



Isaiah, Pt. 2

Corrupt Zion to Renewed Zion

Session 24

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Briefly explain the theme of Isaiah in 1-2 sentences.
- Describe the role of the Servant and his connection to the Davidic Covenant.
- Explain the significance of the multinational remnant and its connection to the Abrahamic Covenant.
- Define how Isaiah envisioned the renewed Zion.

INTRODUCTION

Isaiah 39 ends in darkness. Hezekiah has overcome Assyria by his faith, but he is told that after his time, Babylon would destroy Judah. And indeed, that is what happened. Beginning in 605 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar invaded Judah for refusing to pay taxes, and in 586 he tore down the walls of Jerusalem, stripped the Temple of its beauty and splendor, burned the house of God to the ground, and carried the people off into captivity. In His righteous wrath, God brought the curses of the covenant down on the people. He cast them out of His presence, and for 70 years Israel lived as exiles in Babylon. God was right to exile Judah, but He wasn't done with them.

GOD OF ALL COMFORT

Isaiah 40 begins not with a vision of judgment or with a threat of exile, but with tender words of affection. **Why is this important?**

A NEW AND GREATER EXODUS (40-48)

Chapters 40-48 comprise the first section of Isa. 40-66 and present God as the uniquely sovereign and only God who rules history. How does Isaiah contrast God with idols?

How does Isaiah describe the return of the exiles as a new and greater exodus (43:1-7, 16-21; 49:9b-10; 52:11-12)?

The promises of redemption anticipate two distinct events: release and forgiveness.

RELEASE

FORGIVENESS

SERVANT SONGS (42, 49-55)

Isaiah 40-55 contains what have been called four “Servant Songs,” or four poetic/song-like prophecies about what God’s anointed Servant would accomplish in Israel and the world.

1st Song (42:1-9): Consolation for Israel and the nations

2nd Song (49:1-13): God will redeem and restore His people

3rd Song (50:4-9): The faithful determination of the Servant

4th Song (52:13-53:12): The suffering Servant brings forgiveness, salvation, and victory

The title “servant” is used repeatedly throughout Isaiah 40-55, sometimes referring to the nation as a whole (41:8-10; 42:18-25; 43:10; 44:1-6, 21-22; 45:4), and sometimes referring to an individual (42:1-4; 49:1-6; 52:13-53:12). **How are we to understand the Servant as the nation and an individual?**

What does the Servant accomplish? What does the Fourth Servant Song tell us about His work?

Servant Songs Summary:

- (1) The Servant is an _____ who represents _____
_____ and yet is _____ from her.
- (2) The Servant is the _____.
- (3) The Servant _____ God's people through _____,
_____.
- (4) The Servant's work affects _____ and draws them to himself.

BEHOLD, I AM MAKING ALL THINGS NEW (56-66)

Eschatology =

Why is the vision of a renewed Zion in ch. 62 so important?

How does Isaiah envision the new heavens and the new earth?

The centerpiece of the new creation is the new Jerusalem (vv. 18-19, 25). The renewed Mount Zion becomes the place out of which instruction flows to the nations, where the Servant reigns in righteousness, and where heaven touches earth in shalom and shabbat. The imagery of this passage shows that God through His Servant is blazing a trail back to Eden (cf. 35:1-2, 6b-7; 51:3) so that His glory, displayed through His judgment of the wicked and salvation of His people, spills out onto the earth and overwhelms it.

CONCLUSION

As a whole, here are the three major anticipations of Isaiah:

- (1) _____
- (2) _____
- (3) _____

Consider these thoughts this week:

- How do Isaiah's anticipations of eschatological hope relate to your understanding of the New Testament?
- Why is the Servant so central to God's work of redemption and restoration?

HOMEWORK

- Read pp.286-298 in *Old Testament Theology* by Paul House
- Watch the Bible Project's video on [Isaiah 40-66](#)
- Read Isaiah 40-56, 61, 65-66

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