



God's Promises Never Fail

Isaiah 1—9

8 Bible Studies
Spring, 2025

Teaching Series:

Isaiah 1-9: God's Promises Never Fail

PRIMARY AIM

- To grow in our trust in God to deliver on his promises

SUBSIDIARY AIMS

- To meditate on the wonderful character of God
- To not despair about the current state of our own world and our fallen leaders, but to cling to the hope that we have in God to bring light and a perfect leader.
- To show that the major prophetic literature in Scripture, while at first glance may seem dark and depressing, is useful for learning about God and his purposes.
- To mark the first phase of the Advent Season, to prepare for Christ's birth at Christmas by also waiting for his return.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Every year we teach from an Old Testament book. This year we are focusing on Isaiah, chapters 1-9. We chose this section because we haven't studied a major prophet for some time, and Isaiah fits thematically with the first part of Advent. Isaiah is an important book for us to study because it reveals much about God's character (for example, His seriousness about justice in our world). Reflecting on how these prophecies were fulfilled also gives us assurance that God is trustworthy and in control.

OUTLINE OF SERIES

Date		Title	Reading
1	28 Sep	What's Going On?	Isaiah 1:1-31
2	05 Oct	Highway to Hell or Stairway to Heaven?	Isaiah 2:1-22
	12 Oct	<i>Mission Sunday</i>	
3	19 Oct	River: Washed Clean	Isaiah 3:1-4:1-6
4	26 Oct	Never Be the Same Again	Isaiah 5:1-30
5	02 Nov	I Will Go	Isaiah 6:1-13
6	09 Nov	Advent 1: With or Without You	Isaiah 7:1-17
7	16 Nov	Advent 2: Don't Panic	Isaiah 7:18-8:22
8	23 Nov	Advent 3: A King Foretold	Isaiah 9:1-7

What's Going On?

Isaiah 1:1-31

1

For background: If time allows, watch the 8 minute Bible Project's Overview of Isaiah.

<https://bibleproject.com/guides/book-of-isaiah/>

01 Pray and read Isaiah 1:1-31.

02 What does God mean by saying, 'I reared children and brought them up' (v.2)? Can you name some of the key moments of this 'child rearing' in Scripture?

03 What is God's overall charge against the people of Judah (v.3-9)?

04 Look over verses 13-17. What commands of God are the Israelites following? What commands are the Israelites neglecting?

05 How does God view this selective obedience of the Israelites? Look up Dt 28:1-2, 15.

06 In Mt 23:23-24, Jesus challenged people who were treating others with the same kind of selective obedience. Christians also, individually or collectively, can often show the same 'selective obedience'. What commands of God do you think Christians routinely ignore?

07 God laments in Isaiah 1:21-23. What have the people lost in their relationship with God?

08 Who in particular does Isaiah "point the finger at" as culpable (v.23)? How were these people acting in their role?

09 How is God going to respond (v.24-28)? What is the criteria for either being delivered (v.27) or broken (v.28)?

10 The path the people are heading down is found in the picture described in verses 29-31. What emotions might this prophecy have elicited from the people in Jerusalem?

11 In what ways can we make God's heart to care for the vulnerable more a part of our life?

12 As we think about Isaiah 1 and the nation's failure to uphold their covenant with God, it reminds us to think about our own relationship with God and others. Do you think there is anything that you currently delight in, that you are ashamed of before Jesus? Spend five minutes now reflecting individually in prayer, confessing if necessary and asking God for his forgiveness and strength to follow him.

13 Pray for each other.

Highway to Hell or Stairway 2 to Heaven?

Isaiah 2:1-22

01 In your experience, what kinds of things make trust grow between people?

02 Read Isaiah 2:1-22

03 Why are all nations and peoples being drawn to Mount Zion?

04 In the Ancient Near East, people believed gods lived on top of mountains and so altars were put on top of high hills. If Mount Zion is not the highest mountain, what is meant by Isaiah in verse 2?

05 How does verse 2 connect us back to Genesis 12:2-3?

06 What is the source of this future peace described in verse 5?

07 What do you find attractive about Isaiah's vision of the city of God?

08 What does Isaiah mean by 'You, Lord, have abandoned your people' (v.6), if Moses said 'he will never leave you nor forsake you.' (Dt 31:6)? Is this an expression of strong emotion from Isaiah?

09 What are the people doing against God in verses 6-9? What are they trusting in?

10 Where do we see evidence of similar sins in our modern world?

11 The people will be held accountable for the way they have lived. What is being emphasized in verses 10-21?

12 What God calling Judah and Jerusalem to do?

13 How might our pride work to undermine our trust in God?

14 How does the gospel of Christ increase our trust in God?

15 What is God's vision for us, as we sit on this side of the cross? How can we remember this vision?

16 Pray for each other.

RIVER: WASHED CLEAN

3

Isaiah 3:1-4:6

Isaiah is telling Israel some of the specifics of their sin against Him, and their upcoming defeat at the hand of the Assyrians. But in the midst God restates key truth about his dealings with people, and at the end shows a glimpse of the glorious future he has planned.

01 List some key things you believe to be true about God and how he treats people.

02 Pray and read Isaiah 3:1 - 4:6.

03 What kinds of action is God going to take against Judah and Jerusalem (3:1-3)? What will happen to Judah (v.4-7)?

04 Who does God specifically blame in verses 13-15?

05 Do you think the leaders and the wealthy understood how their daily life was seen by God? (Look up verses 9, 14b, 16).

06 How on earth did God's people find themselves in the position of misunderstanding the requirements of God?

07 We are all on a journey in our walk with God and sometimes we are blind to those areas of our life that make God sad.

a. If God wanted to convict you of a sin, where in your life are you open to God communicating this to you?

b. Have you ever prayed and asked God to reveal any such thing to you?

08 What is emphasized in 3:18-4:1?

09 Not only judgement will be carried out 'in that day' (3:7-4:1), but also redemption (4:2-6).

a. Where is the hope in Isaiah 4:2-6 that the people of Judah can look forward to?

b. How does this same kind of hope find fulfilment in the life that Jesus gives us?

10 Spend a few moments reflecting on this study. What is something that you will take away in to the week - a highlight or action?

11 Pray for each other.

Never be the Same

Isaiah 5:1-30

4

01 Think back to your childhood - did your parents provide everything that you needed? Were there things you lacked or missed out on? What kinds of expectations did they have for you and how did your life match up to their expectations?

02 Read Isaiah 5:1-7.

03 In this parable, who owns the vineyard, and who represents the vineyard?

04 In what ways did God provide for Israel up until the time of Isaiah? Did Israel lack anything from God?

05 What fruit was God expecting to “pick” from his vineyard? Who is responsible for the fruit that was produced, God or Israel?

06 Think about our lives today.

a. What is the good fruit that God seeks from his people?

Look up the following verses and discuss.

John 15:16-17

Matthew 3:7-10

Colossians 1:9-12

Galatians 5:13-26

b. Do you think you are “producing a good crop”? How about our own church?

07 Read Isaiah 5:8-24. These six woes give more detail about the bad fruit that God finds. For each woe, ask the following:

a. What behaviour or attitude is God speaking against?

b. Where do we see people acting like that today?

c. If God were to transform this behaviour for his glory, what would it look like?

08 Read Isaiah 5:25-30. What type of judgement is approaching and what is being emphasised by Isaiah?

09 In their prosperity Israel forgot who they were and what they were meant to produce. In what ways can we guard against this happening in our faith and also as a church?

10 Pray for each other.

I Will Go

Isaiah 6:1-13

5

01 Describe how you might feel if you met any of the following: the king; your children; your friends; Taylor Swift; your boss; a movie star; a billionaire; an army general; a person infected with plague. Why do we respond differently to different people?

02 Pray and read Isaiah 6:1-13.

03 In a few sentences, describe the picture of God as encountered in Isaiah's vision?

04 What are your first memories of God? Did it involve fear, anger, joy, or something else?

05 How does Isaiah describe himself after he had his vision of God (v.5)? Is that an accurate self image?

06 How does Isaiah's sense of sin and his nation's unworthiness relate to the past five chapters of prophecy?

07 Have you ever considered yourself to be sinful? How does that affect your relationship with God?

08 What happened after God took away Isaiah's guilt and sin?

09 How did Isaiah respond to God's call (v.8, 11)?

10 Have you ever experienced a distinct call by God on your life? If so, then share what that was like.

11 In verses 9-10, did God promise Isaiah success and fame? What did God promise?

11. What does God promise us if we follow him and do the tasks set before us? (eg. Acts 14:21-22; Rom 8:35-40; John 16:33).

12. What would you say to someone who asks you “what benefit do I get from believing in Jesus”? (There can be many answers, however here are two key ones: Matt 26:28; John 14:2-3).

13. Reflect on your life with Jesus. Could you recommend this life to someone else?

15 Pray for each other.

With or Without You

Isaiah 7:1-17

6

01 Pray

02 Do you like asking others for help, or is it your last resort? Discuss.

03 Before reading Isaiah 7, let's briefly give some context for King Ahaz. Read 2 Kings 16:1-20. What was Ahaz like as a king?

04 Read Isaiah 7:1-17. Where does this account fit within Ahaz's reign?

05 Why were 'the hearts of Ahaz and his people ... shaken', in verse 2?

06 What was Israel's plan for Judah (5-6)? How does the Lord through Isaiah provide comfort for Ahaz (4, 7-9)?

**07 Why does the Lord invite Ahaz to ask him for a sign (10-11)?
What does Ahaz's reply reveal (12) given God has already said
'If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all'
(9b)?**

08 What might be Ahaz's reasons for not trusting in God?

08 In verses 13-17, what does Isaiah say will happen to Judah?

**09 What does the 'sign' in verse 14 mean for Ahaz and Judah?
How are we to understand Isaiah's prophecy as it fulfilled in
Matthew 1:23?**

**10 What areas of your life do you find hardest to trust God
with?**

**11 What things we can do to intentionally grow our trust in
God?**

12 Pray for each other.

Don't Panic

Isaiah 7:17-8:22

7

01 Share a time in your life when you were under pressure and needed to make a quick decision. What helped you decide whom or what to trust?

02 Pray and read Isaiah 7:17-8:22.

03 In 7:18-25, Isaiah gives Ahaz some vivid images of what will happen if he relies on Assyria instead of God in his nation's time of crisis. What do these images communicate?

04 In 8:1-4, Isaiah's wife gives birth to a son, to be named Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz, which means 'quick to the spoil'. What does this sign mean for Judah (cf v.18)?

05 In 8:11-22, how are Judah meant to respond to God? What will happen if they fear other things more than God?

06 What are some of the places in our society where people turn for help to gain control over their lives?

07 How can we as Christians show love and friendship to those we know in such circumstances?

08 What some examples in the New Testament account, where we find people responding faithfully to God in times of pressure and crisis? What motivated them to remain faithful?

09 When you are under pressure in life, how can you keep on trusting in God in those moments and not give in to panic?

10 What is something from this study that you might take away?

11 Pray for each other, and those in our life who are facing hardship or under pressure.

A KING FORETOLD

8

Isaiah 9:1-7

01 What is so life giving about light?

02 Pray and read Isaiah 9:1-7.

03 What is the distress referred to in verse 1? Who are ‘the people walking in darkness’ (v.2)?

04 Read Matthew 4:12-16. How does this passage fulfil what the prophet Isaiah foretold?

05 What is the hope predicated within verses 1-9? How does this answer Judah’s deepest need?

06 Reflect on the names for the future child given in verse 6: 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace'. Pick one that stands out for you and share why.

07 In what ways does Jesus fulfil the roles in verse 6? In what ways does Jesus represent light in your life?

08 What does it mean to live under the rule of Jesus?

09 Think of those in our life who are walking in spiritual darkness? How might we pray for them, drawing from the picture of Jesus in this passage from Isaiah?

10 Looking back on our journey through Isaiah, what is something which you have learned, or will take away?

11 Pray for each other.



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