



Isaiah

God gave Isaiah the difficult task of preaching profound biblical truth to a people who would completely ignore it. But this does not mean that Isaiah's words were wasted because they are a blessing to us today. In this series, we will learn from Isaiah's message about our God, who is a righteous king and an irreplaceable sovereign judge. Yet the very same God is a suffering servant who comforts us in our times of need and provides Hope to the nations.

WEEK SIX

Our God is the Hope of the Nations

Message Passage: Isaiah 2:1–8, Isaiah 66:18–21, Matthew 28:18–20, & Revelation 7:9–10

Small Group Passage: Isaiah 35:1–10

TEACHING AND VIDEO NOTES

When you hear the phrase “God is the Hope of the Nations,” what part of the Bible comes to mind? Most people would never say the book of Isaiah, or anywhere in the Old Testament. You see, if we faithfully study scripture, we will see that God has loved and had a plan for the nations from the very beginning, and it is critical that we see it.

Isaiah 2:1–4 *This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:*

2 In the last days

*the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as the highest of the mountains;
it will be exalted above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.*

3 Many peoples will come and say,

*Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the temple of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths.”
The law will go out from Zion,*

the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

4 He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Isaiah was promising that the peace that he was offering His people, the peace that could only be available through a covenant relationship with God, would be available to all people. **Isaiah's original audience (Israel) must have heard this and asked, "How could that be?"** How could all of these pagan nations full of pagan people ever know God? Surely he doesn't mean all nations? Oh yes, he did.

Isaiah 25:6-8 *On this mountain the LORD Almighty will prepare*

a feast of rich food for all peoples,
a banquet of aged wine—
the best of meats and the finest of wines.

7 *On this mountain he will destroy*
the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;

8 *he will swallow up death forever.*

The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears
from all faces;
he will remove his people's disgrace
from all the earth.

The LORD has spoken.

We could go on all night just reading passages in Isaiah about how God (Yahweh) is the hope of the nations. But what may be more helpful is to see how these promises and prophecies that Isaiah made are not new promises at all; they are the center of God's plan for all mankind and human history.

- **Table of nations** (Gen 10) - As the flood waters receded, God had Moses list out the nations from which they descended because he had a plan for the nations.
- **Babel** (Gen 11) - But the nations refused to worship God. They instead built a tower to heaven as a way of worshiping themselves.
- **Abraham** - God promised Abraham that through him God would bless all nations (Genesis 12:2-3 and repeated in Genesis 22:18).
- **Psalms** - The Psalmist again and again prayed that God would bless and reveal himself to the nations (Psalm 46:10, 67, & 96).

- **Jonah** - A 7th-century prophet was sent to bear witness to the Assyrian empire in Ninevah, 130 years before they invaded Israel.

Isaiah 66:18-21 “And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

19 “I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. **20** And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. **21** And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD.

What was that sign among them? What, or rather, who would bring the nations to God to the holy mountain in Jerusalem? Jesus. The nations have hope because Jesus is the hope of the nations.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. **19** Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Soon after this, at Pentecost, when Jews from many nations were gathered in Jerusalem for the festival, the Spirit descended as Jesus had promised and empowered the Apostles to speak in the native tongues of those present that day (Acts 2). A reversal of the tower of Babel because now the nation would worship the one true God.

God sought out the Apostle Paul on the road to Damascus. Bringing him to the faith so that he may be a light to the Gentiles. Leading him to declare, “*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise (Gal 3:28-29).*”

God revealed to Peter in a dream that there would no longer be clean and unclean people (Acts 10). Just a few chapters later, at the first Church Council of Jerusalem, the church submitted to God’s will, including Gentile believers (Acts 15).

So now, as we wait on the glorious return of Jesus with a mission to go out to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8), we rest assured that one day we will praise Jesus in one voice in Glory.

Revelation 7:9-10 *After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. **10** And they cried out in a loud voice:*

*“Salvation belongs to our God,
who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb.”*

Key Question: If we believe that Jesus is the Hope of the nations we will _____?

- 1. We will see the Great Commission as our purpose**
- 2. We will seek out all people because Jesus is the hope for all people**
- 3. We treat Jesus as our Hope**

Segway to Small Group: It is one thing to believe that Jesus is the hope of the nations; it is another thing to believe and live as if he is our hope. The reality is that we must live as if Jesus gives us hope, eternal hope, if we are to be able to tell our neighbor and the world about the hope they have in him.

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION

1. What does it look like to live as if we have an unshakable hope in Jesus Christ?
2. When you think of someone who has, or had, an unshakable hope because of their faith in Jesus, who comes to your mind? What did they say or do that made you see them that way?

READ: Isaiah 35:1-10

3. Vs 4 - How does the return of Jesus allow us to live out what Isaiah commanded us to when he said, “Be strong, do not fear”?
4. Vs 5-7 - In verses 5-7, the Prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture of how the return of Jesus will put a permanent end to all suffering and brokenness. What does it look like

to place our hope in an eternity with Jesus, where there is no pain, rather than hoping for a life here on earth that is filled with pleasant circumstances?

Leader Note: The Apostle John described the New Heaven and the New Earth in similar language in Revelation 21:3-4.

5. Vs 8-9 - Isaiah made it abundantly clear that his description of paradise in the New Heaven and New Earth would not include the wicked and unredeemed. Wicked and unredeemed here refers to those who have rejected Jesus. How does the Truth that Jesus is the only way to eternal hope impact our day-to-day lives?

Leader Note: In John 14:5-14, Jesus made it abundantly clear that he is the only way to God (the Father). He goes on to say that those who believe he is the only way to an eternal hope will walk in obedience (vs 12). I believe this obedience includes obeying Jesus' command to tell the world of the Hope we have in Him (Acts 1:8).

6. Vs 10 - One day, the redeemed who Jesus has rescued will enter Zion with singing and everlasting joy. What does it look like for us to live with an everlasting joy today?

PRAYER TIME

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