

# THE KING IS COMING

Survey of Judah Alone, Captivity, Return, and Years of Silence

LESSON 4: THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH . . . *PROPHECY*

**MEMORY.** Memorize Isa 42:1.

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**READING.** If possible, read Isaiah over the course of a few days. (If time does not permit, read Isa 1-6.) After doing your reading, in the space below write down something that you found to be interesting or important. It can be something that you have never noticed before or something that you want to remember and apply.

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## DISCUSSION.

1. *Background.* What was the spiritual condition of Judah when Isaiah was writing his prophecies? (Isa 1:4) With the threat of Assyria before them, what two nations fought against Judah and tried to bring it into an alliance with them? (7:1) Rather than trust God, with what nation did Judah try to ally? (30:1-2)

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## DISCUSSION.

1. *Background.* Though some Bible scholars assume that two (or more) authors wrote Isaiah, how do we know that God had the prophet Isaiah write the whole book? (Matt 3:3; 4:13-16; 8:16-17; 12:17-21) (Note: Isaiah is one of the most quoted book in the NT [55x], second only to Psalms [68x]. It is vital that Christians know Isaiah.)

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## DISCUSSION.

- Judgment.* Isaiah alternates between the themes of judgment and hope. Isaiah 1-39 focuses more on judgment and less on hope. Isaiah 40-66 focuses more on hope and less on judgment.

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## DISCUSSION.

- 2. *Judgment.* Why would God judge Israel and Judah? (Isa 6:9-10) The judgment of God would result in what for the people and the land? (vv. 11-13a) What hope would remain after judgment? (v. 13b; cf. 1:9; 4:3; 10:22; 41:8; 43:5; 44:3; 45:25; 53:10; 54:3; 61:9; 66:22; Rom 11:5) What was the purpose of the judgment? (Isa 4:2-6)**

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## DISCUSSION.

3. *Hope.* The predictions in Isa 40-66 are primarily for the Judean exiles who would live more than a century after the prophet, but the hope of Isa 40-66 is also relevant to Christians.

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## DISCUSSION.

3. *Hope.* What would God say to his people after the exile? (Isa 40:1; cf. v. 2) What would the appointed voice call the people of God to do? (vv. 3-4; cf. 11:16; 19:23-25; 35:1-10; Mal 3:1; Matt 3:1-6) Why? (vv. 5-8; cf. 1 Pet 1:22-25)



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## DISCUSSION.

3. *Hope.* Who was the Servant who accomplished the purpose of God, and how did he do so? (Isa 42:1-4; 52:13-12) What would the Lord create? (65:17; cf. vv. 18-25; 66:22-24; 2 Pet 3:13; Rev 21:1)

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**CONNECTION.** The Old Testament (OT) points forward to Christ and the New Testament (NT). Record any significant OT-NT connections that you observe in Isaiah. In addition, answer the following question and be ready to discuss: In what way(s) does Jesus fulfill the prophecy of Isa 7:14? (Cf. 8:8, 10; 9:6-7; Matt 1:18-25.)

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**APPLICATION.** Read Isa 6:1-13. A vision of the glory of God (or Christ) instilled godly fear in the heart of Isaiah, evoked godly sorrow, and motivated godly action. "Seeing" God will do the same for us today. Choose a passage of Scripture that emphasizes the holiness and mercy of God to read every day until the next class period. Record below how reading this passage affects your godly fear, godly sorrow, or godly action (obedience).