

A PROMISE OF PEACE: ISAIAH

Isaiah 7:10-16

Many people believe that Isaiah was predicting the future coming of Jesus. But Isaiah wasn't *only* speaking to the future. Isaiah was speaking to the faithlessness of the current generation, while at the same time speaking of God's persistent pursuit of God's people. His words carry sobering accounts of human sinfulness alongside the promise that God will set things right.

Monday: Read Isaiah 1:16-20.

Where do you see people hurting or being taken advantage of today?

Tuesday: Read Isaiah 5:8-25.

What injustices seem to be repeated from society to society and from generation to generation?

Wednesday: Read Isaiah 6:1-13.

What can make it difficult to confront causes of suffering or speak out against systems of injustice?

Thursday: Read Isaiah 10:1-4.

In what ways do some of the comforts, security, and opportunities we have today come at the expense of others? Why do you think this makes God angry?

Friday: Read Isaiah 11:1-16.

What does a world centered in God's justice and righteousness look like?

Saturday: Read Isaiah 12:1-6.

How can you trust God even when things seem to be falling apart?

SUMMARY

Isaiah presents several lists of woes and warnings, and no nation seems left out. He shares that people hurting from injustice grieves God, and that those who take advantage of people who are suffering or hurting makes God angry. All is not, however, without hope. Isaiah, like other prophets, invites the people to see their role and responsibility in what is and what will be, and to trust God. He shares that there is peace to be found in the promise of future deliverance.

In the chaos of our world, we are invited to find peace in the promise that God will set things right.