

Zion Lutheran Church
Sunday Morning Bible Study

Isaiah 2 - 4

Introduction: Chapters two through four serve as a single vision that contrasts the ideal Judah/Jerusalem with the reality of Judah/Jerusalem at the time of Isaiah and the years to follow him and then converts back to the ideal. There are some that read the first six verses as a literal prophecy concerning the actual nation of Israel. We will carefully dissect these verses and see that what Isaiah saw in his vision was much bigger and better than that.

1. Notice the way that Isaiah begins his record of this vision. How could Isaiah see “the word” concerning Judah and Jerusalem? (John 1:1-4,14)

2. Consider your answer to the last question. Why is Judah/Jerusalem so important? (Genesis 49:10)

3. When will this vision be fulfilled? (Vs.2)

4. What is meant by the “the mountain of the house of the LORD?”

5. What will happen to this mountain? What does this mean?

6. What is meant by “all the nations shall flow to it?” How does this impact your last answer?

7. What is the attitude of the “many people?” Why?

8. We now come to a very critical verse that has a huge impact on how we interpret this vision. Isaiah writes, “For out of Zion shall go the law.” Unfortunately, it isn’t a real good translation of the Hebrew for the average person. It relies on a person remembering and understanding that God proclaimed/announced/taught the children when He spoke to all of them at Sinai. For the Hebrew people, a proclamation or word from God was a Law or something immutable. Literally it reads, “For out of Zion shall go the “proclamation,” or word/teaching of God. How does this connect with the next phrase, “and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem?” What does this mean?

9. So, a quick recap, a “proclamation” went out of Zion, the “Word” of the LORD from Jerusalem. What is this “proclamation?” What is the “Word?” Look very carefully at the first word of verse 4. What is it? (John 1:1-4, 14; Isaiah 9:6)

10. Hopefully, you see that all this is a reference to Judgment Day and that Jesus is the “Word” or “Proclamation” or even the absolute fulfillment

of the “Law.” But, just in case you have some doubt, what does “He do?”
(Matt 25:31-46)

11. This vision is laying the groundwork for future parts of Isaiah’s vision. As you look at the rest of verse 4, you see the results of the Messiah’s return. Besides judging, which happens first, what else happens? Here is the additional challenge! Answer this question in one word and then fit it into Isaiah 9:6. (Hint: Your answer should have three words and begin with the letter “P.”)

12. Verse 5 begins, “O house of Jacob.” This vision is “concerning Judah and Jerusalem.” What is meant by the house of Jacob? How does it fit into this portion of the vision?

13. What is the “light of the LORD?” How do we walk in it?

14. Beginning with verse 6 and continuing through chapter 3, the vision focuses on why God will judge Judah and Jerusalem and what that judgment will look like. This is the shift from the ideal Judah/Jerusalem, our heavenly home, to the reality of Judah and Jerusalem at the time of Isaiah. Why had God rejected both Israel and Judah? What is meant by each of these things? (Vs. 6 only) What can we learn from this?

15. Verse 7 describes another vice. What is it?

16. Verse 8 introduces us to a common theme in Isaiah. What were the people guilty of? Why was this crazy in God's and Isaiah's eyes?

17. Remember, this is a vision, Isaiah was an active participant in it. What did he see as a result of the people's sins? What did he tell the LORD to do?

18. Verse 10 follows on the heels of Isaiah's words to the LORD. What does he sarcastically say to the people?

19. Verse 11 brings us back to the vision of "that day" and "a day" (vs. 12). This is very important because it is clearly a single day. A single day of judgment. It is not referring to a long period. But verse 11 again reiterates what the root problem of idolatry is. What is this root?

20. Verses 12-17 serve as a list for what God judges. What is it?

21. Why will "the LORD alone be exalted in that day?" (see vs. 18)

22. Verse 20 has a frightening message. What will people do? Why? What will the result be?

23. As you read verse 22, consider all that we have already covered and what you see in our society today. What is the 2-part message God is giving?

24. Chapter 3 begins with God saying that He would take away Judah's support and supply. What is meant by this? (vss. 1-3)

25. With the loss of God's support and supply, what will happen in Judah? (vss. 4-5)

26. Verses 6-7 describe how leaders will be chosen and why. How will this be done? What will the result be?

27. What two particular sins does God identify in verse 8 & 9?

28. What is the result of these two sins?

29. What are the two messages of verses 10 and 11?

30. Verses 12-15 speak of the immature rulers/infants who, like a baby is totally cared for by its mother, are misled or used as pawns by their guides. This leads to God's courtroom and judgment. Contend is a legal term for prosecute or laying out charges. What had these wicked (vs.11) leaders and guides done? Does this sound familiar?

31. Be very careful as you read verses 16-26! These verses have a very strong New Testament overtone to them. Remember, the Church is called the "Bride of Christ." Who are the daughters of Zion that the LORD speaks of? (Remember this is not Judah. It is Zion, the hill on which the temple was built. Think of the actions that are described here.)

32. Again, we see the phrase "in that day." On Judgment Day, what will God take away from the daughters of Zion?

33. What will these 21 fine things be replaced with? Why?

34. This takes us back to the ideal Judah. What is meant by:

A. Seven Women-_____

B. One Man-_____

C. Called by your name-_____

D. Take way our reproach-_____

35. Again, we see “in that day.” Is it a single day-Judgment day or is it a time period of restoration for Judah? Look at what is describes. Which is it? Why?
