



KING OF THE WORLD

Studies in Isaiah

April 1, 2007

Growing in Spirit & Truth

Volume 5, Issue 23



The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

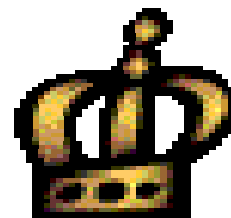
- **Worship**—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- **Fellowship**—You were formed for God’s family
- **Discipleship**—You were created to become like Christ
- **Ministry**—You were shaped for serving God
- **Evangelism**—You were made for a mission

Ain’t Gonna Be No Rematch

Introduction to Isaiah 13-23

In the 1976 movie, Rocky, after fifteen grueling, bloody rounds, Apollo Creed, the favorite, said to Rocky Balboa, “There ain’t gonna be no rematch”. As tough as Creed thought he was, he didn’t want any more of Rocky. This applies to this week’s study in Isaiah. The nations of the world thought they could “take” God’s people, but God would throw the final punch and there would be no rematch. The prophets of Israel spoke the truth concerning the sin of God’s people, but God wasn’t just a “local” deity. He was the sovereign ruler of the world (and universe) and as such planned judgment on all who sinned. In this section we see God predicting judgment first on Babylon, who, although not yet in power, was coming on the scene. They would be a nation full of pride, and this

section shows us that pride always results in God’s judgment. Even the power behind Babylon, Lucifer (a.k.a. Satan) had been judged for His reckless display of angelic pride. Babylon was not alone in this trait, though; Assyria, Philistia and Moab all acted this way, too. Each would discover that God always judges pride wherever it is found. Because of God’s grace, though, there is another side to His judgment. Once it is complete He acts to restore the person or nation who has been disciplined. Ethiopia and Egypt would both be examples of this. In the last days they would come to Israel to find refuge with the Lord as part of the millennial rule of Christ. Finally, this section of Isaiah shows that self-reliance results in being removed from usefulness to God. In Isaiah’s



As the King of the world God deserves all our loyalty.

prophecy of the “valley of vision” it was apparent that while Israel should have changed their ways in response to God’s judgment, they continued in their self-reliance. A small picture of this involved Shebna, the prime minister. Just when he thought he had everything under control, he would be replaced by Eliakim, who would be able to open the doors of David’s kingdom to the world once again. No one would be able to stand against God’s judgment; and, as He might say to all, “there ain’t gonna be no rematch.”

Daily Study Questions for Isaiah 13-23

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.thehospitalchurch.com/small_groups/ABFs/leader_resources)

1. Read Isaiah 13:6-11. What will the day of the Lord be like (v6, 7-8, 9, 10) and what attitude will be nullified (v11)? What nation will be defeated first (13:17-22)?	
2. In Is 14 how will Israel be blessed in the day of the Lord (v1-2) and why (v1)? What will happen to the power behind Babylon (v12) and why (v13-14)? Apply.	
3. From 14:24-32 what other nations will be judged (v24-25, 29-30)? How will each be defeated (v25, 30-31)? Why is this certain (v26-27)?	

Isaiah 13-23 Daily Study Questions (cont)

<p>4. In 15-16 who is the next nation judged (15:1-3), and what is their problem (16:6-7)? Where will they seek refuge (16:1, 4-5)?</p>	
<p>5. Based on 17 what will happen to Damascus (v1), and Ephraim, protected by Damascus (v3)? What will be the result of God's judgment (v4, 7-8, 11)? Why did it happen (v10)?</p>	
<p>6. Using 18:1-7 what will happen to Ethiopia (v2, 5-6)? What will they do in the end, however (v7)? What encouragement does this give?</p>	
<p>7. Looking at 19:1-25 what will happen to Egypt (v1-4), and to their leaders (v11-15)? In the end what will occur (v19-25)?</p>	
<p>8. In 20 what message did Isaiah give to Egypt and Ethiopia (v4-5), and how did he deliver it (2-3)? What are we to think about this?</p>	
<p>9. According to 21:11-17 what other two nations will be judged (v11, 13)? What will happen to them (v11-12, 16-17)?</p>	
<p>10. From 22:1-14 when Judah faced judgment how did they respond (v9-11, 12-14)? What would happen to Shebna (v15-19) and Eliakim (v20-24)? How can we apply this?</p>	
<p>11. Based on 23:1-18 how influential was Tyre (v8), and what will happen to them (v1, 9-12, 17)? What would be the final result (v17-18)?</p>	
<p>12. Look back over Is 13-23. What nations will be judged, and why will God judge them? What does this say about His authority?</p>	

Scripture to Remember

"I will also put an end to the arrogance of the proud, and abase the haughtiness of the ruthless."

Isaiah 13:11b (NAS)

Celebration Fellowship

Help—Hope—Healing

We're on the web

www.thehospitalchurch.com

Life Group Questions—Let's Get Real About Witnessing

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. What comes to your mind when you hear the words "witnessing" or "evangelism"? Why do you think God wants all believers to do this, and not just "professionals"?
2. Summarize the 3 historical arguments for God's existence (moral, cosmological, teleological). What value do you think these have for leading people to Christ?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:15-16. Why must we "set Christ apart as Lord in our hearts" to be able to effectively share Him with others? How do we do this?
4. Discuss the meaning of "hope". What are you hopeful about today in your walk with the Lord? How does "setting Christ apart as Lord" and "hope" relate to sharing?
5. Talk about some good ways to combine gentleness and truth as we share about Christ. Do you agree that being honest with unbelievers about your own struggle is okay?
6. Bring up anything else important to you from Sunday's message if there is time.