfully preaches to lost sinners but weeps over them (vv9,11)

*A few QUESTIONS:

- 1) *For SEEKERS:* What would keep you from fleeing to Jesus for refuge?
- 2) *For the CHURCH (vv2-5):* Are we really a city of refuge for fugitive sinners? Do they come to us?
- 3) *For COVENANT FAMILIES:* Same question. Is your family a refuge for fugitive sinners?
- 4) *For BELIEVERS (vv9,11):* Do you travail for souls like Isaiah (vv9,11)? If not, what keeps you from it?

*A few ADMONITIONS:

- 1) *Call upon the Lord to SAVE you*
- 2) *Call upon the Lord to CHANGE you*

CHAPTER 17:

*The BACKDROP of the judgment (see 2Chron.28:5ff; Is.7-8)

*The NATURE of the judgment (vv1-6,9; *IE, devastation and exile*)

*The OBJECTS of the judgment (vv1-4; *IE, Aram and northern Israel*)

*The SENDER of the judgment (v13; *IE, ultimately the Lord is behind it*)

*The BASIS of the judgment (vv7-8,10; *IE, a man-made religion*)

*The RESULT of the judgment (v7; *IE, a true returning to the Lord*)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *The folly of trusting in present successes and security (Israel depended on their strength)*
- 2) *The folly of trusting in any other created thing (Israel depended on Aram)*
- 3) *The folly of trusting in the works of our hands (Israel depended on their man-made altars)*

CHAPTER 18:

*The CONTEXT of the discourse (Again, these prophecies are in context of Assyrian invasions; cf. 10:5)

*The OBJECTS of the discourse (vv2,7):

- 1) *A FEARED people (v2d)*
- 2) *A POWERFUL people (v2e)*
- 3) *An OPPRESSIVE people (v2e)*
- 4) *A PROSPEROUS people (v2f; IE, a land blessed with the nourishment of two rivers)*

*The THRUST of the discourse:

- 1) *JUDGMENT is coming—even to you (vv3-6; cf. Jn.15:2-6)*
- 2) *SALVATION is reserved—even for you (v7; cf. Acts 8:27-38)*

*The APPLICATIONS of the discourse:

- 1) *To ALL (vv5-7):* Have you come to embrace the Lord (warnings and invitations)?
- 2) *To the CHURCH (v7):* Do we long for this? Are we praying for this? Or will another generation get to see it?

CHAPTER 19:

*A prophecy of JUDGMENT:

- 1) *Its AUTHOR (vv2-4,14,16-17; IE, the Lord)*

- 2) Its **OBJECT** (vv1-3,16-17, etc; **IE, Egypt**)
 - 3) Its **MEANS** (v4 cf. 10:5; **IE, Assyria**)
 - 4) Its **EXTENT** (vv7-10):
 - A) Will extend to **FARMERS** in the lush fields (v7)
 - B) Will extend to **FISHERMEN** in the rich waters (v8)
 - C) Will extend to **TEXTILE** manufacturers of beautiful clothing (v9)
 - D) Will extend to **DAY-LABORERS** on the streets (v10)
 - 5) Its **NATURE**:
 - A) The Lord would do to Egypt what they had done to others (v4)
 - B) The Lord would do to Egypt what He had done once before (vv1,5-6 with Exod.7-11; cf. 2Pet.3:3-7)
 - 6) Its **PURPOSE** (vv18-22; **IE, the Lord wounds in order to truly heal**)
 - 7) Its **APPLICATIONS**:
 - A) Only in the Lord can we find true security
 - B) If we tremble **NOW**, we won't have need to tremble **THEN** (vv1,16 with 66:2)
- *A prophecy of **SALVATION**:
- 1) Its **MEANS** (notice v20 in light of Ex.2:23!):
 - A) A crying out to the Lord in **FAITH** (v20a)
 - B) A turning from sin in **REPENTANCE** (v22)
 - 2) Its **SOURCE** (v20b; **IE, a Savior**)
 - 3) Its **MARKS**:
 - A) A new **IDENTITY** (v18a; they are still *in* Egypt but no longer *of* Egypt)
 - B) A new **ALLEGIANCE** (v18b,19,21)
 - 4) Its **EFFECTS** (vv23-25):
 - A) **BITTER ENEMIES** will worship the Savior together (v23)
 - B) **JEW** and **GENTILE** will worship the Savior together (vv24-25)
 - 5) Its **APPLICATIONS**:
 - A) Does **MY LIFE** truly show that I have been reconciled to Christ?
 - B) Does **OUR CHURCH** truly reflect that previously enemies have been reconciled to one another?

CHAPTER 20:

- ***WHAT** the Lord is teaching His people (vv4-6):
- 1) *All earthly hopes will only disappoint (v4)*
 - 2) *All who hope in them will be put to shame (v5)*
 - 3) *Only in Christ is true and lasting security found (v6)*
- ***HOW** the Lord is teaching His people (vv1-3):
- 1) *Not this time through the **PREACHING** of the prophet. . .*
 - 2) *But rather this time through the **SUFFERINGS** of the prophet (v2)*
- ***APPLICATIONS**:
- 1) A **QUESTION**: What would we be tempted to depend upon instead of Christ?
 - 2) A **REMINDER**: Our sufferings are not for no reason—through them God is speaking to the world (v2)
 - 3) An **EXHORTATION**: Am I willing to partake of the reproach of Christ for the glory of Christ (cf. 2Cor.4:7-12)?

CHAPTER 21:

- *The **BACKGROUND** of the passage:
- 1) *The prophet Isaiah is speaking of distant events in the present tense*
 - 2) *Babylon would be the ones who would bring Judah into exile some 100 years later*
 - 3) *But now the prophet speaks of the eventual downfall of Babylon, over 150 years from Isaiah's time*
- *The **VISION** of the watchman (vv1-2,9,13-17):
- 1) *Babylon will be overthrown (vv1-10)*
 - 2) *The fate of Edom (vv11-12) and Ishmael (vv13-17) seem to be bound together with Babylon*
- *The **BURDEN** of the watchman (vv3-5):
- 1) *Isaiah is greatly burdened by the message*
 - 2) *It is significant that he is burdened by the message of the destruction of his enemies*
- *The **DUTY** of the watchman (vv6-8,10):
- 1) *To **WATCH** (8a)*
 - 2) *To **PRAY** (8b)*
 - 3) *To **PREACH** (v10)*
- *The **APPLICATIONS** of the text:
- 1) *Am I safe in Christ from the coming wrath of God?*
 - 2) *Am I living in light of the fact that the world's pomp is quickly coming to an end?*
 - 3) *Do I have a heart that yearns for justice for my enemies, or a heart that breaks for them?*
 - 4) *Am I **WATCHING** for the Lord (v8), **PRAYING** for the lost (v8), **WARNING** those in danger (v10)? If not,*

DON'T try to be a better Christian. . . *RATHER*, claim the finished work of Christ and come to Him afresh, that He might change you once again, doing for you what is impossible for you to do for yourself.

CHAPTER 22:

*The BACKGROUND:

- 1) What we *DON'T* know: WHEN exactly the prophet is referring to (*IE*, Is this the attack of Assyria? Babylon?)
- 2) What we *DO* know: WHAT the prophet is referring to (*IE*, The judgment of Judah, v4)

*The MESSAGE:

- 1) A message to the *CHURCH* of Christ (vv1-14):
 - A) A HOLY JUDGMENT is what the Lord DECREES (vv4-5; *IE*, the Lord will separate sheep from goats)
 - B) TRUE REPENTANCE is what the Lord REQUIRES (vv12-14)
 - C) A LIVING DEPENDANCE is what the Lord DESIRES (vv8-11)
- 2) A message to the *SHEPHERDS* of Christ (vv15-25):
 - A) The Lord knows how to HUMILIATE faithless shepherds (vv15-19)
 - B) The Lord knows how to HONOR faithful shepherds (vv20-25)

*The IMPLICATIONS:

- 1) The Lord *KNOWS* those who are His (vv4-5,14)
- 2) The Lord *WANTS* us to truly trust in Him (vv8-11)
- 3) The Lord *SEES* what man does not see, and will one day reveal much that was hidden (vv15-19)
- 4) The Lord *HONORS* those who honor Him (vv20-25)
- 5) The Lord *USES* those who sow in tears (v4)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) For *ALL*: Are you safe in the ark of Jesus Christ—covered in His blood—ready for His appearing?
- 2) For *BELIEVERS*: Are you living as though you truly believed and trusted in a Living God?
- 3) For *MINISTERS*: Are you seeking to build up Christ's kingdom or your own?

CHAPTER 23:

*The CONTEXT of the oracle:

- 1) Tyre's *LOCATION* was *COASTAL* (v2,6)
- 2) Tyre's *WEALTH* was *INCREDIBLE* (vv1,3; cf. 1K.10:22)
- 3) Tyre's *TRADE* was *WIDESPREAD* (v3)
- 4) Tyre's *INFLUENCE* was *UNDENIABLE* (v7b-8)
- 5) Tyre's *HISTORY* was *ANCIENT* (v7a)
- 6) Tyre's *ENVOYS* were *DISTINGUISHED* (v8)
- 7) Tyre's *SECURITY* was *UNQUESTIONED* (vv5-8,14)

*The MESSAGE of the oracle:

- 1) A *JUDGMENT* foretold (vv1-14):
 - A) Tyre will fall—though no one thought it possible (v8)
 - B) Tyre will fall—at the hands of a foreign power (vv13-14; though whether Assyria or Babylon is uncertain)
 - C) Tyre will fall—because the Lord has decreed it (vv8-9,11-12)
- 2) Of *GRACE* untold (vv15-18):
 - A) Tyre the harlot will be *RESTORED*—because the Lord's mercies run deeper than we ever imagined
 - B) Tyre the harlot will be *SET APART*—her earnings, once used for herself—now wholly dedicated to the Lord

*The SCOPE of the oracle:

- 1) The message is meant to have a wider application than that of just Tyre and Sidon (vv9,11)
- 2) The message is meant for us as well (vv9,11)

*The IMPLICATIONS of the oracle:

- 1) The Lord is much more *POWERFUL* than you may want to think—you can be sure His Word will come to pass
- 2) The Lord is much more *HOLY* than you may want to think—He does not judge according to our standards
- 3) The Lord is much more *MERCIFUL* than you may want to think—He saves those we would resign to damnation

*The APPLICATIONS of the oracle:

- 1) For *ALL*: Have you yet come to Jesus? Today is the day of salvation—Christ can and will restore you
- 2) For *BELIEVERS*: Have you resigned your nation to damnation? Or are you pleading with the Lord to do what He has promised to do?

CHAPTER 24:

*The CONTEXT of the passage:

- 1) The *CONCLUSION* of all the oracles of chapters 13-23, having reference especially to *GENTILE* nations
- 2) The *BEGINNING* of the next section of Isaiah, covering chapters 24-35, having reference especially to *JUDAH*

*The MEANING of the passage:

- 1) Its *NEAR fulfillment*: A description of the judgments inflicted on the nations through Assyria and Babylon

2) *Its DISTANT fulfillment*: A description of the judgments to be inflicted on the unbelieving on the last day

*The EXPLANATION of the passage:

- 1) *The AUTHOR of the coming judgment* (v1; IE, the Lord)
- 2) *The BASIS of the coming judgment* (vv5-6,20; IE, we stand guilty for having broken God's Law)
- 3) *The NATURE of the coming judgment*:
 - A) It is CERTAIN (v3)
 - B) It will be IMPARTIAL (vv2,4,21; IE, *high position in this life will make no difference on that day*)
 - C) It will be INESCAPABLE (v18)
 - D) It will be ETERNAL (v20)
- 4) *The REFUGE from the coming judgment* (vv13-16):
 - A) Isaiah tells us HERE that there will be a remnant who escape (vv6,13-16; cf. 17:5-6, etc)
 - B) Isaiah tells us ELSEWHERE how it is that they will escape (IE, *only through Christ*)

*The APPLICATIONS of the passage:

- 1) *Are you safe in Christ from the coming day of God's righteous judgment?*
- 2) *Are you living in light of the coming day of God's righteous judgment. . . ?*
 - A) Are you FEARING man who perishes (vv4,21; cf. 51:7-13)?
 - B) Are you RESCUING man who perishes (IE, Prov.24:11)?

CHAPTER 25:

*The MESSENGER:

- 1) *A WORSHIPER* (vv1-5)
- 2) *A PREACHER* (vv6-12)

*The MESSAGE:

- 1) *The Lord is a God of JUDGMENT*:
 - A) He is sovereign over TEMPORAL judgments (vv2-5)
 - B) He is sovereign over ETERNAL judgment (vv10-12)
- 2) *The Lord is a God of SALVATION*:
 - A) He is sovereign over TEMPORAL deliverances (vv4-5)
 - B) He is sovereign over ETERNAL deliverance (vv6-9)
 - I) *Its WAY* (vv6-7,10; IE, "this mountain," it is exclusive, that is, only in Christ; cf. Jn.4:22-26)
 - II) *Its OBJECTS* (vv3,6-7; IE, people from every tongue and tribe and nation)
 - III) *Its DURATION* (v8; IE, for all time)
 - IV) *Its BASIS* (vv6-8; IE, WE will feast at His table because HE drank down our punishment)
 - V) *Its BENEFITS* (vv6-8):
 - a) The *present* removal of God's WRATH and JUDGMENT (vv6-9)
 - b) The *future* removal of our SORROWS and REPROACH (v8)

*The APPLICATION:

- 1) *For ALL*: Can you say, with Isaiah, that the Lord is *YOUR* God (v1)?
- 2) *For PREACHERS*: Does my preaching before men in public flow out from my worship before God in private?
- 3) *For BELIEVERS*: Am I feasting on all that I have been given in Christ (vv1,6-9)?
- 4) *For UNBELIEVERS*: You have tasted of His temporal mercies—why not come and taste of His eternal mercies?

CHAPTER 26:

*A BRIEF SUMMARY of the identity of the righteous and the wicked:

- 1) *Every single one of us is born wicked* (Is.59:7ff with Rom.3:10-18; Jn.3:19, etc)
- 2) *None of us need stay in the miserable condition in which we were born* (Is.9:1-4; 55:1-7; Jn.3:16, etc)
- 3) *The only way to become righteous in the eyes of God is through faith in the work of Jesus Christ* (Is.9:6-7)

*A GENERAL DESCRIPTION of the righteous and the wicked:

- 1) *The RIGHTEOUS*:
 - A) They are a HOLY people (vv2,7-8)
 - B) They are a PRESERVED people (vv3-4)
 - C) They are a REGENERATE people (v8)
 - D) They are a FEEBLE people (vv16-18)
 - E) They are a PROTECTED people (vv1,20-21)
- 2) *The WICKED*:
 - A) They do not POSSESS true UNDERSTANDING (v10a)
 - B) They do not PRACTICE true RIGHTEOUSNESS (v10b)
 - C) They do not PERCEIVE true MAJESTY (v10c)

*The PRESENT CONDITION of the righteous and the wicked:

- 1) *The RIGHTEOUS*:
 - A) They are CHASTENED of God (v16)
 - B) They are AFFLICTED by men (v6)

2) *The WICKED:*

- A) They are often SECURE in this life (v5)
- B) They are often PROSPEROUS in this life (v10)

*The FUTURE STATE of the righteous and the wicked:

1) *The RIGHTEOUS:*

- A) They will ESCAPE the wrath of the Lord (vv20-21)
- B) They will BEAR much fruit in the Lord (v19)
- C) They will REIGN together with the Lord (vv1-6)

2) *The WICKED:*

- A) They will be LEVELED to the dust (v5)
- B) They will TRAMPLED under foot (v6)
- C) They will be PUNISHED for their sin (vv11,14,20-21)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *FLEE to the SAFETY of the Savior*
- 2) *CLING to the PROMISES of the Savior*

CHAPTER 27:

*The NECESSITY of salvation:

- 1) *Our PRESENT STATE:* We are—all of us, by nature—at enmity with God (v5)
- 2) *Our FUTURE PLIGHT:* There is a day quickly coming when God will judge the wicked (vv1,4,10-12)

*The AUTHOR of salvation (vv12-13; *IE, the Lord is the One who draws His people to himself in conversion*)

*The PATH of salvation:

- 1) *Evangelical repentance is NOT the MEANS of salvation (v9)*
- 2) *Evangelical repentance is RATHER the MARK of salvation (v9)*

*The BLESSINGS of salvation:

1) *The BENEFITS of the present:*

- A) The Lord's constant PROVISION (v3a)
- B) The Lord's continual PROTECTION (v3b)
- C) The Lord's complete PROPITIATION (v3c)

2) *The PROMISES of the future:*

- A) The Lord will BRING His people safely HOME to his glory (vv12-13)
- B) The Lord will MAKE His people exceedingly FRUITFUL for his glory (v6)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *DONT PRESUME upon the grace of the Lord (vv10-12; Judgment will start with the church; cf. Matt.13:47-50)*
- 2) *DONT NEGLECT the free offer of the Lord (v5)*
- 3) *DONT EVER FORGET the rich benefits and promises given in the Lord (vv3,12-13; cf. Ps.103:2ff)*

CHAPTER 28:

*The PURPOSE of warning of the coming judgment (vv5,23-29):

- 1) *The purpose of passages like this is NOT to drive men to despair and misery*
- 2) *The purpose of passages like this IS rather to yet save men from their despair and misery*

*The NATURE of the coming judgment (v22):

- 1) *The NEAR fulfillment of Isaiah's message is the judgment inflicted through Assyria and Babylon*
- 2) *The FAR fulfillment of Isaiah's message is the great day of judgment (v22)*

*The IMMINENCE of the coming judgment (vv1,4; *IE, Ephraim was ripe for judgment*)

*The OBJECTS of the coming judgment (vv1,7,14):

- 1) *Unrepentant MEMBERS of the church (vv1-4)*
- 2) *Unrepentant LEADERS of the church (v7,14)*
- 3) *Unrepentant members and leaders who presumed they would escape God's judgment (vv15,18)*

*The BASIS of the coming judgment (vv12,15,18):

- 1) *OUTWARD TRANSGRESSION against the Law (vv1,3,7-8)*
- 2) *INWARD UNBELIEF in the Savior (v12)*

*The STANDARD of the coming judgment (vv16-17; cf. Jn.3:36; 5:21-47; 12:44-50; Rom.3:21-26)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *Don't rest until you are sure you belong to Christ (vv15,18, etc)*
- 2) *Never take your eyes off the hope that you have in Christ (v5)*

CHAPTER 29:

*Sober warnings of JUDGMENT:

- 1) *The AUTHOR of judgment:*
 - A) The Lord—the HOLY ONE of Israel (vv1-8, 20-21)

- B) The Lord—the IMPARTIAL JUDGE of the earth (vv1-8)
- C) The Lord—the SOVERIGN KING of glory (v10)
- D) The Lord—the GRACIOUS REDEEMER of His people (vv18-24)

2) *The OBJECTS of judgment:*

- A) The unrepentant INSIDE the church (vv1-4,9-16,20-21)
- B) The unrepentant OUTSIDE the church (vv5-8)

3) *The SIGNS of judgment:*

- A) SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS: *No ABILITY to perceive the Lord of glory (vv9-12)*
- B) OUTWARD FORMALITY: *No DESIRE to seek the Lord of glory (v13)*
- C) RECKLESS AUTONOMY: *No INTENT to acknowledge the Lord of glory (vv15-16)*

*Rich promises of SALVATION:

1) *The NATURE of salvation:*

- A) It is a SUPERNATURAL work that God MUST do (v18)
- B) It is a PROMISED work that God WILL do (vv17-24)

2) *The OBJECTS of salvation:*

- A) Salvation is bestowed upon those who had been spiritually BLIND (vv18,24)
- B) Salvation is bestowed upon those who had been recklessly AUTONOMOUS (v24)

3) *The RESULT of salvation:*

- A) EYES that see instead of spiritual blindness (vv18,24)
- B) A HEART that worships instead of outward formality (v23)
- C) A WILL that yields instead of reckless autonomy (v24)

*Brief words of APPLICATION:

- 1) *Be INSTRUCTED:* As to what God desires—eyes that see, a *heart* that worships, and a *will* that yields
- 2) *Be WARNED:* Judgment is a coming reality—for many inside the church as well as outside
- 3) *Be ENCOURAGED:* You don't have to continue in blindness and hardness of heart—you can call upon Jesus

CHAPTER 30:

*A warning of JUDGMENT:

- 1) *The BASIS of judgment:* The Lord is HOLY God (vv11-2,15) who will punish the guilty (vv12-14; 27-33)
- 2) *The OBJECTS of judgment:*
 - A) Those INSIDE the church who refuse to turn from their sin and trust in the Savior (vv1-17)
 - B) Those OUTSIDE the church who refuse to turn from their sin and trust in the Savior (vv27-33)
- 3) *The SIGNS of judgment:*
 - A) Refusing to TRUST in the Lord (vv1-9)
 - B) Refusing to HEAR from the Lord (vv10-11)
 - C) Refusing to TURN to the Lord (v15)

*A promise of GRACE:

- 1) *The BASIS of grace:* The Lord is a COMPASSIONATE God who will redeem a remnant (vv18-22)
- 2) *The OBJECTS of grace:*
 - A) Those who were formerly dead to GOD (vv20-21)
 - B) Those who were formerly alive to SIN (v22)
- 3) *The MEANS of grace (v19; IE, calling upon the Lord)*
- 4) *The RESULT of grace:*
 - A) A new relationship with GOD (vv18-21):
 - I) New EYES (v20)
 - II) New EARS (v21)
 - III) New DESIRES (v18)
 - B) A new relationship with SIN (v22)
- 5) *The BLESSINGS of grace:*
 - A) God will supply all the necessary MEANS for fruitfulness (vv23,25; cf. 2Cor.9:8)
 - B) God will bring about the intended ENDS of fruitfulness (v23)
 - C) God will surpass all fore-imagined EXTENT of fruitfulness (vv24-26)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *TURN to the Lord:* Whether it means turning to Him for the first time, or returning to Him yet again
- 2) *TRUST in the Lord:* What ways do I take things into my own hands instead of trusting the Lord?
- 3) *LISTEN to the Lord:* What parts of God's Word am I neglecting to listen to or apply to my life?
- 4) *REJOICE in the Lord:* For all that He is, all He has done, and all He has promised to do

CHAPTER 31:

*The CONTEXT of the passage:

- 1) *ASSYRIA is presently setting their sights on attacking Judah*
- 2) *EGYPT is also presently a strong military power*

3) *JUDAH* is thus presently sending gifts to Egypt to enlist their help against the Assyrians

*The MESSAGE of the passage:

1) *The Lord is sovereign in JUDGMENT:*

A) The OBJECTS of judgment:

I) *The Lord will judge the godless JUDEANS (vv1-3)*

II) *The Lord will judge the godless EGYPTIANS (vv2-3)*

III) *The Lord will judge the godless ASSYRIANS (vv8-9)*

B) A PICTURE of judgment (v4; *IE, the Lord is as a LION growling over its prey*)

2) *The Lord is sovereign in SALVATION:*

A) The OBJECTS of salvation (v5; *IE, the remnant of believing Judeans*)

B) A PICTURE of salvation (*IE, the Lord is as a BIRD hovering over its young*)

*The MEANING of the passage:

1) *Both a temporal and eternal JUDGMENT are foretold:*

A) The Lord would judge the nations and unbelieving Judeans though the ASSYRIANS (*IE, under Manasseh*)

B) The Lord will judge both pagans and empty professors on JUDGMENT DAY

2) *Both a temporal and eternal SALVATION are foretold:*

A) The Lord would save Jerusalem from the wrath of the ASSYRIANS (*IE, under Hezekiah*)

B) The Lord will save His believing remnant from the wrath of JUDGMENT DAY

*Some IMPLICATIONS from the passage:

1) *The Lord is impartial, executing judgment inside the church as well as outside—He is good but not safe (v3)*

2) *Our actions reveal more about where our hearts really are than our creeds do (v1)*

3) *There is true gospel hope available to the most grievous offenders—you do not have to continue in sin (v6)*

*A few APPLICATIONS from the passage:

1) *Let the Lord SEARCH you:* What are the ways I have likewise deeply defected (v6)?

2) *Let the Lord HEAL you:* What would keep me from accepting His gracious invitation to return (v6)?

CHAPTER 32:

*A prophecy of the JUDGMENT to come:

1) *Its NATURE:*

A) It will be a day of EXPOSING all to the light (v5)

B) It will be a day of REVERSING all that was wrong (v1.5)

C) It will be a day of PUNISHING all in their sin (v19)

2) *Its OBJECTS:*

A) The fool, the rogue, and the complacent OUTSIDE the church (vv6-14,19a)

B) The fool, the rogue, and the complacent INSIDE the church (vv6-14,19b)

3) *Its SYMPTOMS:*

A) Ungodly SPEECH (vv6-7)

B) Ungodly CONDUCT (vv6-7)

4) *Its ROOT (v6; IE, an unregenerate HEART)*

5) *Its FULFILLMENT:*

A) The NEAR fulfillment: the coming Assyrian judgment (vv9-14)

B) The FAR fulfillment: the coming eternal judgment (v5; *IE, this is still yet to happen*)

*A prophecy of the GRACE to come:

1) *Its SOURCE (v15):*

A) Is NOT in something WE must do—us getting our act together

B) Is RATHER in something GOD must do—Him pouring out His Spirit upon us

2) *Its BASIS (v15 – “from on high;” IE, an allusion to Jesus’ death and resurrection)*

3) *Its RESULT:*

A) A new PERSON (vv3-4,8a):

I) *HEARTS that rightly desire (v8a)*

II) *EYES that rightly see (v2)*

III) *EARS that rightly hear (v2)*

IV) *MINDS that rightly discern (v2)*

V) *TONGUES that rightly speak (v2)*

B) A new IDENTITY (v8; *IE, now called the “noble” man*)

C) A new LIFE (vv2,8b):

I) *That is upright GOD-ward (v8b)*

II) *That is outpoured MAN-ward (v2)*

D) A new DESTINY (vv15-18,20)

*A few words of APPLICATION:

1) *A very real WARNING:* To stay outside of Christ is to bring eternal destruction upon yourself (v19)

2) *A very real HOPE:* There is true hope extended here to true sinners (v9)

3) *A very real EXHORTATION:* To humble ourselves before the Lord (vv9-14) and live for the day of Christ (v5)

4) A very real **COMFORT**: These are not resolutions but declarations—promises for all in Christ (vv1-5,15-18)

CHAPTER 33:

*A prophecy of God's **JUDGMENT** (vv1,11-14):

1) *The FORM of God's judgment:*

- A) A NEAR TEMPORAL destruction through the instruments of the Almighty (*IE, Assyrians, Babylonians*)
- B) As typical of a FAR ETERNAL destruction at the hands of the Almighty

2) *The OBJECTS of God's judgment:*

- A) The unrepentant OUTSIDE the covenant community (vv1-2,11-13a)
- B) The unrepentant INSIDE the covenant community (vv13b-14)

*A prophecy of God's **GRACE** (vv2-10,15-24):

1) *The FORM of God's grace:*

- A) A NEAR TEMPORAL salvation from the wrath of the Assyrians (vv1,10-12,17-20b)
- B) As typical of a FAR ETERNAL salvation from the wrath of the Almighty (vv20c-24)

2) *The OBJECTS of God's grace:*

- A) NOT those who have no sin (v24)
- B) But RATHER frail sinners who have taken refuge in the Savior (vv16b,22-23)

3) *The MARKS of God's grace:*

- A) Men will never be saved BY these things (cf. Rom.3:19-25; Gal.2:16; Eph.2:8-9)
- B) Yet no man will ever be saved WITHOUT them (cf. Rom.8:13,29; Heb.12:14; Tit.2:11-14)

4) *The NATURE of God's grace:*

- A) It ENDURES for all eternity (20c-d)
- B) It COVERS all God's people (20e)

5) *An INVITATION to God's grace (v13)*

*A few **APPLICATIONS**:

- 1) **ALL**: The Lord is not safe, but He is good—*take refuge in Him*
- 2) **BELIEVERS**: The Lord is faithful to fulfill His Word—*trust in Him*

CHAPTER 34:

*The **SUMMARY** of this passage:

- 1) *A day of judgment is coming—and GOD is its AUTHOR (vv2,5-6)*
- 2) *A day of judgment is coming—and the WHOLE WORLD is its SCOPE (vv1-2,5-6; IE, Edom represents all)*

*The **PURPOSE** of this passage:

- 1) *To WARN the unbelieving of what is to come—and bring them to REPENTANCE*
- 2) *To REMIND God's people of what they have been saved from—and draw them to WORSHIP*

*The **WARNINGS** of this passage:

- 1) *The coming judgment is a CERTAIN reality (vv2,16)*
- 2) *The coming judgment is an ETERNAL reality (vv10,17)*
- 3) *The coming judgment is an INDESCRIBABLE reality:*
 - A) Pictured as a military MASSACRE (vv1-6)
 - B) Pictured as a bloody SACRIFICE (vv6-7)
 - C) Pictured as a horrible NIGHTMARE (vv8-10)
- 4) *The coming judgment is a TERRIBLE reality:*
 - A) Where God's ANGER against sin will be poured out in full (vv2-4)
 - B) Where God's PUNISHMENT for sin will be meted out in full (vv5-6)
 - C) Where God's JUSTICE concerning sin will be required in full (vv6-7)
 - D) Where God's VENGEANCE toward sin will be dealt out in full (vv8-10)
- 5) *The coming judgment is an ESCAPABLE reality (v1; IE, for all who flee to Christ)*

*The **COMFORTS** of this passage:

- 1) *The precious TRUTH:*
 - A) What God does NOT do for believers: *PRETEND our sin doesn't exist or isn't that bad*
 - B) What God DID do for believers: *POUR OUT His judgment upon His Son in our place*
- 2) *The specific APPLICATIONS:*
 - A) In Christ, God's ANGER has been fully PROPITIATED (vv2ff; cf. 27:4)
 - B) In Christ, God's PUNISHMENT has been fully EXHAUSTED (vv5ff; cf. 40:2)
 - C) In Christ, God's JUSTICE has been fully SATISFIED (vv6ff; cf. 53:5-8)
 - D) In Christ, God's VENGEANCE has been fully QUENCHED (vv8ff; cf. 51:22-23)

*The **IMPLICATIONS** of this passage:

- 1) *If you do NOT belong to Christ, you are in extreme peril, whether you want to believe that or not*
- 2) *If you DO belong to Christ, you are forever safe, whether you struggle to believe that or not*

CHAPTER 35:

*The MEANING of the blessing:

- 1) *The past blessings of the INAUGURATION*—Christ's first coming TO His people
- 2) *The present blessings of CONVERSION & SANCTIFICATION*—Christ's saving work IN His people
- 3) *The future blessings of GLORIFICATION*—Christ's second coming FOR His people

*The NATURE of the blessing:

- 1) *These are NOT God's COMMANDS for us to try to keep*
- 2) *These ARE rather God's PROMISES to reverse the curse*

*The HEART of the blessing:

- 1) *A promise of RESTORATION (vv5-7)*
- 2) *A promise of GLADNESS (vv1-2,6,10)*
- 3) *A promise of FRUITFULNESS (vv2,6-7)*
- 4) *A promise of HOLINESS (vv8-10)*

*The SOURCE of the blessing:

- 1) *NOT you getting your act together*
- 2) *BUT God pouring out His Spirit (vv6b-7; cf. 41:17-18; 43:19-21; 51:3)*

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *For ALL: Do you feel as a barren wilderness?* Call upon the One who can flood you with streams of living water
- 2) *For BELIEVERS: Do you feel the same?* Call upon Him who can flood you *afresh* with streams of living water
- 3) *For BELIEVERS: Do you grieve for the lost?* Call upon the One who can flood your land with this living water

CHAPTER 36:

*The BACKGROUND to the attack:

- 1) *None of the nations surrounding Judah had stood against the Assyrians—even idolatrous northern Israel (v19)*
- 2) *Now the Assyrians were setting their sights on Judah and Jerusalem*

*The SOURCE of the attack:

- 1) *The attack came from the ASSYRIANS (vv1-3)*
- 2) *The attack typifies that of the EVIL ONE*

*The TARGETS of the attack (vv1-3; *IE, the people of God in Judah and Jerusalem under faithful king Hezekiah*)

*The PURPOSE of the attack:

- 1) *NOT to bless God's people—as the Assyrians would make it appear (vv16-17)*
- 2) *BUT rather to destroy God's people (vv1-2, etc)*

*The STRATEGY of the attack:

- 1) *To RAVAGE God's people with DOUBT (vv13-15)*
- 2) *To PARALYZE God's people with FEAR (vv10,12)*

*The NATURE of the attack:

- 1) *The Evil One ACCUSES us BEFORE God (v7)*
- 2) *The Evil One LIES to us ABOUT God:*
 - A) God's SOVEREIGN RULE over His people—that God is NOT ABLE to save (vv14,18-20)
 - B) God's GRACIOUS DISPOSITION towards His people—that God is NOT WILLING to save (vv7,10)
 - C) God's PROMISED FUTURE for His people—that God is NOT GOING to save (v12, etc)

*The APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *EXPECT Satan to attack*
- 2) *DISCERN what lies he would feed me*
- 3) *CLING to God's truth in the furnace and in the darkness*

CHAPTER 37:

*The AUTHOR of deliverance:

- 1) *He is SOVEREIGN (v16,26-27)*
- 2) *He is LIVING (vv17,21,29)*
- 3) *He is HOLY (vv26-27; IE, in that Samaria was among those fortified cities)*
- 4) *He is PARTICULAR (v16)*
- 5) *He is ZEALOUS (vv22-23)*

*The OBJECTS of deliverance:

- 1) *The SURVIVING remnant of Judah (vv4,31)*
- 2) *The STRUGGLING remnant of Judah:*
 - A) Those who had sinned in the PAST (cf. 2 Kings 18:13-16)
 - B) Those who would yet sin in the FUTURE (2 Chron.32:24)

*The MEANS of deliverance (v21; *IE, prayer to the Lord*)

*The PROMISE of deliverance:

- 1) *A PHYSICAL fulfillment:*

A) Judah will be **SAVED** from their enemies (vv32-35)

B) Judah will yet **FLOURISH** in the land (v31)

2) *A TYPICAL fulfillment:*

A) The true church will be **SAVED** from her enemies

B) The true church will yet **FLOURISH** in the Lord

*The **MOTIVE** of deliverance:

1) *What it was NOT:*

A) For **JUDAH'S** sake

B) For **HEZEKIAH'S** sake

2) *What it WAS:*

A) For the Lord's **OWN** sake (v35a) – In **UPHOLDING** the promises He had sworn by Himself

B) For king **DAVID'S** sake (v35b) – In **CONFIRMING** the promises He had sworn to David

CHAPTER 38:

*The sovereign **AUTHOR** of affliction (vv13,15)

*The needed **TRUTH** in affliction (v17b)

*The gracious **PURPOSE** behind affliction (v19; cf. Ps.119:75,etc)

*The blessed **FRUIT** of affliction (v14; *IE, a greater dependance*)

*A fitting **RESPONSE** to affliction:

1) *PRAYER to the Lord (vv2-3)*

2) *FAITH in the Lord (v20)*

CHAPTER 39:

*The **VISITORS** to Jerusalem:

1) *Had come from Babylon (v1)*

2) *Had come having heard of God's supernatural deliverance (cf. 2 Chron.32:31)*

*The **MESSAGE** of Isaiah (vv6-7; *IE, Judah will one day be exiled to Babylon*)

*The **RESPONSE** of Hezekiah:

1) *The CONTENT of his response (v8a)*

A) How he **SHOULD** have responded (*IE, 38:2-3*)

B) How he **DID** respond (v8a)

2) *The MOTIVE of his response (v8b)*

3) *The REASON for his response (2Chron.32:31)*

*The **APPLICATIONS** for us:

1) *Let the Lord HUMBLE you—in that without his help you can do nothing*

2) *Let the Lord SEARCH you—in what ways you have fallen into sin as Hezekiah did*

3) *Let the Lord COMFORT you—in light of what immediately follows in 40:1*

CHAPTER 40:

*The **CONTEXT** of the message is **INSIGHTFUL**:

1) *Far from a message of CONDEMNATION (in light of chapter 39)*

2) *This is a message only of COMFORT to God's struggling people (cf. Rom.7-8)*

*The **PARDON** of the Lord is **FULL** (vv1-2; cf. 38:17):

1) *Not for everybody (only “My people. . . Jerusalem”)*

2) *But for struggling sinners who take refuge in Christ (cf. again chapter 39)*

*The **POWER** of the Lord is **INFINITE** (vv12,5-26)

*The **PURPOSES** of the Lord are **GOOD** (vv10-11)

*The **WATCHFULNESS** of the Lord is **CONSTANT**:

1) *Though there is much we DO NOT KNOW (vv13-14,27)*

2) *This one thing we CAN KNOW (vv26-28; cf. 27:3)*

*The **PROMISES** of the Lord are **SWEET** (vv29-31)

*The **APPLICATIONS** for us:

1) *If you are in Christ, you can rest in His FINISHED WORK*

2) *If you are in Christ, you can rest in His UNTHWARTABLE PURPOSES*

3) *If you are in Christ, you can rest in His CONSTANT CARE*

4) *If you are in Christ, you can rest in His FUTURE GRACE*

CHAPTER 41:

*The **BACKGROUND** of the text:

1) *The impending CAMPAIGN and CONQUEST of Cyrus of Persia (vv2,5-7,25)*

2) *The impending EXILE and DELIVERANCE of God's people from Babylon (vv9,17-19)*

*The MESSAGE of the text:

1) *The Lord's RULE is over the nations (vv1-7,25-29):*

A) Kingdoms rise and fall according to His WORD (vv1-3,25-26)

B) Kingdoms rise and fall to bring about His PURPOSES (vv1-2,25; cf.45:4; Ezra 1:1, etc)

2) *The Lord's BLESSING is upon His people:*

A) The OBJECTS of the blessing:

I) *A WEAK and FICKLE people whose hope is in the Messiah (v14; IE, "worm Jacob")*

II) *A DRY and NEEDY people whose hope is in the Messiah (vv17-19)*

B) The NATURE of the blessing:

I) *The Lord's PAST PURPOSES for His people (vv8-9)*

II) *The Lord's PRESENT PROMISES for His people (vv10,13)*

III) *The Lord's FUTURE GRACES for His people (vv10,13-20)*

C) The AUTHOR of the blessing (vv17-20; IE, *the Lord must do it*)

*The APPLICATIONS of the text:

1) *TRUST IN the Lord in the midst of uncertainty—He is in control (vv1-7, etc)*

2) *CLING TO the Lord in the midst of weakness and darkness—His Word is truth (vv8-16)*

3) *CALL UPON the Lord when you feel dry—He pours out water in the wilderness (vv17-19)*

4) *LOOK TO the Lord to build His church—He alone can do it (vv17-20)*

5) *SUBMIT TO the Lord if you have not —He is the God of judgment as well as salvation (vv1-7)*

CHAPTER 42:

*The COMMISSIONING of Christ:

1) *Its SOURCE (vv6-7; IE, the Father)*

2) *Its SIGN (v1; IE, the Spirit; cf. Jn.1:32-33; 3:34)*

*The CHARACTER of Christ:

1) *He is a GENTLE SHEPHERD (vv3,16)*

2) *He is a FIERCE WARRIOR (vv13-15,23-25)*

*The WORK of Christ:

1) *Its NATURE:*

A) To usher in SALVATION for all who submit to Him (vv3,16)

B) To render out JUDGMENT for all who rebel against Him (vv13-15,23-25)

2) *Its DURATION:*

A) Inaugurated WITH His earthly ministry (vv1-4)

B) Continues long AFTER His earthly ministry (vv4-12)

3) *Its CERTAINTY:*

A) He will most certainly prevail in JUDGING the WORLD (vv13-15)

B) He will most certainly prevail in SAVING a PEOPLE (vv4,13,16)

*The FLOCK of Christ:

1) *Excludes some INSIDE the covenant community (vv18-25)*

2) *Includes many yet OUTSIDE the covenant community (vv1,4,10-12)*

*The EXHORTATIONS for us (vv10-12,18):

1) *CALL UPON Christ (v18)*

2) *PRAISE Christ (vv10-11)*

3) *PREACH Christ (v12)*

CHAPTER 43:

*The NECESSITY for redemption:

1) *Our ORIGINAL sin—We are born into the guilt of Adam (v27)*

2) *Our ACTUAL sin—We have plenty of sins of our own (v24)*

*The GOD of redemption:

1) *He is the CREATOR of His people (vv1,15)*

2) *He is the SAVIOR of His people (vv3,11)*

3) *He is the REDEEMER of His people (v14)*

4) *He is the HOLY ONE of His people (v14)*

5) *He is the KING of His people (v15)*

*The OBJECTS of redemption (vv22-24; IE, *a sinful and underserving people—even after conversion*)

*The PICTURES of redemption:

1) *The DELIVERANCE of God's people from SLAVERY in Egypt (vv16-17)*

2) *The RESTORATION of God's people from EXILE in Babylon (vv6,14)*

*The BLESSINGS of redemption:

1) *THE PAST DECLARATION (v1)*

- 2) *THE PRESENT TRUTH* (v5)
- 3) *THE FUTURE PROMISES* (vv2,4-5):

*The SCOPE of redemption (vv6-8,19-20; *IE, unclean Gentiles as well as the undeserving Jews*)

*The MOTIVES of redemption:

- 1) *The Lord's PLEASURE in His PEOPLE* (v4):
 - A) They are PRECIOUS
 - B) They are HONORED
 - C) They are BELOVED
- 2) *The Lord's PASSION for His GLORY* (v25)

*A few APPLICATIONS for us:

- 1) *In the midst of the darkness, cling to what Christ has DONE for you* (v1)
- 2) *In the midst of the darkness, cling to what Christ has SAID about you* (v4)
- 3) *In the midst of the darkness, cling to what Christ has PROMISED to you* (vv2,4-5)

CHAPTER 44:

*The CONTEXT of the passage:

- 1) *The EXILE of God's people was coming* (cf. 43:28)
- 2) *The RESTORATION of God's people was promised* (vv26-28)

*The IDENTITY of the Lord:

- 1) *The SOVEREIGN KING of the world:*
 - A) The God of CREATION (v24)
 - B) The God of THE NATIONS:
 - I) *The living God who reigns over the ACTIONS of all* (vv25-28)
 - II) *The living God who reigns over the HEARTS of all* (vv18,28)
 - III) *The living God who reigns over ALL to bring about His purposes* (vv25-26)
- 2) *The SHEPHERD KING of His people:*
 - A) Who KNOWS the PURPOSES He has for His people (v26b-28)
 - B) Who FULFILLS the PROMISES He has made to His people (26a)

*The DECLARATIONS of the Lord:

- 1) *THE PAST TRUTHS:*
 - A) The Lord has CHOSEN His people (vv1-2)
 - B) The Lord has FORGIVEN His people (v22)
 - C) The Lord has REDEEMED His people (vv22-23)
- 2) *THE FUTURE PROMISES:*
 - A) The Lord will HELP His people (v2)
 - B) The Lord will BLESS His people (vv3-5)
 - C) The Lord will RESTORE His people (vv26-28)
 - D) The Lord will NEVER FORGET His people (v21)
- 3) *THE PRESENT REALITY:* The Lord shows forth His glory through His people (v23)

*The APPLICATIONS for us:

- 1) *REMEMBER who He is* (vv21,26-28)
- 2) *REBUKE the lies and fears* (vv2-5,21-23,26-28)
- 3) *RETURN to Him afresh* (v22)

CHAPTER 45:

*The IMMEDIATE CONTEXT of the passage:

- 1) *The EXILE was assumed*
- 2) *A RESTORATION is foretold*

*The COMPLETE SOVEREIGNTY in the Lord's dealings towards His people:

- 1) *The Lord is sovereign from BEGINNING to END* (vv12 & 18,23-25)
- 2) *The Lord is sovereign over both WELL BEING and CALAMITY* (v7)
- 3) *The Lord is sovereign over both PAGAN WORLD POWERS and the CHURCH* (vv1-6 & 4,13-14)
- 4) *The Lord is sovereign both TO SAVE and TO JUDGE* (vv15,17 & 16,22-24)

*The GLORIOUS PURPOSES behind the Lord's dealings towards His people:

- 1) *Israel's implied ACCUSATION* (vv9-10)
- 2) *The Lord's given DEFENSE* (vv9-10):
 - A) In PARTICULAR:
 - I) *He acts in order that CYRUS might know His power* (v3)
 - II) *He acts in order that ISRAEL might experience His power* (v4)
 - III) *He acts in order that THE NATIONS might acknowledge His power* (v6)
 - B) In OTHER WORDS:
 - I) *He acts for the GOOD of His people—Israel's exile would even work for their glory* (vv4,13,17,19,25)

II) He acts for the SALVATION of the nations—Israel's exile would bring life to the world (vv8,11,14)

- *The FORETOLD REALITIES regarding the Lord's dealings towards His people (vv3,4,6,14; cf. Rom.11):
 - 1) *The NEAR restoration:* God would use Gentiles (Cyrus) to restore Israel to in turn bring salvation to the Gentiles
 - 2) *The FAR restoration:* God will once again act in the same way (Rom.11)
- *The APPLICATIONS for us:
 - 1) *Never judge the Lord's dealings by your limited understanding—trust in Him who has promised and who reigns*
 - 2) *Never judge the Lord's dealings by your present circumstances—wait until He is done forming the clay*

CHAPTER 46:

- *The SCOPE of the Lord's deliverance:
 - 1) *The NEAR fulfillment:* Physical deliverance from Babylonian exile (vv1-2,10-11)
 - 2) *The FAR fulfillment:* Eternal deliverance in Christ
- *The OBJECTS of the Lord's deliverance (v3; *IE, the remnant of Israel and Judah*)
- *The MEANS of the Lord's deliverance (v10; *IE, Cyrus, the Gentile ruler of Persia*)
- *The REALITY of the Lord's deliverance:
 - 1) *Unlike other gods who must be carried, the Lord actually CARRIES His people (vv1,3-4,7)*
 - 2) *Unlike other gods who cannot deliver, the Lord actually DELIVERS His people (vv4,7)*
- *The EXTENT of the Lord's deliverance:
 - 1) *The Lord delivers His people FROM THEIR FEARS (vv4,7)*
 - 2) *The Lord carries His people TO THE END (vv1,3-4,7)*
- *The CERTAINTY of the Lord's deliverance:
 - 1) *The Lord's PURPOSES can never be thwarted (vv10-11; cf. Eph.1:5,9,11; Heb.6:17)*
 - 2) *The Lord's PROMISES can never be broken (vv3-4; cf. Heb.6:17)*
 - 3) *The Lord's CHARACTER will never change (v4; cf. Mal.3:6)*
- *An INVITATION to the Lord's deliverance (vv12-13)
- *Some APPLICATIONS for us:
 - 1) *SEEING with the eyes of faith in the midst of darkness and confusion*
 - 2) *CLINGING to the Word of God in the midst of darkness and confusion*

CHAPTER 47:

- *The MESSAGE of the coming judgment:
 - 1) *God's people would be exiled from their land at the hand of the Babylonians (v6)*
 - 2) *But Babylon would soon be exiled themselves from their land at the hand of Cyrus (vv1-3)*
- *The SCOPE of the coming judgment:
 - 1) *The NEAR fulfillment:* God will one day judge BABYLON (vv3-4)
 - 2) *The FAR fulfillment:* God will one day judge the WORLD
- *The OBJECTS of the coming judgment:
 - 1) *They were characterized by sensuality, self-confidence, and idolatry (vv7-8,10,12-13)*
 - 2) *They were highly honored and esteemed in this life (v1)*
 - 3) *They didn't believe that this day would ever come (vv7-8,10)*
 - 4) *They didn't think God was really watching (v10)*
 - 5) *They were mistaken (10)*
- *The NATURE of the coming judgment:
 - 1) *It will be UNEXPECTED (vv7-8,10)*
 - 2) *It will be SUDDEN (vv9,11)*
 - 3) *It will be INESCAPABLE (vv3,15)*
 - 4) *It will be TERRIBLE (v11)*
- *The PROPER RESPONSE to the coming judgment (v1; cf. Jonah 3:4-9)

CHAPTER 48:

- *The THEOLOGICAL DIFFICULTY as we approach this chapter (for me personally):
 - 1) *If Isaiah's hearers are converted Jews, then where is the proof of their regeneration (vv1-2,4-5,8 w/ Acts 7:51)?*
 - 2) *If Isaiah's hearers are unconverted Jews, then why are they given promises and comforts (vv9-11,17,20, w/ v22)?*
- *The POSSIBLE ANSWERS as we study this chapter:
 - 1) *As with any church, this audience is mixed—though as a whole unconverted, promises are given to the remnant*
 - 2) *As it always is with God's work, salvation doesn't begin with man's response, but with God's grace (Rom.5:8)*
- *The SCOPE of redemption:
 - 1) *PARTIALLY fulfilled in the restoration of the Jews to their land*
 - 2) *WHOLLY fulfilled in the reconciliation of God's people through Christ*
- *The OBJECTS of redemption:
 - 1) *A COMFORT:* It is the completely undeserving who are redeemed (vv1-8)

2) A **WARNING**: It is not everyone who is redeemed (v22)

*The **SOURCE** of redemption:

- 1) The **COMING** of Christ (alluded to in v16d)
- 2) The **CROSS** of Christ (fore-pictured in v21c)

*The **PATH** of redemption:

- 1) The Lord **REFINES** His people (vv10-11)
- 2) The Lord **LEADS** His people (v17)
- 3) The Lord **PROVIDES** for His people (v21)
- 4) The Lord **BLESSES** His people (vv17-19)

*The **MOTIVES** of redemption:

- 1) His passion for His **GLORY** (v11)
- 2) His love for His **PEOPLE** (v14)

*The **APPLICATIONS** for us:

- 1) **BE HUMBLED** for your sin
- 2) **BE AWESTRUCK** by His grace

CHAPTER 49:

*The **NATURE** of salvation:

- 1) A **TEMPORAL** fulfillment in the deliverance of God's people from their bondage in Babylon (vv8,17-19)
- 2) An **ETERNAL** fulfillment in the deliverance of God's people from their bondage to sin (vv5,9)

*The **SOURCE** of salvation:

- 1) This coming Servant is not **GOD'S PEOPLE** elsewhere also referred to as the Lord's "servant":
 - A) Because He is described as **BRINGING BACK** the **REMNANT** of God's people (v5)
 - B) Because He is described as **BEING HATED** by the **MAJORITY** of God's "people" (v7)
- 2) This coming Servant is not **CYRUS** elsewhere also portrayed as the Lord's servant:
 - A) Because He is described as conquering with His **MOUTH** rather than a **SWORD** (v2)
 - B) Because He is identified as (being part of) **ISRAEL** rather than **PERSIA** (v3)
 - C) Because He is characterized by seeming **DEFEAT** rather than incredible **SUCCESS** (v4)
 - D) Because He is represented as restoring Gentile **NATIONS** rather than just ethnic **ISRAEL** (v6)
- 3) This coming Servant is the **MESSIAH** himself:
 - A) Who was **CHOSEN, HONORED, and COMMISSIONED** by His Father (vv1,3,5,7)
 - B) Who would be **DESPISED and REJECTED** by ethnic Israel (v7)
 - C) Yet who will certainly be **CROWNED** with the reward of His sufferings (vv5-7v12,20-23)

*The **PLAN** of salvation:

- 1) The commissioning of the **FATHER** (vv6-12; cf. Ps.2:7-8)
- 2) The response of the **SON** (vv1-6)
- 3) The application for the **CHURCH** (vv13-26)

*The **POWER** of salvation:

- 1) The **EVIL ONE** who holds the world in his power is indeed strong (vv24-26)
- 2) The **MIGHTY GOD** who has promised is infinitely stronger (vv7,12,24-25; cf. Lk.11:21-22; Rom.1:16)

*The **SCOPE** of salvation:

- 1) The Messiah will gather His flock from among the **JEW**S (vv5-6; cf. Rom.11)
- 2) The Messiah will gather His flock from among the **NATIONS** (vv1,6-7,12)

*The **PATH** of salvation:

- 1) Like their King, God's people will at times be **AFFLICTED** (vv7,13,16)
- 2) Like their King, God's people will at times feel **PERPLEXED** (vv4,14)

*The **DAY** of salvation:

- 1) When we will see He has dealt with us in total **FAITHFULNESS** despite feelings of abandonment (vv7,18-23)
- 2) When we will see He has lavished upon us untold **FRUITFULNESS** despite fears of barrenness (vv18-23)

*The **APPLICATIONS**:

- 1) Believe in the Lord's **PURPOSES** for **GOOD**
- 2) Believe in the Lord's **POWER** to **SAVE**

CHAPTER 50:

*The **DESPERATE PLIGHT** of man:

- 1) A complete **INABILITY** to obey the Lord (v1)
- 2) A treacherous **UNWILLINGNESS** to obey the Lord (v2a)

*The **OVERCOMING POWER** of God (vv2-3)

*The **GRACIOUS PROVISION** in Christ:

- 1) The **MANNER** of His life (vv4-5; cf. Ezra 7:10):
 - A) A **LISTENING EAR** (v5a)
 - B) A **SUSTAINING WORD** (v4)

C) A DEVOTED WALK (v5b)

- 2) The *PURPOSE* of His birth (vv5-6)
- 3) The *HOPE* in His death (vv7-9; cf. Rom.8:33-34)

*The **CLOSING WORDS** of the text:

- 1) To those who *RECEIVE* God's Servant:
 - A) Their present **CONDITION** is stated (v10a)
 - B) A tender **COMFORT** is given (10b)
- 2) To those who *REJECT* God's Servant:
 - A) Their present **CONDITION** is stated (11a)
 - B) A terrible **WARNING** is given (11b)

CHAPTER 51:

*The **THEOLOGICAL DIFFICULTY** as we approach this passage (once again, for me personally):

- 1) *The prophet is here speaking especially to the remnant of God's people—true believers (vv1,7)*
- 2) *Yet he speaks of them as having been made to drink the cup of God's wrath (vv17,20-22)?*
- 3) *In other words—is this passage teaching us that God at times pours out His wrath on His children?*

*The **POSSIBLE ANSWERS** as we study this passage:

- 1) *The remnant were only a small fraction of a larger church that had become a synagogue of Satan*
- 2) *The remnant now being addressed are a different generation than those who were made to drink the cup of exile*
- 3) *The remnant at times are made to know severe temporal miseries to keep them from coming eternal miseries*

*The **OVERALL STRUCTURE** of the passage:

- 1) An **INITIAL MESSAGE** from the Lord to His people (vv1-8)
- 2) The **RESPONSE** of God's people to the Lord (vv9-11)
- 3) An **SECOND MESSAGE** from the Lord to His people (vv12-23)

*The **PRESENT STRUGGLE** of God's people:

- 1) Their **QUESTION**:
 - A) Why does everything seem so dark and God seem so silent. . .?
 - B) Has He altered His **PURPOSES**? Has He forgotten His **PROMISES**?
- 2) Their **PRAYER**:
 - A) For God to awaken once again (v9)
 - B) For God to deliver His people as He did from Egypt long ago (vv9-10)

*The **DIVINE MESSAGE** of deliverance:

- 1) In **SHORT**:
 - A) The Lord hasn't forgotten His people—*It's His people who have forgotten to trust in their God (vv12-13)*
 - B) The Lord isn't finished with His people—*The end of the story is still yet to come (vv3,14)*
- 2) In **DETAIL**:
 - A) The Lord would remind His people of **PAST DELIVERANCE**:
 - I) *The Lord faithfully fulfilled His promises to ABRAHAM when they had seemed impossible (vv1-2)*
 - II) *The Lord powerfully saved His people from PHAROAH when it had seemed impossible (vv9-10)*
 - B) The Lord would strengthen His people with **PRESENT TRUTHS**:
 - I) *His anger has been fully SATISFIED (vv21-22)*
 - II) *His salvation will last FOREVER (vv5-6)*
 - C) The Lord would sustain His people with **FUTURE PROMISES**:
 - I) *He will yet graciously restore them to their LAND (v14)*
 - II) *He will yet greatly multiply their SEED (vv1-2,4-5)*
 - III) *He will yet grant an abundant outpouring of BLESSING (v3)*

*The **SOLE BASIS** of deliverance:

- 1) *Israel's sin was not atoned for through the EXILE to Babylon (vv21-22)*
- 2) *Israel's sin would only be atoned for through the REDEMPTION in the Messiah:*
 - A) He would **COME TO** His people (v16)
 - B) He would **SUFFER FOR** His people (52:13ff)

*The **FULL SCOPE** of deliverance:

- 1) *The remnant among ETHNIC ISRAEL (v17)*
- 2) *The remnant among ALL NATIONS (vv4-5)*

*The **APPLICATIONS** for us:

- 1) *Are we trusting in what Christ has DONE?*
- 2) *Are we trusting in what Christ has PROMISED TO DO. . . ?*
 - A) For US
 - B) For the NATIONS

CHAPTER 52:

*The deplorable **BACKGROUND** of redemption:

- 1) *We are slaves to sin just as God's people were slaves in EGYPT (v4a)*
- 2) *We are slaves to sin just as northern Israel were slaves in ASSYRIA (v4b)*
- 3) *We are slaves to sin just as southern Judah would be slaves in BABYLON (v5)*

*The given PICTURES of redemption:

- 1) *RELEASE from CAPTIVITY (vv1-2,11-12)*
- 2) *VICTORY in BATTLE (vv7-8)*

*The astounding NATURE of redemption:

- 1) *The display of the POWER of GOD (10). . .*
- 2) *Through the sufferings of the SON of GOD (vv13-15)*

*The blood-bought EQUIPMENT of redemption:

- 1) *Christ has given His BATTLE ARMOR to His redeemed warriors (v1a,12)*
- 2) *Christ has given His HOLY ROBES to His redeemed priests (v1b,11)*

*The promised RECEIPIENTS of redemption:

- 1) *That Christ will gather a people is not a mere HOPE*
- 2) *That Christ will gather a people is an absolute CERTAINTY (v15)*

*The wide-scale SCOPE of redemption:

- 1) *A people gathered from among ETHNIC ISRAEL (v1)*
- 2) *A people gathered from among GENTILE NATIONS (vv10,15a)*

*The present PROCLAMATION of redemption:

- 1) *The CROSS of Christ was necessary for redemption to be completely ACCOMPLISHED for sinners*
- 2) *The PREACHING of Christ is necessary for redemption to be effectually APPLIED to sinners (vv7,15)*

*The APPLICATION of redemption:

- 1) *REJOICE in His FINISHED WORK (vv9-10)*
- 2) *TRUST in His RIGHTEOUSNESS (v1b,11)*
- 3) *FIGHT in His STRENGTH (v1a,12)*
- 4) *PREACH of His GLORY (vv7-8)*

CHAPTER 53:

*The IDENTITY of the Savior (in short):

- 1) *The Jews' bold CLAIM:* Isaiah 53 is a description of Gentile nations speaking about the nation Israel. . .
 - A) The entire nation of Israel—not the Messiah—are the ones described as suffering in Isaiah 53
 - B) The nation of Israel would suffer for the sake of/on behalf/at the hands of the Gentile nations
 - C) And it is these Gentile nations who are speaking (about the nation Israel) in 53:1-10
 - D) As a result of Israel's suffering (in exile), the Gentile nations will be “made just” (v11; by instruction, etc)
- 2) *Our respectful RESPONSE:* This interpretation of Isaiah 53 does not work. . .
 - A) Naturally: The plain reading of the text is clear—to even understand this interpretation makes ones brain hurt
 - B) Contextually:
 - I) *In Isaiah it is not the Gentile nations—but Israel—who are in need of the Lord's redemption (52:4; ch.59)*
 - II) *Israel was not sent into exile despite their innocence, but precisely because of their sin (53:9)¹*
 - C) Exegetically:
 - I) *Though Israel is often referred to in the singular, this sufferer is clearly an individual (52:14;53:3)²*
 - II) *To say the Gentile nations are speaking creates massive problems for the “my people” of verse 8³*
 - D) Theologically:
 - I) *Did Israel voluntarily offer themselves to be given over to suffering as the Servant did here (vv7,10,12)²*
 - II) *How was Israel's suffering in exile ever vicarious (“sprinkling,”52:10; “guilt offering,”53:10 w/ Lev.4-6)⁴*

1 Though Israel did in a sense suffer the exile without cause—as it related to the excessive oppression inflicted upon them by the Gentiles (52:5)—yet the total absence of violence or deceit spoken of in verse 9 is not bound to or directed toward any group in particular (IE, “. . .he had done no violence to us”) but is spoken of the one(s) suffering in general terms—as standing before God, as it were; which cannot be said of Israel, who were exiled precisely because of their *violent* (same word used in Is.59:6; Jer.6:7) and *deceitful* (same word used in Jer.5:27; 9:6,8) dealings with the Lord (cf. 2 Kings 17:7-23 for the reason for the exile; whole of Is.59 for extent of Israel's sin).

2 To say the one suffering in Isaiah 53:1-10 is a group of people is to bid farewell not only to Isaiah's intent but to all meaning of language. Yes, Israel is often referred to in the singular throughout the Hebrew Scriptures, no doubt about that. But there is much more than that here. The suffering one is emphatically called a man (52:14; 53:3), for which one must engage in exegetical gymnastics to render this as anything but an individual. Further, the only other occurrence of “land of the living” in Isaiah is a reference to physical death (38:11).

3 This is so, first of all, in harmonizing the supposed Gentile nations (*plural*) who are speaking in vv1-10 with the singular “my people” of verse 8 (now just one Gentile nation?). This is especially problematic in light of the fact that the first person singular in the context of Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is *always* the Lord (“My servant,” 52:13; “My righteous servant,” 53:11; “Therefore I will. . .” 53:12). There is no reason to take verse 8 any differently. Further, taking the “my people” of verse 8 as (all of a sudden) a particular Gentile nation is extremely problematic because of the 25 occurrences in Isaiah of “my people,” the speaker is always either the Lord or the prophet, and never a Gentile individual or nation. In fact, you cannot find this phrase coming from the lips of Gentiles even *once* over the course of the entire corpus of prophetic literature. Of the 136 times that “my people” occurs from Isaiah to Malachi, it is *always* either the Lord or the prophet speaking, never a Gentile person or nation. The Jewish interpretation is not only exegetically violent but truly dishonest.

4 The “sprinkling” of 52:10 is never elsewhere in the OT translated any differently (than “sprinkling” or “splashing”) and is a technical term for what the OT priests would do with blood, oil, or water for atonement, consecration, or ceremonial cleansing. “Guilt offering”

III) How does this fit with God's promise to rather punish those nations that oppressed Israel (51:23 etc)?²⁵

*The DESCRIPTIONS of the Savior:

1) The *SHOOT* & *ROOT* of Jesse (v2; cf. 11:1,10):

A) As *SHOOT* He came from David—the *SON* of David & *FULFILLMENT* of the promises (Lk.1:69)

B) As *ROOT* He existed before David—the *LORD* of David & *FOUNDATION* of the promises (Lk.20:41ff)

2) The *ARM* of the Lord—the *POWER* of God for salvation (v1; cf. 51:9; 52:10; Jn.12:37-38)

3) The *LAMB* of God—the *PROVISION* of God for salvation (vv7,10; cf. Jn.1:29)

4) The *SERVANT* of the Lord—the *PROMISED ONE* of God for salvation (v11; cf. 42:1; 49:1-6; 52:13; Rom.15:8)

*The NATURE of the Savior:

1) Fully *DIVINE*: He is *ONE WITH* the Father as being the arm of the Lord (v1)

2) Fully *HUMAN*: He is *DISTINCT FROM* the Father as growing up before the Lord (v2)

*The LIFE of the Savior:

1) The *MEEKNESS* of His character (v2a)

2) The *FORM* of His appearance (v2b)

3) The *RESPONSE* to His ministry:

A) *WHAT* it was:

I) He was *HATED* (v3a,d)

II) He was *REJECTED* (v3a,c)

III) He was *BELITTLED* (v3d)

IV) He was *PERSECUTED* (vv4-5,7)

V) He was *KILLED* (vv5,7-9,12)

B) *WHY* it was that way:

I) Because *MEN* refused to *BELIEVE* His message (v1a; cf. Jn.12:37-38)

II) Because *GOD* refused to *REVEAL* His glory (1b; cf. Jn.12:39-40)

*The SUFFERINGS of the Savior:

1) Their *IMAGERY*:

A) The Messiah would be *EXILED* as Israel was from their land (v8)

B) The Messiah would be *SACRIFICED* as animals were on the altar (52:15; 53:7,10)

2) Their *EXPLANATION*:

A) Every single one of us *DESERVES* the wrath of God for our *SINS* (vv5-6)

B) The Messiah came to *ABSORB* the wrath of God in our *PLACE* (vv5-6,8)

3) Their *NATURE*:

A) Unimaginable *PHYSICAL* torment (vv4-10)

B) Unimaginable *SPIRITUAL* torment (vv5-6,11):

I) *It wasn't the crown of thorns and nails He was afraid of in the garden (cf. Lk.22:44)*

II) *It was the full weight of the wrath of God for millions of sinners condensed down into a few hours*

4) Their *EFFECT*:

A) *WHAT* it will be: *SPIRITUAL OFFSPRING* for Christ (v10c)

B) *HOW* it will be: *SAVING FAITH* in Christ (v11)

*The EXALTATION of the Savior:

1) The Christ will be *RAISED* from the dead (vv8-10)

2) The Christ will be *GIVEN* all authority (v10e; cf. Matt.28:18)

3) The Christ will be *EXALTED* before His Father (52:13; 53:12; cf. Phil.2:9-11)

*The APPLICATIONS for us:

1) *Are you safe in Jesus?*²

2) *If so, are you living in the peace He suffered to win for you (v5)?*

3) *Are we believing the truth that Christ will draw His lost sheep home (v10)?*

4) *Are we praying for the Jews now, as they once so fervently prayed for us (Ps.67)?*

(53:10) reinforces the intended meaning of “sprinkling” given in 52:10; it is likewise a technical term that harkens back to Leviticus 5-6. The vicarious nature of the Servant’s sufferings are again spoken of in vv4-5, 11-12, and are put forth with such clarity, that some Jewish interpreters concede the meaning to be that Israel (as a nation) did indeed in some way suffer vicariously for the Gentiles; while others, attempting to avoid the theological questions that would arise with that conclusion, astonishingly interpret verses 4-5 as the Gentiles’ *misunderstanding* of Israel’s exile-sufferings as being vicarious for them. This is a remarkable explanation: the vicarious sufferings described in this chapter were the misguided and misunderstood reflections of the Gentiles on the nature of Israel’s exile-sufferings!!

5 In other words, theologically it makes no sense to say that Israel would suffer for the sins of the Gentiles in order to redeem them/heal them/make them just. The whole thrust of Isaiah’s message is that God’s people would be disciplined *for* their sins *but* in the end would be redeemed, while their Gentile oppressors would be destroyed. We end with a quote from Michael Brown in *The Gospel According to Isaiah 53*, that fittingly sums up both the enormous complexity of the Jewish position, while at the same time reminding us of the solemn reality that lies behind their position: “We have seen in this chapter that, according to many traditional Jewish interpreters, the Gentile nations misinterpreted the (apparently) vicarious sufferings of the (relatively speaking) righteous Jews in exile. This is a step in the right direction, but it is not quite on target. What has really happened is that the people of Israel misinterpreted the truly vicarious sufferings of the totally righteous Jew.”

CHAPTER 54:

- *The **CONTEXT** of the gospel's advance:
 - 1) *At the exile Israel was BARREN*—having no children: a metaphor for fruitlessness looking backwards (v1a,b)
 - 2) *At the exile Israel was DESOLATE*—having no husband: a metaphor for hopelessness looking forwards (vv1c,4)
- *The **PROMISE** of the gospel's advance (vv1,3; *Carey's EXPECT great things*):
 - 1) *The NEAR fulfillment*: the church will be more fruitful through and after exile than before it (cf. Hag.2:3,9)
 - 2) *The FAR fulfillment*:
 - A) **EITHER**: the true remnant will one day be more in number than the empty professors within her. . .
 - I) *Meaning the entire CHURCH in general?* In the NT church, the believing will no longer be a remnant
 - II) *Meaning ethnic ISRAEL in particular?* In the end, believing Jews will outnumber unbelieving Jews
 - B) **OR**: the children of grace will one day be more in number than the unconverted in the world (cf. 11:9)
- *The **PICTURES** of the gospel's advance:
 - 1) *Israel's SEED multiplied and established* (vv1,13; cf. Ezek.36:37-38 & Rev.7:9-12)
 - 2) *Israel's LAND expanded and built up* (vv2-3; 11-12; cf. Ezek.40-48 & Rev.21:2,10-14)
- *The **MEANS** of the gospel's advance (v2; *Carey's ATTEMPT great things*):
 - 1) *What it IS*:
 - A) Responding to God's promise in expectant faith that proves itself through our actions (vv2-3)
 - B) Taking steps of faith that would make us look foolish. . .unless God shows up
 - 2) *What it LOOKS LIKE*:
 - A) **JOSEPH**: preparing the barns in Egypt *before* the grain had started to come in (Gen.40:34-36,46)
 - B) **MOSES**: declaring boldly to Pharaoh of the coming plagues *before* the first one had come (Ex.7:16-20)
 - C) **JOSHUA**: and his generation going forth in faith to possess the land *before* the Canaanites had fled (Josh.1)
 - D) **DANIEL**: declaring to the king he would both tell and interpret his dream *before* the vision came (2:16ff)
- *The **FUEL** of the gospel's advance:
 - 1) *Clinging to WHO God is* (vv5-8):
 - A) Despite present sorrows, our God is yet our **MAKER**—*He CREATED us and KNOWS us*
 - B) Despite present fears, our God is yet our **HUSBAND**—*He PROTECTS us and PROVIDES for us*
 - C) Despite present feelings, our God is yet our **REDEEMER**—*He has RANSOMED us and DELIVERED us*
 - 2) *Laying hold of WHAT God has promised*:
 - A) What it **ISN'T**—God never promised that it would be smooth sailing in the ark (vv9,11)
 - B) What it **IS**—but God has promised to His people:
 - I) **UNDESERVED HONOR**—God's people will **NEVER** be **SHAMED** (vv4-5)
 - II) **UNSHAKABLE LOVINGKINDNESS**—God's people will **NEVER** be **CONDEMNED** (vv6-10,15)
 - III) **UNIMAGINABLE BLESSING**—God's people will **NOT** be **DISAPPOINTED** (vv11-17)
 - 3) *Remembering WHY it is that God deals with us this way*:
 - A) Like Noah's flood, God's **WRATH** has **ALREADY** been poured out to the full (v9; cf. 53:5-6)
 - B) Through Christ's sufferings, God's **PEACE** has **FOREVER** been poured out to the full (v10; cf. 53:5-6)
- *A few closing **APPLICATIONS** for us:
 - 1) *Are you safe in the ark of salvation?*
 - 2) *Are you believing what God has done for you and promised to you?*
 - 3) *Are you stepping out in faith in ways that prove you believe in a Living God who shows up?*

CHAPTER 55:

- *The **CONTEXT** of the passage:
 - 1) *Chapter 53 is about redemption ACCOMPLISHED by the SAVIOR*
 - 2) *Chapter 54 is about redemption APPLIED to the CHURCH*
 - 3) *Chapter 55 is about redemption FREELY OFFERED to the WORLD*
- *The **CONTENT** of the passage:
 - 1) *Solemn PLEADINGS to SINNERS outside of Christ* (vv1-9):
 - A) The **ASTOUNDING NATURE** of salvation:
 - I) *Salvation is FREELY GIVEN in Christ* (v1d)
 - II) *Salvation is FREELY OFFERED to all* (vv1-3,6-7)
 - B) The **TYPICAL PICTURES** of salvation:
 - I) *DRINK for the thirsty* (v1)
 - II) *BREAD for the hungry* (v2)
 - III) *RESURRECTION from the dead* (v3)
 - IV) *FREEDOM for the captives* (v12)
 - V) *ABUNDANCE in the desert place* (vv10,13)
 - C) The **PATTERNED RECIPIENT** of salvation (vv3-4; *IE, David; cf. Rom.4:5-8*)
 - D) The **CHOSEN INSTRUMENT** of salvation (vv10-11, *IE, God's Word*)
 - E) The **APPOINTED TIME** of salvation:
 - I) *Don't put this off until LATER*—it may not be possible then, for repentance and faith are gifts of God

- II) Seek the Lord NOW—while He may still be found, for today you have an invitation from God*
- F) The PROMISED END of salvation:
I) Salvation is not a mere POSSIBILITY for all who call upon Christ to save them from their sin
II) Salvation is a complete CERTAINTY for all who call upon Christ to save them from their sin

- G) The APPOINTED MEANS of salvation:

I) WHAT it is: RETURNING to the Savior (v7):

- a) Forsaking our own WAY (v7)
 b) Forsaking our own THOUGHTS (v7)

II) HOW we do it: CRYING OUT to the Savior (vv1,3,6):

- a) LISTEN to Him (v3)
 b) COME to Him (vv1,3)
 c) SEEK after Him (v6)
 d) CALL upon Him (v6)

2) Sweet COMFORTS for PREACHERS sent forth by Christ (vv5,10-13):

- A) Christ will most certainly DRAW His SHEEP home to himself (v5)
 B) Christ will most certainly BLESS His WORD unto that end:

I) Not only will His Word always accomplish His purposes (vv10-11)

II) But those purposes will always include saving benefits (vv12-13)

*The APPLICATIONS from the passage:

- 1) For UNBELIEVERS: Come to Him as you are
 2) For BELIEVERS: Taste these truths afresh
 3) For MINISTERS: Preach His Word with confidence

CHAPTER 56:

*An INTRODUCTION to the passage:

1) Its BACKGROUND:

- A) The ceremonial law forbade certain FOREIGNERS from joining the people of God (Deut.23:3)
 B) The ceremonial law forbade all EUNUCHS from joining the people of God (Deut.23:1)

2) Its THRUST:

- A) FOREIGNERS who follow the Lord are fully welcome in His house (vv3,6-7)
 B) EUNUCHS who follow the Lord are fully welcome in His house (vv3,4-5)

3) Its LESSONS:

A) About the LAW:

I) The ceremonial law was NEVER meant to only be taken at face value—even in the OT

II) The ceremonial law was ALWAYS meant to point to deeper spiritual realities—even in the OT

B) About the LORD:

I) There is no partiality with God—this is meant to ENCOURAGE us to draw near to the Lord

II) There is no partiality with God—this is meant to WARN us against presuming upon the Lord

*An EXPOSITION of the passage:

1) The IDENTITY of the redeemed:

- A) The true church INCLUDES many outsiders yet to be gathered (vv3-9)
 B) The true church EXCLUDES some members yet to be sifted (vv9-12)

2) The CALLING of the redeemed:

- A) The Lord's people are so because they are DRAWN by the Lord: *all that are chosen will come (vv7-8)*
 B) The Lord's people are so because they are RESPONSIVE to the Lord: *all are invited to come (v6)*

3) The MARK of the redeemed:

- A) A consecrated life is not the MEANS of our right standing with God (vv1-2,4-7)
 B) A consecrated life is rather the PROOF of our right standing with God (vv1-2,4-7)

4) The REMINDERS for the redeemed:

- A) God desires us to REST in Him (vv2,4,6)
 B) God desires us to SEEK what pleases Him (v4)
 C) God desires us to HOLD FAST to Him (vv4,6)
 D) God desires us to MINISTER to Him (v6)
 E) God desires us to LOVE Him (v6)

5) The MOTIVES for the redeemed:

- A) The BLESSING of the Lord: *in Christ we have been blessed already with every spiritual blessing (v2)*
 B) The COMING of the Lord: *they awaited His first coming; we await His second (v1)*
 C) The PROMISE of the Lord. . .

I) Even the least among His godly ones will NEVER BE FORSAKEN (v3)

II) Even the least among His godly ones will NOT BE UNREWARDED (v5)

*Some APPLICATIONS from the passage

- 1) For ALL: *Does my life prove my profession?*
 2) For CHRISTIANS: *Am I letting my heart soak in all that I have been freely given in Christ?*

CHAPTER 57:

*The **RIGHTEOUS** man considered (vv1-2,13b-19):

- 1) *The HOPE of the righteous:*
 - A) The basis of God's favor is not their own goodness (vv17-18)
 - B) Rather it is rooted solely in God's sheer grace (vv18-19)
 - C) And applied to all those who take refuge in Him (v13b)
- 2) *The ETHNICITY of the righteous:*
 - A) Includes those who are **NEAR**—*covenant children who have grown up in the church (v19c)*
 - B) Includes those who are **FAR**—*ingrafted foreigners who had never stepped foot in the church (v19b)*
- 3) *The MARKS of the righteous:*
 - A) **INWARDLY**: Not perfection but a **CONTRITE HEART** (v15)
 - B) **OUTWARDLY**: Not perfection but an **UPRIGHT WALK** (v2)
- 4) *The PROMISES to the righteous:*
 - A) The Lord's justifying **PEACE** and His **PRESENCE** now (vv19,15)
 - B) The Lord's everlasting **PEACE** and His **GLORY** hereafter (vv2,13)
- 5) *The EXHORTATIONS to the righteous:*
 - A) Because you now have peace with God, **STRENGTHEN** your hearts in the Lord (vv19,14a)
 - B) Because you now have peace with God, **REMOVE** every obstacle in the way (vv19,14b; cf. Heb.12:12-13)

*The **WICKED** man considered (vv3-13,20-21):

- 1) *The UNEXPECTED IDENTITY of the wicked:*
 - A) Isaiah is not speaking to pagan unbelievers
 - B) Isaiah is speaking to OT church-goers:
 - I) *Those who were CHILDREN of Abraham*—but children of **REBELLION** (v4)
 - II) *Those who were OFFSPRING of Abraham*—but offspring of **DECEIT** (v4)
- 2) *The UNDENIABLE MARKS of the wicked:*
 - A) **INWARDLY**: Not just sin in the heart, but a **HEART** that **LOVES** sin (vv6,8,20; cf. Jn.3:19)
 - B) **OUTWARDLY**: Not just sinful words and actions, but a **LIFE** that **PURSUES** sin. . .
 - I) *Which is characterized by IDOLATRY, REBELLION, and DECEIT (vv4-6,9-13)*
 - II) *Which is described as ADULTERY and PROSTITUTION (vv3,7-8)*
 - III) *Which is rooted in UNBELIEF (v11)*
- 3) *The FEARFUL POSITION of the wicked:* No **JUSTIFYING PEACE** in this life (v21)
- 4) *The FINAL DESTINY of the wicked:* Only **EVERLASTING TORMENT** in the next life (v13)
- 5) *An EARNEST PLEA to the wicked:*
 - A) Remember that all the righteous were themselves once also wicked in the sight of God (vv14-18)
 - B) You can be like them—though now in your sins, you can this very day take refuge in Christ (v13; Rom.4:5)

CHAPTER 58:

*The **LACK** of true spirituality:

- 1) *The religion of God's people is INCOMPLETE*—characterized by ritualistic **FORMALITY** God-ward
- 2) *The religion of God's people is HYPOCRITICAL*—characterized by fleshly **DEALINGS** man-ward

*The **DYNAMICS** of true spirituality:

- 1) *There is distance GOD-WARD because there is sin MAN-WARD (vv3-5; cf. 1Pet.3:7)*
- 2) *There is division MAN-WARD because there is sin GOD-WARD (vv13-14)*

*The **PICTURES** of true spirituality:

- 1) *Keeping a FAST (vv3-12)*
- 2) *Keeping the SABBATH (vv13-14)*

*The **NATURE** of true spirituality:

- 1) *What it's NOT:*
 - A) The mere external form of **FASTING** or other disciplines (vv1-12; cf. *Jesus' words about the Pharisees*)
 - B) The mere external form of **SABBATH-KEEPING** or worship (vv13-14; cf. *Jesus' words to the Pharisees*)
- 2) *What it IS:*
 - A) True spirituality is embodied in a **THRIVING COMMUNION** of your **SOUL** with Christ. . .
 - I) *It means MORTIFYING your SIN (v9c-d)*
 - II) *It means TREASURING your SAVIOR (v13)*
 - B) True spirituality is embodied in a **POURING OUT** of your **LIFE** for others. . .
 - I) *It means both PREACHING the gospel (v6) and LIVING OUT the gospel (v7)*
 - II) *It means both delivering from SPIRITUAL bondage (v6) and providing for PHYSICAL needs (v7)*
 - III) *It means not only leading sinners out of the DUNGEON (v6) but inviting them into your HOME (v7)*
 - IV) *It means not only sharing Christ in WORD and DEED (vv6-7), but imparting your very BEING (v10)*

*The **FRUIT** of true spirituality:

- 1) *INWARD personal renewal (vv8-11,14):*

- A) The PAST REALITY: *They had been existing only for their own selfish desires (v3)*
- B) The PRESENT MESSAGE: *The Lord wants them to give themselves to satisfy the desires of others (v10)*
- C) The FUTURE PROMISE: *Therein would He most certainly satisfy their desires in the fullest sense (v11)*

2) *OUTWARD* gospel advancement (vv12):

- A) The PICTURE given: *REBUILDING* a fallen CITY that had been brought to complete ruin
- B) The MEANING supplied: *RESTORING* a fallen WORLD that had been brought to complete ruin

*The ROOT of true spirituality:

- 1) *What it's NOT*: TRYING to do a much better job at keeping God's commands:
 - A) If you think you can just make your heart love OTHERS more deeply, you're wrong
 - B) If you think you can just make your heart love GOD more deeply, you're wrong
 - C) It's one thing to modify your *behavior*; but if your *heart* is to be changed, God must do it (57:18-19)
- 2) *What it IS*: CONFESSING to God that you have done a terrible job at keeping His commands (v1; 59:9-16)

*The APPLICATIONS for us:

- 1) *Let God SEARCH you*—be honest with Him—where have you been failing?
- 2) *Let God HEAL you*—call upon Jesus, the One who is eager and able to change our hearts again and again

CHAPTER 59:

*Man's natural CONDITION (vv1-15):

1) *Its SYMPTOMS*:

- A) An outpouring of poisonous ACTIONS (vv3-4,6-7,13)
- B) An outpouring of poisonous WORDS (vv3-4,13)
- C) An outpouring of poisonous THOUGHTS (vv7,13)

2) *Its DYNAMICS*:

- A) Deception MAN-WARD (vv3-7)
- B) Rebellion GOD-WARD (v13)

3) *Its ROOT*:

- A) Every one of us is naturally a CAPTIVE of sin—*UNABLE to give up our sin addiction (v11a-b)*
- B) Every one of us is naturally a LOVER of sin—*UNWILLING to give up our sin addiction (vv7a-b,13)*

4) *Its EXTENT*:

- A) Sin has infected ALL PEOPLES—not just Judah (vv18c-19)
- B) Sin has infected EVERY INDIVIDUAL—not just some (v4, “No one” is exempted—not even Isaiah, vv9-13)

5) *Its PROOF*:

- A) It's crystal clear in GOD'S WORD
- B) It's crystal clear from OUR EXPERIENCE

6) *Its SEVERITY*:

- A) Every one of us is naturally BLIND to spiritual realities—*HELPLESS to remedy our own condition (vv9-10)*
- B) Every one of us is naturally DEAD to spiritual realities—*HOPELESS to remedy our own condition (v10)*

7) *Its OUTCOME*:

- A) Because of our sin, every one of us is SEPARATED from God's presence (v2)
- B) Because of our sin, every one of us is GUILTY before God's tribunal (vv9,11-12,14)
- C) Because of our sin, every one of us is SUBJECT to God's wrath (vv17-18)

*God's amazing PROVISION (vv15-21):

1) *Its SOURCE: Where does salvation come from?*

- A) Salvation does not come from MAN (v16a-b)
- B) Salvation comes solely from GOD (v16c-17)

2) *Its NATURE: How does salvation work?*

- A) Salvation is NOT something that God REQUIRES of man (v16a-b)
- B) Salvation is RATHER something that God PROVIDES for man (v16a-b)

3) *Its RECIPIENTS: Who is salvation for?*

- A) NOT for those who KEEP God's Law (vv11-16)
- B) RATHER for those who KNOW they don't (vv11-16)

4) *Its MEANS: How is salvation obtained?*

- A) NOT to be achieved by the work of YOUR HANDS (v16)
- B) RATHER to be received through the work of THE REDEEMER (vv16,20)

5) *Its SCOPE: Who are those that will be saved?*

- A) NOT ALL will be saved (vv17c-18) — not even all who profess Christ will be saved (v20)
- B) But ETHNIC JEWS who turn to the Redeemer will be saved (v20 w/ Rom.11:26)
- C) And FOREIGN GENTILES who turn to the Redeemer will be saved (v19)
- D) Further, COVENANT CHILDREN who turn to the Redeemer will be saved (v21)

6) *Its MARK: How do I know that I am saved?*

- A) Turning away from sin is NOT the MEANS of salvation (v20):
 - I) *Paul's exposition in ROMANS 11:26: Jesus must be the One to turn us from our sin—and Him alone*
 - II) *Paul's focus is on HOW we are saved and the SOURCE of repentance*

- III) Paul highlights the AUTHOR of salvation: God must do for us what He requires of us*
- B) Turning away from sin is RATHER the PROOF of true salvation (v20):
I) Isaiah's words in ISAIAH 59:20: Jesus saves those who turn from their sin—and them alone
II) Isaiah's focus is on WHO is saved and the NECESSITY of repentance
III) Isaiah highlights the OBJECTS of salvation: It is those who turn from their sin that will be saved
- 7) Its APPLICATION:
 A) Don't try to fix yourself—the whole point of this chapter is that you cannot
 B) Don't delay—cry out to Jesus, knowing that He has promised to save all who call upon Him

CHAPTER 60:

*An INTRODUCTION to the passage:

- 1) A QUESTION: If you were asked to describe the glories of heaven, how would you do it?
 2) A REMINDER: Isaiah's task is to describe with his present knowledge and language, glorious things yet to come

*An EXPOSITION of the passage:

- 1) Isaiah foresees an unimaginable OUTPOURING of the BLESSING of God:
 A) PICTURED in and through. . .
I) The flooding in of the WEALTH of the nations (vv5,6,9,11,13,16)
II) The building up of the WALLS of Jerusalem (v10)
III) The adorning of the TEMPLE of the Lord (vv7,9,13)
 B) POINTING us back to the abundance known in the days of Solomon (vv5-18 w/ 1K.10:14-29)
- 2) Isaiah foresees an unending POSSESSION of the LAND of God:
 A) Where all God's people will be VINDICATED (vv14-15)
 B) Where all God's people will be COMFORTED (vv16-20)
 C) Where all God's people will be GLORIFIED (vv9,21)
- 3) Isaiah foresees an unprecedented INGATHERING of the SEED of God:
 A) The PICTURES:
I) FLOCKS and CAMELS pouring into the city (vv6-7)
II) SONS and DAUGHTERS coming home from afar (vv4,9)
 B) The SCOPE:
I) Gentile believers from the EAST (vv6-7)
II) Gentile believers from the WEST (vv8-9)
III) Gentile believers from KETURAH—those called out of EASTERN RELIGIONS (v6; cf. Gen.25:1-6)
IV) Gentile believers from ISHMAEL—those called out of ISLAM (v7; cf. Gen.25:12-13)
 C) The FULFILLMENT:
I) REVIVAL outpourings in THIS LIFE:
 a) Gentile nations flooding into the GENTILE church (Rom.11:12,25; *riches for the world*); and/or
 b) Gentile nations flooding into the JEWISH church:
i) At the inauguration of the Gentile church (cf. Acts 10-28, etc)
ii) After the restoration of the Jewish church (cf. Is.59:20 w/Rom.11:12-15; IE, life from the dead)
II) HARVEST ingathering at GLORY:
 a) The eyes of OT Jewish believers beholding the nations flooding into glory; and/or
 b) The eyes of NT Jew and/or Gentile believers beholding the nations flooding into glory; and/or
 c) The eyes of Christ beholding His bride coming home to glory (vv4-6 w/ Gen.24:63; 25:3-4,13)
 D) The CERTAINTY:
I) WHY this is certain: Because God himself will do it (vv7,10,13,15,17,21)
II) WHAT that means: Our job is to call upon the Lord to do what only He can do

*A RESPONSE to the passage:

- 1) Rise and shine, for the Lord HAS SHONE UPON YOU the fullness of His glory (vv1-2):
 A) He has LAVISHED His every BLESSING upon you (*Exposition point 1*)
 B) He has PROMISED an eternal INHERITANCE to you (*Exposition point 2*)
- 2) Rise and shine, for the Lord WILL GATHER THROUGH YOU the remainder of His people (vv2-3):
 A) NOT: Shine so that the Lord MIGHT gather His lost sheep through you. . .
 B) RATHER: Shine because the Lord WILL gather His lost sheep through you (v3)!!

CHAPTER 61:

*The MESSENGER of redemption:

- 1) The UNVEILING of His IDENTITY:
 A) This passage points FORWARD to describe the coming Messiah (vv1-3)
 B) Christ pointed BACKWARD to this passage to describe himself (cf. Lk.4)
- 2) The BASIS of His AUTHORITY:
 A) The SON was not acting alone in the work of redemption (v1)
 B) The FATHER commissioned and anointed the Son for this work (v1)

- 3) The **PURPOSE** of His **COMING**:
 - A) To **BRING HOME** lost sheep (v1)
 - B) To **BRING COMFORT** to found ones (vv2c-3)
- 4) The **EQUIPMENT** of His **MINISTRY**:
 - A) **ENTRUSTED** with the **WORD** of God (1c)
 - B) **ANOINTED** with the **SPIRIT** of God (1a-b)
- 5) The **MATTER** of His **PREACHING**:
 - A) **TENDER COMFORTS**: *God's GRACE has come* (v2a; cf. Lk.4:18-22)
 - B) **SOLEMN WARNINGS**: *God's JUDGMENT is coming* (v2b; cf. Lk.4:23-27)

*The **NATURE** of redemption:

- 1) *When God saves His people He REGENERATES them* (v1):
 - A) The **PICTURE**: The setting free from a **DUNGEON**
 - B) The **TRUTH**: Christ **FREES** His people from **SINS' POWER**
- 2) *When God saves His people He JUSTIFIES them* (v10):
 - A) The **PICTURE**: The putting on of a **GARMENT**
 - B) The **TRUTH**: Christ **CLOTHES** His people with **HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS**
- 3) *When God saves His people He SANCTIFIES them* (vv3,4,11):
 - A) The **PICTURES**:
 - I) *The blooming of a GARDEN* (vv3,11)
 - II) *The rebuilding of a CITY* (v4)
 - B) The **TRUTHS**:
 - I) *As with the blooming of a garden, Christ MAKES His people BEAUTIFUL inwardly*
 - II) *As with the rebuilding of a city, Christ MAKES His people a BLESSING outwardly*
- 4) *When God saves His people He GLORIFIES them* (v7):
 - A) The **PICTURE**: The eternal possession of the **LAND**
 - B) The **TRUTH**: Christ **GRANTS** His people an everlasting **INHERITANCE**

*The **SOURCE** of redemption:

- 1) *You cannot FREE YOURSELF from your sin—Christ must do it* (v1)
- 2) *You cannot CLOTHE YOURSELF with righteousness—Christ must do it* (v10)
- 3) *You cannot MAKE YOURSELF GROW in holiness—Christ must do it* (vv3d,11)
- 4) *You cannot BRING YOURSELF SAFELY HOME to glory—Christ must do it* (vv7-8)

*The **MOTIVE** of redemption:

- 1) *God DOES NOT redeem His people because of anything that resides in them* (v3f)
- 2) *God RATHER redeems His people solely for the sake of His own glory* (v3f)

*The **BASIS** of redemption:

- 1) *Just as God's justice cries out AGAINST all those in Adam because of their SIN* (v2b)
- 2) *So too God's justice cries out ON BEHALF OF all those in Christ because of the CROSS* (v8)

*The **OBJECTS** of redemption:

- 1) *NOT those who are UNCHANGED*—the redeemed are those who have felt the **SAVIOR'S TOUCH** (vv3,4,11)
- 2) *NOT those who are PERFECT*—the redeemed are those who mourn their **REMAINING SIN** (vv2c-3)

*A few **APPLICATIONS**:

- 1) *For BELIEVERS*: This text is **NOT** saying to Christians “Be a blessing,” but rather, “Bless your God”
- 2) *For UNBELIEVERS*: Jesus came for captive sinners—you cannot save yourself—but He will if you call upon Him

CHAPTER 62:

*The **CERTAIN PROMISE** of the church's future glory:

- 1) *The Lord's SALVATION of His people*:
 - A) The **PARTIAL** fulfillment: **RESTORATION** from captivity in exile (vv1-5)
 - B) The **FULL** fulfillment: **REDEMPTION** from captivity in sin (vv1-5,11b,12a)
- 2) *The Lord's BLESSING of His people*:
 - A) The **TEMPORAL** picture: **ABUNDANT FRUITFULNESS** in the land (vv4-5,8-9)
 - B) The **ETERNAL** reality: **REVIVAL OUTPOURINGS** upon the church (vv4-5,8-9)
- 3) *The Lord's COMING for His people*:
 - A) The **NEAR** fulfillment: *The INAUGURATION of the new covenant with Christ's FIRST coming* (vv10-11)
 - B) The **FAR** fulfillment: *The CONSUMATION of the kingdom with Christ's SECOND coming* (vv10-11)
 - I) *There is an ADMONITION here*: Am I longing and looking for the coming of the Lord?
 - II) *There is an ENCOURAGEMENT here*: Jesus is bringing with Him a bountiful reward for His sheep

*The **DESCRIPTIVE IMAGERY** of the church's future glory:

- 1) *The church will be as a burning TORCH*—the light of the world (vv1-2)
- 2) *The church will be as a priceless CROWN*—a royal priesthood (v3)
- 3) *The church will be as a beloved WIFE*—the bride of Christ (vv4-5)
- 4) *The church will be as a holy CITY*—a people for God's own possession (vv6-12)

*The **SOLE SOURCE** of the church's future glory:

- 1) *GOD'S PEOPLE* are not able to establish or usher in the kingdom of God—WE CANNOT do it (vv6-7)
- 2) *GOD ALONE* is able to establish and usher in His kingdom—HE MUST do it (vv6-7)

*The APPOINTED MEANS of the church's future glory:

- 1) *Yet, God does this in and through the PREACHING of His WORD:*
 - A) LOST SINNERS are CONVERTED through the preaching of the Word (vv1,10d)
 - B) GOD'S PEOPLE are STRENGTHENED through the preaching of the Word (vv1,11)
- 2) *And He does it in and through the PRAYERS of His PEOPLE:*
 - A) The Lord will POUR OUT HIS SPIRIT upon His church in response to the prayers of His people (vv6-7)
 - B) The Lord will USHER IN HIS GLORY among the nations in response to the prayers of His people (vv6-7)

*A few APPLICATIONS for Christians:

- 1) *Rejoice in your Savior for all He has done—He has redeemed you, He has blessed you, He will come for you*
- 2) *Preach of your Savior and plead with Him for all He has yet promised to do—to pour out His Spirit in power*

CHAPTER 63:

*Isaiah reveals the Lord's ETERNAL CHARACTER (vv1-6):

- 1) *The Lord is a TENDER SAVIOR (vv1-6):*
 - A) He will DELIVER His people from their OPPRESSORS (vv1-4) — So WAIT for HIS vengeance
 - B) He will REDEEM His people from their SIN (vv4-5) — So LOOK to HIS righteousness
- 2) *The Lord is a RIGHTEOUS JUDGE (vv1-6):*
 - A) The IMAGERY we need to see:
 - I) EDOM (a foe of God's people) means “red” matching the imagery of the blood-stained garments
 - II) BOZRAH (the capitol of Edom) means “vintage” matching the imagery of the wine press
 - B) The TRUTHS we need to know:
 - I) *The Lord's day of judgment is a GOOD thing (IE, He will punish all wrong)*
 - II) *The Lord's day of judgment will be a TERRIFYING thing (IE, He will punish in full)*
 - III) *The Lord's day of judgment is a CERTAIN thing (vv2-3,6 are put in the past tense to show certainty)*
 - IV) *The Lord's day of judgment will be a SUDDEN thing (v4; as w/ Noah that day will come suddenly)*
 - C) The APPLICATION for us: *Am I reconciled to God in Christ? Am I His friend or His enemy?*

*Isaiah recalls the Lord's PAST MERCIES (vv7-14):

- 1) *We learn about WHO God is:*
 - A) He is TRINITARIAN:
 - I) God the FATHER (v16)
 - II) God the SPIRIT (vv10,11,14)
 - III) God the SON:
 - a) The SAVIOR of His people (v8)
 - b) The ANGEL of His presence (v9)
 - c) The ARM of the Lord (v12; cf. 51:9; 52:10; 53:1; Jn.12:37-38)
 - B) He is GOOD (v7)
 - C) He is COMPASSIONATE (v7)
 - D) He is SYMPATHETIC (v9)
 - E) He is AFFECTABLE (v10)
 - F) He is HOLY (vv10-11)
 - G) He is MIGHTY (v12)
 - H) He is GENTLE (vv13-14)
- 2) *We learn about WHAT God did:*
 - A) We are pointed BACKWARD to the EXODUS—the Old Covenant PATTERN of redemption
 - B) We are pointed FORWARD to the CROSS—the New Covenant FULFILLMENT of redemption
- 3) *We learn about WHY God saves:*
 - A) He saves His people in LOVE (v9c; cf. Eph.1:4)
 - B) He saves His people according to HIS GOOD PLEASURE (v7a,d,e; cf. Eph.1:5)
 - C) He saves His people for HIS OWN NAME'S SAKE (vv12,14; cf. Eph.1:6,12,14)
- 4) *The APPLICATIONS for us:*
 - A) How do you view God *right now*? Does it match reality? What characteristics do you struggle to believe?
 - B) If you are in Christ, the same holds true for you—you are 1) loved, 2) delighted in, and 3) totally secure.

*Isaiah entreats the Lord's PRESENT DELIVERANCE (vv15-19):

- 1) *The CONTEXT of Isaiah:*
 - A) WHAT Isaiah is describing: *the destruction of Jerusalem and exile to Babylon (vv18-19)*
 - B) HOW Isaiah is describing it: *speaking of the future exile as if already in the past (vv18-19)*
- 2) *The QUESTION from Isaiah: Why does God deal with His people the way He sometimes does (vv15-19)?*
- 3) *The ANSWERS through Isaiah:*
 - A) There is much we WON'T know this side of glory. . .
 - B) But there is also much we CAN know this side of glory:
 - I) *The Lord's WISDOM is infinite (40:27-28)*

- II) The Lord's CARE is meticulous (40:26)
- III) The Lord's TIMING is perfect (45:9-13)
- IV) The Lord's AFFECTIONS are unrestrained (49:14-16)
- V) The Lord's FAITHFULNESS is everlasting (54:4-11)
- VI) The Lord's PURPOSES are glorious (43:5-7; 44:1-5; 45:14-15; 49:14-23; 51:3; 54:11-17; 60; 61:4-11)
- 4) The REMINDER in Isaiah:
 - A) If the Spirit is to be poured out afresh upon the church, THE LORD must do it (v17)
 - B) The Lord is pleased to pour out His Spirit afresh WHEN His people call upon Him to do so (v17)

CHAPTER 64:

- *The SPAN of Isaiah's prayer:
 - 1) Isaiah's prayer is not limited to the chapter division beginning with 64:1
 - 2) Isaiah's prayer actually starts in 63:15 and continues till 64:12
- *The TIMING of Isaiah's prayer:
 - 1) Isaiah is the author of his book (1:1)
 - 2) Isaiah lived and ministered during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (1:1)
 - 3) Isaiah would not live to see the exile to Babylon, as it happened over a hundred years after Hezekiah's death
 - 4) Isaiah knew that one day God's people in Judah would be exiled to Babylon (6:9-11; 2 Kings 20:16-18, etc)
 - 5) Isaiah then must be describing Jerusalem's future destruction & exile using "percepts of certainty" in verses 10-12
- *The CONTENT of Isaiah's prayer:
 - 1) A FOND REMEMBRANCE of revival (v3)
 - 2) The DESPERATE NEED for revival (vv10-11)
 - 3) An EARNEST PLEA for revival (vv1-2,12)
 - 4) The GLORIOUS AUTHOR of revival (vv4-5,8):
 - A) The God of heaven is our CREATOR (v8b)
 - B) The God of heaven is our REDEEMER (vv3-4; cf. 63:7-14)
 - C) The God of heaven is our DAD (v8a)
 - 5) The UNWORTHY OBJECTS of revival (vv3,6-9)
 - A) God pours out His Spirit upon those who don't EXPECT it (v3)
 - B) God pours out His Spirit upon those who don't DESERVE it (vv6-9)
 - 6) The ONLY HOPE for revival:
 - A) Not in us (vv5-7)
 - B) Only in the Lord (vv1,3-4,7,12):
 - I) It is He who WITHHOLDS it (vv7,12)
 - II) It is He who SENDS it (vv1,3-4)
 - 7) The APPOINTED MEANS of revival (v4c; IE, an active waiting—cf. Acts 1-2)
- *The LESSONS from Isaiah's prayer:
 - 1) God comes in power—not when His people get their act together—but totally despite them
 - 2) God comes in power—not when His people get their act together—but when they confess how messed up they are
 - 3) God comes in power—not when His people get their act together—but when they call upon Him to do so
- *The APPLICATIONS from Isaiah's prayer:
 - 1) In times of darkness let's NOT try to deal with secondary causes and come up with human strategies (cf. 1Sam.4)
 - 2) In times of darkness let's RATHER confess our sin and call upon our God to do what only He can

CHAPTER 65:

- *God's WARNING through Isaiah: JUDGMENT is coming. . .
 - 1) The AUTHOR of the coming judgment (vv6-7,15):
 - A) It is NOT Satan who will deal out punishment on the day of judgment
 - B) It is RATHER the Lord himself who will deal out His wrath on that day
 - 2) The OBJECTS of the coming judgment (vv2-5,11-12):
 - A) Not just those OUTSIDE the church
 - B) But many of those INSIDE the church:
 - I) Who evidence NO TURNING from their sin:
 - a) The Lord desires SUBMISSION—But their WILLS are UNYIELDING to God (v2)
 - b) The Lord desires SINGLE-MINDEDNESS—But their HEARTS are UNDEVOTED to God (v3)
 - c) The Lord desires HOLINESS—But their LIVES are UNCHANGED by God (v4)
 - II) Who possess NO APPREHENSION of their sin:
 - a) The Lord desires of us a BROKENNESS over our sin before Him (v5)
 - b) But they lacked even a realistic AWARENESS of their sin before Him (v5)
 - 3) The STANDARD of the coming judgment (vv5,12e):
 - A) Is NOT according to how WE judge ourselves (v5)
 - B) Is RATHER according to how GOD judges us (vv2a,3a,5c-d,12e)

- 4) *The BASIS of the coming judgment (v12):*
 - A) A refusal to LISTEN to God's WORD (v12c,d)
 - B) A refusal to WALK in God's WAY (vv2b,12e,f)
- 5) *The TIMING of the coming judgment (vv8-12):*
 - A) Unbelievers will NOT be sifted out from believers in THIS life
 - B) Unbelievers will RATHER be sifted out from believers in the NEXT life
- 6) *The CERTAINTY of the coming judgment (v6a,b):*
 - A) This is NOT something that may or may not happen
 - B) This is RATHER a divine promise we can count on
- 7) *The QUESTIONS for us:*
 - A) What we are NOT asking: *Are you FREE from your sin?*
 - B) What we ARE asking: *Are you FRIENDS with your sin?*
 - I) *Are you AWARE of your sin?* If not there is still hope—call upon Jesus
 - II) *Are you BROKEN by your sin?* If not there is still hope—call upon Jesus
 - III) *Are you TURNING from your sin?* If not there is still hope—call upon Jesus

*God's PROMISE through Isaiah: *GLORY is coming. . .*

- 1) *The TIMING of the coming glory:*
 - A) Know that in THIS AGE God's people will have many troubles (vv16e-23; cf. Matt.5)
 - B) It is in the COMING AGE that God's people will eat, drink, and shout for joy (vv13-16; cf. Matt.5)
- 2) *The OBJECTS of the coming glory:*
 - A) God's people are a people whom God CHOOSES ("My chosen ones," vv1,9,15,22):
 - I) *He chose us when we were not asking for Him (v1)*
 - II) *He chose us when we were not seeking Him (v1)*
 - III) *He chose us when we were not called by His name (v1)*
 - B) God's people are a people whom God CHANGES ("My servants," vv8,9,10,13,15,25):
 - I) *Their DESIRES have been radically transformed—now they SEEK the Lord (vv10,25):*
 - a) New desires are DESCRIBED in verse 10 (IE, those seeking in v10 were not seeking in v1)
 - b) New desires are PICTURED in verse 25 (IE, a lion who eats straw possesses a new nature)
 - II) *Their LIVES have been radically transformed—now they SERVE the Lord (vv8-10,13,15)*
- 3) *The NATURE of the coming glory:*
 - A) A renewed CREATION: *A LAND free from sins' outward EFFECTS (vv17-20,25)*
 - B) A renewed PEOPLE: *A SEED free from sins' inward PRESENCE (vv17-20,25)*
 - C) A renewed LIVELIHOOD: *A BLESSING free from sins' former CLOUDINESS (vv16,21-23)*
- 4) *The DURATION of the coming glory (v18; IE, forever)*
- 5) *The APPLICATIONS for us:*
 - A) PRAISE: *For all God has done—choosing and changing us*
 - B) PRAYER: *For God to continue to draw His people to Himself as only He can*
 - C) PERSEVERANCE: *Let's not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we don't grow weary*

CHAPTER 66:

*Who the Lord IS:

- 1) *He is our MAKER who knows us (vv1-2,18)*
- 2) *He is the KING who governs us (vv9,18-19,21)*
- 3) *He is our JUDGE who will come to us (vv5-17)*

*What the Lord DESIRES:

- 1) *What it's NOT:*
 - A) For us to KNOW a lot ABOUT God (cf. Jms.1:22; 1Cor.8:1-2)
 - B) For us to DO a lot FOR God (vv1-2)
- 2) *What it IS:*
 - A) For us to truly FEEL OUR NEED (v2)
 - B) For us to truly FEAR GOD'S WORD (v2)

*What the Lord DETESTS:

- 1) *The NATURE of hypocrisy:*
 - A) A doing WHAT GOD COMMANDS but not HOW HE COMMANDS IT
 - B) A following God in PUBLIC but not seeking Him in SECRET
 - C) An outward FORM of worship without an inward RELISH
 - D) A right THEOLOGY with a wrong HEART
- 2) *The SEVERITY of hypocrisy:*
 - A) It is SERIOUS to God (v3a; cf. Is.1:10; Matt.23:13-33; 24:51)
 - B) It is USELESS to God (v3b; cf. Is.1:13a; Mk.7:6-7)
 - C) It is APPALLING to God (v3c; cf. Is.1:15)
 - D) It is ABHORRENT to God (v3d; cf. Is.1:13b,14a)
- 3) *The VICTIMS of hypocrisy:*

- A) Its victims include those who DON'T know God (the scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day)
- B) Its victims include those who DO know God (cf. Rom.12:9; Gal.1:11-13, etc)

4) *The CURE for hypocrisy:*

- A) For non-Christian pharisees: *Call out to Jesus*
- B) For Christian recovering pharisees: *Call out to Jesus*

*What the Lord WILL DO:

1) *He will uphold His every promise concerning THE AGE TO COME:*

- A) His promises of SALVATION: He will COMFORT those who have known Him (vv5,7-14,22-23)
- B) His promises of JUDGMENT: He will PUNISH those who have resisted Him (vv4-6,14-17,24):
 - I) *Both those who would profess to know Him (vv3-5)*
 - II) *And those who would make no pretense to godliness (v17)*

2) *He will uphold His every promise in THIS PRESENT AGE:*

- A) The PICTURE of the promise:
 - I) *What it IS: A woman giving birth to an entire nation (vv7-9)*
 - II) *What it MEANS: IE, would God fail to bring pregnant Sara to a safe delivery with the son of promise?*
- B) The DESCRIPTION of the promise:
 - I) *It will be SOVEREIGN (v9)*
 - II) *It will be SUDDEN (v7)*
 - III) *It will be UNPRECEDENTED (v7)*
 - IV) *It will be IMMEASURABLE (v8)*
- C) The FULFILLMENT of the promise:
 - I) *The return from Babylonian exile*
 - II) *The ingrafting of the Gentile church:*
 - a) What is unclear from verses 18-21:
 - i) *Is verse 19 describing the same event as verse 18 or a subsequent event?*
 - ii) *Is the "they" of v20 referring to those who "declare My glory" in v19b or "the nations" of v19b?*
 - iii) *Is the "all your brethren" of verse 20 referring to Jewish or Gentile brethren?*
 - b) What is clear from verses 18-21:
 - i) *Missionaries are sent to the Gentiles because the Lord has himself sent them (v19a)*
 - ii) *These missionaries will not fail to deliver a faithful gospel message (v19b)*
 - iii) *The Lord will bless the labors of these missionaries to the Gentiles (v20)*
 - iv) *Every single one of Christ's sheep among the Gentiles will be brought home to the Lord (v20)*
 - v) *These Gentile sheep will be brought from every single people group under heaven (vv18,20)*
 - vi) *Some of these Gentile sheep He will take for himself as shepherds—priests and Levites (v21)*
 - vii) *These things are completely certain because the Lord himself will do it (vv18-19)*
 - viii) *Still, in no way will these things come about apart from human instruments (vv19-20)*
 - c) Specific exegetical possibilities of verses 18-20:
 - i) *The whole passage is speaking of the Jewish to Gentile mission (the start of the Gentile church)*
 - ii) *The whole passage is speaking of the Gentile to Gentile mission (in which we now live)*
 - iii) *Vv18-19 speak of the Jewish to Gentile mission; v20 of the coming Gentile to Jewish mission*
 - iv) *Vv18-19 speak of the Jewish to Gentile mission; v20 of the Gentile to Gentile mission*
 - v) *Vv18-19 speak of the Gentile to Gentile mission; v20 of the coming Gentile to Jewish mission*
 - III) *The coming restoration of ethnic Israel (cf. Rom.11:11-15,25-27; Is.59:20)*

*Final APPLICATIONS:

- 1) *Our FAITH is not in vain in Jesus—He sustains the life of our soul*
- 2) *Our PRAYERS are not in vain in Jesus—He hears the cries of our heart*
- 3) *Our LABORS are not in vain in Jesus—He blesses the work of our hands*