

Isaiah Chapters 11-20

The Beginning of the Prophecy Proper

January 21, 2018

As we have learned from previous studies, the first seven or so chapters of Isaiah's prophecy are an overview of the entire Book of Isaiah. Chapters eight and following constitute the main prophecy of Isaiah in detail—the message God gave him to deliver to Judah. Isaiah is the most often quoted prophetic book in the New Testament and contains more Messianic prophecies than any other single book. The reading and study of Isaiah will be a rich blessing to all who do so. We are embarking on an exciting journey together!

I. A Most Wonderful Truth (Chapter 11-13)

They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (11:9)

- A. 11:1-5—A ruler will arise from the line of David to reign in righteousness over all the earth (see Rev. 19:11-21)
- B. 11:6-10—His reign will be the restoration of an Edenic paradise; peace and harmony will prevail (Rev. 20:2-6)
- C. 11:11-12:6—All Jews will be restored to the promised land from the four corners of the earth
- D. 13:1-22—The final judgment of the nations at the end of time (Mt. 24:29-33)

II. A Most Tragic Truth (Chapter 14)

How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God . . . I will make myself like the Most High."

- A. There are two chapters in the Bible that give us insight into the fall of Lucifer (Satan) as the driving force behind earthly rulers: Isaiah 14 and Ezekial 28:11-19. These two chapters give insight into the sin of Lucifer and the proud vanity of his heart as well as his ultimate overthrow at the end of the age.
- B. Satan is a liar and the father of lies. He is not out to build a kingdom of men (except as it suits his ultimate purpose) but to destroy every human being that is under his power. He hates us and desire above all else to bring us to destruction and ruin. (v.20)
- C. At the end of the Great Tribulation he will be bound in the abyss for a thousand years, after which he will be released for a short time, before finally being banished to the lake of fire for ever. (Rev. 20:1-3, 7-10)

III. A Most Strange Truth (Chapter 20)

At that time the LORD spoke through Isaiah the son of Amoz, saying, "Go and loosen the sackcloth from your hips and take your shoes off your feet." And he did so, going naked and barefoot.

- A. This is certainly a strange command from the Lord. Regardless of how we interpret the meaning of "naked" in this chapter, it is a prophetic drama acted out to demonstrate what the Assyrians would do to the Egyptians when the Assyria overtook them, and how foolish it would be for Judah to put her hope in Egypt. The drama lasted for three years.
- B. There is some discussion surrounding the term "naked" in this passage:
 - 1. Entirely nude is the straightforward meaning of the term and is somewhat informed by our own culture
 - 2. Devoid of all outer garments and shoes, stripped down to the undergarment loin cloth
 - 3. However we take the term, the result for Isaiah was culturally shameful and personally humiliating
- C. There actually is an exemplary application for us in this chapter . . . not that I expect any of you to show up next week naked, claiming God told you to do so (we actually have decency laws that prohibit such).
 - 1. There are times God asks very peculiar things of us, and it is entirely possible that no one will understand
 - 2. There are times when obedience is humbling and requires great faith
 - 3. The question for us to settle in our hearts is: how far are you willing to go in obedience to God?