PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

Isaiah Part 1

THE WORD OF THE HOLY ONE TO ISRAEL, THE REMNANT, AND THE NATIONS . . . AND THE PROMISE OF THE CHILD TO BE BORN

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ISBN 978-1-62119-278-7

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2nd edition Printed in the United States of America

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

RECOMMENDED COMMENTARIES

GAEBELIEN, FRANK E.

The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 6

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishers, 1990

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



Isaiah Part 1
Introduction

A Must Read Before You Begin

Could it be that in picking up this Bible study on Isaiah that **YOU** are our answer to prayer? That we have "discovered" one another?

We have asked God to direct men and women to us from all walks of life who hunger for truth, who long for another dimension in Bible study—a way to study God's Word that will enable them to discover truth for themselves, then, knowing that it is absolute truth, will confidently view all of life biblically and order their lives accordingly no matter the cost, people whose ambition is to be pleasing to God (2 Corinthians 5:9).

Have we discovered one another? Oh, how we pray so.

The Crown Jewel of Prophets

You are about to study the crown jewel of Old Testament prophets, a book that strikes awe in the heart of its reader. The words of Isaiah were often found on the lips of the Christ, the Messiah prophesied in Isaiah. Think then, if Jesus, God incarnate, honored this grand and glorious book so highly, how we ought to do the same. In its 66 chapters lies the destiny of nations, the future of all mankind . . . including yours and mine, Beloved. Is it any wonder Isaiah is mentioned by name 54 times in the Bible including all the Gospels, Acts, and Romans?

The Structure of Isaiah

While it would be great to read through Isaiah before we begin, we're going to take it chapter by chapter. Basically the book can be divided into two parts, chapters 1–39 and chapters 40–66. It's structured like the Bible itself: 39 chapters in the Old Testament and 27 chapters in the New Testament.

Our Strategy

The number of chapters we cover in each lesson will vary according to the structure of Isaiah, the flow of thought, and what can be reasonably accomplished in a week's lesson. So if we ask you to do three Old Testament chapters in one week, don't collapse in a heap.

And don't go by the number of pages in a lesson! It has nothing to do with the amount of work. Do what you can week by week. And if you don't complete a lesson, don't look at what you didn't finish! Rather consider what you accomplished—even if only one day! It's better than nothing! Train yourself to persevere—to finish what you started. That, in itself, is commendable in these days and is the "stuff" that moves us towards godliness.

If you have studied New Testament courses with Precept Ministries International (PMI) but never an Old Testament course, you'll soon realize that observing Old Testament books is different from observing New Testament Epistles, mainly because you are dealing with different kinds of literature.



Isaiah Part 1
Introduction

Isaiah, Yesha'yahu, means Jehovah saves or salvation of Jehovah. And this is what will unfold so beautifully in this book filled with Hebrew poetical parallelism. It's a poetry which states a truth and then often repeats it immediately, saying much the same thing but in different words. They say reading Isaiah in Hebrew is an incredible experience.

However, even if you don't read Hebrew, like Isaiah, you too will see the Lord "high and lifted up," (KJV) sitting on His throne and you will understand why night and day the heavenly host cries, "Holy, Holy, Holy" as they worship the Holy One of Israel. You're going to gain a firsthand knowledge of God that you have never had before—and this by itself is reason enough to do this study.

As You Begin

- remember when you go to the Word of God itself (study inductively) God Himself is your Teacher. This study will help you say with the psalmist, "I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me" (Psalm 119:102).
- If you have questions on how to do word studies or other exercises, Precept's *How to Study Your Bible* will not only teach you the skills of observation, interpretation, and application, it will give you practical help on Hebrew and Greek word studies. It's a book you ought to have in your library. (Go to our website for more information: www.precept.org.)
- You'll need a Bible and colored pencils for this study. Consider using what we think is the best study Bible, *The New Inductive Study Bible* (NISB). You can get it at your local Christian bookstore or from Precept Ministries International on the web at www.precept.org, or by phoning 800-763-8280, or by mailing P. O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218.
- Your study time will not go unchallenged. The enemy of your soul, the prince of this world, does not want you to discover truth for yourself. Satan is a liar and the father of lies and he knows truth sets you free. Persevere—every believer is an overcomer (1 John 5:4-5).
- **Don't let anyone tell you Precept is too hard**. It's not. Precept Upon Precept Inductive Courses simply require time and discipline. People from all walks of life and levels of education in 150 countries do these studies which have been translated into 70 languages. You are part of a worldwide family that values the Bible enough to give it the time and discipline it warrants—after all, it is *God's* Word!
- You will see us calling you "Beloved." That is because you are—to God and to the Precept Family. Believe it or not, feel it or not, you are beloved. You'll find it throughout the New Testament Epistles. We're in good company—right there with Peter, Paul, John, and Jude, men who used the term frequently! You need to know you're beloved.



Introduction

So welcome, Beloved of God, to Part 1 of Isaiah.

- May discovering the truth of Isaiah for yourself be a lifetime blessing causing you to know Him and understand His ways in a dimension greater than you ever expected.
- May it challenge you to place "the government of your life" on the shoulders of the Son of God to order all your life in light of the day when all nations will come and see His glory (Isaiah 9:6; 66:18).
- May it give you a steadfast hope that will cause you to see the Lord's rainbow in every stormy event of your life and in the collision course of history.

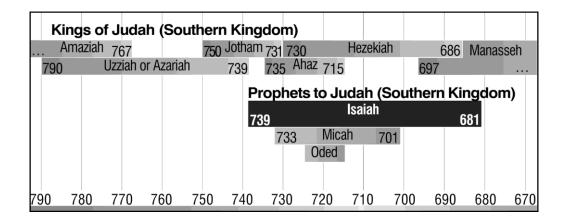
Minister To Others

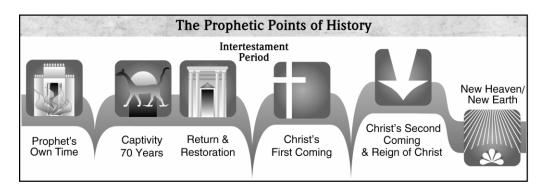
Bring along another with you to the study. People long to be mentored in the issues of life and you couldn't do it any better way. We are so eager to hear what God does. Please let us know. You are prayed for.



Precept Ministries International P.O. Box 182218 Chattanooga, TN 37422

Isaiah Part 1
Lesson 1, Chapters 1–2





LESSON ONE Chapters One and Two

IHIS LESSON
INCORPORATES

THIS LESSON The following located in the Appendix:

Observation Worksheets of Isaiah 1–2

- "Isaiah's Timeline"
- "Israel's Division and Captivity" chart
- "End-Times List"
- "Isaiah at a Glance" chart
- "Prophetic Points of History" timeline

Cross-references

Ouestion of the week:

How does the Holy One of Israel deal with those who claim Him as their God but don't honor Him as God in the way they live?

The same thing is happening today. What's the answer?



God has a legal case against His people and He's about to take them to His holy court! What's the problem—and what does it have to do with you and me



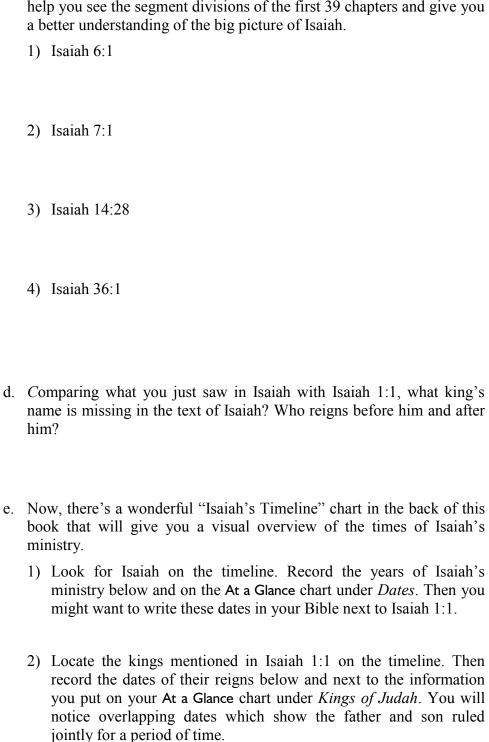
today? That is what we are about to discover over the next two weeks as we study the first five chapters of Isaiah.

- 1. You will want to begin in prayer, Beloved. Remember it is God, by His Spirit, who is your Teacher, the One who searches the hearts and minds of men and who sends His Word to heal them and give them His wisdom and understanding. Therefore, make it your habit to begin each day of study in prayer.
- 2. Our focus today will be chapter 1. Read it either in your Bible or using the Observation Worksheets in the Appendix. Observation Worksheets are the text double-spaced with wide margins, so that you have space to note observations as you do assignments. This will give you a perspective on God's Word through His messenger. When you finish, look at Isaiah 1:1.
 - a. Why is Isaiah 1:1 so important? What insight does it give you? Or to put it another way, what role does this verse play in understanding Isaiah?
 - b. Now, let's get down the details of Isaiah 1:1. (You may have answered these questions above. We just want to make sure you don't miss anything.)
 - 1) Who is writing? And what do you learn about him?
 - 2) What is he writing?
 - 3) Who does it concern?
 - 4) When was it "seen"?
 - c. You just saw that Isaiah prophesied during the reign of four kings of Judah. Now, let's see where the names of those kings are mentioned in Isaiah 1–39. Read the following scriptures, record what it says about the king, who he is and what is happening. Then note their names on the first column of segment divisions, *Kings of Judah*, on the "Isaiah at a Glance" chart in the Appendix next to the chapter you find that information in. Do it in pencil in case you want to change or move anything later. As you'll see, the At a Glance chart is a great way to



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

keep a summary of the framework of Isaiah. Among other things it will help you see the segment divisions of the first 39 chapters and give you



- 3. What is chapter 1 about? Who is speaking and to whom? What is being said? The way to unlock meaning in texts is to search out the answers to the 5 Ws and H: who, what, when, where, why, and how.
 - a. Did you notice that the first W is who? It's a good place to begin your observations because *people* are the easiest to see. So start with the *who*'s of chapter 1; list the main characters.

b. You can come up with some great insights when you color-code the texts. Identify speakers by coloring every reference to them (names, pronouns, synonyms) with one color, then those they are speaking to in another. Color-coding is an effective identification tool.

Read Isaiah 1 and color every reference to:

- 1) *Israel*, the sinful nation, in one color. Mark synonyms (e.g., *people*) and pronouns. If you need a suggestion, use blue. Blue is the color of the stars on Israel's flag.
- 2) the *Lord* in another color, for example yellow (since God is Light!) *Only mark Israel and the Lord this way in chapter 1 unless otherwise instructed.*
- 4. After you've marked the text, see what you learned about those you marked. For example, when you marked the LORD, did you notice that He's referred to several different ways? List these ways below. (By the way, when you read LORD in the text of Scripture in all caps it is the translation of YHWH [Yahweh]. If it's printed Lord, it is the translation of Adonai which means "master.")



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

5. Review what you learned about God's people from marking references to them, and then in as few words as possible summarize what Isaiah 1 is about.

6. Finally, Beloved, as you bring today to a close, think about what you've learned in just one day. Do you see parallels between the status of God's people then and now? Anything applicable here?

Are you saying, "Wow!"? It is a wow, isn't it! You have taken in a lot of information today. Don't worry about keeping it all in your head; it's on paper and you can look at it any time you need to. Plus week after week, your Precept Leader is going to review with you what you've learned. You have an awesome study awaiting you. Just remember the enemy of your soul, the prince of this world, the devil, called Satan does not want you to know these things and he will do all he can to persuade you to do anything but study the Word of God in this way. DO NOT LISTEN. Determine now, that you are going to devote these next fourteen weeks to the study of Isaiah and that you will finish your course. Make this your daily prayer. This is the book for this time in history!

DAY TWO

- 1. Don't forget to begin your study time with prayer. Remember, beloved of God, you have access to the Author and He truly wants you to know, understand, and live by every word that comes from His mouth. "Blessed are You, O LORD; teach me Your statutes" (Psalm 119:12).
- 2. The first thing we want to do today is to make sure we have the broad historical context of the history of the nation of Israel after the death of Solomon.
 - a. After the death of Solomon (David's son and the third king of Israel), Israel became a divided nation in 931 B.C. Look at another chart we



Lesson 1, Chapters 1–2

have for you in the Appendix: Israel's Division and Captivity and fill

in the blanks from the information on the chart. It is taken from <i>Th New Inductive Study Bible</i> .	
1) The Northern Kingdom of Israel made Samaria its capital. It was taken into captivity by inB.C. Was this during, before, or after Isaiah's time? Circle the right answer.	
2) The Southern Kingdom of Judah had Jerusalem (Zion, God's holy mountain), as its capital. God placed His name there and subsequently Solomon also built the temple there. It was taken captive by inB.C. Was this during, before or after Isaiah's time? Circle the right answer.	
3) Because the Northern Kingdom was called <i>Israel</i> , when you read Isaiah it is necessary to discern whether a reference to Israel is to the whole nation or to the Northern Kingdom. This is determined by context.	
4) You can tell from the chart that when Isaiah begins his prophecy the Northern Kingdom has not yet gone into captivity under the Assyrians. Therefore in light of what Isaiah 1:1 says and the char you are looking at, is "Israel" in 1:3 a reference to the Northern Kingdom or the whole nation?	
Who were the other prophets during Isaiah's time and who did they prophesy to? Use "Isaiah's Timeline" in the Appendix to find their names. By the way, a prophet was a person God called to deliver His message.	
Look up the books of each of these prophets in the Old Testament and read the first verse of each one. What do you see?	

3. Now, let's take a few minutes to read about Uzziah's reign since Isaiah tells us this is when he begins his prophecy. As you look up each of the

b.

c.



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

following passages, summarize what you learn about Uzziah, the other kings mentioned in conjunction with him, and the times of their reigns.

a. 2 Kings 14:17–15:38 (By the way, Azariah is another name for Uzziah.)

b. 2 Chronicles 26:1–27:2—Add what 27:2 tells you about the people.

c. Now stop and reflect on how the Kings and Chronicles sections parallel Isaiah 1.

You're off to a good start, friend. We are so thankful you've chosen to study with us. How we pray Psalm 119:102 will become your verse... that you'll say, "I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me." Incredible, isn't it? "You Yourself"—God Himself is your Teacher!

Before you close your book take a few minutes to reflect on Psalm 119:102 and what you've read so far this week, beloved of God.

Once again, do you see similarities to today? You may want to write down what comes to mind and any prayers on your heart provoked by the Spirit of God, who searches the mind and heart of the Father, then intercedes for us according to His will.



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

DAY Three

- 1. Today we're going to read Isaiah 1 again, this time marking key words. First make a **key word bookmark**. It's quite simple but let us take you first-timers by the hand and walk through the process step-by-step.
 - a. Using a large index card or the back of the perforated card on the back cover of your Precept book, write the key words listed below under number 2. A **key word** is an important, frequently repeated word or phrase that helps you unlock the meaning of the text. By the way, leave room to add to the bookmark as you proceed through Isaiah.
 - b. Mark each word or phrase in its own distinctive color, color combination and/or symbol on the key word bookmark as you want to mark it in your Bible or on your Observation Worksheet. Suggestions for marking some frequently used words are on the front of your perforated key word card. Marking enables you to easily spot every occurrence of the word in the text.
 - c. When you mark key words, also mark their pronouns and synonyms.
- 2. Following are some of the key words and phrases for Isaiah. An asterisk * denotes words that have marking suggestions on your key word bookmark.
 - a. word of the Lord (and references to the Lord speaking). Some of us draw a symbol like this in purple and color it green.
 - b. sin (and synonyms like sinful, sinners, iniquity, transgression, doing evil, wicked)*
 - c. *land**, when it refers to the land God promised Israel by covenant. (If you've studied the Old Testament with us, you've been doing this since Genesis.) Some of us use the double underline in green we use for all geographical locations. Then, we color the land blue to match Israel's flag.
 - d. *city* (*Zion, Jerusalem, mountain* when it refers to the mountain of the Lord; see Isaiah 2:3 and 66:20). This is a very important word throughout Isaiah, so you don't want to miss anything God says about the city of Jerusalem or Zion, as it's also called. You could use a blue star of David like this \(\frac{1}{\infty}\).
 - e. righteousness (righteous)*
 - f. *fire and burning* when it refers to destruction by fire/burning and when it refers to the Lord. It is a very important word, as you will see.
 - g. time references*
 - h. geographical locations*
- 3. Now you are ready to observe and mark Isaiah 1.



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

We are so proud of you! Think of the truth you're going to discover for yourself. It's exciting, isn't it, to "hear" what God has said, know it's truth, understand its meaning, and apply it to our lives.

Now for two important hints if you're new to Precept. (We are so thankful to have you, Beloved.)

- As you mark every key word, stop and see what you learn from marking that particular word. Sometimes it's helpful to compile a list of what you learn, for instance about the city of Zion—Jerusalem. Remember a city represents people.
- Some students prefer to read the chapter several times, marking only a few key words at a time.
- 4. At the beginning of each lesson and in the Appendix, you'll find a timeline of "The Prophetic Points of History." As we study Isaiah, we will see that Isaiah refers to each of these time periods. For example, in chapter 1, you may have noted a change in the chapter between verses 23 and 24. In verses 1-23, Isaiah speaks God's message concerning the state of Israel during Isaiah's own time. The repeated phrase, "I will," beginning in verse 24 shows that these words of God through Isaiah are about a future time.

Read verses 24-31. Have the events described happened yet? If not, we know that they will fit into either Christ's Second Coming and Reign of Christ or New Heaven/New Earth.

As you continue studying Isaiah, keep referring to "The Prophetic Points of History." You may want to indicate in the margin of your Observation Worksheet or your Bible what time period is being referred to. Some of us use a pencil so we can easily make changes as we continue to study.

5. Now having done your observations, let's pause for some application. We had you mark *sin* and *iniquity* the same way. But there's a shade of difference between the two.

In the Hebrew, *iniquity*, "āwâ means either 'to deviate from the standard' or 'to twist the standard." ¹

Sin, "hātā' means 'to miss, to fall short of the standard." 2

This is what Israel was doing to the standard of God's Word—the commandments He gave them. As you close your study today, spend some time in prayer. Ask God to show you ways you are deviating from, twisting, or falling short of His standards—and then tell Him you want to walk in faith's obedience.

¹ R. L. Harris, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Waltke, eds., *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (electronic ed.) (Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1999).

² Ibid.



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

DAY Four Once again, until it becomes a habit, let us remind you to begin your study with prayer, in a divine encounter with the Holy One of Israel, the Lord of hosts... "For You Yourself have taught me" (Psalm 119:102). Savor it! Sit at His feet, listen to what He says, hang on all His words, meditate on them. Tell Him you want to know Him, learn His precepts, and understand how to live in light of truth. To live is Christ.

- 1. As you spend time in this first chapter, it will become evident that Israel's covenant God is calling His people to account through His spokesman Isaiah! Let's go back to the Torah ("the Law"), written by Moses, to see why God is taking Israel to court, so to speak. Why the "lawsuit"? What covenant terms did they break?
 - a. Read Exodus 24:1-8. Watch for God's *covenant* and the people's response. What did they promise?
 - b. Read Deuteronomy 28:1-14. In one word, what's being promised? Why?
 - c. Now read Deuteronomy 28:15-20, 45. Summarize what's being promised (threatened, actually) and why.

- d. Now why the lawsuit in Isaiah 1? (This isn't a trick question; the answer is simple and short.)
- e. Finally, what does God promise in Deuteronomy 30:1-5 and to whom? Do you see hints of this in Isaiah 1? Where and for whom?



2. Now, stop and reflect on why the LORD God describes Himself with the title He cites in Isaiah 1:4. It's used twenty-seven times in Isaiah, far more than in any other place in the Word of God. It connects with God's message to His people through Isaiah. So you'll want to mark it in a distinctive way. Whenever you see it, remember, Beloved, this *is* who God is today. God never changes—He's immutable. As you write how God refers to Himself in Isaiah 1:4, note the context He does it in.

How should remembering this and taking it to heart affect your behavior? Notice we said "should," not "would." If we're true children of God, we're not slaves to sin but we're still able to do it—it's a matter of choice. Just remember, God tells us, ".be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). A holy God cannot overlook sin!

- 3. Now let's move to Isaiah 2, an absolutely incredible chapter. You'll soon see why. Observe the chapter, asking the 5 Ws and H. Add the following key words and phrases to your bookmark, then mark them in the text:
 - a. *in the last days* (Mark this in a way to distinguish it from ordinary time phrases.)
 - b. *nations*—God has much to say about the nations in Isaiah, so it's important to mark.
 - c. *the house of the Lord* (You can also mark references to the *temple* in Jerusalem [which is the house of the Lord] the same way.)
 - d. *lofty* (*proud*, *pride*, *haughty*) (You could use an upward arrow ↑ over the word.)

 - f idols



4. Now, divide chapter 2 into paragraphs or segments. (One possible division is 2-4; 5-11; 12-22.) Then summarize the content of each segment in as few words as possible. You can do this on your Observation Worksheet or write below with the verse numbers.

5. Do Isaiah 1 and 2 discuss different subjects or does chapter 2 extend the subject of chapter 1? (Read the first verse of chapter 2 to get a hint.)

6. Finally, record the themes of Isaiah 1 and 2 on the "Isaiah at a Glance" chart in the Appendix. The theme is the main subject of the chapter—what the chapter is about. The At a Glance chart is a very important tool in inductive Bible study—it helps you discern the structure of a book: how the material is laid out, how the content of each chapter relates to the whole, and how the book divides into segments.

Thank you for wanting to reason through truth, to respect and honor God's Word by studying to show yourself approved to Him. Thank you for not wanting to be simply spoon-fed but for wanting to press on to maturity as Hebrews 5:14–6:1 says—by exercising your senses. You're a joy to our hearts, brothers and sisters of passion—the passion to know Him more and more.

DAY Five

1. Now, Beloved, let's reflect on what you observed in Isaiah 2. Reflection (meditation) is such an important step toward discovering truth for yourself. We're so busy, our lives filled with so much noise and stimulation that we seldom take time to be quiet, to reflect on truth and talk with our Father about what He says. So turn off everything and THINK!



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

Even if you feel you have covered some of the questions in yesterday's homework, answer them anyway for review. It helps to consider truth from several perspectives. However, if you feel you already have answers from your observations yesterday, you don't have to write down your insights again.

- 2. How does Isaiah 2 begin? Look at the first four verses.
 - a. What's going to happen? To whom?

- b. When?
- c. Where?
- 3. Compare Isaiah 2:1-4 with Micah 4:1-3. (Remember your Isaiah Timeline? Micah is a contemporary of Isaiah.) What do you see? Remember what you saw when you looked at Micah 1:1 at the first of the week.

O beloved student, do you realize what you've just learned about the future? It should strike you with awe and give you a settled peace at the same time. When you wonder where God is—why He doesn't stop evil peoples and nations—when you question His justice, you can run to the promise of His future when He will be exalted in all the earth. You'll be there to see and experience it yourself if you are truly a child of God!

And if you're not—if you profess Christianity but do not possess Christ within, the hope of glory—then ask God in His mercy and grace to save you. He will never cast out those who come to Him. Rather He will take them into His forever family. That can be you!

4. Now let's compare Isaiah 1 and 2:1-4. Is there any promise or glimmer of hope for *anyone* in Isaiah's message in chapter 1?



	a. Where is it? What is it? Who benefits?
	b. Does it in any way relate to Isaiah 2?
5.	What's happening in Isaiah 2:5-11? Do you see similar things in society today?
6.	What did you learn from marking <i>proud</i> ?
7.	What did you learn from marking <i>idols?</i> As you list insights, think this through. God doesn't want you to miss the irony of what idol worshipers
	are doing.



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

8. Now, how does Isaiah 2:12-21 relate to Isaiah 2:1-4? What ties the sections together?

- 9. It's so interesting to compare scripture with scripture—to let Scripture interpret Scripture.
 - a. Read Revelation 6:12-17. The worthy Lamb breaks the seals on the scroll. Are there similarities with Isaiah 2?

- b. Let's look at the time phrase *the last days* and see what we can learn about them. There's more to come, but we'll start here.
 - 1) Review what you learn about the last days from Isaiah 2:2-4.
 - 2) According to Hebrews 1:2, when did the last days begin?
 - 3) Now, in light of these insights, *when* are you living, Beloved of God?
- 10. Do you realize how important these verses are? If you simply let God say what He says and believe He means what He says about the future, you can learn much about what yet awaits us and the whole world. As you study Isaiah, you are going to come across many references to the time of the end, the last days when "the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem" (Isaiah 24:23).
 - a. It would be profitable for you to keep a running account of all the scriptures that deal with this period of time, including the days preceding His reign. You will find a page in the Appendix: "The Days Preceding and Including the Reign of the Lord of Hosts on Mount Zion and in



Jerusalem" where you can list your observations, or you may want to create a file for this on your computer. By the way, we'll refer to this in future assignments as your "End-Times List."

- b. Record on this page anything you've learned about these days from Isaiah 1:27-31 and Isaiah 2:1-4; 10-21.
- c. Now look at "The Prophetic Points of History" timeline. Where do the sections of this chapter fit? Record in the margin of your Observation Worksheet or your Bible the points referred to. It's all right if you're unsure at this point. You'll have an opportunity to talk about this in your group discussion.

Don't you just love the wonder of how the Word of God all fits together? What an awesome privilege we have to study it in such freedom! Thank you for disciplining yourself for the purpose of godliness, for honoring the Holy One of Israel by honoring His Word.

11. Let's stop for some serious application. It's so easy to look at Israel with disdain and judge it for its idolatry, pride, and wealth (chariots and horses) and forget that God preserved these Old Testament words for our (the Church's) instruction upon whom the end of the ages has come (Romans 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11)!

God calls the house of Jacob through Isaiah to "walk in the light of the Lord" —not in the darkness of unbelief's neglect and disobedience. If He expects this from His covenant nation, what does He expect from those under the New Covenant of Grace? Remember grace is not a license to sin; rather, it's the power to overcome it.

O Beloved, what about us? Are we walking in the light of the Lord or in the pride of life? In His love or in love for the things of the world? In humble reliance on His Spirit or in confidence in the flesh?

Take some time to sit before the Lord and ask Him to search your heart. What are its affections? How brilliant is His light seen in the way *you* live, the choices *you* make, the lifestyle *you* choose, the way *you* expend the time, talents, and finances He's given *you*?



Lesson 1, Chapters 1-2

- 12. Finally, what about the exhortation in 2:22?
 - a. Why this word at this time? What does it tell you?

b. Once again, is there any application you can make to your own life, Beloved?

We are so proud of you. Just think about what you learned. It's awesome, isn't it? Now, until your eyes close on your pillow tonight, THINK about what you've learned about your God from His Word. As you have seen, despite man's sin, there's a future and there's hope because there is God.

But because He is the Holy One of Israel, some will experience His terror and the splendor of His majesty when He arises to make the earth tremble.

Don't forget the truth you've seen for yourself. Summarize it in prayer. Remember if you have sinned, there is a future and a hope for you, as there was for Israel. Believe it, God said it. It is yours to live by

