

The Book of Isaiah
Trusting God More #7

Some of the outlines are taken from Melissa Spoelstra's book, *Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting More*.

Review of previous Lesson: The rod of Jesse and the characteristics of the Messiah

Objective: To understand following God isn't about striving; it's about trusting God more.

Opening Discussion: Do you ever have moments of reflections and praise?

Chapter 12 is unique. It comes in a peculiar place in the book of Isaiah.

Read Isaiah chapter 12:1.

Notice the worshipper praises the Lord after he realizes God's anger has passed.

Read Isaiah chapter 12:2.

- God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.
- God is my strength and my song.

Read Isaiah chapter 12:3.

What is meant by "drawing water" out of the wells of salvation?

In the next verse, the worshipper renders a declaration of praise and thanksgiving unto the Lord. He invites others to join in with his praise and DECLARE His works, the Lord's doings among the people?

What did that mean for the psalmist and what does that look like now? What does that mean for you?

Reflections:

- Read Exodus 15:19-21
- What was Miriam reflecting on? What did she want others to reflect on?
- Read (2 Samuel ...so, David...-16) o Why was David reflecting on? What did he want others to reflect on?

The Shift

From chapters 13-23, Isaiah reflects on the burdens of the surrounding nations.

Isaiah 13 begins with prophecies against the nations. These revelations are from the Lord, spoken through Isaiah, about judgements to come against the enemies of the Lord. The Lord had previously spoken to Israel, now the Lord speaks to the nations beginning with Babylon.

FYI: In the relation to the prophets, a burden is a "heavy" message of weighty importance, heavy as recorded by David Guzik, in the sense that it produces sorrow and grief. Thus, they are called burdens.

How would hearing about what God would do to Babylon prove to be beneficial to Israel in light of the theme of trust in Isaiah?

You are right! God's purpose was to urge the Israelites to put their TOTAL trust in Him. He did not want them to trust in kings, kingdoms, or their gods. The God of Israel was God for all nations.

At the time of the project, Babylon was a significant nation. They were behind the Assyrian Empire in status. Yet, the Lord who knows all things spoke judgement against the pride of Babylon before judgment came. He we are discussing pride again....

Chapters 13-14 share the burden of Babylon. The destruction did not take place until after Isaiah's lifetime. In any case, the prophecy was fulfilled. Babylon was destroyed.

Read Isaiah 13:2-8. Did you hear God giving the specifics. This is the judgement against the Roman Empire. We hear the sights and sounds of the battle described. Babylon fell by a surprise attack by Cyrus.

How is this pointing to Jesus Christ?

What surprise attack did we encounter as a nation on September 11, 2001 ?

The attacks were executed by al-Qaeda. What was the message to us? What do you think the message from God was? Was this a surprise to God? God did not send it, but He allowed it.

Verses 9-16 describe the terrors of judgement of Babylon. We keep hearing, "the day of the Lord" in Isaiah. The expression is used 26 times in the Bible. In this case, it speaks of a SEASON of judgement.

What did this season of judgment say to them?

What does this season of judgement say to you?

Take home?