

## **Isaiah: Prince of the Prophets**

Lesson 1

Isaiah 1:16-18, 2:1-5, 2:12-18, 8:19-20

September 11, 2022

### **What the Future Holds**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Isaiah is known as the Prince of Prophets. His divinely inspired words have stirred clerics into action for centuries; St. Augustine described him as “a more clear foreshower (sic) of the Gospel and of the calling of the Gentiles.” (*The Confessions*)

Yet, the audience Isaiah touches is always contemporary despite the period in which his work is read. Today’s earth inhabitants need the forewarnings, solutions, promises, and prophecies that were needed thousands of years ago; continual disregard of God’s instruction requires God’s continual reprimand.

Isaiah recounts the sins of God’s people and breaks down into utter dismay and wrath, totally beleaguered by mankind’s failure to be obedient to its Creator. No matter how often God asks Isaiah to impart His anger, He is not unreasonable, as He alludes in Isaiah 1:18: if the sinful repent, He will forgive; He will make them “white as snow”.

***Memory verse: “Come now, let us settle the matter,’ says the Lord. ‘Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.’” —Isaiah 1:18***

Pray, and read Isaiah 1:16-18, 2:1-5, 2:12-18, and 8:19-20. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

## **OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?**

1. What do washing and making oneself clean require? (Isaiah 1:16-17)
2. “Come now, let us settle the matter,’ says the Lord.” God is presenting an opportunity to come together in agreement, or in today’s vernacular, “to make a deal.” What does He offer if a person repents? (Isaiah 1:18)
3. In what age will all nations go to “the mountain of the Lord” where the “temple of...God” exists? (Isaiah 2:2-3)
4. How will nations respond when God settles their disputes? (Isaiah 2:4)
5. What has God planned for the “proud and lofty”? (Isaiah 2:12-18)

## **INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. What types of people need to be washed clean?  
(Isaiah 1:16; Jeremiah 4:14; James 4:7-8)
  
2. Why will God wait until the last days to teach “his ways”  
to all nations? (Isaiah 2:3-4, 60:12; Luke 24:47)
  
3. What effect will “the arrogance of man” have upon the  
entire earth? (Proverbs 16:5; Isaiah 2:19;  
Revelation 6:12-17)
  
4. People of Isaiah’s day sometimes sought advice from  
“mediums and spiritists” (Isaiah 8:19) rather than  
seeking the word of God. What was the reason for doing  
so? (Deuteronomy 13:1-3; Acts 8:9-11)



3. How do Isaiah's divinely inspired words impact you? What actions are you taking to prepare yourself for the Millennial Kingdom? Say a prayer, such as the one below, asking for God's help to follow His ways.

*Heavenly Father, thank you for choosing Isaiah as your spokesman. His words, inspired by You, create in us the necessity to prepare ourselves for the Millennial Kingdom by following Your path, cleansing ourselves of wrongdoing, seeking justice, defending the oppressed, adopting the spirit of humility, and anticipating with joy the rule that Christ, your Son, will have over the affairs of nations. In Jesus' name, Amen.*