

A Marvelous Work and a Wonder

Isaiah 13-14; 24-30; 35

This week we studied Isaiah chapters 13-14, 24-30, and 35.

What insights did you gain this
week during your reading?

Any scripture passages that
inspired you this week?

What do you do to help you find
meaning in Isaiah's teachings?

Does anyone want to share any insights regarding what they learned this week?

Would anyone like to share what they do to help find meaning in Isaiah's teachings?

Any scripture passages inspired you this week?

Since this is the only time that we will be together for the book of Isaiah let's go through some things you will want to know about Isaiah and the Book of Isaiah first.

Tools for Understanding Isaiah



Nephi talks about how to understand Isaiah 2 Nephi 25

Tool 1 - Know something about the manner of prophesying (Poetry - Expect smile, metaphor, repetition.)

2 Nephi 25:1 - Manner of Prophesying

- Nephi speaks in plain and precious way, but Isaiah speaks poetically.
- In Hebrew poetry they often repeat things and use imagery.
- There is not unique meaning in each line - it takes a lot of words to say something simple, to make one point.

- One advantage of this is that if you don't understand the first verse that's okay because he will repeat it, so read on.
- Read it slowly and carefully

Tool 2 - Talking about the things of the Jews

Know something about the Jews and the regions around Jerusalem -
know something about the history

- There are things that he talks about that made sense to the people in the area. For example - we talk about the "point of the mountain" here in Utah and know where that is and the additional meaning when it relates to the former prison - but people outside of Utah would think of the peak of the mountain.

Tool 3 - Expect Isaiah to preach

Sometimes Isaiah prophesies, but he also teaches God's words.

- This is similar to what we see during conference. Most of what we hear in Conference is what we need to hear now and not prophecies of the 2nd coming. Isaiah is much the same.
- Look for his message for how to live faithfully, not just prophecy.
- Expect him to talk about faith, and repentance

Tool 4: Future Prophecy - When Isaiah does talk about the future expect multiple fulfillments and don't limit yourself to one meaning.

- When we think of prophecy and fulfillment of prophecy we too often think of fulfillment is prophet saw the future the exactly the way it will happen and then it happens that way. - There are other ways that the prophecy can be fulfilled.
- Fulfillment means to complete more fully, to fill a jar, or to complete.
- Tool - Nephi uses likening and typifying - a type of the future. Nephi is not just giving the final meaning of Isaiah - but possibly a

part of the fulfillment of the prophesy.

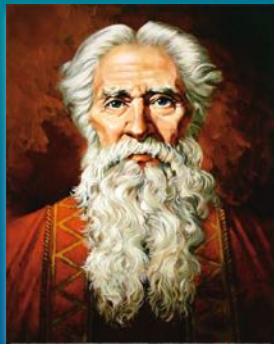
- One fulfillment is not the end all and be all of Isaiah's prophecies

We are commanded by Jesus to ponder and study Isaiah - 3 Nephi 23:1-3

Four C words - John Bytheway

- Look out the window and what did I see, 4 kinds of trees that all being with C (sometimes we don't see the forest through the trees)
 - Covenants - and covenant Israel
 - Christ - he doesn't use Christ but talks about the messiah
 - Current Events - sometimes these foreshadow coming events, and sometimes they are just current events
 - Coming Events - Sometimes there could echos in their prophecies. They may not be completely filled even though we think they are already done.

Who is Isaiah?



We don't know a lot about Isaiah as a person. We know that Isaiah has children because they are mentioned in Isaiah 7 and 8.

We don't know how long he lived before and after the time he was preaching. We do read in Isaiah that he preached during a 4-5 of the kings of Judah (southern kingdom). He preached during King Uzziah's reign as well as the reign of King Jotham, King Ahaz, and King Hezekiah. With these Kings we can estimate that Isaiah was preaching from around 740 BC (Isaiah 6-end of King Uzziah's reign) - 701 BC (around the time King Hezekiah passes).

There is a legend in both Christianity and Judaism that Isaiah is killed under King Manasseh - It might be hinted at in Hebrews Chapter 11:37.

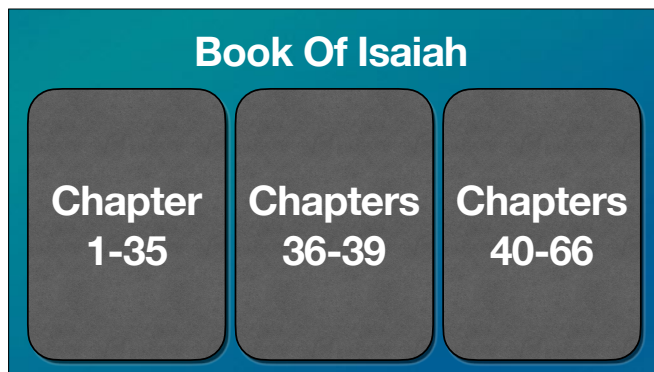
Happening during this time - Assyria carries the Northern Kingdom of Israel into captivity in 720 BC - So Isaiah witnesses the scattering of Israel and he preaches about the gathering of Israel. That is why he is an important prophet because the gathering of Israel is so important.

Remember Nephi lived and was a part of this scattering. There are different kinds of scattering, and according to Isaiah scattering is always part of God's plan.

Image:

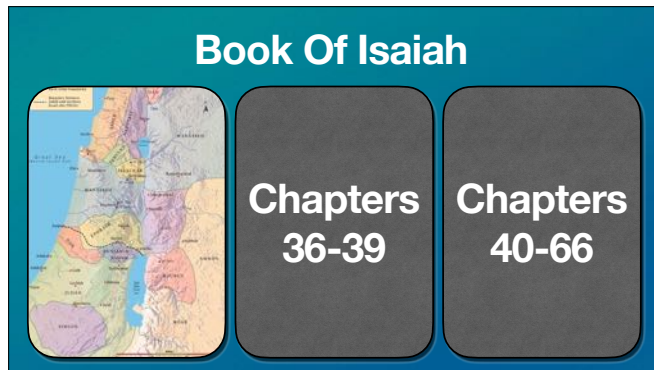
Lesson 122: Isaiah 6–9

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/old-testament-seminary-student-material-2018/isaiah/lesson-122?lang=eng>



Simple breakdown

Not fully organized chronologically.



Chapters 1-35 = Woes to Judah as they face the looming threat of Assyria
 Chapter 1 - prefaces the book, even though its later in time
 Chronologically . It does this because it is a good summary of Isaiah
 Chapters 13-20 - are chapters to the nations - Isaiah prophesies to multiple nations. There is a little bit of jumping around in here.
 Chapters 21-35 - are pre-destruction of Israel

Images:

The Division of the 12 Tribes

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bible-maps/map-3?lang=eng>

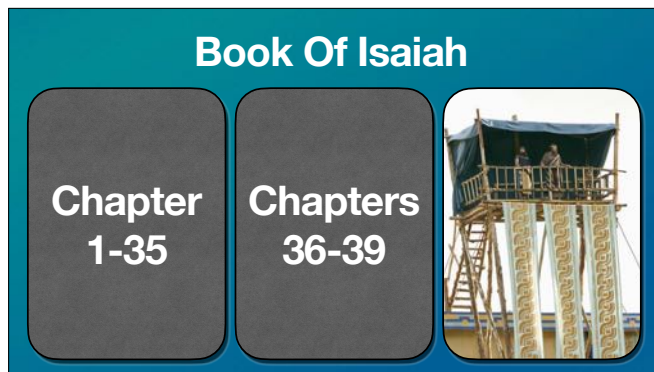


Chapters 36-39 = a Narrative - breaks from the prophesies. We hear about Assyrian King Sennacherib (sen-ack-crib) and King Hezekiah-as he is being guided by Isaiah as he is dealing with this threat. And the waring of future Babylonia exiled. This is almost word for the word the same as what you read in 2nd Kings.

Images:

Unit 24: Day 1, Isaiah 1-5

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/old-testament-study-guide-for-home-study-seminary-students-2015/introduction-to-isaiah/>

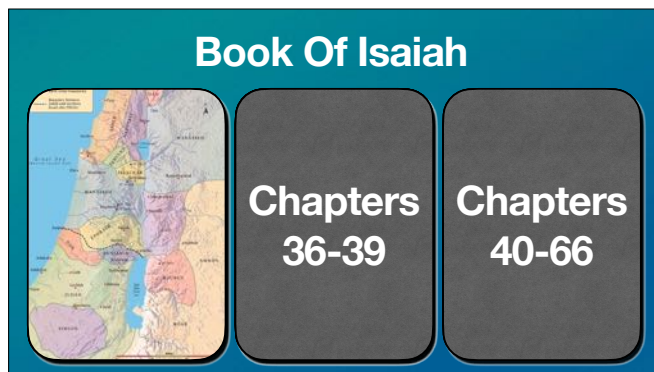


Chapters 40-66 the tone shifts and deals with the return of Judah from Babylonia exile and are addressed to the people of that time. He even mentions King Cyrus who hasn't been born yet.

Images:

King Benjamin Testifies To His People on a Tower

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media-library/images/king-benjamin-testifies-ff0bee?lang=eng>



We are in the first grouping. Remember during this time Isaiah is trying to warn the Northern Kingdom and they are destroyed even though he did everything he could.

Sennacherib (sen-ack-crib), the new king of Assyria, attacks Judah.

Hezekiah is preparing for the Assyrian army - he is building a wall - they found it its called the broad wall - broken down houses to build it - you can still see the remains and it is built through a house. He is also gathering water - Hezekiah's tunnel. They think started by Ahaz, but Hezekiah probably did most of the work and he finished it. And asking

Egypt for help. But Isaiah gets mad because he is doing all of this prep, but he is not turning to the Lord as part of the fortifications.

Images:

The Division of the 12 Tribes

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/scriptures/bible-maps/map-3?lang=eng>



Topics for this week

Topic 1 - The wicked kingdoms of the world and their rulers will fall

Topic 2 - The writings of Isaiah point me to Jesus Christ

Topic 3 - Apostasy means turning away from the Lord and His prophets

Topic 4 - The Lord can restore things that are lost or broken

We are going to try and go through only the last three of these topics today.

Images:

Lesson 104: 2 Kings 14–20 (assyrians scattering Israel (northern kingdom))

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/manual/old-testament-seminary-student-material-2018/2-kings/lesson-104?lang=eng>

Isaiah Writes of Christ's Birth (The Prophet Isaiah Foretells Christ's Birth)

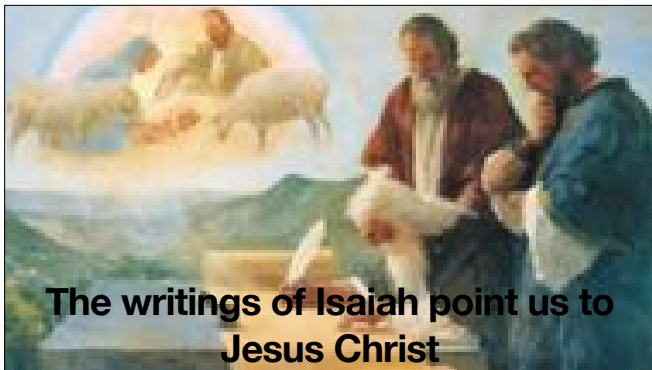
<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/prophet-isaiah-foretells-christs-birth-75578c1?lang=eng>

The great and spacious building

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/people-jeering-d90d78c?lang=eng>

Who Wrote The Book of Mormon? | ComeUntoChrist

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist/uk/beliefs/book-of-mormon/who-wrote-the-book-of-mormon>



The first topic we are going to cover is The writings of Isaiah point us to Jesus Christ.

Image:

Isaiah Writes of Christ's Birth (The Prophet Isaiah Foretells Christ's Birth)

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/prophet-isaiah-foretells-christs-birth-75578c1?lang=eng>



Here is an example of how we can find Jesus in Isaiah while using the tools for understanding Isaiah that we talked about earlier.

This is a clip from the Follow Him Podcast for this week. They are talking about Isaiah Chapter 22, which is between our reading, but it gives you an idea of how knowing the history can help you better understand the Savior.

Follow Him Podcast - Episode 38 - Isaiah 13-14; 24-30; 35 - With Dr. Kerry Muhlestein - Part 1

https://youtu.be/_sJqU2algJI



Let's give this a try ourselves using the tools we learned about. These four scriptures all point to the savior. What can you learn about Jesus from these scriptures?

Isaiah 24:21-23

- According to the header - this is referencing the 2nd coming.
- Katie's interpretation - The lord will make judgements of the living and the dead, they will go to spirit prison, but they shall be listed there - missionary work, a chance for repentance.
- The lord will then reign on the Earth - which is when we have peace

Chapter 25: 6-8

- Vs. 1 Abrahamic Language - God is our God and we are his people. So when we hear my God and my people = covenant language
- Vs. 2 - Isaiah acknowledges that God has destroyed a lot of Cities (they have seen a lot of cities fall at this point). You can take whole cities and lay them waste
- Vs. 3 - We (Israel) will glorify you (God) and Assyria should be afraid.
- Vs. 4-5 - those who oppress us (Israel) will be brought down
- Vs. 6 - Mountain = the temple in the Bible, usually. The lord will give us the

best of the best

- Vs. 7 - The thing that separates us from God will be destroyed. (One interpretation). Here when God takes care of us there is not something that will separate us.
- Vs. 8 - God wipes our tears away, death is conquered. Assyria is standing as an example of death itself
- Vs. 9 - This is the Lord we have waited for him, so we will be glad for him.
- Every kind of oppression will be ended and God will wipe away our tears.

(Note: this information was taken from Follow Him Podcast - Episode 38 - Isaiah 13-14; 24-30; 35 - With Dr. Kerry Muhlestein - <https://followhim.co/old-testament/>)

Isaiah 26:19

- The resurrection. We will all live again thanks to the savior and his resurrection
- He will swallow up death for everyone.

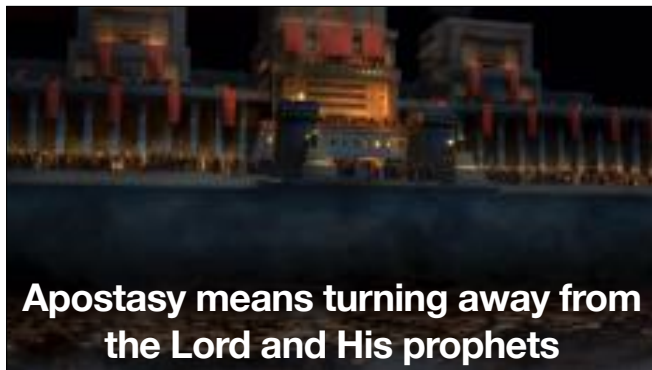
Isaiah 28:16

- Vs. 1 - The Beginning of 28 is talking to all of (Ephraim). In Israel they have beautiful wildflowers the rain stops and the flowers are gone. So these are all descriptions of transient behavior
- Vs. 2 - Servant or God will come and humble the drunkards who think they are so good.
- Vs. 3 - the things that they like that are transient will not last
- Vs. 4 - The fruit won't last if you pick it and leave it out in the heat. Again transient things will not last.
- Vs. 7 - Erred in judgement
- Vs. 8 - Drank so much that they threw up on everything and themselves
- Vs. 9 - I have a lot of drunkards who think they know what they are doing. They are false prophets who think that they know what is happening, but they care about unimportant things. This is what is happening in Israel.

They have leaders who are not leading righteously.

- We do this too. We choose people to follow who are spewing out filth in the name of wisdom in the world and we are eating it up.
- Vs. 10-13 - there are people who are not understanding and they get snared and fall away little by little. Vs. 10 and Vs. 13 is hard to translate in part because Isaiah is not using real words. But they are partial words where we get this. In Hebrew it sounds like gibberish. To the people who are spiritually drunk what God gives them it makes no sense. (Isaiah is told to preach so those who are not prepared can't understand it). Those who are prepared will learn it little by little.
 - When we are buried in the stuff the world tells us, we do not understand what the prophets tell us. When you are buried in garbage, you can't understand what is clean.
 - We choose our leaders and we can and often are listening and reading stuff all of the time, so we need to be even more careful what we are inputting because that is where our mind will reside.
- Vs. 16 - This is the cure.
 - Precept and line are drawing on the line to measure things out - construction tools)
 - This is gibberish to you, but I will layout a sure foundation that will allow you to withstand the storms that come to sweep away the lies. Those swimming in the lies will be washed away.
 - The footnote takes you to Helaman 5:12
 - And now, my sons, remember, remember that it is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation; that when the devil shall send forth his mighty winds, yea, his shafts in the whirlwind, yea, when all his hail and his mighty storm shall beat upon you, it shall have no power over you to drag you down to the gulf of misery and endless wo, because of the rock upon which ye are built, which is a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall.

- Topical Guide has Cornerstone meaning Jesus Christ, Rock
(Note: Part of this information was taken from Follow Him Podcast - Episode 38 - Isaiah 13-14; 24-30; 35 - With Dr. Kerry Muhlestein - <https://followhim.co/old-testament/>)



Our second topic is Apostasy means turning away from the Lord and His prophets.

Image:

The great and spacious building

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/media/image/people-jeering-d90d78c?lang=eng>

**If we turn away from the Lord,
we are like...**

Isaiah 24:1-5; 28:7-8; 29:7-10; 30:8-14

Isaiah is a poet - so he uses a lot of metaphors. During the lesson this week we were asked to think about some of the metaphors he uses to describe the consequences of turning away from the Lord and rejecting His prophets. What are some of the metaphors you read that would complete this sentence?

Isaiah 24:1-5

- An empty and spoiled land. A land of waste, upside down, scattered.

Isaiah 28:7-8

- Drunkards who error in vision and stumble in judgement
- Consuming tables full of vomit and filthiness

Isaiah 29:7-10

- A nightmare - you are hungry, dream of food, but wake up empty
- An empty soul
- You are thirsty, dream of drinking, but wake up faint
- You cry out and wonder
- You are drunk, but without wine
- You stagger without strong drink
- Your eyes are closed
- Can't hear or understand the prophets, rulers and seers

Isaiah 30:8-14

- Rebellious people
- Lying Children
- Children who will not hear the law of the lord
- Mock the prophets
- Lead other astray
- A breach ready to fall, swelling out in a high wall, whose breaking cometh suddenly at an instant
- Can't take fire from the hearth or water out of the pit

**What can we do to stay faithful
to the Lord and avoid apostasy?**



Clips from President Ballards Talk, “Stay in the Boat and Hold On!” Given during the October 2014

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2014/10/stay-in-the-boat-and-hold-on?lang=eng>

**How does the Lord bless those
who stay faithful to Him?**

**What are some attitudes
and behaviors that can
lead to apostasy?**

Isaiah 24:1-5; 28:1-8; 29:7-10; 30:8-14

Isaiah 24:1-5

- Haughty people (aka proud and arrogant)
- Languish (waste away, lose vitality, grow weak)
- Transgressed the laws
- Changed the ordinances
- Brake the everlasting covenant

Isaiah 28:1-8

- Prideful
- Care about unimportant things. - transient things (lasts only for a short time)
- Wallowing in filth
- Err in judgement

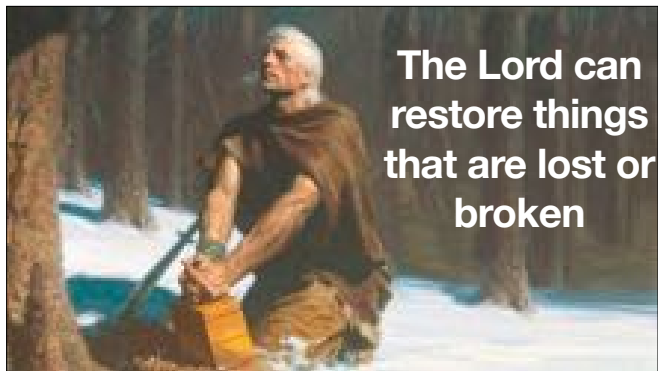
Isaiah 29:7-10

- Contentious
- Closed eyes
- Deny the prophets and seers

Isaiah 30:8-14

- Rebellious
- Liers
- Won't listen to the prophets
- Deceive others
- Despise the word
- Trust in oppression and perverseness (showing deliberate and obstinate desire to behave in a way that is unreasonable or unacceptable, often in spite of consequences)

How do you safeguard
yourself and your family
from apostasy?



Our last topic is The Lord can restore things that are lost or broken

Image:

Who Wrote The Book of Mormon? | ComeUntoChrist

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist/uk/beliefs/book-of-mormon/who-wrote-the-book-of-mormon>

How do Isaiah's writings relate
to the Restoration of the gospel
in our day?

Isaiah 29:13-24

Isaiah 29

Vs. 1-2 - I am going to bring sorrow because you are not living righteously no matter how many sacrifices you make

Vs. 3 - a siege is coming (both God and the Assyrians)

Vs. 4 - Golden plates are buried in the ground and then come back up - so they speak to us from the dust. How would Isaiah's listeners taken this though?

Sennacherib (sen-ack-crib) - archeologists can tell from the ash layers

when he was around because he was so destructive. Burns the cities, and kills people in unpleasant ways. You may know this from when we were talking about Lachish. So many people have died. So now so many people are low in the dust. The path of dead are speaking that destruction is coming. - original context

Vs. 7-8 - Assyria will come and he will feel like the conquered but they will find that it doesn't give them what they want. This is true for anyone who fights against God. But they will find that the little victories that they are getting will not satisfied them. Its like climbing a ladder, you get to the top and realize you are on the wrong wall. You can never have enough of stuff you don't need.

Vs.10 - The leaders are only hearing gibberish from the Lord

Vs. 11 - Book of Mormon interpretation is with Martin Harris and Charles Atton. The original context = when you feel good about yourself because you know so much, then all of these true words are sealed. Only those who are humble enough will be able to understand them. Woe to the learned who doesn't stay humble.

Vs. 13 - So many people are influenced by what the world teaches - they think they are following Christ, but their heart is given to the world

Vs. 14 - Book of Mormon is one of these marvelous work and wonder, but any truth is part of this. We want to help people stop following the media of the world, and make more time for Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:2

Isaiah Chapter 58 - is a turning point. This is when they start to follow the Lord. My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways.

If the spirit is with you you can learn more. If most of your information is

coming from a source different that Christ not good. Your happiness is determined by where your focus of your life is. Section 93:37

Vs. 28-30 - same message. Forsake the garbage of the world, if you don't the things of God will feel like garbage to you.

(Note: this information was taken from Follow Him Podcast - Episode 38 - Isaiah 13-14; 24-30; 35 - With Dr. Kerry Muhlestein - <https://followhim.co/old-testament/>)

**What words or phrases help
you to turn to the
Lord for Redemption?**

Isaiah 30:18-26 & Isaiah 35

Isaiah 30

Vs. 18 - The lord is patient, and gracious. He is merciful.

Vs. 19 - Weep no more, He will answer thee when you weep

Vs. 20 - Though you go through trials, you will still have support

Vs. 21 - You will be guided

Vs. 22 - Get rid of your filth

Vs. 23 - Increase of blessings

Isaiah 35

Vs. 1 - Blessings

Vs. 2 - See the glory of the lord

Vs. 3 - Strengthen weak hands and feeble knees

Vs. 4 - Be strong, fear not. God will come with vengeance, he will come and save you

Vs. 5 - Eyes of blind open, deaf will hear

Vs. 6 - Lambs will leap, tongue of the dumb will sing

Vs. 7 - Blessings where things are bleak they will flourish

Vs. 8 - No temptation

Vs. 9 - No contention



Testimony

Image:

He Comes Again to Rule and Reign, by Mary R. Sauer

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/come-follow-me-for-sunday-school-old-testament-2022/38?lang=eng>
