

January 10, 2021
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Isaiah 1-6

“A Prophetic Message for Our Times”

Discussion Questions & Applications:

1. People often think of Old Testament prophets “foretelling” the future. The other message of the Old Testament prophets was “forthtelling.” What is the difference? How do they complement one another? Which one did they do most often? Why do you think God had more messages of that kind?
2. Chapter 1 is like a courtroom scene. God convenes the court and brings the charges (v. 2-4), then He presents His case and pronounces the nation guilty (v. 5-15), but He gives the accused opportunity to repent and be forgiven (v. 16-31 – note the bad news and the good news). How does God describe His sinful people in this chapter? What does He compare them to? What parallels do you see in America today? Is being “religious” the answer? What does God want from His worshippers? (1 Sam. 15:22; Ps. 51:17; Micah 6:6-8; 1 Tim. 2:8)
3. What does Isaiah promise them in 2:1-5 (foretelling)? When will this occur? How does that view of the future help them address the problems of the present? How much time do you spend meditating on the coming Kingdom of God? How does it help you when our present world is sinful & in turmoil?
4. In 2:6-3:26 Isaiah describes the “Day of the Lord.” According to 2:6-22, why will God judge the people this way? According to 3:1-15, how will God judge the people?
5. Why does he zero in on the proud women in 3:16-4:1? How does this compare with Amos 4:1-3? What would all their worldly valuables be worth when God’s judgment comes?
6. Who is the “Branch of the Lord” in chapter 4? What will this Branch bring to the nation?
7. Isaiah 5 is a parable of the vineyard (God’s people) on a fertile hill (Israel), that God prepared and blessed to bear fruit. In verses 8-25, what specific sins brought judgment instead? Look at the picture of God’s impending judgment in v. 25. Does America have any reason to be judged in the same way?
8. What did the prophet Isaiah need to see and understand before he could pronounce judgment on the political and religious leaders of his day? What did he need to see in himself before he could speak to others? Compare this to Gal. 6:1-2 & Rom. 15:14. In Isaiah’s call to ministry, we see parallels to our lives and service. How many do you see in 6:1-13?
9. The Heb. word for “seraphim” means “to burn.” This passage relates them to the holiness of God. Why is it important to see God this way when everything around us appears to be falling apart? What was the situation on earth from Isaiah’s point of view? What was it from God’s point of view? (6:3 cf. Num. 14:21f; Ps. 72:18f)
10. What is it that causes unclean lips? (cf. Mt. 12:34-35) Where was Isaiah really wanting to be cleansed? (cf. Ps. 51:10) How can a person be cleansed there?
11. What are some characteristics of Isaiah we see in this passage? How important are they to being used of God? What insight does God give Isaiah about how fruitful his ministry would be? How does this fit with our modern concepts of “church growth?” What is “success” in God’s eyes?
12. Read Is. 66. With that future in mind, where should our lives be focused now? (see Mt. 6:33)
13. Isaiah carried out his ministry under different government leaders, but his message remained the same. What can we learn from that for our church today? What keeps us from going and telling the world God’s message? Will we do it no matter how many people respond? What must we see to keep going when times are tough? Who will you speak to today about the bad & good news of the Gospel?