

## COMMENTARY

### ISAIAH

#### Chapter 26:

Isaiah continues the song of praise. He speaks of the special place prepared for God's people and of the coming destruction of those who oppose God. He recognizes that all that they have has come from God. In verse 18, it is stated that the purpose of God's people, Israel, was to bring salvation to the nations and they have failed (that purpose has now been entrusted to the Church). Verse 19, speaks of the coming resurrection of the dead.

#### Chapter 27:

At that point, the great, opponent of God will go down to defeat and God will restore His people. They will have forsaken their idols and be gathered together to worship Him.

#### Chapter 28:

Samaria, the capital city (the wreath or crown of Ephraim--Israel) will be destroyed by the Lord. God, instead will become the pride and crown of His people.

The overindulgence will have reached to all people in Israel. The commands of God will become no more to them than a list of do's and don'ts. Because of this, God will allow other nations to come and punish His people for their sin. Verse 16 (quoted 4 times in the New Testament) speaks of Jesus and those who trust in Him will have life. In the meantime, Israel is taking pride and confidence in those things that lead to death. Because of this, their judgement is sure. God will vary the intensity and severity of His discipline, even as a farmer varies the method of land preparation and threshing of the grain.

#### Chapter 29:

God prophesies that even Jerusalem will be surrounded by the enemy and the siege will be laid out. At the last moment, God will scatter the enemy.

Even though Judah will be able to read the prophecy, they will not understand it. God will prove Himself again to His people. Those who try to hide from Him, will do so in vain.

Verses 17 and 18 foretell of the entrance of the Gentiles into the Kingdom of God; having now received spiritual vision. The Hebrews, on the other hand, will be cast out and become unfruitful. The wicked people will be cut off. Then the Hebrews will return to God.

#### Chapter 30:

God condemns Judah for relying on the power of Egypt to save them. Their reliance will be of no use and they will be destroyed (happens 100 years later by the Babylonians).

If Judah would turn to God for help, He will deliver them and bless them. (Judah does repent when Assyria threatens and God delivers them). God promises to destroy Assyria (takes place 100 years later when Babylon comes into power).

#### Chapter 31:

God continues to promise to deliver Jerusalem from the upcoming Assyrian oppression. He reminds Judah that Egypt will be of no help and that Assyria, itself, would be destroyed in time.

**Chapter 32:**

Isaiah now speaks of the coming Messiah and His rule. Jesus will reign justly and will bring relief to the oppressed (spiritually, especially). The wicked will be known for their deceit and will no longer be followed. Yet, before this time comes, there will be oppression and impending peril. Following that, the Messiah shall come and prosperity and blessing shall abound. In the meantime, they are called to trust daily in God.

**Chapter 33:**

Isaiah encourages the people to continue to trust in the Lord during the time of looting and pillaging by the Assyrians. The Lord will rise up, scatter Assyria, and Israel will find tremendous wealth left behind by their fleeing enemy.

**Chapter 34:**

God's wrath will come on all the nations, just as it did on Edom, who is given as an example. God proclaims the disaster that will fall upon all the universe, besides the nations.

**Chapter 35:**

In the midst of the message of destruction; comes the message of hope. Verse 2 proclaims the message of salvation being proclaimed and accepted by the Gentile nation. God has prepared a place for His chosen people and anyone else will be left out.

**Chapter 36:**

King Sennacherib of Assyria advances and takes the cities of Judah. His field commander advanced to Jerusalem and encouraged the people to surrender or else they would be destroyed like all of the other nations that Assyria had conquered. The field commander tells the people that Egypt will be of no help and neither will the God that they serve. If they will surrender, he promises that they will be treated well, but the people remain silent. King Hezekiah of Judah is then told of the events.

**Chapter 37:**

King Hezekiah then goes to the temple in mourning and sends his officers and priests to Isaiah. Isaiah then informs them that God will deliver Jerusalem from King Sennacherib of Assyria and that he will return to his own country and there be assassinated.

The Assyrians get sidetracked with a battle at Libnah, and then return to Jerusalem. Once again they send word to King Hezekiah of Judah, that his God will not be able to deliver them.

King Hezekiah turns in prayer to the Lord who again promises deliverance from Assyria. God assures King Hezekiah that the deliverance will come within the next three years and that the city of Jerusalem would not ever be attacked (Assyrians did surround the city and cause a famine within the walls, but they never actually attacked the city). God then sent an angel and had 185,000 Assyrian soldiers slain one evening. The remaining soldiers returned home and King Sennacherib was slain by his sons.

**Chapter 38:**

King Hezekiah was on his deathbed and prayed that the Lord would remember his life of devotion (this happened about 10 years before the events in the last chapter). Because of King Hezekiah's prayer, the Lord promises to extend his life by 15 years. As a sign that this would happen, God caused the sun to go backwards in the sky. Verses 9-20 record King Hezekiah's feelings as he faced death and as he received the news of 15 additional years.

**Chapter 39:**

Envoys came from Babylon (another country servant to Assyria) to congratulate King Hezekiah on his recovery. He then showed the messengers the great wealth of his Kingdom. Because of his pride and love of his wealth, God told him that it would all be taken by the Babylonians in the future and that his sons would be taken to Babylon and be made to serve. King Hezekiah was just grateful that he would not live long enough to see it.

**Chapter 40:**

Once again God gives a message of hope in the midst of the message of punishment. He foretells of one calling in the wilderness (John the Baptist) who would call people to repentance. God is then exalted and praised for His greatness and power. Those who trust in Him, will be strengthened.

STUDY GUIDE

ISAIAH 26

1. Who will be kept in perfect peace? (vs. 3)
2. How have we accomplished what we have? (vs. 12)
3. What had Israel not done? (vs. 18)
4. What is true of God's people? (vs. 19)

ISAIAH 27

1. Who will the Lord punish? (vs. 1)
2. What will the Lord do for His fruitful vineyard? (vs. 2)
3. Who will come to worship the Lord? (vs. 13)

ISAIAH 28

1. What will be trampled by the Lord? (vs. 3)
2. What will God then be for His people? (vs. 4,5)
3. Who reel and stagger from beer and wine? (vs. 7)
4. What does the Lord say about His stone in Zion? (vs. 16)

ISAIAH 29

1. What will happen to Ariel? (vs. 1-3)
2. What does the Lord say about their worship? (vs. 13)

ISAIAH 30

1. Where had Judah gone for help? (vs. 2)
2. What does God say about these people? (vs. 9)
3. What does the Lord long to be? (vs. 18)

ISAIAH 31

1. What were the people trusting in? (vs. 1)
2. What will happen to Assyria? (vs. 8,9)

ISAIAH 32

1. What do we learn of the coming King? (vs. 1)
2. What will the result of righteousness be? (vs. 17)

ISAIAH 33

1. What will the Lord be? (vs. 6)
2. Who can dwell with everlasting burning? (vs. 15)

ISAIAH 34

1. What will happen to the heavens? (vs. 4)

ISAIAH 35

1. Who will use the "Way of Holiness"? (vs. 8,9)

ISAIAH 36

1. Who attacked the cities of Judah? (vs. 1)
2. What did the King of Assyria offer the people? (vs. 16,17)
3. How did the people respond? (vs. 21)

### ISAIAH 37

1. How did King Hezekiah respond to the news? (vs. 1)
2. What would happen to the King of Assyria (vs. 7)
3. How did Hezekiah respond to the letter? (vs. 14,15)
4. What would the Lord do because of Assyria's pride? (vs. 29)
5. What happened in the Assyrian camp (vs. 36)
6. What happened when the King returned home? (vs. 38)

### ISAIAH 38

1. How sick was King Hezekiah? (vs. 1)
2. What sign did the Lord give him that he would recover? (vs. 7)
3. What was Isaiah's instructions? (vs. 21)

### ISAIAH 39

1. To whom did King Hezekiah show his treasures? (vs. 1,2)
2. What would result because of King Hezekiah's pride? (vs. 6,7)

### ISAIAH 40

1. What would the voice call to be prepared? (vs. 2)
2. What are men and their glory, like? (vs. 6)
3. What stands forever? (vs. 8)
4. What do we learn of the coming Lord? (vs. 11)
5. What do we learn of the Lord in verse 28?
6. What do we learn of those who trust in the Lord? (vs. 31)