Isaiah: Behold Your God!

Judah’s Unfaithfulness and God’s Purifying Wrath
Lesson 1
Isaiah 1-4

Trinity Bible Church Sunday School
September 9, 2018
Isaiah: Behold Your God!

- Commentary: Studies in Isaiah, Allan A. MacRae – https://tbcpdx.org
- The most comprehensive presentation of the plan of God
- A systematic theology based upon history with a Gospel objective
- Prior written revelation: Pentateuch, Joel, Amos, Hosea, Wisdom Literature
- Isaiah teaches: character of God; character of fallen man; work of salvation; eschatology – O.T. version of Romans
Isaiah: Behold Your God!

- Study Questions + Lesson Notes
- Outline (p.8) – Current part of the outline included with the Lesson Notes
- Outline – 2 books
  - Book of Condemnation (1-39)
  - Book of Comfort (40-66)
Isaiah: Behold Your God!

- 2 rebellious nations from the House of Jacob: Israel and Judah
- The approaching invasion by Assyria – “the rod of My anger” (10:5)
- Israel’s defense: Alliance with Syria (Aram) – destroy Davidic monarchy
- Judah’s defense: Alliance with Assyria
- Isaiah’s message is that neither will work – trust the LORD
- Book 1 ends with Israel & Syria and Judah defeated: Jerusalem escapes
- Book 2 seems to occur with Judah in captivity in Babylon
Isaiah: Behold Your God!

- Book 1: The Book of Condemnation
  - A. The case against the sons of Israel (1-5)
  - B. Isaiah is sent by the LORD (6)
  - C. The coming Assyrian invasion (7-12)
  - D. The oracles against the nations (13-27)
  - E. The message to Judah (28-35)
  - F. History: Assyrian invasion and future Babylonian captivity (36-39)
Isaiah: Behold Your God!

- Book 2: The Book of Comfort
  - A. Theology Proper (40-48) – the revelation of our Sovereign God
  - B. Soteriology (49-59) – the revelation of our Saving God
  - C. Eschatology (60-66) – the revelation of our Eternal Kingdom

- Two Themes:
  - Behold Your God!
  - The Just Shall Live by Faith
Lesson 1 – Isaiah 1-4

- The LORD presents His case against Judah and Jerusalem (1)
  - Introduction (1:1)
  - The indictment of the nation (1:2-9)
  - The remedy (1:10-20)
  - The plan (1:21-31)
- The future of Judah and Jerusalem (2-4)
  - Judah and Jerusalem in the last days (2:1-4)
  - The pride of man (2:5-11)
  - The day of reckoning (2:12-4:1)
  - Judah and Jerusalem in the last days (4:2-6)
The LORD’S Case Against the “Sons” of Israel (1)

- The Promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob . . . and David
- The sinful nation (1:1-9)
  - The introduction – A vision concerning Judah and Jerusalem
  - A universal message – “Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth.”
  - Their sin (1:3-4) – No knowledge or understanding; corrupt; abandoned and despised the Holy One of Israel
  - Their condition as a nation (1:5-6)
  - The condition of their land (1:7-9)
    - Like Sodom and Gomorrah
    - A small note of hope – “a few survivors (remnant)”
The LORD Tells the Remedy (1:10-20)

- Give ear to the instruction of our God (1:10)
- No hope in the Law of Moses
- What is the instruction of our God?
- See Exodus 34:6-7 – forgiveness . . . Moses believed (34:9)
- “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean . . .” (1:16-17)
- “Come now and let us reason together” (1:18-20)
- Trust in the word the LORD has spoken
God’s Purifying Wrath (1:21-31)

- The current state of Israel – a harlot
- The avenging wrath of God
- The purifying wrath of God
- Zion will be redeemed with justice
- Those who forsake the LORD will come to an end
- What can Judah do to make this happen?
- Trust the LORD only
The Future of Judah and Jerusalem (2-4)

- Judah and Jerusalem in the Last Days (2:1-4)
  - The House of the LORD – the chief of the mountains
  - The Word of the LORD from Jerusalem
  - A kingdom of peace
- The Pride of Man (2:5-11)
  - The call to walk in the light of the LORD (2:5) – Psalm 119:11
  - The LORD has abandoned His people, the house of Jacob (2:6-11)
  - The wisdom of man = the way of death (Proverbs 14:12)
  - The pride of man will be abased (2:11) – Habakkuk 2:4
  - Grace v. “my way”
  - The LORD alone will be exalted in that day (2:11)
A Day of Reckoning Is Coming (2:12-4:1)

- Against the pride of man (2:12-17)
- The terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty (2:18-21)
- The message: Stop regarding man – breath of life in his nostrils (2:22)
- Famine (3:1)
- Civil discord (3:2-7)
- Speech and actions are against the LORD (3:8)
- Evil on display like Sodom (3:9)
- Discriminating fury of the LORD (3:10-12)
- Elders and princes called out (3:13-15; 25-26)
- Daughters of Zion are called out for their pride (3:16-4:1)
The Future Revisited (4:2-6)

- Judah and Jerusalem in the Last Days (4:2-6)
  - The Branch of the LORD will be beautiful – the survivors of Israel
  - Holiness
  - Forgiveness
  - The presence of the LORD
  - A shelter from the storm and rain – creation subdued
- This is not “my way” but the way of the LORD
Judah’s Unfaithfulness and God’s Purifying Wrath

- The Holy One of Israel – inaccessible
- The pride of man – unbelief
- The amazing grace of God
- The call to know God and trust Him