



## **Engage the Word: Lesson 13 for April 8**

- Take 30 minutes over the next week to prepare yourself for the lesson and discussion on April 8.
- Watch the short teaching video and read the introduction.
- Investigate Scripture to answer the questions on the back.
- Remember to humble yourself, pray, and ask for wisdom.

**Get free access to RightNow Media (a video streaming library) through FBC**

<https://accounts.rightnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/FBCV>

**Watch Session 7 of "Old Testament Overview" with Preston Sprinkle**

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/content/series/371745?episode=7>

### **Introduction:**

Throughout the Old Testament a pattern appears in the relationship between God and His people. It is a cycle of 4 stages: 1) people abandoning God, 2) God judging people, 3) people turning back 4) God welcoming people back. Over the next four lessons we are going to examine each of these stages.

Isaiah was one of God's great prophets who ministered during difficult times. God's people existed as two nations, Israel and Judah. During the eighth century B.C., the powerful Assyrians swept down from the north and conquered the nation of Israel around 722 B.C. and terrorized the nation of Judah. Sennacherib of Assyria (705–681) invaded Judah around 701 B.C. and would have conquered Jerusalem, but the Lord intervened. When the people heard Isaiah's message contained in the passage at hand, the Assyrians had already defeated Israel and were probably in the process of invading Judah. Isaiah's message was for the people of Judah who still had a chance to survive.

Using the imagery of a courtroom, Isaiah depicted God as a righteous but sad judge who pronounced the people guilty of injustice, corruption, and rejecting God's love. Isaiah made it clear, however, that God had not pronounced judgment on Judah yet. The Lord offered the nation one more chance to start over. If the people listened to Isaiah's message and turned from their sin and turned to the Lord, then they would be spared.

The people in Isaiah's day were good at religion. The Israelites brought sacrifices to the Temple in Jerusalem, kept the religious festivals, and they prayed. Surprisingly, Isaiah and really God Himself condemned all those actions! The issue was not with worship but that the people engaged in worship routines without letting worship change their lives and the way they cared for others.

Although delivered thousands of years ago, Isaiah's message is still relevant today. We may worship the Lord regularly but find ourselves rebelling against God in our daily lives. We may have correct beliefs but be found wanting because we do not have correct practice. Being saved by grace does not mean that God does not place obligations upon us. Good actions point to a repentant heart.

**Before looking at some verses, what stands out to you from the intro material?**

**CONTINUE TO BACK**

**Read Isaiah 1:10-20 and reflect on the questions below:**

1. How do you relate with the people described in Isaiah?
2. Do you ever feel that your worship is shallow and meaningless? How so?
3. What should true worship look like?
4. God offers grace in spite of sin but it is often abused.  
How was grace being abused in Isaiah's time and how do we still abuse it now?
5. Why is it so hard to confess sin and turn away from it?  
Is there a sin that is harder for you than others?
6. Where in your life are you in confrontation with the Lord?