

What things can we give thanks and praise to the Lord for? Write a psalm to the Lord for all His marvelous doings.

**Suggested Reading and Videotapes:**

1. Pao, Senhor, Max Lucado, p19. Stories for a Faithful Heart compiled by Alice Gray
2. Awesome Faces of God's Creation, Moody Publications, CBD Stock Number: WW670569
3. The Wonder of Creation: Ireland, CBD Stock Number: WW42344, \$11.99
4. The Wonder of Creation: Scotland, CBD Stock Number: WW42336, \$11.99
5. Eyewitness Series: Ocean Video, CBD Stock Number: WW42147X, \$10.00 (For more selections, log on to cbd.com)

**R E F L E C T I O N   &   P R A Y E R**



*"O Lord, my God, how excellent is Your name in all the earth. The Pleiades and Orion sing your praise. Sparrows and chickadees mimic their song. All creation sing in harmony. And most wonderful of all, Lord, thank you, for saving my soul."*

**Lesson 3**

**Isaiah (2)**

**Listed Scriptures**

Isaiah 40-41, 53, 55, 65-66

**Lesson Aim**

- 1) Students will learn that the Lord Jesus fulfilled each of the Old Testament prophecies.
- 2) Students will learn that because of Christ's advent, our lives are filled with hope, joy and peace.

**Memory Verse**

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound." (Is 61:1)

**Bible Reading For This Week** (for students and teachers)

Isa 40-41, 53, 55, 65-66

**B I B L E   B A C K G R O U N D**



Please see Bible Background section in Lesson 2.

## W A R M U P



Indulgence says, "Drink your way out."  
Philosophy says, "Think your way out."  
Science says, "Invent your way out."  
Industry says, "Work your way out."  
Communism says, "Strike your way out."  
Militarism says, "Fight your way out."  
Christ says, "I AM THE WAY OUT!"

## B I B L E S T U D Y



### Part 1

### *The Servant of God*

#### **A. God's Servants**

The overall theme of the book of Isaiah is found in Isaiah's name, which means "Salvation is of the Lord." In the latter half of his book, Isaiah prophesies about the restoration and redemption of Israel and the world. God's plan of redemption is accomplished through His servants. Let us examine who these servants are.

##### a. King Cyrus

In the Book of Isaiah, chapters 40-66 reveal the events that will occur after the captivity of Judah. Although the generation of the prophet still lived in darkness and the people stubbornly rebelled against God, the prophet was able to foresee the entire salvation plan of God. Here, Isaiah looks beyond the present times, beyond the Assyrian invasion, beyond the Babylonian captivity, to the time of the Persian Empire. Isaiah sees God raise a gentile king who would deliver His people – this king was Cyrus King of Persia. Isaiah who lived from about 740-681 BC called Cyrus by name almost 150 years before he ruled (559-530 BC). Isaiah 41:27-29 mentions how good tidings will be given to Jerusalem. The good tidings referred to the raising of King Cyrus who would destroy Babylon and allow the captives to return to their homeland.

##### b. Israel

The nation of Israel is also specifically identified as God's servant (Is 41:8-9;

49:3). God called Israel to be His servant, the agent through whom He could make Himself known to mankind (Is 44:21). God had chosen the Israelites to be lights to the foreign nations around them.

However, Israel failed to recognize the meaning of the covenant and rather than glorify God's name, Israel became like the surrounding nations and brought shame and disgrace to God.

##### c. The Messiah, the Servant of God

Isaiah goes on to introduce a servant who was totally unlike Israel; a servant who was faithful in fulfilling the task set before Him and bringing redemption to all of mankind. God was to send His servant, the Messiah, to come to take away the sins of the people and to proclaim salvation to the gentiles. Just as how Cyrus released the captives, the Lord Jesus would come to release those bound in sin and darkness (41:2, 17-20; 42:1, 6-7; 43:16, 25).

#### **B. Prophecies Concerning the Servant of God, the Messiah**

Throughout the prophetic books, particularly in the book of Isaiah, there are many prophecies concerning the servant of God, the Messiah. To enable men to recognize Him, God laid down specific details. From chapters 42-53, there are four "Servant Songs" (42:1-9; 49:1-9; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12) which describe the Messiah's character, mission, suffering and death. When the Lord Jesus came, He fulfilled these prophecies of long ago right down to the tiniest detail. To those who watched Him carefully, there was no doubt that He was the promised Messiah.

##### a. Prophecies concerning the Servant's birth

1. His advent (40:3-5)
2. His virgin birth (7:14)
3. A branch from Jesse (11:1)

##### b. Prophecies concerning the Servant's attributes

1. Might and gentleness of His reign (40:10-11)

2. Righteousness and beneficence of His reign (32:1-8; 61:1-3)
3. His justice and kindness (42:3-4, 7)
4. Full of might and authority  
The Lord Jesus came in the strength and power of the Holy Spirit. He is mighty in deed and He is the source of all power and life (Mt 19:26; Gen 18:14; Jer 32:17; Job 37:23; Rev 11:17). The Lord Jesus demonstrated power over sickness, sin and death.
5. Full of wisdom  
Although the Lord Jesus did not receive much education, the Jewish leaders and the people perceived that the Lord spoke with great authority, wisdom and power (Mt 7:28-29; Mt 13:54-58; Mt 22:15-22; Jn 7:15). Through His words, the Lord will "smite the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked (Is 11:4; 9:6). Through His words, the Messiah will also bring consolation and peace because He has "the tongue of the learned, knowing how to speak a word in season to him who is weary" (Is 50:4; Col 2:3).
6. Full of peace and humility  
"He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break and a smoking flax He will not quench" (Is 42:2-3). These verses illustrate the peace, gentleness and humility of the Lord Jesus. When the Lord came to the world, He emptied Himself and took the form of a lowly servant (Phil 2:5-8). He walked the roads of Palestine serving the needy and associated with the poor, the sinners and the outcasts of society. He comforted those who were oppressed, bitter in spirit, and whose faith was weak to the point of breaking. Despite the admiration of the crowd, the Lord never drew attention to Himself. On occasions He even instructed the multitude not to speak of His deeds (Mk 5:42-43), and when they wanted to make Him king over them, He quietly slipped away. Even when the Lord was beaten and mocked and was tried six times, He remained as silent and gentle as a lamb led to the slaughter and He humbled Himself to the point of dying on the cross.
7. Full of righteousness and justice  
"And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth..." (Is 11:3-4) Unlike the people of

the world who base their judgments upon appearances and their own criteria, the Lord will not judge by what He sees or hears, but through the Spirit who is able to see into the hearts of men. The Lord shows no partiality but judges with absolute righteousness (Jer 32:19).

**c. Prophecies concerning the Servant's ministry**

1. Galilee to be the scene of His ministry (9:1-2)
2. His rule over the Gentiles (2:2-3; 42:1, 6; 49:6; 55:4-5; 56:6; 60:3-5)
3. He will bring forth justice to the nations (42:1,4)
4. Isaiah 49:6 tells us that God had set the Jews to be a light for the gentiles. He wanted them to be the privileged announcers of salvation to the ends of the earth. But it was not to be. Here, Isaiah prophesies that the Lord Jesus would come to be the light of the nations (Lk 2:32). He would come to offer those who were willing to accept the gospel hope and eternal life. Through the light of the gospel, souls that are bound in darkness would be released and sight bestowed to those who were spiritually blind (Acts 13:47, Lk 2:32). Are we enslaved to anxiety, passion, greed, self-doubt and sin? Come to the Lord for He offers freedom from all bondage.

**d. Prophecies concerning the Servant's suffering, death and burial**

1. His sufferings (53)
2. Death with the wicked (53:9)
3. Burial with the rich (53:9)
4. He suffered hardships in life  
Nowhere in the Old Testament does it describe with such vivid detail the sufferings of the Servant than in Isaiah 53. While on earth, the Lord spent each day going from village to village laboring for the souls of mankind. He would often be denied of physical comforts, going without sleep, food, or drink to help those in need.
5. He was rejected and despised  
The Jews had preconceived notions of what the Messiah should be like. He should come from an extraordinary background, and be a great military commander who would free Israel from Rome's oppression. When

the Lord came professing that He was Christ, they refused to acknowledge Him. Without any outward appearance or qualities, the Jews missed the meaning of the prophecies and instead despised and rejected the Lord and His followers.

6. He was stricken for the sins of the world

As the Servant's obedience led Him into deeper suffering and finally death, His contemporaries were convinced that He had been "stricken and rejected by God." For our sins, the Lord willingly gave Himself up as the sacrificial lamb to be slaughtered. He was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. Isaiah says of the Lord Jesus, "I turned not backward, I gave my back to the smiters and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I hid not my face from shame and spitting" (Is 50:5-6; Mt 26:67; 27:30). The Lord was completely without sin and yet carrying our sins upon His shoulders, He was numbered among the sinners in God's sight. He was spiritually separated from the Father and His soul condemned to Hades (Mt 27:45-46). Jesus Christ suffered this double death so that we would never have to experience eternal separation from God.



*Part 2*

*The Characteristics of the Kingdom of God*

From the last chapters of Isaiah, we catch a glimpse of the day toward which history is moving. Not only does it refer to the day that the captives would be restored to their homeland, but Isaiah made it clear that this picture of restoration is not primarily physical but spiritual. It refers to the establishment of the spiritual kingdom of God: the true church, the kingdom of God in our hearts and the future heavenly kingdom.

**a. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb**

Isaiah 11:6-9 depicts the scene within the kingdom of God where God is king and love prevails. The true church is made up of members of different character traits, walks of life, cultural backgrounds and upbringing. Despite these differences, we can all live harmoniously together. Even people whose temperaments were formerly as aggressive as that of the leopard, the lion, the bear and the asp can be transformed to become gentle and peaceable. They will be able

to dwell harmoniously with believers who were by nature meek and mild like that of the lamb, the kid, the calf, the child and the cow. Such hostile animals can dwell at peace with one another because of the knowledge of God and His love.

**b. The new heaven and new earth**

Throughout the entire Bible, the new heaven and new earth is mentioned four times. The new heaven and new earth recorded in 2 Peter 3:13 speaks of the heavenly kingdom. In the references recorded in Isaiah 65:17-25, 66:22-24 and Revelation 21:1 however, the new heaven and new earth does not refer to the future dwelling place, but to the true church and hearts that have been transformed by Christ. Since the fall of man, sin had entered into the world and the creation lies under the Satan's dominion. The original heaven and earth has become corrupt and filled with bitterness and unrest. Only in God's church can a new heaven and a new earth exist. Furthermore, upon our baptism we have become "a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor 5:17). Through the Lord, we are freed from the bondage of sin and our hearts are being transformed from one degree to another into a new heaven and a new earth.

**c. A spiritual feast will be held**

The holy mountain refers to the true church, and it is on this mount that the Lord will hold an abundant spiritual banquet for those who believe in Him with faith (Is 25:6). The people will feast of fat things which refer to abundant grace (Prov 9:2; Mt 22:4). The "fat things full of marrow and well-refined wines on the lees" refers to the spiritual food and drink which is the truth and the Holy Spirit that believers can satisfy their souls with.

**C H E C K   F O R   U N D E R S T A N D I N G**



There are no questions for this lesson.



### One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman.  
He grew up in still another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was thirty.

Then for three years he was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book.

He never held an office.

He never had a family or owned a house.

He didn't go to college.

He never traveled 200 miles from the place where he was born.

He did not do things one usually associates with greatness.

He had no credentials but himself.

He was only 33 when public opinion turned against him.

His friends ran away.

He was turned over to his enemies and went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves.

When he was dying, his executioners gambled away his clothing, the only property he had on earth.

When he was dead, he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone and today He is the central figure of the human race, the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, all these put together, have not affected the life of man as much as that One Solitary Life.

And because of that one solitary life...

- a. **John Newton**, author of the all-time favorite hymn, *Amazing Grace*, was once a slave trader who transported shiploads of African slaves to the New World where they were traded for goods. One time, he found a book, *Imitation of Christ*, on board which sowed the seeds of his conversion. He left the sea for good and for the last 43 years of his life he preached the gospel. At 82, Newton says, "My memory is nearly gone, but I remember two things, that I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Savior."

- b. **Saint Augustine** did not start out the way he did. His mother had taught him Christianity carefully, but during his teenage years, he threw away his faith to follow heresies. For nine years he went on to live a life of immorality until one day he heard a voice telling him to take up the Bible and read. It was turned open at Romans 13:13-14, "... But put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires." Since then Saint Augustine went on to change the course of the history of Christianity.
- c. **John Bunyan**, author of *The Pilgrims Progress* and *Grace Abounding*, said of his former life, "It was my delight to be taken captive by the devil at his will." He was the ringleader of all things unholy and delighted in the freedom of sin. Cursing, swearing, and lying were second nature to him. However, this same man who said to God, "Depart from me, for I desire not the knowledge of thy ways," was to be captured by God and His words. Of his conversion he says, "I began to look into the Bible with new eyes, and read as I never did before; I was then never out of the Bible, either by reading or meditation; still crying out to God, that I might know the truth, and the way to heaven and glory."
- d. **Fanny Crosby** (1820-1915), author of more than 8,000 and 9,000 gospel songs and hymns, such as "To God be the Glory", "Tell Me the Story of Jesus," "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" and others, was blinded at six weeks old through improper medical treatment. And yet in more than 85 years Crosby had not once felt a spark of resentment against God but believed this to be the means by which God called her. Early in life she began memorizing the Bible and eventually could repeat by rote the entire Pentateuch, all four Gospels, many of the psalms, all of Proverbs as well as the entire books of Ruth and Song of Solomon. She states at the close of her life that "the Holy Book has nurtured my entire life."

#### Say to students:

Indeed there is not one single life that has impacted the lives of mankind so thoroughly and extensively as the life and words of our Lord Jesus. But have we ever thought about what it would be like if the Lord had never come? What if the Lord had not chosen us? What would our lives be like then? In this exercise, we will explore just that. With the newspaper/magazine, carefully cut out any items that graphically illustrate what the world would be like if the Lord had not come. Tape the newspaper cutting to a poster board. Next to this, graphically illustrate how

the Lord has impacted our lives and the world.

**Some examples could be:**

In place of war there will be peace (Is 9:4-7; 32:17-20)

In place of sin there will be holiness (Is 29:18-23; 35:8-9)

In place of tears there will be comfort (Is 29:22-23; 61:3-7; 66:13)

In place of injustice there will be justice (Is 42:1-4; 65:21-23)

In place of sickness there will be healing (Is 29:17-19; 35:3-6; 61:1-2)

Instead of death there will be eternal life (Is 41:8-14; 62:8-9)

Instead of poverty there will be prosperity (Is 4:1; 65; 21-22)

In place of strife there will be peace and harmony

1. In the space below, write a prayer to God on what His coming means to you.
2. How could your existence make a difference in the lives of those around you?

**R E F L E C T I O N   &   P R A Y E R**



*Dear Lord, just as You came to the world two thousand years ago to bring peace, love and the promise of eternal life to mankind, grant to us a complying heart so that we can lead a God-centered life and be instruments of Your grace.*