



The Sent Ones PT. I | Isaiah

Mark Allen | 09.06.26

Overview

This guide is based on a sermon from the series "The Sent Ones," focusing on the book of Isaiah. The message explored the divine inspiration of Scripture, the total depravity of man, the absolute holiness of God, and the incredible grace that God extends to humanity through Jesus Christ. Isaiah's name itself -- meaning "the Salvation of Jehovah" -- captures the entire theme of the book.

Key Takeaways

1. The Bible is divinely inspired, not man-made. The prophets did not write from their own will or imagination. As 2 Peter 1:20-21 makes clear, men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. The remarkable structural parallels between Isaiah's 66 chapters and the Bible's 66 books serve as a powerful reminder that Scripture has a divine author.
2. Isaiah studied his own Spirit-given writings. As 1 Peter 1:10-11 describes, the prophets made careful searches and inquiries into the very things God had revealed through them. If Isaiah searched his own scriptures, how much more should we be digging into God's Word?
3. Understanding our depravity deepens our worship. The first 39 chapters of Isaiah expose the sinfulness and rebellion of humanity. When we truly grasp how far we have fallen, the grace of God becomes even more breathtaking.
4. Understanding God's holiness changes everything. Isaiah's vision in Isaiah 6 -- where even the seraphim cover themselves in the presence of God -- reveals just

how utterly holy God is. A proper view of God's holiness transforms how we approach Him in worship, prayer, and daily life.

5. Isaiah 53 is the gospel written 700 years early. The suffering, death, and redemptive work of Jesus Christ are described in stunning detail in Isaiah 53, centuries before crucifixion was even a known form of execution. The price of our redemption was costly, and it was paid willingly.
6. God's grace runs through the entire book. From Isaiah 1:18 to Isaiah 55:1, God's invitation to return to Him is woven throughout the book. No matter how far a person has fallen, the offer of grace and forgiveness stands open.

Discussion Questions

Opening Question

- What is one thing from this sermon that surprised you, stood out to you, or that you are still thinking about?

Section 1: The Inspiration of Scripture

- The sermon highlighted the structural parallel between Isaiah's 66 chapters and the Bible's 66 books, as well as the division at chapter 40 mirroring the division between the Old and New Testaments. How does evidence like this affect your confidence in the divine inspiration of Scripture?
- In 1 Peter 1:10-11, we learn that the prophets searched their own writings, trying to understand what God had revealed through them. What does it say about the nature of Scripture that even its human authors were students of it? How does that challenge or encourage your own approach to Bible study?
- Pastor Mark said, "If Isaiah, who wrote these things down by the power of the Holy Spirit, was studying into these things, how much more should we be studying into these things?" What are the biggest obstacles that keep you from regular, deep engagement with Scripture? What is one practical step you could take to grow in this area?

Section 2: The Depravity of Man and the Holiness of God

- Isaiah 1:3 compares Israel's spiritual blindness unfavorably to an ox or a donkey, which at least know their master. In what ways do we as people today still struggle to recognize what God has done for us and who He is to us?
- Pastor Mark described two reasons why people fail to worship God: they do not fully understand how sinful they are, and they do not fully understand how holy God is. Which of these two do you think is the greater struggle for most people today? Which is the greater struggle for you personally?
- Isaiah's response to seeing God in Isaiah 6 was to cry out, "Woe is me, for I am ruined." Have you ever had a moment -- in prayer, in worship, or in reading Scripture -- where you became more aware of God's holiness in a way that changed you? Share that experience if you are comfortable doing so.

Section 3: Redemption and the Grace of God

- Isaiah 53 describes the suffering of Christ in vivid detail, written more than 700 years before the crucifixion. What is your reaction to reading that passage knowing when it was written? How does prophecy like this strengthen your faith?
- The sermon described redemption as a price being paid so that man could be bought back. What does it mean to you personally that God was willing to pay that price? How does reflecting on the cost of your redemption affect the way you live day to day?
- Isaiah 1:18 says that though our sins are like scarlet, they can become white as snow. Isaiah 55:1 extends an open invitation to come and receive freely. Who in your life needs to hear that invitation right now? How might you share it with them?

Section 4: Personal Response

- Pastor Mark closed by asking, "What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?" Take a moment as a group to sit quietly and ask that question. Then share: what do you sense God is saying to you through this message?

- The sermon connected Isaiah's vision of the throne and the slain lamb directly to Revelation 5. Knowing that the story of Scripture from beginning to end points to Jesus as the worthy Lamb, how does that shape the way you think about your own place in that story?

Practical Applications

- **Study the book of Isaiah this week.** The sermon covered the broad sweep of Isaiah's 66 chapters. Choose at least one passage -- Isaiah 6, Isaiah 40, or Isaiah 53 -- and spend time reading it slowly, asking the Lord what He wants to show you through it.
 - **Reflect on your own worship.** Consider the two barriers to worship the pastor identified: an incomplete understanding of your own sinfulness and an incomplete understanding of God's holiness. Spend time this week in prayer asking God to give you a deeper view of both. Journal what He shows you.
 - **Memorize a verse from Isaiah.** Choose one verse from Isaiah that spoke to you during this sermon or your personal study. Commit it to memory and share it with someone in your group next week.
 - **Share the invitation.** Isaiah 55:1 is one of the most open and generous invitations in all of Scripture. Identify one person in your life who does not yet know Jesus. Pray for them by name this week and ask God to open a door for you to share the gospel with them.
 - **Come ready for the next message.** The series continues through the major prophets. Read through the opening chapters of Jeremiah before next week to come prepared and engaged..
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Closing Prayer

Close your group time by praying together. You may want to include the following elements:

- Gratitude for the gift of Scripture and its divine inspiration
- Honest acknowledgment of personal sin and dependence on God's grace
- Worship in response to the holiness of God
- Intercession for those in your lives who have not yet come to faith in Christ