

Old Testament Overview

Isaiah – Daniel

(Je 20:9)

INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening
 - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on the "Old Testament Overview."
 - a. We looked last week at the books of poetry Job-Song of Solomon.
 - b. This week we look at the major prophets.
3. Tonight we are going to cover Isaiah – Daniel.
 - a. This section or this set of books are called the Major Prophets.
 - b. This is based off of their size not their importance.
4. With that in mind let us look at...

I. Isaiah

- A. History of the book
 1. Named after the main prophet Isaiah in the book.
 2. This book is often called the Messianic book.
 - i. Because of all the illusions to Christ.
 3. Isaiah lived most of his life in Jerusalem preaching to Judah.
 - i. His work span 5 kings from Uzziah to Manasseh.
 4. It was during his life time the ten northern tribes were captured by Assyria about 722 B.C. and Babylonian captivity was being forecast.
 5. Tradition says Isaiah was killed by Manasseh, [II Ki 21:16](#), by being placed in a hollow log and sawed in two, [He 11:37](#).
- B. Outline
 1. (1-39) Condemnation Pronounced
 - i. On Judah – 1-12
 - ii. On other nations – 13-23
 - iii. Babylonian Exile – 24-27
 - iv. On Samaria & Judah – 28-35
 - v. On Assyria – 36-39
 2. (40-66) Comfort Offered
 - i. By restoring the land – 40-48
 - ii. With the coming of Messiah – 49-57
 - iii. By achieving the release of sin – 58-66
- C. Lessons Learned
 1. Hear am I Lord send me.
 - i. [Is 6:8](#) "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me.""¹
 - ii. What a profound and wonderful thing to say. How much better would the world be if all Christians said this very thing.

¹ All Scriptures are taken from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

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- iii. It wasn't that God didn't know Isaiah was going to work for Him in His work but He was giving him the opportunity to choose to do so.
 - a. Are we not more willing to do something if we have the choice?

II. Jeremiah

A. History of the book

- 1. Named after the main prophet Jeremiah.
- 2. Jeremiah is often call the "weeping prophet."
- 3. Jeremiah preached 40yrs and lasted through 5 Judean kings.
 - i. Started at the age of 20.
- 4. He was mistreated and abused by the kings that disliked him.
 - i. Even after the Babylonian empire took over and freed him to live in Jerusalem some renegade Jews took Jeremiah to Egypt with them.
 - ii. Through all this Jeremiah was faithful to God.
- 5. Jeremiah was commanded to say some very harsh things to the people yet he was a very sensitive and sympathetic man.

B. Outline

- 1. (1) Call & commission of Jeremiah
- 2. (2-45) Pronouncements against Judah
- 3. (46-51) Pronouncements against the nations
- 4. (52) Babylonian captivity fulfilled

C. Lessons Learned

- 1. Walking righteously is not for the weak.
 - i. **Je 12:5** "If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, in which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?"
 - ii. Following God is not always easy on earth.
 - a. **II Ti 3:12** "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution."
 - b. **Mt 7:13-14** "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. 14 Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."
- 2. Speaking up for God is not always easy, but it shouldn't be able to be stopped either.
 - i. **Je 20:9** "Then I said, "I will not make mention of Him, Nor speak anymore in His name." But His word was in my heart like a burning fire Shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, And I could not."
 - ii. Does the Word of God burn in your bones to get out?

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III. Lamentations

- A. History of the book
 - 1. Name means to “cry aloud.”
 - 2. The mourner of the book, Jeremiah, vents his sorrow at the destruction of Jerusalem.
 - 3. This book is broken down into five funeral poems.
 - 4. It is written in Hebrew poetry much like Job and many of the Psalms.
 - i. Chapters 1-4 are in acrostic pattern.
 - a. Each verse begins with a word whose first letter corresponds consecutively with the Hebrew alphabet.
 - ii. Chapter 5 devotes three verses to each letter.
- B. Outline
 - 1. (1) Jerusalem’s devastated condition
 - 2. (2) Review of Babylon’s assault & God’s wrath
 - 3. (3) Jeremiah’s sorrow & God’s comfort
 - 4. (4) Jeremiah’s prayer of confession & petition for the people
- C. Lessons Learned
 - 1. God must be a just God.
 - i. **La 1:5** "Her adversaries have become the master, Her enemies prosper; For the LORD has afflicted her Because of the multitude of her transgressions. Her children have gone into captivity before the enemy."
 - ii. **Dt 4:24** "For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God."
 - iii. **Lk 10:27** "So he answered and said, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,’ and ‘your neighbor as yourself.’”"

IV. Ezekiel

- A. History of the book
 - 1. Named after the main prophet of the book.
 - 2. Ezekiel means “God strengthens.”
 - 3. Ezekiel was the son of a priest taken captive in Babylon’s second deportation.
 - 4. Ezekiel became a prophet at the age of 30 and lost his wife 5 yrs later.
 - 5. He preached for 22yrs and overlapped with Jeremiah and Daniel.
 - i. Jeremiah in Judah and Ezekiel in Tell-Abib on the banks of the royal canal near Babylon.
 - ii. Daniel was taken in the first deportation.
- B. Outline
 - 1. (1-32) Prophecies of condemnation, judgment, and doom.
 - i. Ezekiel’s commission – 1-3
 - ii. Judgment against Judah – 4-24
 - iii. Judgment against pagan neighbors – 25-32
 - 2. (33-48) Prophecies of future hope, salvation, and restoration.
 - i. Redemption/restoration of Israel – 33-39
 - ii. Reconstruction of the temple – 40-48

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C. Lessons Learned

1. We are responsible for our own souls
 - i. **Ek 18:20** "The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself."
 - ii. To many people want to blame others for their sins.
 - a. There is no doubt that others can put stumbling blocks in front of us be we are the ones that choose to stumble after sin.
 1. **Ja 1:14** "But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."
 - iii. We live in a blame the other person society.
 - a. My parents raised me this way...
 - b. My government made me this way...
 - c. My...made me this way...
 - iv. We are going to each give an account for what we have done. What we have enticed ourselves to follow whether to righteousness or unrighteousness.
 - a. **II Co 5:10** "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

V. Daniel

A. History of the book.

1. Name after the main person Daniel.
2. Daniel was taken in the first deportation by the Babylonians in 606 B.C.
3. Daniel's life spanned the entire 70yr period of exile.
4. Daniel was not only a prophet for God but had gained much political positioning under Nebuchadnezzar and Darius.
5. No matter what the situation Daniel never let outside forces disturb his spiritual goals.
 - i. Lion's den...

B. Outline

1. (1) Daniel's religious dedication & political favor
2. (2) Nebuchadnezzar's statue dream
3. (3) Three Jewish friends
4. (4) Nebuchadnezzar's vision of the tall tree
5. (5) Belshazzar's feast and the fall of Babylon
6. (6) Daniel and the lions den
7. (7) Daniel's vision fo the four beasts
8. (8) Daniel's vision of a ram and goat
9. (9) Daniel's prayer and the 70 weeks prophecy
10. (10-12) Daniel's prophetic view

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C. Lessons Learned

1. The Kingdom Of God Cannot Be Destroyed
 - i. **Da 2:44** "And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever."
 - ii. Statue with...
 - a. Head of gold
 - b. chest/arms silver
 - c. belly/thighs bronze
 - d. legs iron
 - e. feet iron and clay
 - iii. Rock comes and destroys statue makes mountain.
 - iv. We are a part of the Kingdom of God as children of God.
 - a. **Co 1:13** "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love"
 - b. **He 12:48** "Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."
 - c. **Rv 1:6, 9** "and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen... 9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."
2. God is so great in His infinite wisdom and knowledge.
 - i. **Da 9:24-27** "Seventy Weeks Prophecy"
 - ii. Here we see a prophecy giving the exact date when the Messiah would come.
 - a. **Is 46:10** "Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'"
 - b. **Is 55:8-9** "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. 9 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.'"

CONCLUSION

1. From Isaiah through Daniel the central theme is clear follow God with all your heart, mind, and soul. Forsaking this principle means forsaking God.
2. Question: Are you worthy of God's mercy or His wrath?
 - a. If you are striving to follow know God and thus follow Him you are worthy of His mercy as this is the requirement for such.
 - b. However if you are not striving to draw closer to Him and thus follow Him, He is a jealous God whose wrath is sure to follow.

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3. Invitation

a. God's Plan of Salvation

- i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
- ii. Believe Jesus Is The Christ **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
- iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
- iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
- v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
- vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**