

Character Study: Isaiah

Part 3 – The Life of a Prophet

Isaiah 7-46

What's happening?

- Many of the prophecies the Lord gave to Isaiah had a direct impact on the generations around Isaiah's lifetime. The messages impacted both the northern kingdom (Israel) and the southern kingdom (Judah).
- God used Isaiah to speak various prophecies concerning judgment on sin and the people's need to turn back to God. These messages included:
 - God would use Assyria to bring judgment on Israel (10:5-6).
 - Judgment would come on Israel's enemies (13:1-23:18).
 - A warning not to trust in the power of other nations (31:1-3).
 - Disobedience would result in the people of Judah being taken captive to Babylon (39:6-7).
 - A call to remember God is the only true God. Idols are dead; their only hope was to seek the living God (45:18-46:13).
- Isaiah prophesied God's protection during attacks from King Ahaz (7:1-7) and King Hezekiah (36:1-37:38; an angel was used to defeat the Assyrian army – 37:36). When Hezekiah was sick and near death, Isaiah prophesied that God would extend his life by fifteen years (38:1-8).

What's God doing?

> Isaiah's prophecies reveal the serious nature by which God viewed the people's disobedience. Unwilling to turn from their sin, Israel was taken captive to Assyria in 722BC and Judah was taken captive to Babylon in 586BC. Isaiah's messages did offer hope (as our next lesson will show), but the prophecies of judgment came to pass, showing God's sovereign hand over these events.

What's to learn?

→ Isaiah did not have a dream job. He had to be straightforward in dealing with the ongoing sin within Israel and Judah. It was not easy and it was not fun. However, Isaiah knew the great God that he served, so he was more than willing to surrender to do what the Lord called him to do.

→ There are times to be encouraging and there are times to address difficult issues. Just as Isaiah was dedicated to proclaiming God's Word, we too should be driven to share the truth people need to hear.