

Session 1: Trust

Scripture questions:

Isaiah 7:2-9

In this passage, the Arameans, also known as the Assyrians, have come to Jerusalem to conquer it. The king of Judah, Ahaz, is visited by Isaiah, God's prophet. The phrase, "house of David" is a way of referring to King Ahaz. In verse 2, how would you describe the attitude of Ahaz?

In verses 4-9, what kind of message does God have Isaiah deliver? How does his message contrast with the emotions of Ahaz and the Israelites? What does Isaiah say will happen if the people do not have confidence in God?

Isaiah 30:1-5

What is God punishing the people for? Why do you think it is wrong for the Israelites to have an alliance with the Egyptians?

Isaiah 36:1-22

What took place in this passage?

What do the Assyrians say to the Israelites?

Isaiah 37:1-7
Isaiah 37:21-38

What does God, through Isaiah, say to the Israelites?

What happens to the Assyrian armies and the king of Assyria?

Isaiah 49:1-7
Isaiah 53:1-12

How does this prophecy about God's special servant describe the nature and purpose of this servant?

Do you see any phrases or descriptions that remind you of the work of Christ?

Major Prophets: The books of Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, and Daniel are called "major" because they are large in size.

Minor Prophets: The books of Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah, and Malachi are called "minor prophets" because they are small in size. These books are also grouped together because they have special connections to each other.

Old Testament prophet: Someone that is called by God to speak to their own people about what the will of God is in the present time. The Old Testament prophets are less focused on what God will do in the future and more concerned about current ethics and correct behavior.

In the book of Isaiah, the Assyrian empire is growing in power and becomes a massive threat to Judah, the Southern Kingdom of the Israelites. To protect itself, Israel seeks an alliance with Egypt and other surrounding nations. God, through Isaiah, called on the king of Israel and the people to trust in God. When they did, God delivered them from the Assyrians and fully restored the Israelites. Do you act in a way that demonstrates trust and confidence in God?

Servant Songs make up much of the second half of the book of Isaiah. In these songs, the prophet Isaiah **writes about how God will fully restore His people** by dealing with their injustice through His holy servant. The Christian faith sees the Servant Songs of Isaiah, to some extent, as **prophecies of the work of Christ**.

Application Questions:

The prophets challenge you to make sure your actions line up with your beliefs. How well do you think your life reflects your faith?

To what degree do you expect God to be active in your life in the midst of extremely difficult situations? What things do you think encourage and discourage having confidence in God?

How do you sometimes create your own solutions to difficult problems that are not in the will of God? Can you give an example from your life?

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