

Introduction

The first 37 chapters of Isaiah — namely, the first 12 that we studied last fall and the next 15 we are now studying — are bound together by the dominating theme of the King who reigns in Zion. He may be the current king, contemporary with Isaiah's prophesying, or the covenant LORD God of Israel, or the King-Messiah yet to come. In any case, no matter discouraging circumstances, he represents the absolute certainty of God's sovereignty over the universe, including the universe of man. If the main focus of chapters 1 to 12 was the prophet's own nation Israel, the focus of chapters 13 to 27 is the surrounding nations, by comparison to which little Israel might seem of no importance, even on her own theological terms.

But the God of Israel is not a god among gods. Rather, he is the only God and, indeed, the covenant LORD God of this small nation. Accordingly, despite appearances, specific promises that this LORD of the covenant has made to Israel will be, and in fact are already being, fulfilled. A failed kingship is to be superseded by the perfect reign of the LORD, and an erring faithless nation will one day become the magnet for all the nations on earth. The time will come when the Gentiles will be welcomed by the King who reigns in Zion. He will even graciously condescend to seat them at his messianic banquet. In the very last verse of this section (27:13), he will accept their worship on his holy mountain at Jerusalem.

Schedule

Sep 21: Isaiah 13:1 – 14:2 *"The oracle concerning Babylon."* (Jeremy Jackson)

Sep 28: Isaiah 14:3-32 *"Brought down to Sheol."* (Nathaniel Jackson)

Oct 5: Isaiah 15-16 *"Moab is undone."* (Stefan Matzal)

Oct 12: Isaiah 17:1 – 18:7 *"The portion of those who loot us."* (Nathaniel Jackson)

Oct 19: Isaiah 19-20 *"They shall be dismayed and ashamed."* (Stefan Matzal)

Oct 26: *Reformation Sunday Pulpit Exchange* (Richard Dickinson, Cazenovia Village Baptist Church)

Nov 2: Isaiah 21 *"Fallen, fallen is Babylon!"* (Nathaniel Jackson)

Nov 9: Isaiah 22 *"Eat and drink for tomorrow we die."* (Jeremy Jackson)

Nov 16: Isaiah 23 *"The LORD has purposed it."* (Nathaniel Jackson)

Nov 23: Isaiah 24 *"The LORD will empty the earth."* (Stefan Matzal)

Nov 30: Isaiah 25 *"He will swallow up death forever."* (Jeremy Jackson)

Dec 7: Isaiah 26 *"Keep him in perfect peace because he trusts."* (Nathaniel Jackson)

Dec 14: Isaiah 27 *"Come, worship the LORD ... at Jerusalem."* (Stefan Matzal)

Dec 21: *Christmas Sermon* (Ram Stewart)

Dec 28: *New Year's Sermon* (Jeremy Jackson)