

ISAIAH

A Self-Study Guide

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Goals Of The Lesson:

1. Get a skyscraper view of Isaiah with its main divisions.
2. Understand the condition of Israel and Judah at the time of Isaiah's writing.
3. Study God's plea to His people in chapters 1-2.

Introduction:

Conditions of the Nation: The mid-700's BC were a very prosperous era for both the nations of Israel and Judah. We get a feel for the luxury the people lived in from the prophets Amos and Hosea who concluded their prophecies just before Isaiah begins his. This prosperity caused the people to forget God and rejoice in their idols whom they gave credit for the affluence. As a result, God would use Assyria as the "rod of His anger" (**10:5-6**) to punish his people. Israel would fall to Assyria in 721 BC and Judah would barely escape as God spared the city of Jerusalem in answer to the righteousness of Hezekiah.

Isaiah, the Man: As the beginning of the book points out, Isaiah's prophecies extend from the end of Uzziah's reign through the reign of Hezekiah. Isaiah probably died about the end of Hezekiah's reign or the beginning of Manasseh's wicked reign. *Halley's Bible Handbook* has Isaiah prophesying from 745-695 BC. Manasseh began his reign in 697. The apocryphal book, *The Ascension of Isaiah* has Isaiah dying by being sawn asunder at the commandment of Manasseh. However, there is no historical proof of this.

Isaiah's name means "the Lord is salvation." He had at least two sons who are given prophetic names: Shear-Jashub ("a remnant shall return"), and Maher-shalal-hash-baz ("speed the spoil; hasten the booty"). We also know that Isaiah's wife was a prophetess (**8:3**). Other than this, little else is known of Isaiah's personal life.

Survey of the Book:

Skim through the book, noting the subheadings to get a feel for the book. Then answer the following questions:

1. At what chapter is the main division of the book?
2. What is the first part of the book mainly about? The second part?
3. What chapters cover the condemnation on foreign nations?

Special Note:

Because the intent of this booklet is to survey the *major* prophets, the lesson material in Isaiah will not cover each chapter of the booklet in detail. Instead, the lesson will have the student survey the theme of the chapters and then a *Selected In-depth Text* will be chosen from the chapters covered in each lesson. These selected texts will be chosen because of their importance and because they give a good representation of the theme of the chapter. Though most of the class time will be spent on these texts, each student is encouraged to find points of interest and important thoughts from all of Isaiah.

Selected In-depth Text: Chapter One: In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-4:

Verses 5-9:

Verses 10-20:

Verses 21-31:

1. Why does God call the city a “harlot?”

Revealing Thought:

Hailey points out that the next section aptly portrays “three Jerusalems”: Jerusalem the ideal (2:1-4); Jerusalem the real (2:5--4:1); and Jerusalem the redeemed (4:2-6).

Selected In-depth Text: 2:1-4 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

2. When were the “latter” or “last” days? (Compare **Daniel 10:14; Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:1-2 [ASV]**)
3. Define “mountain of the Lord’s house.” How is the word “mountain” used in prophecy?
4. The phrase, “*For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem*” is spoke of as fulfilled in what New Testament passage?

5. Explain how in the kingdom of the Messiah nations will beat their swords into plowshares and not learn war anymore? Has this been fulfilled?

Selected In-depth Text: 2:5-9 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

2:10-19 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 2:20-22 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Life Application: Read **Hebrews 12:25-29** and compare the above text to what is in store for us. How does the Hebrew writer say this should change us?

Main Points To Remember:

1. Do not trust in man or man's ideas for they will fail.
2. The characteristics of the Messiah's kingdom from **2:2-4**.

Goals of the Lesson:

1. To see the condition of the nation when judgment comes
2. Understand what the Lord expects of His people.
3. Recognize and identify the specific sins of the people.

3:1-12 Find the main point of this text:

1. What is meant in **verse 12**, “*children are their oppressors, and women rule over them?*”

3:13-15 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 3:16--4:1 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

4:2-6 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 5:1-7 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

5:8-10 Find the main point of this text:

5:11-12 Find the main point of this text:

5:13-17 Find the main point of this text:

***Selected In-depth Text: 5:18-20* In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

2. What picture is being given when the Lord says they “*draw iniquity with cords of vanity/falsehood?*”

5:21-23 Find the main point of this text:

5:24-30 Find the main point of this text:

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. Look at all the Lord has done in planting us as His “vineyard.” We must bring to Him the fruit worthy of His loving kindness toward us.
2. With every pleasure of sin, a “woe” is added.

Goals of the Lesson:

1. Feel the effects of the glory of the Lord through the vision of Isaiah.
2. Learn from the foolishness of Ahaz in rejecting the salvation of the Lord.

Selected In-depth Text: 6:1-13 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What gave Isaiah the strength and boldness to say, “*Here am I! Send me?*” What application can we make to us?

2. How long was Isaiah to continue preaching? Is there an application for us in this?

Selected In-depth Text: 7:1-9 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

3. Check **2 Kings 16** to discover what Ahaz did when he was attacked by Israel and Syria:

Selected In-depth Text: 7:10-17 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

4. In the first eleven verses of this chapter God was obviously trying to encourage Ahaz to put his trust in Him and not in any foreign power to save. Knowing what Ahaz would do (**2 Kings 16**), what attitude is he displaying when he refuses to ask for a sign?

Revealing Thought:

It is interesting that since Ahaz wanted to rely on the king of Assyria, God decided to give him the king of Assyria and more. Yes Assyria would deliver them from Israel and Syria, but would then devastate Judah saving only Jerusalem from destruction.

7:18-25 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 8:1-4 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Revealing Thought:

Concerning this text, Homer Hailey states: "At some time during the reign of Pekah,

Tiglath-pileser carried the people of northern Israel into captivity (2 Kings 15:29). After dispensing with Pekah, the Assyrian monarch besieged Damascus, taking it in 732 B.C. and carrying away large quantities of booty. Truly, when this prophecy was uttered, 'the spoil was speeding, the prey hastening,' for the booty of Israel and Syria was soon to be carried away to Assyria. Thus, just as Jehovah had given Ahaz personal assurance that Assyria would be upon Israel and Syria within a short time (ch.7), so He also gave the people a sign to the same effect--Maher-shalal-hash-baz."

&5-10 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **&11-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. No matter what the threat or the trial, our only salvation is to maintain our trust in God. To rely on ourselves or other men for deliverance is doom.
2. God gave a sign to the house of Israel and to the world of His salvation: "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son."

Chapters 9-12

ISAIAH

Lesson 4

Goals of the Lesson:

1. Begin to see a picture of the prophesied Messiah.
2. Begin to understand the character of the Messiah's kingdom.
3. Learn about God's use of the nations in fulfilling His will.

Selected In-depth Text: **9:1-7 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What had happened to the land of Zebulun and Naphtali to cause the gloom and distress the prophet refers to?
2. What do we learn about the Messiah from **verse 6**?

9:8-21 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 10:1-11 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-4:

Verses 5-11:

3. In what way had God used Assyria? What can we learn from this about how God works in the affairs of men?

10:12-19 Find the main point of this text:

10:20-23 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 10:24-27 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

10:28-34 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 11:1-10 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

4. Notice carefully **verse 10**. This verse is quoted in **Romans 15:12**. By examining these two verses together you will be able to discover *when* the “wolf dwells with the lamb.”

5. Now that you know when the “wolf dwells with the lamb,” what does this phrase and the other figures of **verses 6-9** mean? (Hint: Look at the contrasting characteristics in the animals.)

11:11-16 Find the main point of this text:

12:1-6 Find the main point of this text:

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. The Messiah was prophesied to be both King over His kingdom and God Himself.
2. Assyria will be used to punish both Israel and Judah, but then God will punish Assyria for its arrogance.
3. The kingdom of the Messiah will be a kingdom of peace, purity and justice in which restoration and healing will be given to His people (ch. 11).

Chapters 13-17

ISAIAH

Lesson 5

Goals of the Lesson:

1. Understand “judgment terminology” in the prophets.
2. Identify the nations that God had marked for doom.

Selected In-depth Text: 13:1-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. It is important to pay careful attention to the various pictures God uses to describe the fall of Babylon. These same figures will be used repeatedly in reference to other judgments in the Bible.

Verses 1-8:

Verses 9-16:

Verses 17-22:

Fulfillment of the Prophecy: In Josh McDowell’s book *Evidence That Demands A Verdict, Volume 1*, he records how these prophecies were fulfilled:

1. By the time of Christ the ancient city was nothing but a desert. At 100 A.D. it was said to be nothing but “mounds and legions of mounds.”
2. Because of the meandering of the Euphrates River more than a third of the city is under water today making the area unsuitable for feeding flocks.
3. Because of superstition, the Arabs they will not spend the night there.

Selected In-depth Text: 14:1-23 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-11:

Verses 12-23:

1. Who is Lucifer? What does the name Lucifer mean?

14:24-27 Find the main point of this text:

14:28-32 Find the main point of this text:

15:1-9 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 16:1-2 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

16:3-14 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 17:1-9 In the space below, write down those things you find important

or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Revealing Thought:

Hailey states, "Location on caravan routes from north to south and east to west put Damascus in conflict with competing powers, especially Israel and Judah. The conflict between Syria and Israel intensified during the reigns of Omri and Ahab. The strong enmity which developed between Damascus and Assyria eventually led to the downfall of Damascus and the Syrian power." Then concerning **verse 1** he says, "The prophet is not saying the buildings of the city will be destroyed, though some may have been; he is saying that Damascus will never again be the city of importance that she once was; her glory will be as a ruinous heap."

17:10-14 Find the main point of this text:

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. Judgment language includes phrases such as "the stars, sun, and moon not giving its light," "the heavens and earth being moved out of their place," and "the day of the Lord comes."
2. God is the King over all nations and all nations will answer to Him. See **Acts 17:30-31**.

Chapters 18-22

ISAIAH

Lesson 6

Goals of the Lesson:

1. To better understand the fate of nations surrounding Israel.
2. To understand their sins but also God's offer of mercy.
3. Jerusalem would be treated the same way when they sinned.

***Selected In-depth Text: 18:1-7* In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Helpful Hints:

“Buzzing wings” may refer to the many kinds of flying insects in the land of Ethiopia. The setting of the chapter is the eminent invasion of the Assyrians on Judah and then a march toward Ethiopia. Verse 2b probably refers to the prophet sending Ethiopian ambassadors back to their home, comforting them that the Lord will deliver. **Verses 5-6** refer to the defeat of the Assyrian army, probably in the days of Hezekiah when 185,000 were killed by an angel of the Lord in one night. **Verse 7** may refer to a gift of thanks sent back to Jerusalem.

Selected In-depth Text: **19:1-10** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. What is meant by the phrase, “*The Lord rides on a swift cloud?*” Compare **Psalm 104:3; Joel 2:2; Zephaniah 1:15; Ezekiel 30:3**.
2. Understanding the Egypt relied on the Nile for their existence, what does the figures of **verses 5-9** indicate?

19:11-17 Find the main point of this text:

19:18-25 Find the main point of this text:

20:1-10 Find the main point of this text: (What nation is this burden against?)

Revealing Thought:

In Jeremiah 51:13 Babylon is referred to as dwelling on many waters. In Revelation 17:15, John's prophecy interprets the "many waters" upon which Babylon sits as "peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues."

Selected In-depth Text: 21:11-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (Specifically what is meant by, "The morning comes and also the night?")

21:13-17 Find the main point of this text:

22:1-14 Find the main point of this text: (Notice that after pronouncing doom on a number of foreign nations, God suddenly turns His burden against Jerusalem. Thus in effect saying that if Jerusalem will behave like the foreign nations, God will also treat them as such.)

Selected In-depth Text: 22:15-25 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (Compare **36:3** & **37:2** and you will see that Shebna was a scribe and Eliakim was over the house of Hezekiah.)

3. List at least two sins of Shebna: (*Shebna may have also represented the attitudes and sins of the people.*)

4. Who is Eliakim like in the New Testament?

Main Point of the Lesson:

1. Let no one think that God does not hold people outside of His covenant responsible for their sins. They are under God's law as well.

Chapter 23-27

ISAIAH

Lesson 7

Goal of the Lesson:

To continue to see God's rule among the nations; His judgments and offers of mercy.

23:1-18 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **24:1-13** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (This is a great chapter dealing with a judgment that was to come on the whole earth. Indeed, from the time of this prophecy until Christ, every nation of the world was judged and the lives of the inhabitants of the earth turned upside down.)

Selected In-depth Text: **24:14-23** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (Notice that the remnant that are left from the judgment enjoy a temporary time of rejoicing [v.14-16a]. But then wickedness again abounds in the earth [v.16b-20], and God must again judge [v.21-23].)

Selected In-depth Text: 25:1-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (There are four hymns sung in chapters 25-26. The first three are in this chapter.)

Verses 1-5 (Hymn of thanksgiving for victory):

Verses 6-8 (Song of Jehovah's feast for the nations):

Verses 9-12 (Song of joy for those who wait on the Lord):

Selected In-depth Text: 26:1-21 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (The strong city is not referring to any particular city such as Jerusalem, but is instead speaks of the victory of the righteous over the wicked--referred to here as the "lofty city.")

Verses 1-6:

Verses 7-10:

Verses 11-15:

Verses 16-19:

Verses 20-21:

27:1-13 Find the main point of this text:

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. Wickedness will often become so widespread that the righteous will be only a small minority. It is at these times especially that we must “wait on the Lord.”
2. We are now enjoying the victory Isaiah sang about.

Chapters 28-30

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Lesson 8

Introduction: “Delitzsch calls chapters 28-35 “The Book of Woes”; Leupold calls them “The Book of Zion.” Both are appropriate. The section contains a series of prophetic discourses dealing especially with Judah’s relationship to the heathen nations Egypt and Assyria, and its own sins and weaknesses (chs. 28-33). In these chapters the prophet pronounces six woes against the sins of drunken rulers in Samaria and Jerusalem, against the errors of Judah, and against an unnamed destroyer, probably Sennacherib of Assyria. In the midst of chaos God points to the stone in Zion as a place of refuge and foundation on which to build. The section closes with a prophecy against Edom, symbol of the world (ch. 34), and a promise of Zion’s future glory (ch. 35). Interspersed throughout these chapters of woes and doom, promises of glorious days to come flash brilliantly.” (Homer Hailey, A Commentary on Isaiah, page 225)

Goal of the Lesson:

To understand the sins of Judah and avoid their attitude and condition today.

28:1-4 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 28:5-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 5-8:

Verses 9-10: (Understand these words as coming from the drunken priests and prophets. What is their complaint?)

Verses 11-13: (How will the Lord speak to them with “stammering lips and another tongue?” Do you see people today with the attitude these people displayed in **verses 10, 13**?)

Verses 14-15:

Verses 16-22:

1. What picture of judgment is being given by the figure in **verse 20**?

28:23-29 Find the main point of this text:

29:1-4 Find the main point of this text:

29:5-8 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 29:9-16 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

2. The words of this text could have easily been written yesterday. How was the people's reaction to God's word similar to today?

29:17-24 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **30:1-11 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Verse 4 refers to the ambassadors of Israel meeting at Egyptian cities to ask for Egypt's help.)

30:12-17 Find the main point of this text:

30:18-26 Find the main point of this text: (In verse 20 NRSV translates "Teacher" instead of teachers. "Teacher" would refer to God while "teachers" would refer to the prophets.)

30:27-33 Find the main point of this text: (In verse 33 "Topheth" was the place in the Valley of

Hinnom that was used for the sacrifice of children. God is now preparing Topheth to use in destroying the nation under consideration in this text.)

Chapters 31-35

ISAIAH

Lesson 9

Goals of the Lesson:

1. To see the ultimate futility of the Assyria invasion of Judah.
2. To see how God used Assyria to punish the wicked in Israel, but also returned punishment on the heads of Assyria and other wicked nations.

Selected In-depth Text: **31:1-9** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. In **verse 4**, who is represented in the following figures:
 - The lion:
 - The prey:
 - The shepherds:

32:1-4 Find the main point of this text:

32:5-8 Find the main point of this text:

32:9-20 Find the main point of this text:

33:1-9 Find the main point of this text: (This text is still talking about the Assyrian invasion.)

Selected In-depth Text: 33:10-16 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Note: In verse 12, the ASV translates “peoples” instead of “people,” and therefore is referring to the Gentiles of Assyria. Verse 11, therefore, is God talking to Assyria.)

33:17-24 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 34:1-4 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Notice especially the language used by the prophet to refer to the fall of the nations.)

Selected In-depth Text: 34:5-17 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Notice some of the prophecies of Edom, the fulfillment of which can still be seen today.)

35:1-10 Find the main point of this text: (Notice how this chapter is in contrast to the previous chapter that spoke of the desolation of Edom. When does this chapter see its fulfillment?)

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. Two nations came from Isaac, one from Jacob and one from Esau. God determined destruction for one and glory for the other. To this day the land of Edom is desolate. However, God did not give glory to the physical nation of Israel. Their glory came to the remnant of both Jew and Gentile who have entered the kingdom, the spiritual Israel of God (**Galatians 6:16**).
2. Through these prophecies God has clearly shown that He rules in the kingdoms of men.

Chapters 36-39

ISAIAH

Lesson 10

Goals of the Lesson:

1. The day that Isaiah had been speaking of for nearly 40 has now arrived. Assyria has taken every city of Judah. Only Jerusalem remains. Has Isaiah turned enough people to God to spare the city?
2. To see the battle between the gods of Assyria and Jehovah.

36:1-22 Summarize the story of this text:

37:1-20 Summarize the story of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 37:21-38 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Note that verses 30-32 are a sign to Hezekiah.)

38:1-9 Summarize the story of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 38:10-22 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Selected In-depth Text: 39:1-8 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What was so wrong about Hezekiah showing the king of Babylon all that was in his house? How has the United States made the same mistake today?

2. **Verse 7** should give you a glimpse into what Nebuchadnezzar did when he took captives in the Babylonian invasions of 606, 597, and 586.
3. What do you think about Hezekiah's response in **verse 8**?

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. Are we in such fellowship with God that we would be able to pray as did Hezekiah and have God answer us?
2. We also must not make the mistake of Hezekiah and be lifted up with pride and become careless in our service to God in our old age.
3. God has again proven Himself to be the only living God.

Chapters 40-42

ISAIAH

Lesson 11

Goals of the Lesson:

1. Chapters 40-66 prepare the people for the Babylonian Captivity that Isaiah prophesied of in the last chapter. These chapters show that in spite of the captivity, there will be a return and a fulfillment of the promised blessing through the Seed of Abraham.
 2. We must see how Isaiah goes beyond the restoration of the physical nation to speak of the establishment of a spiritual kingdom with the messiah.
 3. It is also important to see that in chapters 40-48 we see God challenging the idols of the people to declare specific historic events to come as if they had already happened.
1. Why is chapter 40 a key division in the book?

Selected In-depth Text: **40:1-11** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (These verses serve as prologue for the rest of the book. Comfort is spoken to the people who will soon find themselves in Babylonian captivity.)

40:12-17 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **40:18-31 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Selected In-depth Text: **41:1-7 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Note:

1. “Let us come near together for judgment” in verse 1 is God’s challenge to the nations who trust in idols to enter into a court case with Him. Once both sides have presented their cases, let there be a judgment. God speaks first.
2. The “one from the east” most likely refers to Cyrus who is later named in 44:28.

41:8-20 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **41:21-29 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Note: In verse 3 Cyrus was referred to as the man from the east. Now he is spoken of as from the north. After he became king of Persia, he conquered Media to the north and then Babylon. So he is spoken of as both from the east and the north.)

Selected In-depth Text: **42:1-9** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

42:10-17 Find the main point of this text:

42:18-25 Find the main point of this text: (Since chapter 40 we have been introduced to three “servants” of Jehovah: Cyrus, the Messiah, and Israel. In this text the servant refers to Israel.)

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. The Lord is greater than all other gods and has proven Himself by specific prophecies that only He could have given.
2. The Messiah will be the ultimate salvation for Israel and for the Gentiles.
3. The blind in Israel will be destroyed.

Chapters 43-45

ISAIAH

Lesson 12

Goals of the Lesson:

1. To see the foolishness of idolatry both ancient and modern.
2. To recognize that fulfillment in this life will not come from serving the idols of the day but only from serving Jehovah.

43:1-7 Find the main point of this text:

43:8-13 Find the main point of this text:

43:14-21 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **43:22-28 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Note: In verse 27, “your first father sinned” may refer to Jacob who received the birthright by an unloving bargain and the blessing by deceit.)

44:1-5 Find the main point of this text:

44:6-8 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **44:9-20 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. How is idolatry in America like the idolatry described in these verses? Consider, for example, the worship of possessions or recreation:

44:21-23 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 44:24–45:7 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

2. What work does the Lord foretell Cyrus will do?

3. What is meant in 45:5, “I have named you though you have not known me.”

Selected In-depth Text: 45:8-13 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

45:14-19 Find the main point of this text:

45:20-25 Find the main point of this text:

Main Point of the Lesson:

1. Have we not taken money, divided it into three parts, with a third we have used to make ourselves comfortable in our houses, with a third we have provided fine food, and with the other third we have stored up saying, "You will deliver me in my time of need!"

Chapters 46-49

ISAIAH

Lesson 13

Goals of the Lesson:

1. To see the greatness of God in comparison with the Babylonian idols.
2. To recognize the salvation brought by Jehovah's Servant (Messiah).

46:1-13 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 47:1-15 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-11: *(Notice especially verse 2. What was God picturing that was going to happen to the Babylonians?)*

Verses 12-15:

Selected In-depth Text: 48:1-11 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (This chapter concludes the section that began with chapter 40 which has dealt with the Lord's condemnation of the heathen gods, as well as His plan concerning Cyrus and the fall of Babylon. In this chapter, Hailey states that Isaiah "projected himself into the time of the Babylonian captivity; from that vantage point he looked back at the cause of the captivity, and forward to the deliverance by Cyrus as being at hand.")

3. What lesson can we learn from the fact that Israel “made mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth or in righteousness?”
4. Why did God “declare the former things from the beginning?”

48:12-22 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 49:1-13 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (This section speaks of the Servant (Messiah) who would be the ultimate salvation of Israel.)

5. Who are the “coastlands” and the “peoples from afar” in **verse 1**?
6. Why is the Servant disappointed in **verse 4**?
7. In looking at **verse 6**, compare **Acts 13:47** and note how Paul used this text:
8. Where is **verse 8** quoted in the New Testament, and how does Paul use it?

49:14-21 Find the main point of this text:

49:22-26 Find the main point of this text:

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. The Lord has proven Himself to be the true God and all others false gods by the fact that He specifically foretold historical events (such as the return of Israel out of captivity) and then brought them to pass.
2. The Servant-Messiah would restore Israel to their former glory in a spiritual kingdom. This would happen by the Servant saving a *remnant* of Israel and becoming a light to the Gentiles.

Chapters 50-53

ISAIAH

Lesson 14

Goal of the Lesson:

To see that God was still ready to save Israel, Judah, and all the Gentiles through His Servant who would suffer for them.

50:1-3 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **50:4-11 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Selected In-depth Text: **51:1-8 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. When the Lord says, “*Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug,*” who or what is He referring to?
2. Why were they to look to the rock from which they were hewn? (Note that the NRSV translates **verse 2**, “*Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.*”)

51:9-16 Find the main point of this text:

51:17-23 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 52:1-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

***Note:** Verse 3 seems to carry the idea that since Babylon had taken Judah captive for nothing, God therefore did not owe the Babylonians anything when He would bring them back out of captivity. Judah had sinned against God, not against Babylon.

3. In context, what are the “good tidings” referring to in **verse 7**. How does Paul use this same text in **Romans 10**?

Selected In-depth Text: 52:13-15 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Selected In-depth Text: 53:1-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-3: (Would anyone have expected a Messiah like this?)

4. How would the Messiah be a “*root out of dry ground?*”

Verses 4-6:

Verses 7-9:

Verses 10-12:

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. God had not cast off His people when He sent them into captivity. He still held out hope for them. It was their sins that had driven them away.
2. If they will recognize His suffering Servant their iniquities will be forgiven.

Goal of the Lesson:

1. To see how the suffering Servant of chapter 53 gives way to joy and assurance for God's people.
2. To recognize the character of God's kingdom and God's people.

Selected In-depth Text: **54:1-10** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

1. In **verse 1**, who is the "desolate" and who is the "married woman?" How does the desolate end up having more children than the married woman? Compare **Galatians 4:27**.
2. Who is God making a covenant with in **verses 9-10** promising to never rebuke or be angry with again?

54:11-17 Find the main point of this text: (Notice in verse 15 that the Lord would never again assemble the nations against His people. After this, any who assembled against God's people would be without the Lord's sanction.)

Selected In-depth Text: **55:1-13** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-5:

3. In what way do we “spend money for that which is not bread?”

4. How would **verse 5** be fulfilled?

Verses 6-13:

5. Make an application from **verse 6**

56:1-8 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **56:9-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (The watchmen refer to the false prophets of Israel and Judah. Identify their sins.)

Main Points of the Lesson:

1. The kingdom of the messiah would be characterized by a people whose heart will always be to serve the Lord. Because of this, the Lord would never again need to punish His people by bringing the nations against them.
2. There will be no outcasts in the messiah’s kingdom. All who serve God will be accepted.

Goals of the Lesson:

1. To further recognize the sins of Israel and Judah and the reason the Lord casts off the faithless.
2. To begin to see a prophetic picture of the new kingdom to come.

57:1-13 Find the main point of this text: (Notice that verses 1-2 speaks of the condition of the righteous in contrast with the wicked described in verses 3-13.)

57:14-21 Find the main point of this text: (The phrase in verse 14, “Heap it up” is translated by the NRSV as, “Build up, build up,” thus calling a highway to be built by which God’s people could return to Him.)

Selected In-depth Text: **58:1-9a** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

58:9b-14 Find the main point of this text:

59:1-8 Find the main point of this text:

59:9-15a Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 59:15b-21 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

60:1-9 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: 60:10-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 10-18:

Verses 19-22:

1. How would you describe the fulfillment of this text?

Main Point of the Lesson:

In spite of the sins of the nation of Israel as a whole, there would be a remnant who would return to the Lord. God would then make them great in a new kingdom in which all the things they suffered before would be done away.

Goal of the Lesson:

To see a picture of the great salvation of the Lord and of the messiah's kingdom.

Selected In-depth Text: **61:1-9** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

61:10-11 Find the main point of this text:

Selected In-depth Text: **62:1-12** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-9:

Verses 10-12:

1. According to **verses 10-12**, what will the citizens of the Lord's kingdom be doing?

Selected In-depth Text: **63:1-6** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (Understand Edom in this text as

not only referring to the physical nation, but the symbol of all opposition to the Lord and His kingdom. Compare Revelation 19 for a similar picture.)

63:7-14 Find the main point of this text:

63:15-19 Find the main point of this text:

64:1-12 Find the main point of this text: (This is a prayer offered by Isaiah on behalf of the people. Notice the main points of the three movements of the prayer and any key verses that you see.)

1-5:

6-7:

8-12:

Main Point of the Lesson:

The blessings the Lord promised in these chapters has been fulfilled in us! The enemies of the Lord and His kingdom have been trampled under His feet, the Gentiles have seen the glory of the Lord and come into His kingdom, and God has given a remnant in Israel a way to return to Him.

Goal of the Lesson:

1. To see God's answer to the prayer of chapter 64.
2. To get a picture of how the messiah's kingdom would be different from the physical kingdom of Israel.

Selected In-depth Text: **65:1-25** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-7: (To get an idea of the kind of idolatry practiced in Jerusalem, see **Ezekiel 8**)

Verses 8-12:

1. What is the "valley of Achor?" Do you remember your Old Testament history?
2. Notice in the margin of your Bible the meaning of "Gad" and "Meni." These were their gods. Do they sound familiar to "gods" of today?

Verses 13-16:

Revealing Thought:

**Notice in this text that God will call His servants by another name. We already noticed in 62:2 that God will call His servants by a “new name.” Remember that “name” implies a description or character. Some think this new name is the name “Christian.” However, as in 62:4 and also in this context, it may be that God’s people are simply known by a different character than they were during their time of sin in the Old Testament.

Verses 17-25: (Many of the things spoken of in this paragraph are contrasts to what had happened to Israel in the past because of their sins. You will see some of this contrast by reading the curses on Israel pronounced in Deuteronomy 28.)

3. What are the “new heavens and new earth” that Lord would create?

4. How is the prophecy fulfilled that the wolf and the lamb shall feed together?

Selected In-depth Text: 66:1-24 **In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-6: (What are some of the things in this text that show how different the messiah’s kingdom will be in comparison to the physical kingdom of Israel?)

Verses 7-14:

Verses 15-17:

Verses 18-24:

5. In the new kingdom, what does the prophet say will be the main work of the God's servants?

6. What contrast do you see between spiritual Israel and physical Israel?

Main Point of the Lesson:

The kingdom of the messiah will be an entirely new system than what the world had been accustomed to. The character of the citizens of the kingdom would be different just as the blessings the Lord would bestow on this kingdom would be different. The Lord's new kingdom would be a kingdom of purity, a victorious kingdom lasting forever, and a kingdom that would eventually subdue all nations under its feet.