



Isaiah

September 28th

The Book of Isaiah

In today's sermon we focus on Isaiah as a prophet of doom and gloom—warning the people of Judah that their fate will one day be the same as the fate of the northern kingdom of Israel, which fell to the Assyrians and was deported in 722 BC, around the middle of Isaiah's career.

But that's not all Isaiah talked about! While we need to focus on the doom and gloom because we're tracing the history of God's people, and this period of that history requires us to doom and gloom it, there's plenty more to Isaiah, and in our Bible Study we'll try to give you a look at all the rest!

Isaiah is sometimes called "The Gospel of the Old Testament." That refers to at least two major themes—one, that Isaiah tells the story of Jesus' life (birth, suffering, etc.) in prophetic form, and two, that Isaiah spoke so many comforting words.

We'll look at some of both here:

Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:2-7; Isaiah 11:1-10; Isaiah 35; All of these passages are read during Advent. Read through them, and tell what each contributes to our understanding of the coming of the Messiah.

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12. What is this section called? Talk about the details of how this prophesies Jesus' Passion.

Read Isaiah 25:6-9, which is often read at funerals. Discuss the details this reveals to us of what Jesus' death and resurrection means for us, and what heaven is like.

Read Isaiah 40, another Advent reading.

Who fulfills the prophecy of verses 3-5?

List the different beautiful word pictures of the Gospel that occur here.

How many different songs can you sing that come from this chapter alone?

Read Isaiah 60:1-6.

What festival uses this for the Old Testament Reading?

Why?

Between Advent and Easter, if you look at the hymnal, 19 out of 32 Old Testament Readings in Series A come from Isaiah! (It's pretty similar in the other two series.) Perhaps this is a third reason Isaiah is the Gospel of the Old Testament—it's used almost as much as the Gospels in the lectionary.

(Note: we could also explore Isaiah in the lectionary, most notably Isaiah 6, the "Sanctus," the Holy, Holy, Holy, but that would have to be a study for a different week!)

Next Week

Jonah

Read the Book of Jonah!