

Dr. John Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 6

Isaiah 9-12

Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Study Guide, 4) Briefing Document, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 6, Isaiah 9-12, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. John Oswalt's lecture covers Isaiah chapters 9-12, focusing on the themes of **trust in God versus reliance on human power**. He highlights the contrast between **God's judgment and His ultimate hope**, exemplified by the promise of the Messiah. Oswalt analyzes **Israel's arrogance and reliance on Assyria**, contrasting it with God's promise of salvation. The lecture also explores the **symbolism of trees, banners, and highways**, representing various aspects of God's plan. Finally, it emphasizes the **importance of trusting God's plan** despite facing seemingly insurmountable challenges.

2. 19 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 6 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Major Prophets → Isaiah).



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on06.mp3

3. Briefing Document

Briefing Doc: Isaiah Chapters 9-12 (Dr. John Oswalt)

Main Themes:

- **God's Sovereignty and Hope Amidst Judgment:** Even when judgment is necessary due to human sin and distrust, God's ultimate intention is restoration and hope. His grace extends even to those who have brought suffering upon themselves.
- **The True Issue:** The real threat is not political or military enemies like Assyria, but humanity's failure to recognize God's authority and Torah. This failure leads to arrogance, misplaced trust in human leaders, violence, and oppression.
- **The Messiah as the Ultimate Solution:** The coming Messiah, depicted as a child, will bring true peace and justice through divine power, not human might. He will be a beacon to the nations, offering them the opportunity to know and worship God.

Most Important Ideas/Facts:

1. **Light Out of Darkness (Isa 9:1-7):** God promises light and hope even as Chapter 8 ends with a bleak picture of darkness due to rejection of God's revelation. This hope manifests in the coming Messiah, a child who will bring an end to war. This points to God's grace and initiative in salvation, not dependent on human merit.
- **Quote:** "The very place where the darkness began to consume the land, is the place where God would send his light."
1. **God's Judgment on Arrogance and Idolatry (Isa 9:8-10:4):** God's anger is directed at Israel's (specifically the Northern Kingdom) arrogance, their reliance on human leaders, and their perpetuation of violence and injustice. This section highlights the ongoing theme of God's holiness and the need for human repentance.
- **Quote:** "The issue is what are you going to do about me and my Torah?"
1. **Assyria: Instrument of Judgment and Subject to Judgment (Isa 10:5-27):** Assyria, though powerful and threatening, is ultimately God's instrument to discipline his people. However, Assyria's own pride and arrogance will lead to its downfall, showcasing God's control over history.

- **Quote:** "God can indeed use the more wicked to punish the less wicked. But the more wicked are not going to get away with it."
- 1. **The Messianic Shoot from the Stump of Jesse (Isa 11:1-16):** From the seemingly dead stump of Jesse will sprout a shoot, symbolizing the Messiah. He will usher in an era of peace and justice, characterized by harmony in nature. The Messiah will be empowered by the Spirit of God, judging righteously through the power of his word.
- **Quote:** "That's our God who uses the little things and the least things."
- 1. **A Highway of Return and a Banner for the Nations (Isa 11:10-16; 12:1-6):** The Messiah will become a rallying point, drawing back the scattered remnants of Israel and attracting the nations to worship God. This highlights the universal scope of God's salvation and the mission of his people to make his deeds known.
- **Quote:** "The Messiah is going to be the flag that God runs up the flagpole."

Dr. Oswalt's Teaching Style:

- **Engaging and conversational:** He uses questions and invites interaction from the audience, creating a dynamic learning environment.
- **Application-oriented:** He connects the ancient text to contemporary issues, challenging listeners to consider the implications for their own lives and the world around them.
- **Emphasis on God's character and purposes:** He consistently points back to God's sovereignty, justice, grace, and the ultimate hope offered through the Messiah.

Key Takeaways:

- Trust in God, not human solutions, is essential for navigating turbulent times.
- God is at work even in seemingly negative events, using them for his purposes.
- The coming Messiah offers hope not just for Israel but for all nations.
- Believers have a responsibility to share the good news of God's salvation.

4. Isaiah Study Guide: Session 6, Isaiah 9-12

Isaiah 9-12 Study Guide

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Assyria:** A powerful ancient Mesopotamian empire that posed a significant threat to both Israel and Judah.
- **Branch:** A recurring metaphor in Isaiah representing the coming Messiah, who will spring from the lineage of David and establish a righteous kingdom.
- **Dawn:** A symbol of hope and deliverance from darkness and despair. Refusing God's revelation leads to the absence of dawn, signifying hopelessness.
- **Galilee of the Nations:** The region where Jesus's primary ministry took place, highlighting God's intention to bring light to the place where darkness originated.
- **Immanence:** God's presence and active involvement in the world and human affairs.
- **Jesse:** The father of King David. The "stump" or "root of Jesse" represents the Davidic lineage from which the Messiah will come.
- **Messiah:** The anointed one chosen by God to deliver his people and establish his kingdom. In Isaiah, the Messiah is portrayed as a future king who will bring peace, justice, and righteousness.
- **Remnant:** A small, faithful group of people who will survive God's judgment and through whom he will fulfill his promises.
- **Shear Yashub:** Isaiah's son, whose name means "a remnant will return," symbolizing God's promise to preserve a faithful remnant.
- **Torah:** The Law of Moses, containing God's instructions and commands for his people.
- **Transcendence:** God's existence above and beyond the created world, emphasizing his power and otherness.

Short Answer Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. How does Isaiah 9:1 offer a message of hope in contrast to the ending of chapter 8?

2. What is the significance of the Messiah being presented as a child in Isaiah 9:6?
3. What are the four key issues that provoke God's anger against Israel in Isaiah 9:8-10:4?
4. How does Isaiah portray Assyria's role in God's plan, and what is the ultimate fate of Assyria?
5. What does the "shoot from the stump of Jesse" symbolize in Isaiah 11:1?
6. Explain the contrast in the Messiah's method of judgment described in Isaiah 11:3-4.
7. What is the significance of the imagery of animals living together peacefully in Isaiah 11:6-9?
8. How does the "root of Jesse" become a "signal for the peoples" in Isaiah 11:10?
9. What is the "highway from Assyria" in Isaiah 11:16?
10. What is the ultimate response of the people to God's deliverance and salvation in Isaiah 12:1-6?

Short Answer Quiz: Answer Key

1. **Answer:** Isaiah 9:1 proclaims, "Nevertheless, there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish," directly contrasting the "distress and darkness" described at the end of chapter 8. This shift signifies a transition from judgment to hope, emphasizing God's promise to bring light into the darkness.
2. **Answer:** Presenting the Messiah as a child emphasizes God's power working through weakness. It challenges the expectation of a powerful, warrior-like figure and highlights that God's strength is made perfect in weakness.
3. **Answer:** The four issues are: (1) Arrogance and pride, putting themselves in God's place. (2) Exalting human leaders and placing hope in them instead of God. (3) Violence and cruelty amongst themselves. (4) Oppression and lack of justice within their society.
4. **Answer:** Isaiah describes Assyria as the "rod of [God's] anger" – an instrument used to enact judgment on Israel. However, Assyria's arrogance and pride in its own power will lead to its ultimate downfall, as God will judge them for their wickedness.

5. **Answer:** The "shoot from the stump of Jesse" represents the coming Messiah, who will spring from the seemingly dead lineage of David and establish a righteous and everlasting kingdom. It signifies hope and renewal, even in the face of destruction and despair.
6. **Answer:** Isaiah 11:3-4 contrasts the Messiah's judgment with earthly rulers. While human kings judge based on outward appearances and worldly power, the Messiah will judge with righteousness and equity, guided by the Spirit of the Lord.
7. **Answer:** The peaceful coexistence of natural enemies represents the transformative power of the Messiah's reign. It signifies a future where violence and hostility are replaced by harmony and peace, reflecting the restoration of God's original design for creation.
8. **Answer:** In contrast to raising a signal to call enemy nations for judgment (Isaiah 5), the "root of Jesse" becomes a banner attracting all nations to seek the Lord and experience the blessings of His kingdom. The Messiah becomes a beacon of hope and salvation for the entire world.
9. **Answer:** The "highway from Assyria" symbolizes God's deliverance of the remnant from exile. Those who once trusted in Assyria will find their true hope and freedom in returning to the Lord and His land, walking on a path prepared by Him.
10. **Answer:** The people respond with overflowing gratitude and praise, recognizing that God's anger has turned away and He has become their salvation. They joyfully draw from the "wells of salvation" and are called to proclaim God's deeds among all nations, sharing the good news of His deliverance.

Essay Questions

1. Analyze the significance of light and darkness imagery throughout Isaiah 9-12. How do these metaphors contribute to the overall message of hope and judgment?
2. Explore the role of the Spirit of the Lord in empowering the Messiah in Isaiah 11:2. How does this emphasis on the Spirit shape our understanding of the Messiah's character and mission?
3. Compare and contrast the portrayal of Assyria in Isaiah 10 with the image of the "highway from Assyria" in Isaiah 11:16. How does this shift reflect the changing relationship between God's people and their oppressors?

4. Discuss the implications of the Messiah becoming a "signal for the peoples" in Isaiah 11:10-12. How does this passage contribute to the broader theme of God's plan for the restoration of all nations?
5. Analyze the elements of praise and thanksgiving found in Isaiah 12. What are the key reasons for the people's joy, and how does their response connect to the themes of trust and deliverance in these chapters?

5. FAQs on Oswalt, Isaiah, Session 6, Isaiah 9-12, Biblealearning.org (BeL)

Isaiah 9-12 FAQ

What is the main message of Isaiah 9-12?

Isaiah 9-12 shifts from the grim warning of judgment in chapter 8 to a message of hope and light. It centers around God's promise of a coming Messiah who will bring peace, justice, and ultimately, the restoration of his people. Even though God will use Assyria as a tool for judgment against Israel and Judah's disobedience, ultimately, God will also judge Assyria for their arrogance and brutality.

Why is the Messiah depicted as a child in Isaiah 9?

The depiction of the Messiah as a child underscores the idea that God's power is often manifested in unexpected ways. This imagery contrasts with the expectation of a powerful warrior-king who would overthrow Israel's enemies. Instead, God chooses to work through vulnerability and humility, revealing that his strength is made perfect in weakness.

What are the four sins that God is angry about in Isaiah 9:8-10:4?

The four sins that draw God's anger are:

1. **Arrogance:** Placing human achievements and pride above God.
2. **Exalting human leaders:** Putting faith in human solutions instead of God.
3. **Violence and cruelty:** The consequence of societal breakdown when God is rejected.
4. **Oppression and injustice:** A lack of righteousness and equity within the nation.

How does God view Assyria in Isaiah 10?

God views Assyria as a tool, "the rod of my anger," used to discipline his people. While Assyria believes their victories are due to their own strength, Isaiah emphasizes that they are merely instruments in God's hand. Ultimately, Assyria will also face judgment for their arrogance and cruelty.

What is the significance of the "shoot from the stump of Jesse" in Isaiah 11?

The "shoot from the stump of Jesse" symbolizes the unexpected hope and renewal that will come through the Messiah. Jesse, the father of David, represents a seemingly insignificant source from which a powerful lineage will emerge. This imagery suggests that even when all hope seems lost, God can bring forth new life and restoration.

How is the Messiah's method of judgment described in Isaiah 11?

The Messiah's judgment will be characterized by righteousness, equity, and the power of his word. Instead of relying on physical force or military might, he will judge with fairness, especially defending the poor and meek. His word will carry divine authority, bringing transformation and ultimately, judgment.

What is the significance of the imagery of animals living peacefully together in Isaiah 11?

The imagery of animals living peacefully together illustrates the transformative peace that the Messiah will bring. Natural enemies will coexist harmoniously, symbolizing the end of conflict and the establishment of a kingdom marked by unity and shalom (wholeness). This peace will extend beyond the human realm, impacting all of creation.

What is the ultimate purpose of the Messiah's coming, according to Isaiah 12?

Isaiah 12 reveals that the Messiah's coming will ultimately lead to salvation, joy, and the spread of God's glory throughout the earth. God's people will find encouragement and strength in the Lord, drawing from the "wells of salvation." They will then be empowered to share the good news of God's salvation with all the nations, fulfilling their mission to be a light to the world.