ISAIAH — LESSON 6

When the World Shakes, God Remains Our Refuge

Isaiah 24–31 | November 4, 2026

Introduction: From Judgment to Hope

Throughout our study of Isaiah, we've encountered nations threatened by war, rulers struggling for power, and people searching for security.

In chapters 24–31, Isaiah takes us beyond the struggles of individual nations to consider God's greater purposes.

He describes a world shaken by judgment, but he also reveals extraordinary promises of peace, restoration, and victory over death.

Then Isaiah returns to a familiar problem. The leaders of Judah continue looking to Egypt for protection from Assyria rather than placing their ultimate trust in God.

These chapters raise an important question:

When the things we depend upon begin to fail, where can we find lasting security?

Historical Background: Two Different Perspectives

Chapters 24–27 — God's Greater Plan

These chapters contain sweeping visions of judgment and restoration. They look beyond the immediate political struggles of Isaiah's day and point toward God's ultimate victory over evil and death.

The precise historical setting and fulfillment of some passages are debated, but their message of divine justice and hope is unmistakable.

Chapters 28–31 — Judah's Political Crisis

We return to the period of Assyrian expansion during the late eighth century BC.

The northern kingdom of Israel had fallen in 722 BC. Judah faced the growing threat of Assyria, and some of its leaders believed an alliance with Egypt offered their best chance of survival.

Isaiah repeatedly warned that military strength could never replace trust in God.

Chapter Summaries

Chapter 24 — A World Shaken by Judgment

Isaiah's message expands beyond individual kingdoms to describe judgment affecting the earth.

Human pride, injustice, and disobedience have consequences. Wealth and position cannot shield anyone from God's judgment.

Yet the chapter ends with the assurance that the Lord will reign in glory.

Key thought: No earthly power stands above God's authority.

Chapter 25 — The God Who Wipes Away Tears

After the devastation described in chapter 24, Isaiah offers a beautiful song of praise.

God is celebrated as a refuge for the poor and needy and as the One who remains faithful to His promises.

Then comes an extraordinary vision: God prepares a great feast, removes the covering of sorrow, and swallows up death in victory.

Isaiah 25:8 declares that God will wipe away tears from every face.

Christians recognize a connection between this promise and the ultimate victory over death through Jesus Christ, described in 1 Corinthians 15:54 and Revelation 21:4.

Key thought: God's final answer to suffering is not despair, but hope.

Chapter 26 — Perfect Peace Through Trust

Isaiah describes a song of confidence in God.

His people are encouraged to trust the Lord, whose faithfulness is everlasting.

Isaiah 26:3 promises perfect peace to the person whose mind remains fixed on God and who trusts in Him.

The chapter also contains a remarkable expression of hope concerning the dead rising to life (verse 19).

Key thought: Peace begins with trusting God's character, even when circumstances are uncertain.

Chapter 27 — The Vineyard Restored

Earlier in Isaiah, God's vineyard represented His people and their unfaithfulness.

Now the imagery changes.

God promises to watch over His vineyard, water it, and protect it. He also promises to gather His scattered people.

Judgment is not the end of the story. God remains committed to His purposes of restoration.

Key thought: God's discipline and His desire to restore His people belong together.

Chapter 28 — Building on the Right Foundation

Isaiah condemns the pride and spiritual irresponsibility of leaders in Israel and Judah.

Some leaders are so confident in their own arrangements that they refuse to take God's warnings seriously.

Against their false confidence, God promises to establish a precious cornerstone—a sure foundation.

The New Testament applies this cornerstone imagery to Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:6).

Key thought: A lasting life of faith requires a trustworthy foundation.

Chapter 29 — When Worship Becomes Empty

Isaiah warns Jerusalem against spiritual blindness and religious hypocrisy.

The people continue religious practices, yet their hearts have drifted away from God.

Isaiah 29:13 describes people who honor God with their lips while their hearts remain far from Him.

Jesus later uses this passage when confronting empty religious traditions (Matthew 15:7–9).

Yet chapter 29 also promises that God will bring understanding, justice, and renewal.

Key thought: God desires sincere devotion, not merely the appearance of religion.

Chapter 30 — The Danger of Misplaced Trust

Judah's leaders seek an alliance with Egypt to protect themselves from Assyria.

But God warns that Egypt cannot provide the security they expect.

Isaiah 30:15 teaches that returning to God, resting in Him, and trusting Him are sources of strength.

Despite Judah's stubbornness, the chapter offers a remarkable assurance: the Lord longs to be gracious to His people.

Key thought: Trusting God is not an excuse for irresponsibility; it means recognizing that our ultimate security rests with Him.

Chapter 31 — God Is Greater Than Armies

Isaiah continues warning Judah against depending on Egypt's horses, chariots, and soldiers.

Egypt possesses military strength, but it remains human and limited.

God calls His people to return to Him.

The chapter closes with the promise that Assyria will ultimately fall by a power greater than human military strength.

Key thought: Human strength has limits. God's power does not.

Discussion Questions

1. Isaiah 24 describes a world where wealth, power, and position cannot protect people from judgment. What was Isaiah teaching about the limitations of earthly security?

2. In Isaiah 25:8, God promises to swallow up death and wipe away tears. Why is this such an extraordinary promise, and how does it connect with the Christian message of hope?

3. Isaiah 26:3 speaks of perfect peace for those who trust God. What is the difference between the peace God promises and the peace the world tries to provide?

4. In chapter 27, God describes Himself as the caretaker of His vineyard. How does this picture differ from the vineyard described earlier in Isaiah 5.

5. Isaiah 28:16 speaks about a precious cornerstone and a sure foundation. Why is the image of a foundation important, and how does the New Testament connect it to Jesus Christ?

6. In Isaiah 29:13, God criticizes people who honor Him with their lips while their hearts remain far from Him. What distinguishes genuine worship from simply following religious traditions?

7. In chapters 30–31, Judah looks to Egypt for protection. Why did this alliance seem attractive to Judah's leaders, and what was Isaiah warning them about?

8. Looking across chapters 24–31, we find judgment, forgiveness, peace, and restoration. What do these chapters reveal about God's character and His ultimate purpose for His people?

Closing Reflection

These eight chapters remind us that God's authority extends beyond every nation, ruler, and human institution.

They also reveal something wonderful about His character.

The God who warns of judgment is the same God who promises peace, offers forgiveness, restores His people, and declares that death itself will one day be defeated.

Human security may fail.

Earthly kingdoms may fall.

But God's faithfulness remains.

"Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength." — Isaiah 26:4 (KJV)