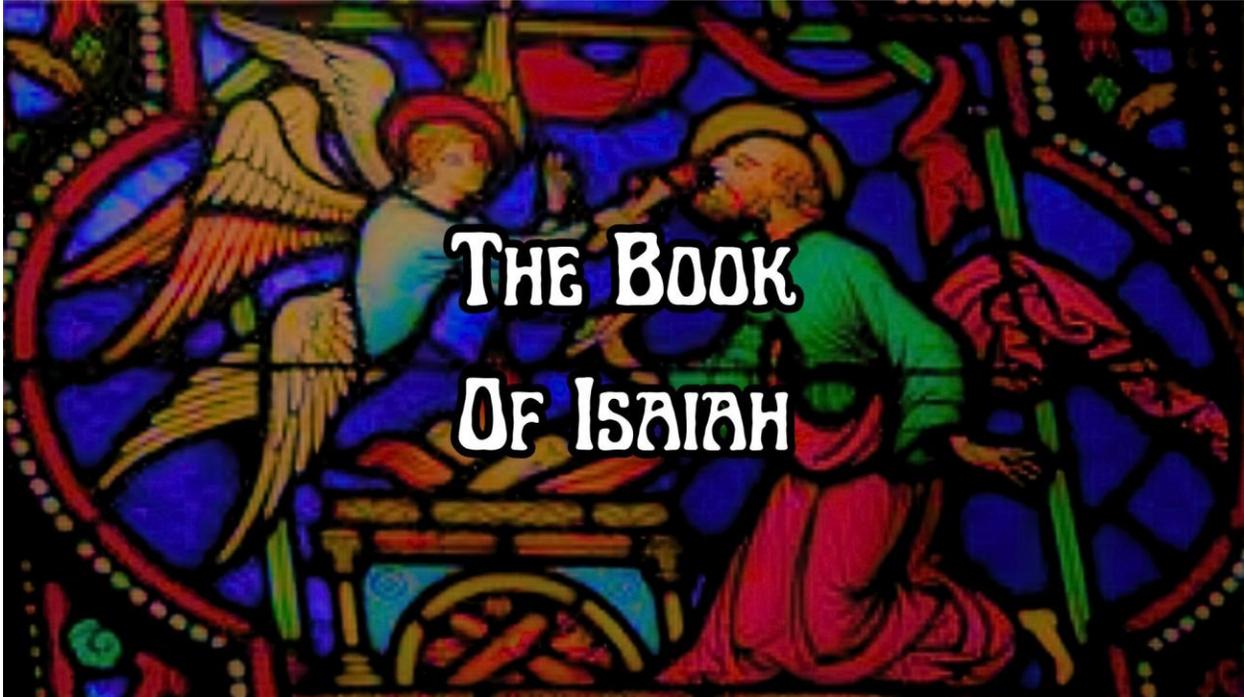


Small Group Guide: The Hope of Christ's Return

Based on Isaiah 2 and Revelation 6



Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open your hearts to understand His promises and to live with genuine hope in Christ's return.

Ice Breaker Question

Share about something reliable in your life - a person, object, or routine you can always count on. What makes it so dependable?

Sermon Summary

This sermon explored Isaiah's prophecies about Christ's second coming, emphasizing that God is a promise keeper. Just as He fulfilled detailed prophecies about Jesus's first coming, we can trust He will fulfill His promises about the second coming. Isaiah 2 describes both the glorious kingdom Christ will establish and the judgment that must come first. The sermon challenges us to live with active hope in Christ's return.

Key Takeaways

1. **God is completely reliable** - His fulfillment of first-coming prophecies guarantees He will fulfill second-coming prophecies
2. **Christ will establish a physical kingdom** - Peace will reign, weapons will become tools, and Jesus will teach from Jerusalem
3. **Judgment precedes the kingdom** - God's wrath will fall on human pride and idolatry before Christ's reign begins
4. **We should pray for His return** - Jesus taught us to pray "Your kingdom come" with genuine expectation
5. **Hope should transform our daily lives** - Living with eternal perspective changes how we face present struggles

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **Read Isaiah 2:1-4 together.** What specific details does Isaiah give about Christ's future kingdom? What stands out to you most about this description?
2. **Now read Isaiah 2:10-21.** What contrast do you see between humanity's pride and God's glory? Why must judgment come before the kingdom is established?
3. **Compare Isaiah 2:19-21 with Revelation 6:15-17.** What similarities do you notice? What does this tell us about the consistency of God's Word?

Personal Reflection

4. The sermon mentioned that **prophecies about the second coming outnumber first-coming prophecies eight to one.** How does this impact your confidence in Christ's return?
5. **When Jesus taught us to pray "Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven,"** what do you think He wants us to feel and expect? Do you pray this with genuine hope?

6. The pastor asked: "**Do you live in victory or are you a complainer who's only concerned about the defeat today?**" How would you honestly answer this question about your current spiritual state?

Going Deeper

7. **What "idols" do modern people trust in** instead of God (wealth, technology, political power, etc.)? How does Isaiah's prophecy speak to our contemporary world?
8. The sermon described how **people will hide in caves from God's terror and throw away their idols**. What does this teach us about the seriousness of standing before God without Christ?
9. **Paul spoke about the battle between flesh and spirit** yet finished well. What practical steps can we take to "run the race well" even when we lose daily battles with sin?

Application

10. **The pastor admitted he doesn't meditate on Christ's return nearly enough**. What specific obstacles keep you from living with daily hope in Christ's return?
11. **If you genuinely believed Christ could return at any moment**, what would change about:
 - Your priorities?
 - Your relationships?
 - Your use of time and resources?
 - Your response to current difficulties?
12. **How can this group hold each other accountable** to living with greater hope and expectation of Christ's return?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose at least one of the following to practice this week:

Daily Meditation

- Spend 5 minutes each morning reading one passage about Christ's return (use the chart mentioned in the sermon or search "second coming" passages)
- Ask yourself: "How does this truth change my perspective on today?"

Prayer Practice

- When you pray the Lord's Prayer, pause at "Your kingdom come" and spend extra time genuinely praying for Christ's return
- Journal what emotions or thoughts this brings up

Perspective Shift

- When facing a difficulty this week, consciously remind yourself: "This is temporary; Christ's kingdom is eternal"
- Share with someone how this eternal perspective helped you

Accountability Partnership

- Text one person from your group each day with one way you're living with hope in Christ's return
- Ask them to do the same for you

Memory Verse

Isaiah 2:2-3a *"Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.'"*

Closing Reflection

Silent Reflection (2-3 minutes) Consider this question individually: *"If Christ returned today, would He find me watching and waiting with hope, or distracted and discouraged?"*

Group Prayer

- Pray for each other to live with genuine hope in Christ's return
- Pray for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done

- Thank God for being a promise keeper
 - Ask for grace to run the race well, even through daily battles
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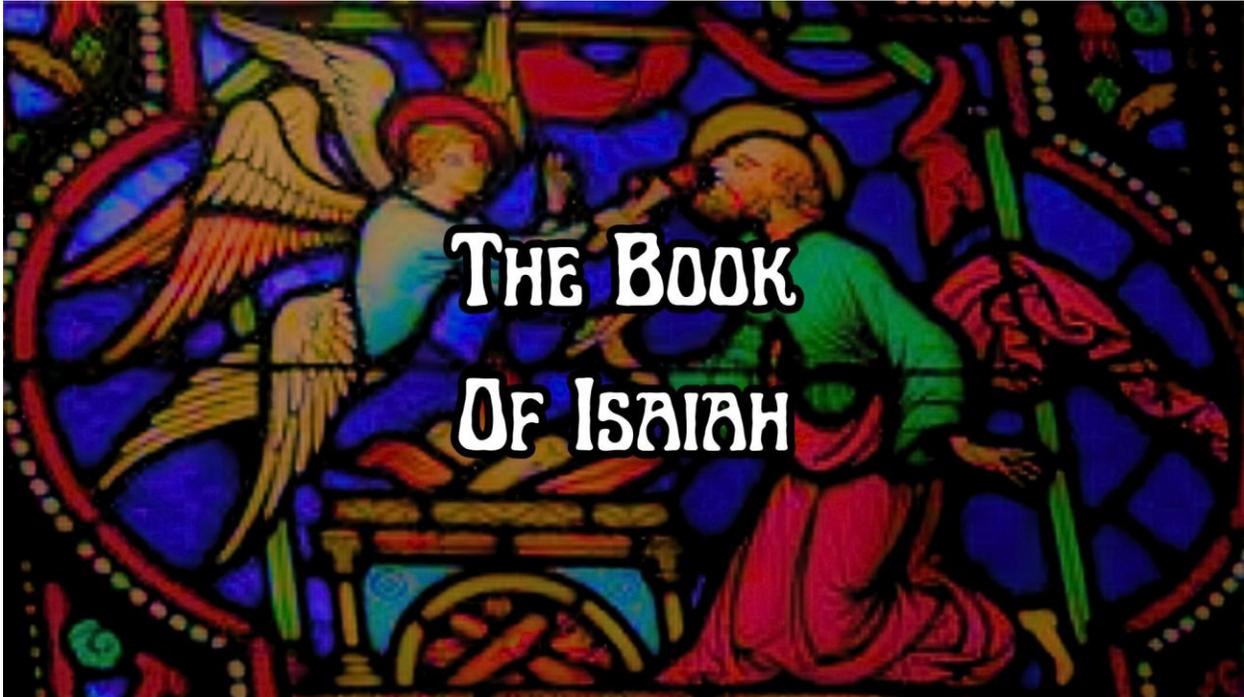
Preparation for Next Week

If your group is continuing through Isaiah, read Isaiah 9:1-7 and consider: What other prophecies about the Messiah can you identify?

Leader Notes

- **Be vulnerable** about your own struggles to live with daily hope in Christ's return
- **Don't rush** through the judgment passages - they're uncomfortable but necessary for understanding the full picture
- **Balance** the sobering reality of judgment with the glorious hope of Christ's kingdom
- **Encourage honesty** if people admit they rarely think about Christ's return - most Christians don't
- **Focus on application** - the goal is transformation, not just information

5-Day Bible Reading Plan: Living in Hope of Christ's Return



Day 1: The Promise Keeper

Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Devotional:

God has proven Himself faithful throughout history. Just as hundreds of prophecies about Christ's first coming were fulfilled with precision, we can trust His promises about the second coming. Like that unreliable car that somehow kept running, God's reliability far exceeds anything we can imagine. He doesn't just keep His promises—He orchestrates history to fulfill them perfectly. Today, reflect on how God has been faithful in your own life. What promises has He already kept? Let those memories fuel your hope for what He's promised to do next. When doubts creep in about God's timing or plans, remember: He is infinitely more reliable than we give Him credit for.

Day 2: The Kingdom of Peace

Reading: Isaiah 2:2-4; Revelation 21:1-7

Devotional:

Imagine a world where weapons become farming tools, where nations no longer study war, where Christ Himself teaches us directly from His throne in Jerusalem. This isn't wishful thinking—it's God's guaranteed future. The peace we long for, the justice we cry out for, the healing our world desperately needs—all of this is coming. But this future reality should impact how we live today. Are you living as a citizen of that coming kingdom now? Are you pursuing peace, practicing forgiveness, and pointing others toward the Prince of Peace? The kingdom isn't just something we wait for passively; it's something we represent actively, giving the world a preview of Christ's reign.

Day 3: The Day of Reckoning

Reading: Isaiah 2:10-22; Revelation 6:12-17

Devotional:

The same Jesus who came as a suffering servant will return in terrifying glory. Everything humanity has built in pride—our wealth, power, fortifications, and self-sufficiency—will crumble before His majesty. This isn't meant to make us fearful if we're in Christ, but it should make us serious about our faith and urgent about sharing the gospel. Those who reject God's mercy will face His justice. The terror described in these passages isn't cruelty; it's the natural consequence of standing before perfect holiness while clothed in rebellion. Today, examine what you're truly trusting in. Are there idols—career, comfort, reputation—that you're placing alongside God? Surrender them now, while there's still time to choose mercy over judgment.

Day 4: Praying for His Return

Reading: Matthew 6:9-13; Revelation 22:12-21

Devotional:

"Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus taught us to pray for His return, yet how often do we actually do it? We pray for health, provision, relationships, and success—all good things—but do we pray with genuine longing for Christ to return and establish His kingdom? This prayer isn't escapism; it's aligning our hearts with God's ultimate plan. When we pray for His kingdom to come, we're acknowledging that nothing in this world compares to what He's preparing. We're declaring that our hope isn't in fixing this broken world, but in Christ renewing all things. Today, make this prayer personal and specific. Ask God to increase your longing for His return and to help you live in light of that coming day.

Day 5: Living in Victory

Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Philippians 3:12-14

Devotional:

Paul finished his race well because he lived with eternity in view. He didn't win every daily battle against sin, but he never lost sight of the ultimate victory. The question for us isn't whether we'll stumble—we will. It's whether we'll keep running toward the finish line with hope and perseverance. Living in victory doesn't mean living without struggle; it means refusing to let today's defeats define tomorrow's direction. You serve a promise-keeping God whose return is certain, whose kingdom is coming, and whose victory is assured. Let that hope fuel your daily walk. When you fail, remember the race isn't over. When you're weary, remember the prize awaiting you. When you're tempted to complain, remember you're headed for a kingdom of eternal peace. Run well. Finish strong. Christ is coming.