

Dr. Marv Wilson, Prophets, Session 35, Isaiah Key Texts Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Wilson, Prophets, Session 35, Isaiah Key Texts, Biblicalearning.org, BeL

Dr. Marv Wilson's Lecture 35 focuses on key texts from the Book of Isaiah. This final session explores various passages, providing exegetical, textual, practical, homiletical, and historical commentary. **Wilson references the Dead Sea Scrolls and their impact on understanding Isaiah**, also referencing the influence on hymnology through figures such as A.J. Gordon. **The lecture examines themes like the Messianic age, strength in the face of fear, the importance of tradition, and the transient nature of humanity compared to the eternal word of God.** He considers Isaiah's influence on the New Testament, quotes appearing in presidential addresses, and its impact on figures like William Carey and the naming of the Holocaust Museum Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. **Wilson concludes by emphasizing God's sustaining presence through all of life, and our pliability to learn in the school of faith.**

**2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Wilson, Prophets, Session 35 – Double click icon to play in
Windows media player or go to the Biblicalearning.org [BeL]
Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament →
Major Prophets → Prophetic Literature).**



**Wilson_Prophets_S
ession35.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Wilson, Prophets, Session 35, Isaiah Key Texts

Okay, here is a detailed briefing document summarizing the key themes and ideas from Dr. Marv Wilson's lecture on Isaiah, as presented in "Wilson_Prophets_EN_Session35.pdf":

Briefing Document: Dr. Marv Wilson on Key Texts from Isaiah

I. Introduction & Context

- This lecture is the final session of a course on the Prophets, focusing specifically on selected key texts from the book of Isaiah.
- Dr. Wilson opens with a prayer, emphasizing God's faithfulness, calling, and continued presence in the lives of believers. He acknowledges the challenges and turning points in life, drawing parallels with the experiences of the people of Israel.
- He announces the final exam date and scope, emphasizing specific readings and lecture materials.
- He also requests students to complete a course evaluation at the end of the session.
- Dr. Wilson notes that his commentary on Isaiah will include exegetical, textual, practical, homiletical, and historical aspects.

II. The Integrity of the Text

- **Dead Sea Scrolls:** The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls has provided textual evidence going back over a thousand years earlier than previously known, affirming the essential purity and integrity of the Hebrew Bible text, stating that, "the Bible we have today is the same Bible Jesus used."
- **Textual Stability:** The fact that the text has not suffered enormous corruption despite being hand-copied reaffirms the trustworthiness of the biblical text.

III. Key Isaiah Texts & Themes

- **Isaiah 33:17 - "The King in His Beauty":** This verse, used in A.J. Gordon's hymn, "The King in His Beauty," alludes to the Messianic age.

- Dr. Wilson connects this to Isaiah 32:1, which speaks of a king reigning in righteousness, highlighting the coming reign of justice.
- The "land that stretches far" is interpreted as a reference to the Messiah's universal rule, as echoed in Zechariah 14:9.
- **Isaiah 35:3-4 - Strength in Fear:** Hebrews 12:12 quotes Isaiah 35:3 ("Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way.").
- This passage speaks to a time of fear and trembling, likely during the threat of Assyrian invasion.
- The command to "be strong" and "do not fear" is echoed throughout Scripture, including in Joshua 1:9, which speaks to the divine answer to human terror.
- Dr. Wilson emphasizes the recurring command in the Hebrew Bible to "be not afraid".
- **Isaiah 38:19 - Generational Faithfulness:** Dr. Wilson uses the Greek term "paradosis" and the Hebrew term "Masorah" to highlight the importance of generational communication of truth.
- He emphasizes the significance of oral tradition in preserving and transmitting biblical knowledge, especially before the advent of the printing press.
- The idea that "faith has a backward look to it" is introduced, connecting present faith to past faithfulness.
- The Hebrew word "emet", meaning reliable and trustworthy, is given great importance.
- He references 1 Timothy 4:4, highlighting the importance of passing faith onto the next generations.
- **Isaiah 40:6-8 - The Eternal Word vs. Transient Man:** This passage contrasts the fleeting nature of humanity with the enduring Word of God, quoted in 1 Peter 1:24-25.
- He also references Psalm 90, the only psalm attributed to Moses which describes the transient nature of human life.
- He references the Hebrew word, "hevel" (breath, fleeting) from Ecclesiastes, connecting the passage to the theme of man's impermanence.

- The contrast between the short life of man (like grass and flowers) and the eternal word of God resonated with Dr. Wilson's decision to teach scripture. He states: "when you're dealing with scripture, it is eternal."
- This theme is also emphasized in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5:18)
- **Isaiah 40:1-3 - Comfort and Preparation:**The passage "Comfort, comfort my people" (Nachamu, nachamu, ami) is analyzed, highlighting the concept of divine comfort ("Parakeleo" in Greek).
- The "voice of one calling in the desert" is recognized as John the Baptist in the New Testament, but Dr. Wilson emphasizes that Isaiah does not directly reference John.
- The different punctuation and usage of the quote about John the Baptist in the New Testament as compared with Isaiah, shows that writers of the New Testament didn't quote the Old Testament mechanically, but adapted passages for their purposes.
- John was calling people to get ready for the Messiah.
- **Isaiah 40:15 - God's Sovereignty:**The phrase "drop in a bucket," a common expression today, originates from Isaiah.
- This text emphasizes the sovereignty of God over nations, highlighting God's self-sufficiency and his lack of need for man's advice or counsel.
- Dr. Wilson notes the tendency of political candidates to quote Old Testament scripture in order to appeal to a wider audience.
- **Isaiah 40:31 - Renewed Strength:**This verse ("those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength") was included in McGovern's concession speech, during the 1972 presidential election.
- He emphasizes that spirituality, based on the Hebrew Bible, is a journey and a walk with God and that God renews you for the journey.
- **Isaiah 46:4 - God's Sustaining Grace:**This verse offers encouragement for the elderly, promising God's continued support through old age. It states, "even to your old age and gray hairs, I am He. I am He who will sustain you."
- **Isaiah 54:2 - Missions & Enlargement:**This verse, significant to missionary William Carey, calls for the "enlargement" of the tent, symbolizing the expansion of God's people.

- He draws a parallel to the prayer of Jabez, the idea of “thinking big”.
- The idea of spiritual offspring coming from afar alludes to the inclusion of both Jews and Gentiles in God's kingdom.
- Dr. Wilson notes that the missionary impulse of early Christianity was founded on an earlier Jewish missionary impulse.
- He points out that God is the God of all the earth, seeking to reach all people.
- **Isaiah 55:1 - Free Grace and Spiritual Thirst:**The passage uses the image of a water vendor in Jerusalem as a picture of free grace, stating "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters, even you who have no money".
- Dr. Wilson highlights the free gift of God and emphasizes that spiritual thirst requires a different type of satisfaction than the water that is sold in the streets. He connects this idea with Romans 6:23, the gift of eternal life, and Jesus' offer of "living water" to the woman at the well.
- **Isaiah 56:5 - Yad Vashem:**This verse, about "a memorial and a name," is the origin of the name of the Holocaust Museum, Yad Vashem.
- "Yad" is the Hebrew word for hand, which is why the memorial is shaped like a hand.
- **Isaiah 56:7 - House of Prayer for All Nations:**The phrase "My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations" is found written above many synagogue doors, emphasizing the inclusive nature of prayer in Judaism, noting that non-Jewish people would visit the court of the Gentiles in Herod's Temple.
- Dr. Wilson emphasizes that all are welcome at the synagogue to study, pray, and visit, excluding the high holidays.
- **Isaiah 58:13 - Sabbath Delight (Oneg Shabbat):**The expression "Oneg Shabbat," a time of fellowship and refreshment in the synagogue, comes from this verse ("if you call the Sabbath a delight").
- Dr. Wilson notes he's taken Gordon students to put on programs at local synagogues for an Oneg Shabbat.
- **Isaiah 58 - Fasting & Justice:**This chapter contrasts priestly religion (fasting) with prophetic religion (action), highlighting God's desire for justice, care for the hungry, and concern for the oppressed.

- He draws a parallel with Matthew 25, where the sheep and goats are separated based on their actions toward others.
- **Isaiah 62:4-5 - Beulah Land (Married Land):**The concept of "Beulah Land" ("married land"), popularized through hymnody, comes from this chapter where Zion is given a new name and is likened to God's bride.
- The terms "Hepsibah" ("my delight") and "Beulah" are explained, emphasizing God's delight in Zion (as opposed to it being deserted or desolate).
- He points out that after the judgement that dominates the beginning of Isaiah, these later chapters are positive and encouraging, bringing hope.
- **Isaiah 64:8 - Clay and Potter:**The image of clay in the potter's hand is used to describe God's work in shaping believers' lives, even quoted by Paul.
- The need for moldability, flexibility and pliability is emphasized.
- He connects this idea to the "peti learner" of the book of Proverbs, one who is teachable and open to learning.
- Dr. Wilson emphasizes that "learning is a lifelong sentence".

IV. Conclusion

- Dr. Wilson concludes his final lecture on the Prophets, summarizing themes and reflections from the book of Isaiah.
- He emphasizes the importance of a lifelong journey of learning and growth in the faith.
- He emphasizes the importance of faith and learning new things as key parts of being human.

Key Takeaways

- **Theological Depth:** The lecture reveals the profound theological insights found within the book of Isaiah, touching on themes of Messiahship, God's faithfulness, the nature of humanity, and the call to justice.
- **Textual Richness:** Dr. Wilson demonstrates how the historical and cultural context of Isaiah enhances understanding. He points out important details, including the meaning of individual words and the cultural contexts that make the scripture richer.

- **Practical Application:** The lecture highlights practical applications of Isaiah's message, encouraging listeners toward faith, courage, and service.
- **Biblical Connections:** Dr. Wilson draws connections between the Old Testament text and the New Testament, demonstrating the unity of Scripture.
- **Homiletical Value:** The lecture provides examples of how Isaiah can be used for preaching, hymnology, and other forms of Christian expression.

This briefing document should provide a thorough overview of the main points from Dr. Wilson's lecture on key texts from Isaiah, highlighting his interpretation, insights, and key teachings.

4. Study Guide: Wilson, Prophets, Session 35, Isaiah Key Texts

Isaiah: A Study Guide

Quiz

Instructions: Answer each question in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. What textual discovery has reinforced the integrity of the Old Testament text, and how does it relate to the Bible we use today?
2. How does Isaiah 33:17, "The King in His Beauty," relate to the Messianic age?
3. In Isaiah 35:3-4, what specific encouragement is given to those with fearful hearts, and how does this relate to other parts of scripture?
4. What is the significance of *paradosis* or *masorah* in the context of Isaiah's message?
5. According to Isaiah 40:6-8, how is the transience of human life contrasted with the eternal nature of God's word?
6. How do the New Testament writers adapt the quotation of Isaiah 40:3 about "a voice in the desert" for their purposes?
7. What does Isaiah 40:15 reveal about God's perspective on the nations and their influence?
8. How did William Carey find inspiration for his missionary work in Isaiah 54:2?
9. Explain the spiritual significance of the water seller imagery in Isaiah 55:1, and what does it mean to buy without money?
10. What is the meaning and significance of the phrase "Yad Vashem," derived from Isaiah 56:5?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls provided texts over a thousand years older than previous full Hebrew Old Testament texts. This discovery reinforced the essential purity and integrity of the text through the copying process, showing that the Bible we have today is consistent with what Jesus used.
2. The expression "The King in His Beauty" from Isaiah 33:17 is likely an allusion to the Messianic age where a righteous king will reign and justice will be established

on earth. This verse describes the universal rule of the Messiah, with a land stretching in all directions.

3. Isaiah 35:3-4 encourages those with fearful hearts to be strong and not fear because God will come. This encouragement is similar to what was given to Joshua and demonstrates the balance between human response to terror and divine answers found throughout the prophets.
4. *Paradosis* and *masorah*, referring to the Greek and Hebrew terms for tradition, emphasize the importance of generational communication of truth. Truth is handed down from generation to generation, and this is how faith has a "backward look" and continuity.
5. Isaiah 40:6-8 contrasts the transient nature of human life, which withers like grass and flowers, with the eternal nature of God's word, which stands forever. This highlights that dealing with scripture provides a sense of eternal value.
6. New Testament writers adapted Isaiah 40:3 by applying it to John the Baptist, who was seen as the one "calling in the wilderness." While the Isaiah passage does not specifically mention John the Baptist, the New Testament context uses the verse to describe the role of John as a forerunner.
7. Isaiah 40:15 reveals that God views the nations as insignificant, like a "drop in a bucket." This underscores that God does not need the counsel of humans and highlights His supreme power and authority over all nations.
8. William Carey found inspiration for his missionary work in Isaiah 54:2, which speaks of enlarging the place of one's tent and stretching tent curtains. This verse, which symbolizes Jerusalem as a woman in a tent, motivated him to think big and go beyond his limits by spreading the gospel.
9. In Isaiah 55:1, the water seller imagery represents the offer of spiritual fulfillment; water, wine, and milk symbolize abundance and the freely offered grace of God. Buying without money means that the spiritual satisfaction offered cannot be earned or bought through worldly means but is a free gift.
10. "Yad Vashem" means "a memorial and a name," taken from Isaiah 56:5. It refers to the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem, signifying the remembrance and honoring of Holocaust victims. A "yad" is a hand-shaped monument to memorialize them.

Essay Questions

Instructions: Answer each question in a well-developed essay, using information from the provided source material.

1. Analyze the use of the Old Testament in the New Testament, as discussed in relation to Isaiah. How do the New Testament writers adapt, reinterpret, and apply Old Testament passages to fit their own contexts and purposes? Use specific examples from the text to support your answer.
2. Discuss the theme of God's faithfulness and the passing down of truth (paradosis/masorah) in Isaiah. How does this concept shape the understanding of faith as both a "forward" and "backward" looking endeavor? Provide examples of this from the source material.
3. Explore how Isaiah addresses the themes of human transience and the eternal nature of God and His word. What contrasts does the book of Isaiah make between the fleeting nature of human existence and the enduring nature of God's word? How does this contrast impact the role of Scripture?
4. Examine how Isaiah addresses the concept of the "Messianic Age" and universalism as seen in the selected texts. How do the specific passages discussed by Wilson illuminate the relationship between God and the nations and the anticipated future?
5. Analyze how specific verses from Isaiah have inspired individuals and religious traditions, focusing on how verses discussed by Wilson, such as 54:2 (William Carey) and 56:7 (prayer for all nations), have influenced both personal devotion and actions on the world stage.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Emet:** A Hebrew word meaning reliable, trustworthy, and what one can depend on. It is often translated as truth or faithfulness.
- **Paradosis:** A Greek word meaning tradition, the act of delivering over or handing down something from one generation to the next.
- **Masorah:** A Hebrew word referring to the tradition of the passing down of truth, specifically the oral tradition of the Hebrew Bible.
- **Teshuvah:** A Hebrew word meaning repentance or return, often associated with turning away from sin and back to God.
- **Nachamu:** A Hebrew word meaning "comfort ye," often used in the context of consoling and encouraging.
- **Parakeleo:** A Greek word meaning to come alongside, encourage, or comfort.
- **Emunah:** A Hebrew word meaning faithfulness or reliance, often used to describe steadfast commitment to God.
- **Hevel:** A Hebrew word meaning breath, vapor, or vanity, often used to describe the fleeting and transient nature of life.
- **Yad:** A Hebrew word meaning hand, often used in the context of a memorial or monument.
- **Yad Vashem:** A Hebrew phrase meaning "a memorial and a name," the name of the Holocaust Museum in Jerusalem.
- **Bet Ha-Tefillah:** A Hebrew phrase meaning "house of prayer."
- **Oneg Shabbat:** A Hebrew phrase meaning "delight of the Sabbath," referring to the custom of Sabbath fellowship and celebration.
- **Beulah:** A Hebrew word meaning "married," often used in reference to the land of Zion as God's bride.
- **Peti:** A Hebrew word referring to a simple or open person, often used to describe someone who is teachable and pliable.

5. FAQs on Wilson, Prophets, Session 35, Isaiah Key Texts, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Isaiah and Prophetic Themes

- **What is the significance of the Dead Sea Scrolls in relation to the Book of Isaiah?**
- The Dead Sea Scrolls provide a text of Isaiah that is over a thousand years older than the previously available full Hebrew Old Testament. This has helped reinforce the accuracy and integrity of the traditional text through the copying process, affirming that the Bible we have today is essentially the same as the one used in Jesus' time.
- **How does Isaiah portray the Messianic age, and what are its key characteristics?**
- Isaiah describes the Messianic age as a time when a righteous king will reign, bringing justice and righteousness to the earth. This era will be marked by a land stretching far, suggesting the universal rule of the Messiah, who will be king over all the earth. It contrasts with the present condition of land occupied by enemies.
- **What is the significance of the phrase "Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way" (Isaiah 35:3) and how does it relate to the human response to fear?**
- This verse, quoted in Hebrews 12:12, highlights a human response to terror, specifically during the time of the Assyrian invasion when people were in fear and trembling. It's an encouragement to be strong in the Lord and not to be afraid, a theme repeated throughout scripture. It balances human terror with divine assurance, providing a response to fear.
- **What role does tradition (paradosis/masorah) play in the transmission of truth, according to Isaiah?**
- Isaiah emphasizes the importance of generational communication of truth, with fathers telling their children about God's faithfulness (emet). This handing down of truth, particularly through oral tradition before the printing press, is critical for maintaining the continuity of God's promises. Faith is not just a forward look; it has a backward look to God's past faithfulness.

- **How does Isaiah contrast the transience of humanity with the eternal nature of God's word, and what is the practical takeaway of this contrast?**
- Isaiah contrasts the fleeting nature of human life, like grass that withers and flowers that fall, with the eternal and enduring word of the Lord. This reminds us that our human endeavors and possessions are not permanent, but the Word of God has eternal value. This understanding provides a sense of hope and purpose, as we focus on things that are lasting. We should therefore, learn to number our days and apply our hearts to wisdom.
- **How do New Testament writers utilize and adapt Old Testament texts from Isaiah?**
- New Testament writers do not mechanically quote Old Testament passages. They adapt them for their own purposes, sometimes hinting at the original meaning or making nuances, and sometimes providing verbatim quotes. They look to the underlying principles, as well as the literal meaning.
- **What are some of the ways Isaiah's writings have influenced everyday life, as well as significant figures in history?**

Isaiah's writings have significantly influenced expressions, such as "drop in a bucket." The book has also influenced historical figures, such as William Carey, who was inspired to missionary work by the call to enlarge the place of the tent in Isaiah 54:2. Isaiah's work is quoted by presidential candidates, and it is the source of the name of the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial (Isaiah 56:5). It is also the origin of calling the Sabbath a delight, and of the phrase Beulah Land.

- **What are some of the key prophetic themes and imagery found in Isaiah that point to the coming gospel?**
- Isaiah uses imagery like the water seller offering free water, wine, and milk to the thirsty, symbolizing the free grace and abundance of the gospel. It also highlights the theme that God's house is a house of prayer for all nations. This includes the message that the nations are like a drop in a bucket and that God is the God of all the earth, anxious to reach all people. Furthermore, the invitation to the thirsty emphasizes the spiritual thirst for living water which the gospel offers. Finally, the prophet's portrayal of God as the potter, and of his people as clay, suggests that he shapes each person's life individually.