



THE LORD IS KING

ISAIAH 1-12

*sermon notes &
study questions*

Isaiah 1 – *God forsaken*

SERMON NOTES

1. Read Isaiah 1:1 How does this introduce the following chapters?
2. Do some research about these kings before you arrive. What environment did they rule in? What was going on?
3. Read Isaiah 1:2-6. What is the LORD's charge against Judah?
4. Read Isaiah 1:11-17. Describe the effectiveness of Israel's religious observances.
5. Read Isaiah 1:18-20. What is the LORD offering here?
6. What is the goal of his discipline?
7. Read Isaiah 1:25-26. How will the LORD restore Judah?
8. 'The LORD is your King and Father'. Discuss.
9. Read 1 John 2:1-2. How does the Father deal with our sin?
10. What parts of your life are open to the charge of treason? What parts do you need to hand back to God?

Isaiah 2 – *Humanity humbled*

SERMON NOTES

1. What impresses you?
2. Read Isaiah 2:6-8. What are the repeated ideas and phrases?
3. How was 'the land' to be viewed by God's people? How had they treated it?
4. Read Isaiah 1:9-18. How is Judah to interpret the coming disaster?
5. Why 'a day'? How does the LORD's levelling compare to Israel's building?
6. Read Isaiah 2:19-21. What would be your biggest fear in an earthquake?
7. Read Isaiah 2:22. How was Judah tempted to trust in humans? (Refer to Isaiah 7:1-9)
8. How do people today replace God with humans?
9. Read James 4:10. How should we humble ourselves before the LORD? How can we protect against pride?
10. How did Jesus demonstrate humility?

Isaiah 3 – *Glory returned*

SERMON NOTES

1. Discuss this statement: “God brings salvation through judgement.”
2. Read Isaiah 3:1-7. What is the LORD about to remove from Jerusalem and Judah?
3. What will that lead to?
4. Read Isaiah 3:8-12. Why is it (what has just been foretold in verses 1 to 7) going to happen?
5. What will God base his judgement on? What does that tell us about God’s judgement?
6. Read Isaiah 3:13-15. What is the charge brought against the leaders?
7. How does that compare to the standard by which God holds the leaders of His people to today? (Acts 20:25-28; James 3:1)
8. Read Isaiah 3:16-4:1. What is the charge brought against the women of Zion?
9. How does that contrast with the behaviour of the holy women of God? (1 Peter 3:1-6)
10. Read Isaiah 4:2-6. What hope lies beyond judgement?
11. How should we live in light of the hope that the Lamb brings? (Revelation 21:22-27)

SERMON NOTES

1. Love songs. Love them? Hate them? Favourite song?
2. Read Isaiah 5:1-7. What is the meaning of Isaiah’s “love song”? Who is the one Isaiah loves? What does the vineyard represent?
3. Read Isaiah 5:8-30. The vineyard only yielded bad grapes (5:4). How are they specified by each “woe”? And what is the LORD’s response?

	“Woe”	“The LORD...” “Therefore...”
v8-10		
v11-17		
v18-19		
v20		
v21		
v22-25		

4. How is the corrupting power of riches exemplified? (v8, 18-24)
5. How might Israel’s example serve as a warning for us? (1 Timothy 6:9-10)
6. Read Isaiah 5:26-30. What is the outlook for Israel?
7. Despite the ferocity of the foreign invaders, who is ultimately in control? (See also Romans 13:1)
8. What will it look like for us to share Isaiah’s love for God? (Isaiah 5:1)

SERMON NOTES

1. Earthly kings (like Uzziah) die, but God reigns forever! Look at the vision of God (Isaiah 6:1-4). There are other similar visions of God in Ezekiel 1:1 to 2:1 and Revelation 4:1-6.

Why does God show Himself in this way?

2. How does Isaiah respond? (Isaiah 6:5). How would **you** respond if confronted with a vision of God? (Refer to the idea that no-one can look at the face of God without dying. Exodus 19:21, Revelation 1:17.)

3. What does touching the lips with a hot coal achieve? (Isaiah 6:6-7)

4. Isaiah volunteers to be the messenger of news to the people of Israel (Isaiah 6:8). What news do you think the God of Israel might be sending to His people?

5. Read Isaiah 6:9. What does it mean, 'to hear but not understand' and, 'to see but not perceive'?

6. Read Isaiah 6:10. What does God want to achieve through Isaiah's preaching? Is this what you expected?

7. Read Isaiah 6:11-13. How does Isaiah react to being asked to convey this news?

8. For the nation of Israel, **who** are to be destroyed, and **who** will survive? (these are hints for the next chapter). Compare with Isaiah 11:1.

9. In this passage, God promises mercy for a few. But does God have the right to bring judgement on others?

Advanced:-

10. Does God have the right to harden the hearts of Israel against Him? (Compare with Exodus 9:12: During the times of the Exodus, why did God harden Pharaoh's heart?)

11. Why does Jesus speak in parables (Mark 4:10-12, quotes this passage)? How does listening to a parable bring judgement on us?

SERMON NOTES

1. Read Isaiah 7. What parts do you not understand? What parts do you find weird? What themes are repeated?
2. Summarize the chapter.
3. What dilemma does Ahaz face? How will faith (or lack thereof) play into his decision making?
4. What is required of Ahaz in this situation?
5. What does it mean for you to 'stand firm in your faith'?
6. The sign is a child. Who is this child to the original readers? (You may need to do some background reading about this).
7. Read Matthew 1:23. How does the Isaiah background to this passage help us to understand Jesus' identity?
8. What does it mean to you to know that God is with you? Does it bring comfort?
9. Read Isaiah's description of Assyria and its purpose. How does this put the threats that Ahaz faced into perspective?
10. What do people around you trust in? How can you start conversations with them about these things?

SERMON NOTES

1. What brings people hope in dark times?
2. Read Isaiah 8:1-22. How has (and will) Israel been, “walking in darkness”? (Isaiah 9:2)

Isaiah 8:1-4	
Isaiah 8:5-10	
Isaiah 8:11-15	
Isaiah 8:16-22	

3. Read Isaiah 9:1-7. How could there be no more gloom?
4. What are the causes for rejoicing?
5. What do the titles in Isaiah 9:6 tell us about the child?
6. Who then is the Davidic ruler? (Luke 1:32-33; John 1:9)
7. Read Matthew 4:12-17. Why is it significant that Jesus begins his ministry in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali?
8. How should we respond to the true light, Jesus?
9. What does it mean to know the joy and peace that Jesus brings?
What does it look like in our lives today?

Isaiah 10 – *A remnant returns*

SERMON NOTES

1. Describe a time when you experienced fear.
2. Read Isaiah 10:20-34. What were the people fearing? Why?
3. How does this passage describe God's role in the destruction?
4. What will happen to Assyria?
5. Reread vs 25. Is God angry? What does this mean?
6. What did God want his people to do? Who would respond?
7. Explain Israel's blindness and inability to understand.
8. What does it mean to, 'fear the LORD'?
9. What questions do people ask during times of tragedy?
10. In response to 911, a Pastor said, 'God didn't cause it but he can redeem it.' Critique.
11. Why do people believe in a god (68% of Australians) but refuse to fear him?

Isaiah 11 – *The stump of Jesse*

SERMON NOTES

1. Are Australians cynical about leadership? Why?

2. Read Isaiah 11:1-10. What is the stump of Jesse? Why describe the Messiah this way?

3. How does he compare to the kings of Judah?

4. Describe the character of his reign?

5. Describe his kingdom. What are the distinguishing marks?

6. How has Isaiah 1-12 surprised you? What's it about?

7. Read Romans 10:9. Why would Paul need to write this? How could it have foiled the original readers' thinking?

8. Describe the ongoing life of someone that does Romans 10:9.

9. How does this salvation compare to other plans?

10. How is the average person hoping to be saved?

11. Think of a person you know that does not do Romans 10:9. What is their view of Jesus? How does this need to change? How can you help?

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