

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Oct 2016

Isaiah

Holy Living

Lesson # 11 Storm Clouds Over Jerusalem

INTRODUCTION

Why do you think that Jerusalem is such a powder keg of controversy, even today?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: The name "Jerusalem" means "city of peace," but throughout its history it has been associated more with conflict than with peace. Even today, Jerusalem is a focal point for concern in the Middle East. "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem," admonished the psalmist (Ps. 122:6). Why pray for Jerusalem? Why not pray for London or Moscow or Rome? Because when there is true peace in Jerusalem, there will be peace in the whole world, so we had better take the psalmist's words to heart. Chapters 28–31 record a series of five "woes" (28:1; 29:1, 15; 30:1; 31:1) that focus primarily on Jerusalem. Isaiah is attempting to get the rulers of Judah to stop trusting "power politics" and international treaties and start trusting the Lord.¹

Read Isaiah 28

1. What is God's judgment on Ephraim? Vv 1-6
2. How does Isaiah describe their arrogance which was so detestable to God? Vv 1-8
3. How does Judah's treaty with Egypt compare to Israel's treaty with the U.S.?
4. Judah's prophets and priests mocked Isaiah and God's Word as being simple and irrelevant. Vv 9-13 How does that attitude compare to today's society towards Christians and God's Word? What should be done?
5. The farmer uses different tools for different purposes. Vv 24-28 What "tool" will God use to teach Judah that they must trust Him instead of treaties? Vv 22; 29

Read Isaiah 31

6. How does Isaiah describe God's protection of Israel? Vs 5
7. How hard will it be for God to deal with the mighty army of Assyria? Vv 8-9 **Isa 37:35-38**
8. How has God's ability to handle problem nations changed since Isaiah's time?
9. How (and why) might Jerusalem be judged today?
10. How might God be glorified with Jerusalem's deliverance today?

APPLICATION

What challenges can God help you resolve by faith? What help would honor God?

Faith Is Living Without Scheming. In one statement, that is what Isaiah was saying to Judah and Jerusalem; and that is what he is saying to us today.² Faith in God is also a matter of heartfelt commitment to him. Some may be able to repeat the right words and appear at the right places but have no real, heart knowledge of God. There is a distinction between an intellectual knowledge and a knowledge growing out of an experience with God. It is only when God is known with the heart as well as the mind, when his Word is a part of the life as well as the lips, that the ways of God can be known. When God begins to act we will be better able to discern it and to move with him if our hearts are aligned with Him.³

¹ Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). *Be comforted*. An Old Testament study. (68, 79). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

³ Paschall, F. H., & Hobbs, H. H. (1972). *The Teacher's Bible Commentary* (406). Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers.