

# DARKNESS TO LIGHT

GOD'S SALVATION IN ISAIAH 1-12



13 OCTOBER TO  
24 NOVEMBER 2024

## Bible Studies - Part 3



KIAMA ANGLICAN CHURCHES

Term 4, 2024

# Darkness to Light

## God's Salvation in Isaiah 1 - 12

Bible Studies accompanying the Sermon Series

### PART 3: Study 6a & 6b

The Study and Preaching Plan			
Page	Study	Study Passage Isaiah	Parallel Sunday
	Introduction	1:1	-
	1	1:2 - 2:4	13 Oct
	2	2:5 - 4:6	20 Oct
	3	5:1 - 6:13	27 Oct
	<i>n.a.</i>	<i>Bush Church Aid</i>	<i>3 Nov</i>
	4	7:1- 8:10	10 Nov
	5	8:11 - 9:7	17 Nov
1	6a	9:8 - 10:34	24 Nov
5	6b	11:1 - 12:6	

The sections in each of the studies generally follow the divisions in “The Message of Isaiah - On Eagles’ Wings” by Barry Webb, IVP, 1996. It is part of the *Bible Speaks Today* series which expounds the Bible in a readable and relatable way.

“Isaiah - Surprising Salvation” by Kirk Patston, in the *Reading the Bible Today Series*, Aquila Press, 2010, was another helpful resource for the series.

Some of the comments and questions in the studies are from those books and from these two study books: (1) “Two Cities - Isaiah” in the *Matthias Media Interactive Bible Study* series and (2) “Isaiah - Trusting God in Troubled Times” in the *Scripture Union Lifebuilder* series.

## Study 6 - Isaiah 9:8 - 12:6

### From Sin to Singing

This final major section in the opening 12 chapters of Isaiah might well be called, '**From Sin to Singing.**' (Patston).

**NOTE:** We will cover this in two studies - 6a and 6b.

Depending on where your group is at (with keeping in line with sermons or when you are finishing up for the end of the year, etc), you may wish to leave Study 6a for personal study and focus on 6b in your group. You will see that Study 6a has fewer questions. Its focus is on giving some explanation of the flow of thought through this section of judgment.

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## Study 6a - Isaiah 9:8 - 10:34

### The LORD's Anger

#### Getting Started

1. How do you hold God's sovereignty and human responsibility together?

#### **1. The Lord's Anger is Not Turned Away (9:8 - 10:4)**

After the high point of 9:1-7, we again return to judgment.

Read Isaiah 9:8 - 10:4

2. What is the recurring refrain? Where have we heard that before in Isaiah?

*Kirk Patston's 'Surprising Salvation' is behind these summaries.*

### **Israel's Pride (9:8-12)**

The Assyrians are making their presence felt in the Northern kingdom of Israel. Standing in the rubble and debris the Israelites see the disaster as an opportunity to upgrade not a time to repent. Things will get worse not better.

### **Israel's Leaders and Followers (9:13-17)**

The Lord is outraged by Israel's leadership and they will be removed. The impact of godless leadership means even the needy claim independence from God rather than turn to God in prayer. 'Everyone is ungodly and wicked.' (9:17)

### **Israel's Chaos (9:18-21)**

Isaiah's picture of fire is one of Israel's sin *and* God's judgment. A similar point is made using the image of insatiable hunger. When God's restraining hand is removed, sin brings its own consequences. Israel is being attacked from outside, and now collapses from within. (Manasseh and Ephraim are both Northern tribes.)

### **Woe to Judah or Israel? (10:1-4)**

3. Chapter 10 opens with the word, 'Woe'. Where have we heard that before?

These verses may still be referring to Israel. Although not named in this subsection, the same refrain finishes this as the previous three subsections. However, the re-introduction of 'woe' in 10:1 picks up the 'woes' against Judah in chapter 5. Either way, this is a judgment against injustice and corruption.

## **2. The Lord's Anger Redirected (10:5-34)**

In 10:5 there is a dramatic change as God's anger is redirected against the Assyrians.

Read Isaiah 10:5-34

### **Woe to Assyria (10:5-19)**

Again we hear that word 'woe,' though this time on Assyria. To this point Assyria have been presented as the agent of God's purposes of judgment (7:17, 20) but now they come under judgment. Compliance with God's purposes is not on Assyria's mind at all.

4. What is the core of Assyria's sin?  
See 10:12 and 10:13-15; also 36:4-10.
  
5. What images of judgment are used in 10:16-19?

We seem to have here a poetic description of the event of 37:36-38 when the Assyrian army was reduced to nothing overnight.

6. Take a moment to reflect on the titles used for God in 10:17.

### **The Remnant (10:20-23)**

In verse 20 we again have the idea of a remnant. (See 7:3 and the meaning of the name of Isaiah's son.) It is a bittersweet concept speaking of survivors and hope while depending on the fact that there has been almost total destruction.

7. What are the remnant to do? (See also 2:5, 22)

### **The Lord Against Assyria (10:24-34)**

In this last part of the chapter, those who carried out God's judgment against his people Israel and Judah are now themselves judged.

8. Is it fair for God to judge Assyria when they were simply carrying out his purposes?

“The tension between God's sovereignty and human responsibility is not to be despised or rejected, but seized with gratitude, for it will preserve us both from denying the reality of evil and from imagining that evil could ultimately triumph. Meditate on Acts 2:23; 4:27-28.” *D.A. Carson*

### **Reflections**

Give thanks to God that the anger and judgment of God that we have seen in this passage (and earlier in Isaiah) has been finally dealt with in Jesus. Give thanks to God that we can therefore know with confidence that his hand is not upraised and that his anger has been turned away.

Read Romans 5:6-11

## Study 6b - Isaiah 11:1 - 12:6

# The LORD has Become My Salvation

### Getting Started

What metaphors would you use to describe a place of perfection?

### 1. Messiah's Kingdom (11:1-16)

Read Isaiah 11:1-16

1. As we move from the judgment of 9:8-10:34 (Study 6a), in verse 11:1 we are introduced to the Shoot/Branch. Where have we heard that imagery before in Isaiah?
  - 2a. Where does this Branch come from? (11:1)
  - 2b. What will he be like? (11:2-3a)  
Note the 6 qualities of the Spirit of the LORD.
  - 2c. What will the Branch do? (11:3b-5)
  - 2d. What will be the character of his kingdom? (11:6-9)

3. In verse 10 we are introduced to the Root. How are the Root and the Shoot related?

Although the title isn't used, the descriptions are of the Messiah, the promised king in the line of David who would come and establish God's kingdom. (King David is the son of Jesse.)

4. The phrase, "In that day" (11:10,11) reminds us of 2:2 and 4:2 with the images there of a transformed Zion. What is the 'day' being referred to?

5. What is scope of the Messiah's mission? (11:10-12)

6. The rest of the chapter describes a dramatic re-ordering of the world so God's people can be brought home. What images are used to describe this?

Although the emphasis here is on the salvation of Israel and Judah, the mention of peoples and nations prepares us for the 'more' that is to come in God's plan. This theme is important in the next major section of Isaiah.



As with Immanuel in study 4, there is also an immediate (though partial) fulfilment. Assyria's prophesied defeat in chapter 10 makes it reasonable to suggest that perhaps King Hezekiah is the shoot from the stump of Jesse. Hezekiah is the king when Assyria are defeated. See 37:1-38. Note the repetition in the language of 11:2 and the description of Hezekiah in 36:5a. Hezekiah moves from sinning to singing in chapter 38, and we see that progression here in 9:8-12:6.

Although there are a number of connections, Hezekiah could not bring in the ideal peace described in 11:6-9. For that we wait for The Messiah, who in his first coming established his kingdom, and will, when he returns, bring the new creation.

## **2. The LORD Praised in Zion (12:1-6)**

This short chapter brings to a fitting conclusion this first major section in the book of Isaiah. It is often given a heading of 'Songs of Praise.'

Read Isaiah 12:1-6

The two songs of the chapter both begin with the phrase, 'In that day.' As we have seen, that same phrase appeared in 11:10, 11. It also appears and more than a dozen times in chapters 2-10.

7a. What are the themes of the first song (12:1-3)?

7.b What are the themes of the second song (12:4-6)?

8. Living this side of the coming of Jesus - the Shoot and Root of Jesse – how do the themes of these songs apply to us?

### **Reflections**

9. Even as we await the return of Jesus and the fullness of his kingdom, how do we as his people best reflect his kingdom as described in chapter 11?
  10. Isaiah invites us to sing, to be thankful proclaimers of God's strength and salvation. Think about a time when you sang joyfully and freely. You may wish to share it with the group.
  11. What is your favourite song of praise?
  12. What could you do to help foster joyful singing as part of your relationship with God?
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## **For Personal Reflection - Concluding Isaiah 1-12**

Looking back over Isaiah 1-12, what things have particularly stood out to you?

What are the main things you have learnt about God?

What things have you learnt about yourself?

Given that all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that we may be thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:16-17) and that these things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come (1 Corinthians 10:11), how have you grown in your relationship with God, and in Christlikeness over the course of these studies?

Are there things you need to revisit and act on?



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