

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT



Welcome
to
Studio Scriptura

SOT.9
Isaiah



Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Participants will gain a high level understanding of:
 - a. The Prophet Isaiah
 - b. The global message of God's mercy



New King James Version,
1988. Nashville: Holman
Bible Publishers.

Introduction



Theme: Disobedience to the covenant will come at a cost to Israel - i.e., judgment through Assyria and Babylon. *But* there is always hope, God will fulfill His promises when His people respond with repentance and faith.

"Isaiah ministered in Judah c.740–686 B.C, during a time of great national crisis set in the tumultuous days of the Assyrian and Babylonian threats to Judah's future and the survival of the messianic line of the "house of David."

Isaiah has often been called the "Shakespeare of Israel" and the "Prince of the Prophets."

Isaiah ("Yahweh is salvation") was a prominent citizen in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C.

Isaiah served during the reigns of four kings in Judah—Jotham (750–735 BC), Ahaz (735–715 BC), Hezekiah (715–686 BC), and Manasseh (686–642 BC). Israel and its capital city of Samaria fell to the Assyrians in 722 BC. The Assyrians took the people into exile and turned the land of Israel into an Assyrian province.

Introduction *(continued)*



Hezekiah rejected his father's pro-Assyrian policies and rebelled against Assyria. The Assyrian response was severe - Sennacherib invaded in 701 BC and captured 46 cities in Judah. Jerusalem was spared when the Lord destroyed the Assyrian army surrounding the city in response to the faith of Hezekiah who prayed for the Lord to deliver the city (2 Kings 18-19; Isaiah 36-37).

Tradition states that the wicked king Manasseh placed Isaiah in a hollow log and sawed it in half, and Heb 11:37 appears to make reference to this event.

Next to Psalms, Isaiah is the most referenced Old Testament book in the New Testament, with approximately 100 citations

More than any other prophet, Isaiah anticipated the inclusion of Gentiles as participants in the blessings of the Lord's future salvation.

"The canonical witness of the New Testament confirms Isaiah's authorship of all parts of the book. Relevant New Testament references include Matt 3:3 (quoting Isa 40:3); Matt 4:4 (quoting Isa 9:1-2); Luke 4:17 (introducing a quote of Isa 61:1-3); John 12:39 (introducing a quote of Isa 53:1); Acts 8:28-35 (quoting Isa 53:7-8); and Rom 10:20 (quoting Isa 65:1).

Isaiah



CALL OF THE PROPHET & PROPHECIES AGAINST JUDAH (Isaiah 1-6)

Five sermons serve as a thematic introduction to the book.

God's holiness and the restoring a righteous **remnant**

Presentation of a Covenant lawsuit establishing the nation's guilt.

Pride, materialism, empty religious rituals, violence, oppression.

PROMISE OF IMMANUEL (Isaiah 7-12)

Downfall of King Ahaz via Assyria

A new King is coming and a remnant to spring up out of the disobedience of "God's people."





Isaiah

Unless the Lord of hosts Had left to us a very small remnant, We would have become like Sodom, We would have been made like Gomorrah. Isaiah 1:9

"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." Isaiah 1:18

He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war anymore. Isaiah 2:4

Their land is also full of silver and gold, And there is no end to their treasures; Their land is also full of horses, And there is no end to their chariots. Their land is also full of idols; They worship the work of their own hands, Isaiah 2:7-8

"I will give children to be their princes, And babes shall rule over them. Isaiah 3:4 As for My people, children are their oppressors, And women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, And destroy the way of your paths." Isaiah 4:12

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20

And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" Isaiah 6:3

So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts." Isaiah 6:5

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." Isaiah 6:8

CALL OF THE
JUDAH (Isaiah

Five sermons
book

God's holiness

Presentation of
nation's guilt.

Pride, materialism,
empty religious rituals,
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Isaiah



CALL OF THE PROPHET JUDAH (Isaiah 1-6)

Five sermons serve as a thematic book.

God's holiness and the

Presentation of a Covenant
nation's guilt.

Pride, materialism, empty
oppression.

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

"Do not say, 'A conspiracy.' Concerning all that this people call a conspiracy, Nor be afraid of their threats, nor be troubled. The Lord of hosts, Him you shall hallow; Let Him be your fear, And let Him be your dread. Isaiah 8:12-13

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7

To rob the needy of justice, And to take what is right from the poor of My people, That widows may be their prey, And that they may rob the fatherless. Isaiah 10:2

The Reign of Jesse's Offspring There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. Isaiah 11:1

in rebellion?

Isaiah 7-2)

Downfall of King Ahaz via Assyria

to spring up out
of the disobedience of "God's people."

Isaiah



PROPHECIES AGAINST THE NATIONS (Isaiah 13-23)

God's sovereignty over all nations is asserted.
Judgement due to: pride, idols, wealth, and trust in military might

- Babylon (13:1-14:23)
- Assyria (14:24-27)
- Philistia (14:28-32)
- Moab (15:1-16:14)
- Syria and Israel (17:1-14)
- Cush and Egypt (18:1-20:6)
- Babylon (21:1-10)
- Dumah (21:11-12)
- Arabia (21:13-17)
- Jerusalem (22:1-25)
- Tyre (23:1-18)

JUDGEMENT & BLESSING (Isaiah 24-27)

Some scholars have called this section "The Little Apocalypse" because of its similarities to the book of Revelation.

A tale of two cities - one destined for destruction due to pride and a new city that lives in humility under God's blessing.



Isaiah



PROPHECIES AGAINST THE NATIONS (Isaiah 13-23)

God's sovereignty over all nations is asserted.

Judgement. O Lord, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Isaiah 25:1

Assyria (14:24-27)
"And on this Mount shall the Lord of hosts make for *all peoples* a feast of rich things [symbolic of His coronation festival inaugurating the reign of the Lord on earth], a feast of wines - of fat things full of marrow, of wines well refined. Isaiah 25:6 (Amplified Bible)

You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You. Isaiah 26:3

JUDGEMENT & BLESSING (Isaiah 24-27)

"I will punish the world for its evil, And the wicked for their iniquity; I will halt the arrogance of the proud, And will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible/tyrants. Isaiah 13:11

"Hell From beneath is excited about you, To meet you at your coming; It stirs up the dead for you, All the chief ones of the earth; It has raised up from their thrones All the kings of the nations. Isaiah 14:9

"How you are fallen from heaven, Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.' Isaiah 14:12 & 14

PERILOUS WOES (Isaiah 28-33)

A series of five *woe oracles* (28:1; 29:1,15; 30:1; 31:1) announced the coming destruction of Israel and Judah, and then a final woe (33:1) announces the doom of Assyria.

Therefore the Lord said: "Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths And honor Me with their lips, But have removed their hearts far from Me, And their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, Isaiah 29:13

Woe to those who seek deep to hide their counsel far from the Lord, And their works are in the dark; They say, "Who sees us?" and, "Who knows us?" Isaiah 29:15

"Woe to the rebellious children," says the Lord, "Who take counsel, but not of Me, And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin" Isaiah 30:1

Who say to the seers, "Do not see," And to the prophets, "Do not prophesy to us right things; Speak to us smooth things, prophesy deceits. Isaiah 30:10

Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, And rely on horses, Who trust in chariots because they are many, And in horsemen because they are very strong, But who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, Nor seek the Lord! Isaiah 31:1

Woe to you who plunder, though you have not been plundered; And you who deal treacherously, though they have not dealt treacherously with you! When you cease plundering, You will be plundered; When you make an end of dealing treacherously, They will deal treacherously with you. Isaiah 33:1

He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, He who despises the gain of oppressions, Who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, Who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, And shuts his eyes from seeing evil: Isaiah 33:15

Isaiah



PROMISE OF DESTRUCTION & TRIUMPH (Isaiah 34-35)

God will judge all the nations with cataclysmic catastrophes. The mountains will melt, and the heavens will dissolve in the Lord's "day of vengeance"

The redeemed will walk on the highway of holiness and "come to Zion with singing"

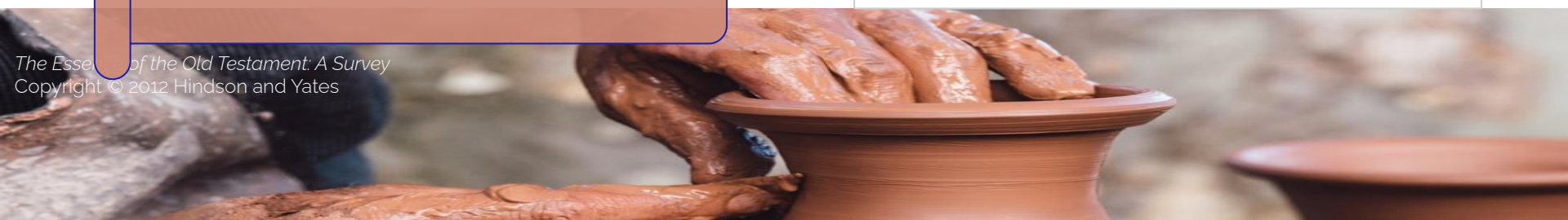
Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it. Isaiah 34:1

KING HEZEKIAH / PRAYERS FOR DELIVERANCE (Isaiah 36-39)

These narratives dealing with the reign of Hezekiah, his passionate prayer, and the deliverance of Jerusalem from the Assyrian army in 701 BC

The Lord used Assyria to punish His people, but then He will deliver Judah from their enemy.

Hezekiah's faith was not perfect, and he often turned to political intrigue and military alliances in the midst of threatening circumstances (chaps. 30-31; 39), but in the end Hezekiah displayed great faith in the Lord as his sole source of security when the Assyrian army surrounded the city of Jerusalem in 701 BC.



all. build towers of

Isaiah

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Come near, you nations, to hear; And heed, you people! Let the earth hear, and all that is in it, The world and all things that come forth from it. Isaiah 34:1

Now it came to pass in the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah that Sennacherib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. Isaiah 36:1

"And Hezekiah received the letter from the hand of the messengers, and read it; and Hezekiah went up to the house of the Lord, and spread it before the Lord. Isaiah 37:14

And the remnant who have escaped of the house of Judah Shall again take root downward, And bear fruit upward, Isaiah 37:31

'For I will defend this city, to save it For My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' " Isaiah 37:35

In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. Hezekiah 38:1a 2 Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the Lord, and said, "Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. Isaiah 38:2-3

"Go and tell Hezekiah, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years. Isaiah 38:5

"Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the Lord." Isaiah 39:6

Pictures of Christ in Isaiah

1. Virgin Birth (7:14)
2. Light in Galilee (9:1–2)
3. Divine Child (9:6)
4. Mighty God (9:6)
5. Wonderful Counselor (9:6)
6. Prince of Peace (9:6)
7. Branch of Jesse (11:1)
8. Anointed King (11:2)
9. Banner of the Nations (11:10)
10. Holy One of Israel (12:6)
11. Angel of the Lord (37:36)
12. A Forerunner Prepares His Way (40:3)
13. Incarnate God (40:9)
14. Servant of the Lord (42:1–4)
15. Redeemer of Israel (44:6)
16. Light of the Gentiles (49:6)
17. Suffering Servant (52:13–53:12)
18. Resurrected Lord (53:10)
19. Anointed Messiah (61:1–3)
20. Coming Conqueror (66:15–16)



“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” Says your God.

“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Isaiah 40:1-5

Isaiah



PROPHETIC CONSOLATION (Isaiah 40-66)

The first half of the book (Chs 1-39) is primarily a message of judgment, recording preached sermons, while the second half of the book (Chs 40-66) is predominantly a message of **comfort**, salvation and hope written in exquisite poetry.

Chapters 1-39 focused on trusting God in the midst of the Assyrian crisis rather than trusting military alliances or trusting in one's own strength. Chapters 40-66 argue that one should trust God alone.

The Lord will raise up the Persian ruler Cyrus as His "anointed one" to secure Israel's release from exile (44:28-45:7). Cyrus, who reigned over Persia from 559 to 530 BC, would solve Israel's immediate problem by conquering Babylon and issuing the decree that would allow the Jews to return to their homeland (fulfilled in Ezra 1:1-5).

The larger issue impeding their restoration was the problem of Israel's sin and separation from the Lord. Rather than a conquering king, a Suffering Servant will accomplish Israel's ultimate restoration by giving His own life as a sin offering for the people



Isaiah



PROPHETIC CONSOLATION *(continued)*

The prophet invites his audience into a courtroom as he demonstrates the superiority of the Lord to the gods of other nations with a sarcastic polemic to demonstrate the folly of idol worship.

Unlike unfaithful Israel, God's **individual Servant** will be obedient to God's instruction (50:4-5). Israel as God's Servant was blind and deaf (42:18), but the role of the individual Servant will be to open the eyes of the blind (42:7). While Israel suffered for its own sins (40:2; 42:24-25; 43:24-25; 44:21-22; 48:1-8), the Servant will suffer for the sins of others (53:4-6,10-12).



He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. Isaiah 40:11

"He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall, But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:29-31

"Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. Isaiah 42:1

Who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, "You shall be built," And to the temple, "Your foundation shall be laid." ' Isaiah 44:28 "Thus says the Lord to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held - To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut. Isaiah 45:1

"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. Isaiah 45:22

You are wearied in the multitude of your counsels; Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, And the monthly prognosticators Stand up and save you From what shall come upon you. Isaiah 47:13

"The Lord God has given Me The tongue of the learned, That I should know how to speak A word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear To hear as the learned. Isaiah 50:4

How beautiful upon the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, "Your God reigns!" Isaiah 52:7



For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him.

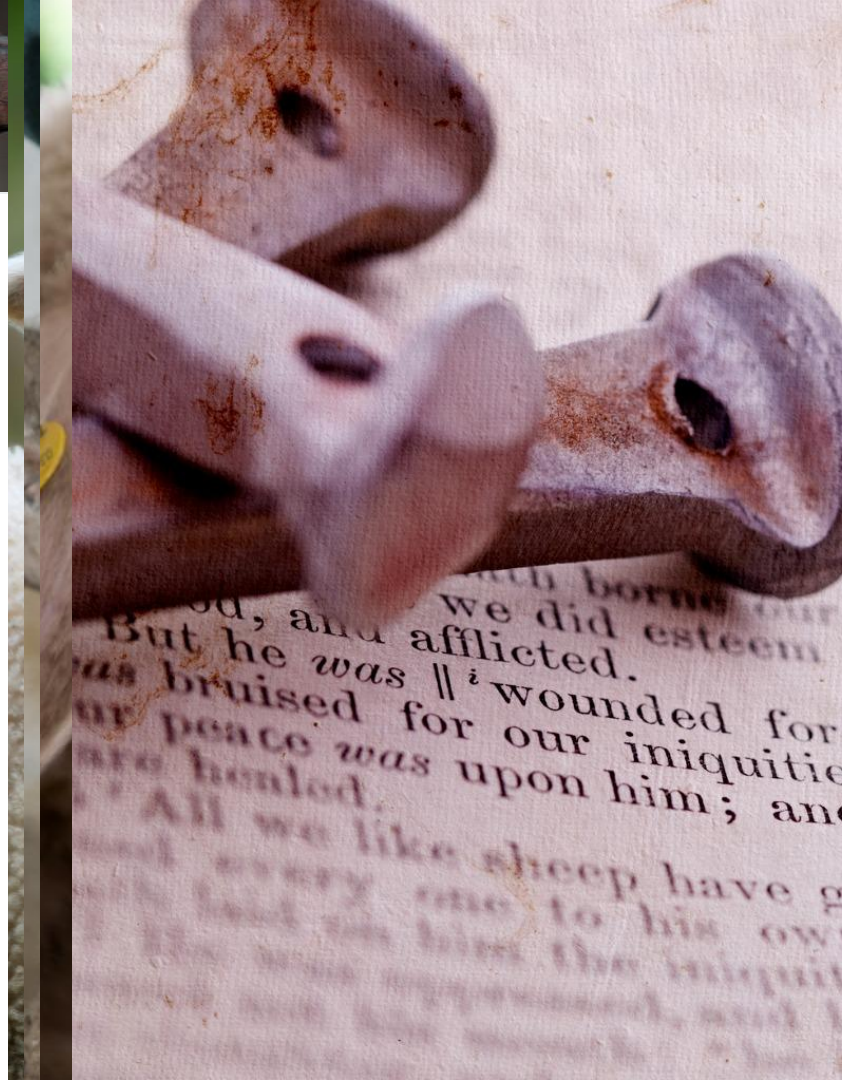
He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:2-6



Isaiah



Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:7-9

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11

His watchmen are blind, They are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, They cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. Yes, they are greedy dogs Which never have enough. Isaiah 56:10-11a

So shall they fear The name of the Lord from the west, And His glory from the rising of the sun; When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. Isaiah 59:19

Isaiah



"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, Isaiah 61:1-2

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." So all bore witness to Him, and marveled at the gracious words which proceeded out of His mouth. And they said, "Is this not Joseph's son?"
Luke 4:16-22



Surely you have things turned around! Shall the potter be esteemed as the clay; For shall the thing made say of him who made it, "He did not make me"? Or shall the thing formed say of him who formed it, "He has no understanding"? Isaiah 29:16

"Woe to him who strives with his Maker! Let the potsherd strive with the potsherds of the earth! Shall the clay say to him who forms it, "What are you making?" Or shall your handiwork say, "He has no hands"?
Isaiah 45:9

But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand. Isaiah 64:8

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

And have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him. Colossians 3:10



...praise You, O Lord, among the
peoples; I will sing to You among the

And I will shake all nations, and
they shall come to the Desire of All Nations;
and I will fill this temple with glory,
saith the Lord of hosts. **Haggai 2**

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew
you; Before you were born I sanctified you;
I ordained you a prophet to the nations."
Jeremiah 1:5

But you shall receive power when the
Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you
shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem,
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the
end of the earth. **Acts 1:8**

Who among
be justifi

Therefore it is of faith that it might be

For from the rising of the sun, even
to its going down, My name shall
be great among the Gentiles; In
every place incense shall be
offered to My name, And a pure
offering; For My name shall be
great among the nations;" Says the
Lord of hosts. **Malachi 1:11**

to raise
Gentile

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision
nor uncircumcision avails anything, but
faith, as walk

use
erty to
so to
aham,
S 4:16

Then to Him was given dominion and
glory and a kingdom,
That all peoples, nations, and
languages should serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting
dominion, Which shall not pass away,
And His kingdom the one
Which shall not be destroyed. **Daniel**
7:14

And Jesus came and spoke to them,
saying, "All authority has been given to
Me in heaven and on earth. Go
therefore and make disciples of all the
nations, baptizing them in the name of
the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe
all things that I have commanded you;
and lo, I am with you always, even to
the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew**
28:18-20

ce and mercy
the Israel of
15-16

that I provide for it' **Jeremi**
33:8-9

shall

So What & Now What?



- ❑ Written Short Answer to the following:
 - ❑ As clay in God's hands what part(s) of your life need to me more fashioned into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ? (100 words)
 - ❑ How would you introduce the overall message of Isaiah to someone? (100 words)
 - ❑ How does King Hezekiah fit into the Book of Isaiah? Present thoughts both historically and theologically. (100 words)
 - ❑ How would you use Isaiah 53 to present the Gospel to someone who is not a Christian? (150 words)
 - ❑ Using the Book of Isaiah, how would you respond to someone who says that the message of God in the Old Testament was not intended to be a global message? (150 words)

