

# 1. Lesson 1: The Certainty of Judgment, the Hope of Redemption

## 1.1 The Theme of the Book of Isaiah:

*YHWH, the Almighty, the Holy One of Israel, the Great King is establishing His righteous rule over the Earth through Israel. In His awesome work, God's judgment leads to the restoration of the Divine Ordering of the Earth.*

1.1.1 What is Actual vs. What Could/Will Be

1.1.2 The **Future** Dominates the **Present**

1.1.3 Salvation and Restoration are always the "last word"

1.1.4 The Structure of this Larger Section:

C. 1-12 The Problems of Judah and Jerusalem

C. 13-23 The Judgment of the Nations

C. 24-27 Isaiah's Apocalypse

C. 38-35 Judgment > Salvation

## 1.2 The Structure of the Passage:

1.2.1 THE COVENANT LAWSUIT (1:2-9)

The People reject and forsake the knowledge and presence of God.

1.2.2 THE LORD REFUSES FAITHLESS WORSHIP (1:10-15)

1.2.3 THE CALL TO REPENTANCE (1:16-20)

1.2.4 THE SOCIAL COLLAPSE AND HOPELESSNESS OF ZION (1:21-31)

1.2.5 THE FUTURE RESTORATION AND GLORY OF ZION (2:1-4)

The Nations accept and flock to the knowledge and presence of God

## **2. Lesson 3: Judgment is Certain**

### **2.1 The Vision of Future Zion (2:1-4)**

Transition: Let Us Walk in the Lord's Light (2:5)

### **2.2 God's Judgment is Inevitable (2:6-21)**

2.2.1 God has abandoned His people (2:6-9)

2.2.2 The Proud will be Humbled (2:10-17)

2.2.3 The Worthless Idols Will be Cast Away (2:18-21)

Transition: Don't Trust in Man (2:22)

### **2.3 The People Bring Disaster on Themselves (3:1-4:1)**

2.3.1 The Leaders will be Removed (3:1-7)

2.3.2 The Righteous vs. The Wicked (3:8-11)

2.3.3 The Collapse of Culture (3:12-4:1)

### **2.4 A Vision of Future Zion (4:2-6)**

### **2.5 The Song/Parable of the Vineyard (5:1-7)**

### **2.6 The Woes Against the People (5:8-30)**

1. Woe to the Greedy (5:8-10)

2. Woe to the Drunkards (5:9-12)

Therefore > Deportation (5:13)

Therefore > God Will be Exalted (5:14-17)

3. Woe to the Willfully Defiant (5:18-19)

4. Woe to the Perverters of Truth (5:20)

5. Woe to the Self-Wise (5:21)

6. Woe to the Heroes of Drinking (5:22)

Therefore > Judgment Comes Swiftly (5:24)

Therefore > The People are Helpless and Hopeless (5:25-30)

### 3. The Theme of the Lord's Vineyard

#### 3.1 Psalm 80:8-11: God Brings the Vine Out of Egypt

8 You brought a vine out of Egypt;  
you drove out the nations and planted it.  
9 You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. 10 The  
mountains were covered with its shade,  
the mighty cedars with its branches.  
11 It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.

#### 3.2 Isaiah 5:1-5: What More Can the LORD Do?

##### 3.2.1 Jeremiah 2:21: It came from Choice Seed

"Yet I planted you a choice vine, wholly of pure seed.  
How then have you turned degenerate and become a wild vine?"

##### 3.2.2 Jeremiah 12:10-11: It is trampled by its "shepherds"

10 Many shepherds have destroyed my vineyard;  
they have trampled down my portion;  
they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.  
11 They have made it a desolation;  
desolate, it mourns to me.  
The whole land is made desolate,  
but no man lays it to heart.

##### 3.2.3 Hosea 10:1-3: The Vine has become Wild and Sour

1 Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit.  
The more his fruit increased, the more altars he built;  
as his country improved, he improved his pillars.  
2 Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt.  
The LORD will break down their altars and destroy their pillars.  
3 For now they will say:  
"We have no king, for we do not fear the LORD;  
and a king--what could he do for us?"

#### 3.3 Matthew 21:33-45: The Rejection of the Son

33 "Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a  
vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower  
and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. 34 When the season  
for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. 35 And  
the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another.  
36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to  
them. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' 38  
But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir.  
Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' 39 And they took him and  
threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.  
40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" 41 They said to  
42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone*."  
when it falls on anyone, it will crush him."  
45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about

### 3.4 **Psalm 80:12-19: The Vine will Return**

12 Why then have you broken down its walls,  
so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit?  
13 The boar from the forest ravages it,  
and all that move in the field feed on it.  
14 Turn again, O God of hosts!  
Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,  
15 the stock that your right hand planted,  
and for the son whom you made strong for yourself.  
16 They have burned it with fire;  
they have cut it down;  
may they perish at the rebuke of your face!  
17 But let your hand be on the man of your right hand,  
the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself!  
18 Then we shall not turn back from you;  
give us life, and we will call upon your name!  
19 Restore us, O LORD God of hosts!  
let your face shine, that we may be saved!

### 3.5 **Isaiah 27:2-6: The Vine will be Restored**

2 In that day, "A pleasant vineyard, sing of it!  
3 I, the LORD, am its keeper; every moment I water it.  
Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day;  
4 I have no wrath.  
Would that I had thorns and briers to battle!  
I would march against them,  
I would burn them up together.  
5 Or let them lay hold of my protection,  
let them make peace with me,  
let them make peace with me."  
6 In days to come Jacob shall take root,  
Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots  
and fill the whole world with fruit.

## 4. Lesson 8: The Day of the LORD

### 4.1 Understanding Shame in the Biblical Context:

What it is not:

“A painful emotion caused by a strong sense of guilt, embarrassment, unworthiness, or disgrace.”

What it is:

“a claim to worth that is publicly denied and repudiated.”

*\*Often, shame occurs because of a **misplaced confidence** - Confidence is placed in an object or person and then in the time of testing, that object of confidence fails.*

### 4.2 The Larger Structure of Isaiah 13-27

FIRST CYCLE: ORACLES 13-20	SECOND CYCLE: ORACLES 21-23	THIRD CYCLE: MIXED TYPES 24-27
Babylon/Assyria Philistia Moab Ephraim (Israel) Egypt/Cush	Babylon Dumah (Edom) Arabia Jerusalem Tyre	<b>THE MEANINGLESS CITY</b> <i>The City of the World</i> <i>The Spirit of Babylon</i> Vs. <b>THE CITY OF GOD</b>

### 4.3 The Larger Structure of Isaiah 24-27

A The Lord's Harvest from a Destroyed World (24:1-13)

B The Song of the Remnant (24:14-16a)

C The Sinful World Overthrown (24:16b-20)

D The Waiting World (24:21-23)

E The Song of the Ruined City (25:1-5)

F **The Glory of Future Zion** (25:6-12)

E2 The Song of the Strong City (26:1-6)

D2 The Waiting People of God (26:7-21)

C2 The Forces of Chaos Overthrown (27:1)

B2 The Song of The Remnant (27:2-6)

A2 The Lord's Harvest from the Destroyed People (27:7-13)

(this is adapted from A. Motyer, *Isaiah*, 195)



## 6. Lesson 10: Hezekiah's Test

### 6.1 The Larger Structure

THE ASSYRIAN THREAT		THE BABYLONIAN THREAT	
Chpts 1-35 Oracles Concerning Assyria	Chpts 36-37 Transition <i>The End of Assyria</i>	Chpts 38-39 Transition <i>The Beginning of Babylon</i>	Chpts 40-66 Oracles Concerning Babylon

### 6.2 The Geography and Historical Circumstance



## 7. Lesson 11: The Books of Comfort

“More than anything else, the exile [in Assyria and Babylon] would raise questions about the character of the God whom Isaiah and the preexilic prophets had been pro-claiming. Had the book of Isaiah in its entirety not existed prior to the exile, it is easy to imagine the exilic community simply abandoning their preexilic faith and assimilating to the dominant Babylonian culture, as a number of the Jews did.”

Oswalt, *Isaiah* 2:8

### 7.1 The Larger Structure

“The fundamental point that chapters 40–55 address is the possibility of restoration. That possibility is called into question by two factors. First, ability: *can* God restore? Second, intention: does he *want* to restore?” Oswalt, *Isaiah* 2:8

\*\*Isaiah 40:1–11 Introduction to the whole

#### 7.1.1 The First Book of Comfort: 40-48

40:1–2 Declaration of Comfort for Zion

40:3–5 Introduces First Book of Comfort (40-48)

> Israel’s warfare has ended, restoration is coming!

40:6–8 Introduces Second Book of Comfort (49-57)

> Israel’s sin has been pardoned, the Savior has arrived!

40:9–11 Introduces Third Book of Comfort (58-66)

> Israel has received double from the Lord’s Hand!

#### 7.1.2 The Second Book of Comfort: 49-57

#### 7.1.3 The Third Book of Comfort: 58-66

## 8. Lesson 14: The Holy One Prevails (44:24-48:22)

### 8.1 The Cyrus Plan is Revealed and Questioned (44:24-45:13)

- 8.1.1 The LORD, the Redeemer, reveals Cyrus (44:24-28)
- 8.1.2 The LORD reveals his purposes in Cyrus (45:1-8)
- 8.1.3 Who Can Question the LORD? (45:9-13)

### 8.2 All Nations Will Submit to the LORD (45:14-25)

- 8.2.1 There is no other God besides the LORD (45:14-17)
- 8.2.2 The LORD creates (45:18)
- 8.2.3 The LORD reveals (45:19)
- 8.2.4 The LORD saves (45:20-22)
- 8.2.5 The LORD affirms (45:23-25)

### 8.3 The “gods” of Babylon vs. The LORD (46)

- 8.3.1 The “gods” of Babylon fail (46:1-2)
- 8.3.2 **Realize:** The LORD carries His people (46:3-7)
- 8.3.3 **Remember:** The LORD speaks and acts (46:8-11)
- 8.3.4 **Respond:** The LORD delivers (46:12-13)

### 8.4 Babylon is Fallen!!! (47)

- 8.4.1 Babylon is completely humiliated (47:1-4)
- 8.4.2 Babylon has gone too far (47:5-7)
- 8.4.3 Babylon is condemned for pride (47:8-11)
- 8.4.4 Babylon will fall with no one to rescue her (47:12-15)

### 8.5 Turn to the LORD!!! (48)

- 8.5.1 The LORD **has been** faithful (48:1-11)
  - > Israel has been dishonest (48:1-2)
  - > The LORD has been true and faithful (48:2-6b)
  - > The LORD will reveal “new things” (>the Servant) (48:6c-7)
  - > The LORD acts for His glory (48:8-11)
- 8.5.2 The LORD will be faithful (48:12-22)
  - > The LORD is the Eternal Creator (48:12-13)
  - > The LORD is the Sovereign King (48:14-15)
  - > The SERVANT speaks in anticipation (48:16)
  - > The LORD calls the people home (48:17-22)

## 9. Lesson 15: Wake Up and See

- 9.1 **The Themes in this** Second Book of Comfort (49-57):
  - 9.1.1 All men are grass, **trust in the LORD** (cf. 40:6-8)
  - 9.1.2 Israel and the Nations will be redeemed through the suffering work of the Servant.
  - 9.1.3 Even if the people have forgotten the faithfulness of the LORD, the LORD is faithful never to forget them.
  
- 9.2 **The Larger Structure of the** Second Book of Comfort
  - 9.2.1 The rejected **Servant** will bring salvation both to Israel and to the Gentiles and restore Israel to the land and to the LORD (49:1-13).
  - 9.2.2 The Lord assures deserted Zion that one day her sons will return to her (49:14-26).
  - 9.2.3 The Lord exhorts the true sons of Zion to trust in the **Servant** during the time of His rejection (50).
  - 9.2.4 The Lord comforts the righteous remnant and Zion by presenting the prospect of their glorious exaltation (51:1-52:12).
  - 9.2.5 The Lord promises to exalt His **Servant** because He voluntarily did His will in dying in the place of the guilty people in order to satisfy God's wrath against sin (52:13-53:12)
  - 9.2.6 The Lord exhorts Israel to be glad and fruitful because they will be restored and glorified (54).
  - 9.2.7 The Lord calls upon all to experience His salvation and covenant blessings (55:1-56:8).
  - 9.2.8 The wicked in Israel are condemned (56:9-57:21).

## 10. The Servant Songs in Isaiah

### 10.1 The First Song (42:1-7)

#### The Mission of the Servant

The Mission and the Ministry of the Servant is Revealed:  
*Bring Salvation to Israel and the Nations.*

### 10.2 The Second Song (49:1-13)

#### The Discouragement of the Servant

There are Three main themes in this song:

10.2.1 The Servant is **rejected** in His Mission by Israel.

10.2.2 The Servant's rejection will lead to the **salvation** of the nations.

10.2.3 The Servant will ultimately **recall** and **restore** Israel.

### 10.3 The Third Song (50:4-11)

#### The Suffering of the Servant

Even though the Servant suffers because of His obedience to His mission,  
*He nevertheless trusts in God to vindicate Him.*

### 10.4 The Fourth Song (52:13-53:12)

#### The Death and Vindication of the Servant

In this fourth Song, we have a completion of the first three. Three themes are present here:

10.4.1 The **death** of the Servant is revealed.

10.4.2 The **cause** of the Servant's suffering and death is revealed.

1. Verse 5, He was wounded for our *transgressions* (Rebellion).

2. Verse 5, He was bruised for our *iniquities* (Sins).

3. Verse 5, He was punished to heal us.

4. Verse 5, He is weighed down with our sins.

5. Verse 8, He dies for His rebellious people.

6. Verse 10, His life is given as a reparation (Guilt) offering.

7. Verse 12, He intervenes for His rebellious people.

10.4.3 The **Servant's satisfaction** in His faithful work is revealed.

## 11. Lesson 18: The Third Book of Comfort (58-66)

### 11.1 Themes of this Section from Isaiah 40:8

11.1.1 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, THE FIRST BOOK OF COMFORT 40-48

11.1.2 that her iniquity is pardoned,  
THE SECOND BOOK OF COMFORT 49-57

11.1.3 **that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.**

> **3<sup>RD</sup> BOOK OF COMFORT 58-66**

**"Behold the LORD comes as a Victorious Warrior,  
Like a Shepherd to lead His flock." (40:9-11)**

### 11.2 Outline:

Summary: **As Israel's Redeemer, the Lord will bring a complete, everlasting salvation to Zion and will recreate the world (58-66).**

11.2.1 The Lord contrasts false and true worship, proclaiming the benefits of the latter (58).

11.2.2 The prophet promises that the Lord will redeem Zion as she confesses her unbelief and sin (59)

11.2.3 The Lord promises glorious peace and prosperity for redeemed Zion (60)

11.2.4 The Lord announces the ministry of the Messiah for Israel and the world (61).

11.2.5 The Lord will restore and glorify Zion through the Messiah's work (62:1-63:6).

11.2.6 The prophet and people pray for Zion in accord with The Lord's mercy (63:7-64:12)

11.2.7 The Lord promises mercy and judgment (65).

11.2.8 The Lord pledges judgment for false worshipers and blessing for true worshipers (66).

### 11.3 The Biblical Pattern of Salvation:

Creation >	Rebellion >	Redemption >	Restoration
The CREATOR GOD creates all things for His glory and pleasure.	The Creation rebels against the CREATOR KING to establish its own "kingdom" and it falls into corruption.	The SERVANT KING intervenes to save the Fallen creation from its rebellion and corruption.	The SOVEREIGN GOD restores creation in order to accomplish His original purposes in a more glorious way.

## 12. The Songs of the Anointed Conqueror

In these songs, the theme of the Coming Davidic King of Chapters 1-37 and the theme of the Suffering Servant in Chapters 38-57 are brought together in the form of the Anointed Conqueror who is yet to come. This Conqueror is God Himself intervening in history. This Conqueror is also linked with the “Arm” of the Lord who is also the Servant (53:1>59:16).

From this development of themes, we are presented with Isaiah’s full picture of the coming David King (Messiah) who will suffer for the people as a sacrifice, but then be vindicated and by the power of the Spirit restore the righteous to the Land *and* destroy all the wicked.

### 12.1 A Summary of the Songs:

#### 12.1.1 The First Song | 59:15b-21

The LORD appears to take the matter of salvation and vengeance into His own hands by commissioning a new covenant mediator.

#### 12.1.2 The Second Song | 61:1-4

The One who is to come is anointed with the Spirit to carry out His mission.

#### 12.1.3 The Third Song | 61:10-11

The One who is to come rejoices in the LORD because He has been “clothed” to accomplish His mission.

#### 12.1.4 The Fourth Song | 63:1-6

The One who is to come alone carries out the vengeance of the LORD that leads to the restoration of the whole Earth.

### 12.2 Similarities in the Servant Songs and the Conqueror Songs

	<i><b>Form</b></i>	<i><b>Content</b></i>
The First Song	A <b>Report</b> about ...	<b>Mission</b> of ...
The Second Song	<b>Testimony</b> of...	<b>Ministry</b> and Goal...
The Third Song	<b>Testimony</b> of...	<b>Ministry</b> and Goal...
The Fourth Song	A <b>Report</b> about ...	<b>Mission</b> of ...

## 13. Final Thoughts and Application of Isaiah

- 13.1 **Israel, the people and the Land (particularly Jerusalem), remains central to God's plans and purposes for the whole earth.**

**Romans 11:1-2** So I ask, God has not rejected his people, has he? Absolutely not! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew! ...

**Romans 11:26-27** And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "*The Deliverer will come out of Zion; he will remove ungodliness from Jacob.* 27 *And this is my covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*"

- 13.2 **The ultimate and final redemption of Israel is tied together with the completion of our salvation.**

**Romans 11:11-15** I ask then, they did not stumble into an irrevocable fall, did they? Absolutely not! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make Israel jealous. 12 Now if their transgression means riches for the world and their defeat means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full restoration bring? 13 ... 15 *For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

- 13.3 **The true "Gospel" from God has always been, turn to me accepting your helplessness and hopelessness and I will save you by accomplishing for you what you cannot accomplish for yourself.**

- 13.4 **God holds all nations accountable to His standard of righteousness according to His goodness and glory revealed by His Word.**

- 13.5 **When God's Word is rejected, there is a pronouncement of judgment (*judgment is coming*) followed by a time for repentance followed by an announcement of judgment (*it is over, you are toast!!!*).**

- 13.5.1 Although Isaiah's message was not written directly **to** us, it was written **for** us:

**Romans 15:4** For everything that was written in former times *was written for our instruction*, so that through endurance and through encouragement of the Scriptures we may have HOPE.

- 13.5.2 In our times, God has already pronounced judgment against our nation.

- 13.5.3 In our times, we have to decide how we will respond to God's pronouncement:

> The Hezekiah Option

> The Josiah Option