

Bible Stories for Adults

Isaiah

Isaiah

Opening

Gathering: Which of God's promises are most important to people today?

Today's Focus: God continued to call His people back to Him even after they continued to reject Him.

Key Verses: *The Lord warned Israel and Judah through all His prophets and seers: "Turn from your evil ways. Observe My commands". ... The Israelites persisted in all the sins ... until the Lord removed them from His presence, as He had warned through all His servants the prophets.*
2 Kings 17:13, 22-23

I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Ahab's Evils (*1 Kings 21:20-26*)

Who brought Israel into its worst period of faithlessness?

1 Kings 16:29-33 = Ahab led the people to worship Baal of Sidon

How did God respond to the evils introduced and promoted by Ahab?

1 Kings 21:20-26 = He would wipe out Ahab's entire family

What king of Israel fulfilled Elijah's prophesy that Ahab's evil family would be destroyed?

2 Kings 10:17 = Jehu, A commander of Israel's army

How faithful was Jehu?

2 Kings 10:28-29 = Cleansed Israel of Baal worship but left Jeroboam's religion

Jehu's Dynasty (*2 Kings 10-15*)

Who followed Jehu and how faithful was he? = Punished by oppression by Syria

2 Kings 13:1-3 (1-9) = His son Jehoahaz, Followed sins of Jeroboam

Who came next and how faithful was his reign? = Elisha died during his reign, stories of arrows & bones

2 Kings 13:10-11 (10-25) = His son Jehoash, Continued in sins of Jeroboam

Who came next and how faithful was his reign? = Assyria attacked Aram, Israel regained territory

2 Kings 14:23-24 (23-29) = His son Jeroboam II, Evil in the eyes of the Lord - Jonah sent

Who came next and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 15:8-9 = His son Zechariah, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

Why was Jehu blessed with 4 succeeding generations of kings?

2 Kings 10:30 = God's blessing for fulfilling calling to destroy Ahab's family & Baalism

Israel's Last Kings (*2 Kings 15*)

What happened that ended Jehu's dynasty?

2 Kings 15:10 (10-13) = Zechariah was assassinated & succeeded by Shallum

Who came next and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 15:14, 18 (14-22) = Menahem killed Shallum after 1 month, Followed Jeroboam

How did God respond to the continual evils of Israel's kings?

2 Kings 15:19 = Israel became subject to Assyria

Bible Stories for Adults

Isaiah

Page 2

The Final Days of Israel (2 Kings 15-17)

Who came next and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 15:23-24 (25-28) = Pekahiah, Menahem's son, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

Why did Pekahiah reign only 2 years and who followed him?

2 Kings 15:25, 28 = Assassinated by Pekah, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

How did God respond to these continued evils?

2 Kings 15:29 = Large areas taken by Assyria, people deported

Who came next and how faithful was his reign?

2 Kings 15:30; 17:2 = Hoshea assassinated Pekah, Evil in the eyes of the Lord

How did God respond?

2 Kings 17:5-6 (3-6) = Assyria conquered rest of Israel and deported all Israelites

God's Judgment on His People (2 Kings 17:7-23)

What did God require of the kings of His people?

1 Kings 11:37-38 = Walk in My ways & follow My statutes and I will bless you

In summary, how faithful were the kings of Israel, the northern kingdom?

2 Kings 17:21-22 (7-23) = They persisted in the sins of Jeroboam

How faithful was Judah, the southern kingdom?

2 Kings 17:19 = Judah followed the practices Israel had introduced

Did God give up on the people immediately after Jeroboam turned them away?

2 Kings 17:13-14 = No, He sent prophets to Israel & Judah to turn them back to Him

The Prophet's Message (Isaiah 1)

What did God do for the southern nation of Judah as the northern nation of Israel crumbled?

Isaiah 1:1 = Sent the prophet Isaiah

How does Isaiah begin his ministry?

Isaiah 1:2-4 = States the problem: God's kids have rebelled & turned their backs on Him

Did God want His people to become more religious?

Isaiah 1:11-14 = He detests their meaningless worship rituals for the sake of religion

What did God want?

Isaiah 1:16-17 = Live in righteousness, not evil

But what about their guilt of past evils? Was it too late to be accepted by God?

Isaiah 1:18 = God will forgive them

What would happen if the people returned to God?

Isaiah 1:19 = Be blessed - *You will eat the best from the land*

What would happen if the people didn't return to God?

Isaiah 1:20 = Be punished - *You will be devoured by the sword*

The Prophet Foretells God's Judgment on Israel (Isaiah 6:8)

How did God call Isaiah and how did Isaiah accept his call?

Isaiah 6:1, 8 = God asked *Whom shall I send?* Isaiah said *Here am I. Send me!*

What prophesy did Isaiah give against Israel and Aram? = Shiloah is pool in Jerusalem

Isaiah 8:5-7 (see 7:1) = God would raise up Assyria against them

Bible Stories for Adults

Isaiah

Page 3

The Prophet Foretells God's Judgment on Judah (*Isaiah 3:8-9*)

What prophesy did Isaiah have for Judah?

Isaiah 3:8-9 = *They have brought disaster on themselves*

Would this judgment permanently eliminate God's chosen people?

Isaiah 1:25-26 = There was hope in restoration & return to righteousness & faithfulness

Six Specific Promises of Hope

The coming of a Messiah out of David's seed	Isaiah 11
The birth of a new era	Isaiah 32
The restoration of paradise	Isaiah 51
The exaltation of Mount Zion	Isaiah 2
The return of a remnant	Isaiah 10
The suffering servant	Isaiah 53

The Coming of a Messiah Out Of David's Seed (*Isaiah 11*)

Where do we first learn that a messiah would come from Judah?

Genesis 49:1, 10 = Jacob included prophesy in blessing for Judah

What promise did God make to David that included the promised messiah?

2 Samuel 7:16 = That his dynasty would last forever

How did the prophet remind the Jews that David's kingdom would never end?

Isaiah 9:6-7 = A messiah would come and reign forever

What kind of messiah would the Jews expect?

Isaiah 11:1-5 = A righteous and faithful king like David

What would this messiah do for the nation?

Isaiah 11:10, 12 (10-16) = A king who would restore the great and respected nation of Israel

Why did Jesus tell his disciples not to tell others who he was?

Luke 23:2 (Matthew 16:20) = They'd have gotten the wrong idea of His purpose

Did the disciples have a good grasp on Jesus' mission?

Acts 1:6 = They still didn't understand after Jesus' death and resurrection

The Birth of a New Era (*Isaiah 32*)

What kind of new era did the prophet promise?

Isaiah 32:1-4 = Righteous rule would bring wisdom and understanding

What atmosphere would be characteristic of this new era?

Isaiah 32:16-18 = Peace and righteousness would prevail

The Restoration of Paradise (*Isaiah 51*)

How would paradise be restored?

Isaiah 51:3 = In the Lord's compassion, Israel's deserts will be like Eden

How peaceful will this paradise be?

Isaiah 11:6-9 = *The wolf will live with the lamb ...*

Bible Stories for Adults

Isaiah

Page 4

The Exaltation of Mount Zion (*Isaiah 2*)

What was Mount Zion?

Psalm 2:6 (2 Chronicles 33:15) = Zion was a hill in Jerusalem where the temple was built

How would Mount Zion be exalted?

Isaiah 2:2-4 = People from all over would come to Jerusalem (Zion) to learn of God

Why would non-Jews want to learn of God and His ways?

Isaiah 49:6 = The messiah would bring salvation to all people on earth

How did Jesus clarify the nature of this new kingdom?

John 18:36 = *My kingdom is not of this world*

John 4:21-23 = God doesn't confine Himself to an earthly temple

Matthew 28:19-20 = The church must go out and bring God's message to the world

The Return of a Remnant (*Isaiah 10*)

What would happen to the survivors of the house of Jacob?

Isaiah 10:20-22 = A select remnant of the exiles would rely on the Lord and would return

The Suffering Servant (*Isaiah 53*)

What role of God's calling had the Jews forgotten?

Isaiah 41:8-9 = God called the Jews to be His servant

How would God's new servant suffer for the sake of others?

Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-11 = Life as a guilt offering, carry our sins, justify many

Isaiah's Four Servant Songs

Isaiah 42:1-7 = Here is my servant, my chosen, he will establish justice on earth

Isaiah 49:1-6 = It isn't enough to restore Israel, also save the whole world

Isaiah 50:4-9 = Offer my back to be beaten, my cheeks to pull out my beard

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 = He was despised, rejected, bore our sins, suffered to save many

Did Isaiah and the other prophets fully understand what God told them to say?

1 Peter 1:10-12 = No. They and angels have longed to understand

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. How have I stood up for the Lord when I have been in the company of unbelievers?
(1 Kings 22:1-8; 2 Kings 9-10; Matthew 10; Acts 4:1-21; Philippians 1:12-14)
2. How have I assassinated others in my eagerness to get or achieve something?
(2 Kings 15:10, 14, 25, 30; Matthew 5:21-22, 38-48; James 5:1-6; 1 John 3:11-24)
3. Do I recognize, listen and heed the messages that God sends to me through others?
(2 Kings 17:13-14; Isaiah 1; Matthew 13:11-17; 23:29-39; 1 John 4:4-6)
4. Do I recognize and respond to the call God gives me to take His message to others?
(Isaiah 6:1-8; Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 5:20-21a; Ephesians 3:1-13; 2 Timothy 4:2-5)
5. What promises has God made that are personally important to me and my faith?
(Genesis 12:1-3; Joshua 23:14; Isaiah 11, 32, 51, 2, 10, 53; 2 Peter 3:9-13)