

Isaiah

Lesson 3

Isaiah 2:1-5 *A Soaring Future*

1. Isaiah declares that Mt. Zion, where the temple was located in Jerusalem, would be raised higher than all the other mountains and all nations would stream to it (Isaiah 2:2). Does this mean that Mt. Zion will one day become taller than Mt. Everest and be the world's most popular tourist site? Use the following New Testament passages below to help you make sense of this section.

Isaiah 2:2 “In the last days” (cf. Hebrews 1:1, 2) =

Isaiah 2:2 “the mountain of the Lord’s temple” (cf. Hebrews 12:22, 23) =

Isaiah 2:3 “the law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (cf. Acts 2:1, 7-11, 14-17) =

Isaiah 2:4 “They will beat their swords into ploughshares...” (cf. Revelation 7:9, 15-17) =

Prophetic Perspective

Isaiah (and other prophets) often saw the events of the _____ (Christ’s _____ and his _____) as if they happened _____.

2. Why is it comforting to hear that the Lord’s mountain will become (and is now) chief among the “mountains” (Isaiah 2:2, 3)?
3. The middle phrases of this section read: “He will teach us his ways, *so that we may walk in his paths*” (Isaiah 2:3). How do the italicized words remind us of the purpose of a Bible study like this?

Isaiah 5:1-7 A Vineyard Verse

4. Like a pioneer farmer working hard to clear a field for his crops, God had worked hard clearing the hearts of the Israelites. It's no wonder he was disappointed, even angry, when he didn't find any good fruit. How might we lead God to feel the same way about us?
5. Consider the play on words in 5:7. Isaiah wrote that God looked for...
מִשְׁפָּט *mishpat* (justice), but saw only...
מִשְׁפָּח *mispach* (bloodshed). He sought...
תְּזַדְּקָה *tzedakah* (righteousness), but found only...
תְּזַעֲקָה *tzeakah* (cries of distress).
How does this play on words remind us that it's foolish to say, "I've been *pretty* good. God will accept me the way I am"?

Isaiah 2:6-4:1; 5:8-30 Rotten Fruit Described

6. As we read Isaiah 2:6-4:1 and 5:8-30, list the sins that Isaiah enumerates. Circle the ones you think our society struggles with most today, and underline the ones you are most often tempted with.

Isaiah 4:2-6 Closing Comfort

7. This section of Isaiah is like a savory sauce. It's good, you know that. But what exactly is in it that makes it so good? Use the following references to figure out the individual "ingredients."

Isaiah 4:2 "the Branch of the Lord" (cf. Isaiah 11:1-3, 10) =

Isaiah 4:4 "he will cleanse...Jerusalem by a spirit of judgement...and fire" (cf. 1 Peter 1:6, 7) =

Isaiah 4:3 "those who remain...will be called holy" (cf. Ephesians 1:4, 7) =

Isaiah 4:5, 6 "the Lord will create...a cloud of smoke... flaming fire...a canopy..." (cf. Psalm 91:1, 11, 12; Revelation 7:15-17) =