

SMALL GROUP STUDY

Condemnation

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah have an emphasis condemnation. Isaiah is the most often quoted prophet in the new testament. He ministered for 50 years through 5 different kings of Judah. He is referred to as the Messianic prophet because so much of his prophecies center around Jesus.

The Condemnation of the Nation of Judah (1-12)

Isaiah's primary ministry is to the people of Judah. He points out that the people were not placing their trust in God. The people are going through the rituals of worship, but their hearts are far from God--Isaiah points this out to them. He is not afraid to call sin sin. He paints a very black picture of the state of God's vineyard, His people.

Discussion Questions:

- a. How does Isaiah's vision of the Lord on His throne in heaven encourage Isaiah in this dark time?
- b. What interesting parallels can be found between the book of Isaiah and the Bible itself?

The Condemnation of the other Nations (13-23)

Isaiah condemns the nations that are around Israel, but somehow connected to Israel. Babylon, Assyria, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Tyre and Babylon again.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Why does God allow Isaiah to write all these condemnations against Israel?
- b. Why did God punish these nations when it was He who was using them to punish Israel?
- c. Why is fulfilled prophecy so encouraging to the Christian?

The Condemnation of Israel and Judah Together: Woes and Warnings (28-35)

There are six specific woes given to Jerusalem and Israel. Isaiah warns Judah not to trust in Egypt. The northern tribes don't listen to Isaiah, they trust in Egypt and are taken captive. They should have trusted in God. Chapter 35 refers to changes that will take place in the millennium.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What is Isaiah's little apocalypse that is Isaiah 24-27?
- b. Examine your heart: Do you truly trust in God in all situations? Or, do you look for earthly, logical answers to your problems.

The Condemnation of King Sennacherib (Assyria) (36-39)

Sennacherib was the King of Assyria, the big boy on the block who flexed his muscles and took over the world at the time. He threatens God's people, telling them that their God won't save them. However, God tells them not to worry. One angel of the Lord destroys 185,000 Assyrians!

Discussion Questions:

- a. What does God say through Isaiah will happen to the Assyrians?
- b. What dumb mistake does King Hezekiah make when some Babylonians come for a visit?
- c. What, specifically was his sin at the root of this mistake?