

Old Testament
Lesson 130: Jesus Is Coming

Text: Isaiah 40-66

Memory Verses:	Isaiah 40:3-5	The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.
	Isaiah 40:7	The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.
	Isaiah 40:31	But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
	Isaiah 44:6	Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and His redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside Me there is no God.
	Isaiah 48:22	There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked.
	Isaiah 52:7	How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

<p>Isaiah 53:4-7</p>	<p>Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.</p> <p>But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.</p> <p>All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.</p> <p>He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth.</p>
<p>Isaiah 55:6,8</p>	<p>Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near:</p> <p>For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, saith the Lord.</p>
<p>Isaiah 59:1,2</p>	<p>Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear:</p> <p>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.</p>
<p>Isaiah 64:8</p>	<p>But now, O Lord, Thou art our Father; we are the clay, and Thou our Potter; and we all are the work of Thy hand.</p>

<p>Goals:</p>	<p>Student will learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God used Isaiah to tell the people God cared about them and gave them hope. God uses our preachers, missionaries and teachers in much the same way. We must listen to God's message. • Isaiah's prophesies in the Old Testament were from God and all of them were fulfilled in time. • Jesus died for our sins.
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Outline:

- I. Israel's deliverance after exile.

Isaiah 40-66

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| A. | God uses Cyrus. | Isaiah 40,41 |
| B. | Our Messiah, the Redeemer. | Isaiah 42 |
| C. | God's grace. | Isaiah 43 |
| D. | God is great. | Isaiah 44,45 |
| E. | Babylon falls. | Isaiah 46-48 |
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| II. | The coming Messiah. | |
| A. | The Messiah's mission. | Isaiah 49,50 |
| B. | The purpose of restoration. | Isaiah 51 |
| C. | His suffering for my sin. | Isaiah 52,53 |
| D. | The Messiah invites restoration, reform and repentance. | Isaiah 54-59 |
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| III. | Israel's bright future. | |
| A. | A new dawning. | Isaiah 60 |
| B. | Joy is of the Lord. | Isaiah 61,62 |
| C. | God's people triumph. | Isaiah 63 |
| D. | A new relationship with God. | Isaiah 64 |
| E. | Promise of prosperity. | Isaiah 65,66 |

Facts:

- The last section of Isaiah (chapters 40-66) gives prophecies of comfort to God's people. Israel had endured punishment for their sin in captivity and God had sent Cyrus to liberate them. Now, Isaiah prophesied of John the Baptist preparing the way for the Messiah who would feed His flock as a loving shepherd (verse 11). The grandeur of His creation reflected His majestic power and wisdom. Surely man should see the absurdity of idolatry as a creation of his own imagination. God had no equal! Nothing was too difficult for God. Those that waited upon Jehovah in prayer and expectation would find strength. They would rise up as eagles and have the stamina to attain their goals.
- Chapter 4 is Isaiah's second sermon of this section. He told that Jehovah's providence resided over the destiny of both men and nations. He again told of Cyrus the Great of Persia (558-529 B.C.) being God's anointed liberator of God's people from Babylonian captivity. God challenged those idol makers and worshippers to get their "gods" to demonstrate their powers or foretell future events like the Holy One of Israel. God reassured Israel they were still His heirs to the promise, descendants of Abraham, God's friend. God would protect them and be their constant strength.
- In chapter 42, Isaiah referred to the Messiah as the tender prophet (Matthew 12:18-20) with whom God was well pleased (Matthew 3:17). He would uphold truth, holiness and justice. His message would take permanent root. Isaiah prophesied of the Gentiles singing songs of praise for their deliverance. He said God had been patient with His people and would redeem those that turned back to Him.
- Chapter 43 presents Jehovah as the kinsman-redeemer for Israel. They were His family, honored by His unmerited grace and favor he granted to Persia, Egypt, and Ethiopia as a reward or ransom. He would gather His exiles from every direction. He alone would redeem Israel from Babylonian captivity just as He parted the Red Sea

- for them. Because of their ungratefulness, they would suffer first. Their offerings meant nothing without submission to His will.
5. Chapter 44 reiterates God's love and care for His people. He was the only God. How foolish were those that worship a carved figure from a block of wood.
 6. Chapter 45 reiterates Cyrus' capture of Babylon by the power of God. Verses 1-3 refer to Cyrus' strategy where a soldier entered the city by the dry riverbed and opened the gates for the main army from the inside. The value of naming Cyrus was to again prove divine authority in Isaiah's prophesy. God used Cyrus, as well, to subsidize Jerusalem's reconstruction as well as the temple. God has a purpose in all He does. He is not the author of chaos. Those that worship idols gamble their destiny on a lie.
 7. Chapter 46 reiterates the uselessness of idol gods, Bel (Baal) and Nebo (Bel's grandson). These were images packed as baggage as Babylonian refugees fled their Persian invaders (Cyrus). The idols tumbled out onto the ground as they ran.
 8. In chapters 47 and 48, Isaiah preached again and again of Babylon's glory days coming to a permanent end, never again to rise as an imperial power. He reminded Israel of God's prophesies and their fulfillment and how Cyrus was a mere instrument of God's intentions (prophesied by name 150 years prior to fulfillment).
 9. This next section, chapters 49-57, emphasizes the prophesies of Christ, the Messiah, that salvation comes only through Jehovah, and that those obedient to Him could look forward to a new life of joy and peace. The Messiah's mission would be to pierce the conscience of sinners and administer judgment (Luke 1:31-33; Revelation 19:15). Amid discouraging moments, He would do what He was commissioned to do: restore Israel to God through the power of the gospel and bring salvation to all (John 4:34). He would be despised and rejected by His own people, but converted Gentiles would submit to Israel's God as Savior and King with much joy. This prophesy was fulfilled 700 years later.
 10. In chapter 50, Isaiah pointed out Christ's obedience to His Father and His eagerness to do His will. Ours, therefore, should be likewise.
 11. In chapters 51 and 52, Isaiah summoned Israel to wake up and return to God's favor. If they didn't, again, Isaiah told them captivity would come because of sin. Chapter 52 conveys that even though God must punish their sin, God would redeem Israel so that other nations would not think Israel's God was weak or did not exist. Those bearing the good news of redemption compare to our gospel missionaries in New Testament age (Romans 10:15). God's favor would return to His people as they fled the worldliness of Babylon to again set their sites on pleasing and obeying Jehovah.
 12. In chapter 53, Isaiah prophesied of the atonement Christ, the Messiah, would make for our sins. He described Christ being despised and rejected by the Jews. He bore our grief and sorrows as He was beaten and hung on the cross at Calvary. He suffered that we might have peace. He was bruised and whipped that we might be healed. We are the ones that strayed away from God like sheep. Yet, God allowed Christ Jesus to bear the guilt of all our sins alone. Christ never said a word. He never complained before Caiaphas or Herod or Pilate. Analogy was made of Jesus' unfair trial by Jewish leaders as an innocent lamb led to slaughter or a sheep about to be sheared. Led away and crucified, he was buried as a criminal in a rich man's grave (Joseph of Arimathea). Christ was the "trespass offering" for the payment or redemption of all sinners. Those

- that are strong in their fight against Satan will enjoy the “spoils” of heaven (John 1:46; 7:52; 11:35).
13. Chapter 54 is a song of joy where Isaiah preached and prophesied of the restoration of Israel and the prosperity with which God would bless them. They would grow in number, never to experience exile again. As the gospel transformed the lives of both Jews and Gentiles in the New Testament church, God’s people again experienced growth in numbers and blessings. Israel (or the church) was pictured as the bride (wife) of the Lord.
 14. Chapter 55 expresses Jehovah’s grace toward those that repent (reform) and obey Him. Only God could satisfy the soul, earthly advantage could not. The price of eternal life is repentance and faith. All are urged to respond while opportunity avails itself (Romans 8:21).
 15. In chapters 56 and 57, Isaiah admonished God’s people to maintain a godly life doing good for we shall reap what we sow. He encouraged Gentile converts to come to Jehovah. Isaiah condemned the corrupt prophets and leaders of Israel. King Manasseh was a typical example of Isaiah’s time (II Kings 21:16). He also showed contempt for their idol worship and evil rituals (infant sacrifices to Molech).
 16. Isaiah again exposed the hypocritical worship of Israel in chapter 58. He encouraged them to repent so they could once again enjoy God’s favor. He specifically mentioned their oppressing of their workers, failure to share with the needy, and keep the Sabbath holy. Chapter 59 again reflects the moral breakdown of Israel. Isaiah again predicted Jesus as the Redeemer. Verses 1 and 2 refute the theory of total depravity. Sin separates us from God.
 17. In chapter 60, Isaiah reiterated, in his sermon, that the light (Christ) of Israel was to overcome the darkness (evil) of the world. Christ’s church, likewise, would reflect His truth and love. Gentiles would flock to be a part of His kingdom.
 18. In chapter 61, Isaiah prophesied of Jesus, the Messiah, empowered with the Spirit of God to preach a life-transforming gospel (good tidings) to those suffering and broken hearted. The gospel would bring righteous judgment to the evil. Joy and praise would replace heavy hearts. The glory of a new life would replace the old. Gentile converts would double God’s glory. He used the analogy of the bride and bridegroom to express his joy and happiness over the new life God promised. He also used the analogy of a budding tree of the garden in spring and the joy of new life it brings.
 19. Chapter 62 is another of Isaiah’s sermons on the coming of Christ’s holy bride, the church. God would, again, raise up His people to His glory and they should diligently pray to that end. There were other prophets of God (watchmen, verses 5 and 6) preaching this same message, summoning repentance of God’s people for their day of glory was once again at hand. God loves His people.
 20. Chapter 63 pictures divine judgment on Edom, representative of the rebellious world. Christ was wearing blood stained garments having trampled out his evil enemies like grapes to avenge His people (Revelation 14:18,19). Israel sang a song of thankfulness for Jehovah’s love. It recalled past trials He had shared with them.
 21. Chapter 64 continues this thought as Isaiah represented Israel as pleading with Jehovah to intervene in world affairs and enforce His mighty powers to redeem His people. They recognized their inexcusable actions as they pleaded for God’s pity based on covenant promises.

22. In chapter 65, the Lord answered His people, giving a scathing rebuke to the hypocritical Jews that had insulted Him with their idol worship. He contrasted the punishment of disobedient Israel to the rewards of spiritual Israel (the remnant). In time, His people would be called by a new name (Christians) ushered in by Pentecost (Acts 2:17).
23. Isaiah closed his series of sermons and prophecies with a similar sermon in chapter 66 where God condemned external worship. Belief and repentance were required. The deliverance of the remnant was predicted. Unbelievers jeered and challenged Jehovah to prove himself by a miracle or his vengeance. His answer would come with the Babylonian siege and bondage. The Christian age (last days) was also predicted with the remnant multiplying in number at Pentecost and with Gentile believers. Missionary activity would be extensive. Judgment would be issued accordingly (II Thessalonians 1:7-9; Ezekiel 8;11). This closes Isaiah's glimpse into the destiny of Israel and the foundation laid for Christ's coming.

Visuals:

- Characterization props:
 - toy sheep, shepherd staff – cane, stick
 - idol figure
 - eagle – toy or crafted bird, picture
 - model of Jerusalem
 - Cyrus' army – toy soldiers, battle equipment
 - pictures with scenes of Jesus' ministry
 - bride and groom
 - examples of doing good/worshipping
 - church building model or picture
 - spring time budding – picture, seeds sprouting
 - ketchup stained garment, grapes, good and withered
 - [also use visuals from lessons in II Kings, II Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, the gospels (especially Matthew 26-28), and Acts 1-3]
- Puppets/Dolls-Isaiah, John the Baptist, Jesus, Cyrus
- Flannelgraphs
- Flipchart
- Sandbox Map
- Storybook
- Video

Songs From Isaiah:

- Praise Him! Praise Him! (40:11)
- Jesus Is All The World To Me (40:29)
- From Every Stormy Wind (40:31)
- Teach Me Lord To Wait (40:31)
- How Firm A Foundation (41:10, 43:1,2)
- Jesus Hold My Hand (41:13)
- Jesus Keep Me Near The Cross (41:18)
- Hand In Hand With Jesus (42:6)
- It Is Well With My Soul (48:18)

- I've Got Peace Like A River (48:18)
- Hallelujah! What A Savior! (53)
- Sacred Head (53)
- I Will Sing The Wondrous Story (53:6)
- Come Ye Sinners (55:1)
- Lord Of All Being (60:19,20)
- Out Of My Bondage (61:1)
- From Every Stormy Wind (61:3)
- Have Thine Own Way Lord (64:8)

Activities:

- *Bible Investigator* – Give students a list of prophecies Isaiah made. Have students research their fulfillment. This can be done individually, in pairs, or as a group. See who can find them first. Variation: *Sword Drill* – Have students locate Old Testament scriptures that tell of the crucifixion of Jesus. (Isaiah 53:3-5; Psalm 22:1,7,8; 34:20; Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 22:18)
- *The Old Rugged Cross* – Assist students in making a cross. As they construct their crosses, retell the story from Matthew 26-28 of Jesus' betrayal, trials, and crucifixion. Graphically (age appropriately) help them to visualize just what pain and agony Christ went through in His death for our sins. Emphasize the great esteem and love we should always display for Christ, our King and Lord.
- *Highlighting Hope and Salvation* – Explain Christ's purpose in coming was to provide us the hope of salvation. Have them give you God's plan for salvation. Help them write on a card or highlight in their Bibles scriptures that support this plan. Laminate the card or list for durability. Help them to see how they, like Isaiah, can share God's message for going to heaven and attaining true happiness with those that don't know it.
- *Bible Investigators* – Younger students might assist you in coloring/making pictures of Jesus' ministry and death to be laminated and made into a flip chart.
- Age appropriate handwork

Discussion Questions:

1. Did God's people listen to Isaiah?
2. Whose coming did Isaiah predict? What does he tell us about this person?
3. How do you think God and Isaiah felt when some would not turn from sin? How do you think God's messengers today feel when we do not turn from sin?
4. Why did Isaiah keep preaching to the people even though some would not listen?
5. How could we be like Isaiah?
6. Why was Jesus punished for our sins?
7. How can we remember Christ's death?
8. How does God feel about sin? What does He hate?
9. Who was Cyrus? How did God use Cyrus?
10. What was Jesus' twofold purpose in coming to earth?
11. Who is the bride of Christ?

