

Messenger of Gospel Grace

INTRODUCTION

The book of Isaiah has been called “The Fifth Gospel.” It is the first book found in the prophetic works of the Old Testament and is full of the truth of God’s sovereignty in salvation, pointing forward to the Messiah who would come to accomplish it. In this lecture, Dr. Lawson studies the major passages in Isaiah that demonstrate the consistency of the biblical witness about the doctrines of grace.

LEARNING GOALS

When you have finished this lesson, you should be able to:

- Identify various passages in the book of Isaiah that teach the doctrines of grace
- Appreciate the significance of the holiness of God in the book of Isaiah
- Comprehend aspects of the historical context of the book of Isaiah

KEY IDEAS

- The book of Isaiah is popularly known for its picture of gospel such that the prophet Isaiah has been called “the evangelical prophet.”
- The book of Isaiah teaches us that coming before a holy God exposes the full measure of our sin and gives us an accurate assessment of ourselves in light of His holiness.
- God is able to use sinful men for His purposes in order to display His sovereign power.

REFLECTION & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Before the Video

What Do You Think?

Take a moment to answer the following questions. They will prepare you for the lecture.

- What doctrine of grace do you anticipate being most prevalent in the Old Testament prophets?
- In which book of the Old Testament do you most clearly see Jesus Christ? Why?
- Why did God send prophets to the people of Israel?

Scripture Reading

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people?

—Isaiah 53:4–9

- How does this passage reveal elements of the doctrine of definite atonement?

During the Video

Answer the following questions while you watch the video. They will guide you through the lecture.

Sinful Man, Holy God

0:00–9:57

- What is the metaphorical image contained in Isaiah 1:5–6?

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- What does Dr. Lawson argue is a possible reason why Isaiah begins his message with the bad news of man's total depravity?
 - Why is Isaiah's remark "I am a man of unclean lips" surprising?

God's Power

9:57-25:12

- Whom does the term "servant" refer to in Isaiah 41:8-9? What doctrine of grace do these verses reinforce? Whom does it also refer to in other parts of the book of Isaiah?
- What distinguishes the one true, living God from false idols in Isaiah 46:9-10?
- Who is the "bird of prey from the east" in Isaiah 46:11? How long before he appeared on the world scene was this prophecy made?

After the Video

Answer the following questions after you have finished the lecture. They will help you identify and summarize the major points.

- What does Isaiah's encounter with God teach us about what happens when people understand the holiness of God?
- How does Isaiah 53 begin with a statement about total depravity?

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- What do you consider to be the most powerful imagery from the book of Isaiah that describes the doctrine of total depravity?

PRAYER

Commit what you have learned from God's Word in this lesson to prayer.

- Praise God for His holiness and His righteous standards.
- Confess how you fail to honor God as holy when you sin against Him.
- Thank God for freely offering His Son as a gift of righteousness for those who trust Him.
- Ask God that you might esteem Him in all His holiness so that you are not tempted to sin.