

# Contents

## The Divided Kingdom

1. Division, Fruit of Apostasy . . . . .	2
2. Israel: Evil Kings and Faithful Prophets . . . . .	7
3. Judah: The Struggle Against Idolatry . . . . .	12
4. The Royal Lineage Preserved . . . . .	17
5. Review and Quiz 1 . . . . .	21

## Isaiah: Jesus' Life and Ministry

6. Isaiah Prophesies the King's Birth . . . . .	22
7. Isaiah Describes the Servant and His Ministry . . . . .	27
8. Isaiah Reveals the Spirit-Filled Saviour . . . . .	32
9. Isaiah Presents the Promised One as an Obstacle . . . . .	37
10. Review and Quiz 2 . . . . .	42

## Isaiah: Jesus' Suffering, Death, and Return

11. The Messiah Suffers at the Hands of His People . . . . .	43
12. The Messiah Dies and Lives Again . . . . .	48
13. The Holy One Executes Judgment . . . . .	52
14. The King Reigns Forever . . . . .	57
15. Self Check . . . . .	62
16. LightUnit Test . . . . .	65



# 9

## Isaiah Presents the Promised One as an Obstacle



### A Stone of Stumbling and a Rock of Offence

📖 Read Isaiah 8:11-15.

#### KJV Vocabulary

Use the definitions to enhance your understanding of the passage as you read.

**confederacy** [kən fe' də rə sē] (v. 12): conspiracy

**sanctify** (v. 13): regard with reverence

**both the houses of Israel** (v. 14): the kingdoms of both Israel and Judah

**gin** [jin] (v. 14): trap

#### Complete the exercises.

- In what ways did God instruct Isaiah not to follow the people? Put a check mark beside all that apply.
  - Don't fear the LORD.
  - Don't heed their warnings of conspiracy.
  - Don't fear the things they fear.
  - Don't put stumbling blocks before them.
- Whom did God say should be our "fear and dread"? \_\_\_\_\_
- God would be a sanctuary for those that revered Him. What three things would He be for the Israelites who did *not* fear Him?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

📖 Read Isaiah 28:14-18.

#### KJV Vocabulary

Use the definitions to enhance your understanding of the passage as you read.

**scornful men** (v. 14): scoffers

**hell** (v. 15): the grave; the world of the dead

**overflowing scourge** [skərj] (v. 15, 18): disaster

**will I lay to the line** (v. 17): will be my measuring line

**plummet** (v. 17): plumb line

**disannulled** [dis' ə nəld'] (v. 18): canceled

#### Underline the correct bold word or phrase to make each sentence true.

- Isaiah addressed **the rulers in Jerusalem, scornful heathen** in these verses.
- Isaiah said that these people had taken refuge in **lies and falsehood, death and hell**, hoping to escape the coming judgment.
- God said He would lay a foundation stone in **Zion, Jericho** and use this cornerstone to measure **justice and righteousness, death and lies**.
- Those who could not accept God's sure foundation stone would be **saved, destroyed** by it.

## *An Overview of the Book of Isaiah*

The Book of Isaiah has several natural divisions, causing some modern scholars to suggest that the latter part was not written by the Prophet Isaiah. While there are differences in the content of the sections, there are similarities in thought, style, and expressions that cause us to conclude the entire book was written by Isaiah. But the greatest proof of Isaiah's authorship is the many quotations New Testament writers attribute to Isaiah.

In the first 35 chapters, the prophet delivers condemnation not only on the enemies of God, but also on Judah. Beginning in Chapter 36, there is an abrupt and noticeable change with the first verse: "Now it came to pass..." The next four chapters are history rather than prophecy. In fact, they are almost identical to the accounts in Kings and Chronicles about the reign of Hezekiah. Chapter 40 then begins

with "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people" and goes on to foretell in minute detail our salvation and all that Jesus went through to make it possible. This part is not judgment, but is Messianic prophecy and brings a message of hope.

Prophecy often has a twofold meaning. The first meaning of the last part of Isaiah is Israel's return from Babylon. A second meaning is the advent of the Messiah and the restoration of the kingdom of David through his Son Jesus Christ. Behold the King!

While Isaiah did not write in chapters, a parallel can be found between the Book of Isaiah and the Bible. The Bible contains 66 books, with 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New. The Book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters, with the first 39 mirroring the message of the Old Testament and the last 27 sounding almost like a New Testament book!

## The Chief Cornerstone

In ancient stone architecture, the first stone of the structure—the cornerstone—had to be solid, firm, and true. The cornerstone established the foundation's alignment and determined the structure's lines and angles. All other foundation stones were laid in reference to the cornerstone. A good mason selected such a stone painstakingly and laid it well. The entire building's integrity and stability depended on it.

Isaiah depicted the LORD as a master mason. He said, "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a

tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation" (Isaiah 28:16). He said that those who feared and believed that Stone would find spiritual safety in the structure He was building. In the time of testing, the house would stand securely. The cornerstone provided by the LORD was the only way to be saved.

Isaiah identified this stone as the LORD of hosts.<sup>1</sup> The New Testament reveals the stone to be the Lord Jesus.

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah 8:13

### Circle the letter of the best ending to each statement.

8. In stone structures, the cornerstone must be \_\_\_\_ .
  - a. the largest stone in the building
  - b. laid last to help the building hold together
  - c. solid and correctly aligned
  - d. laid only by a master mason
  
9. Isaiah likens God to a mason who \_\_\_\_ .
  - a. made the Prophet Isaiah His cornerstone for Israel
  - b. used a crooked cornerstone that caused people to stumble
  - c. would restore the fallen house of Israel
  - d. would lay in Zion a sure and precious cornerstone

10. The New Testament reveals that the Stone is \_\_\_\_.
- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| a. John the Baptist | c. the Prophet Isaiah |
| b. Jesus Christ     | d. the Holy Spirit    |

## New Testament Understandings

 **Read Matthew 21:23, 42-44.**

**Complete the exercises.**

11. From verse 23, tell whom Jesus is speaking to in verses 42-44. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. What were these people questioning? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Whom did Jesus say the kingdom of God would be taken from? \_\_\_\_\_
14. To whom would it be given? \_\_\_\_\_
15. *Think!* From verse 42, which phrase describes Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

 **Read 1 Peter 2:4-10.**

### KJV Vocabulary

*Use the definitions to enhance your understanding of the passage as you read.*

**lively** (v. 5): living; spiritually alive

**peculiar** (v. 9): God's own

**confounded** (v. 6): put to shame; disappointed

**Complete the exercises.**

16. *Think!* If Jesus is the cornerstone of God's "spiritual house," who are the other stones in the building?  
\_\_\_\_\_
17. The second half of verse 7 is a quote from the Psalms. Use a *Strong's Concordance* to find it and write its reference here. \_\_\_\_\_

## Responses to the Cornerstone

Isaiah revealed that many would not believe God, but would reject the Stone. To these people, He would be "a stone of stumbling and . . . a rock of offence." This precious Stone would cause them to "stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken" (Isaiah 8:15).

How could the Messiah be such different things to different people? The answer lies in the state of people's hearts. Those who make Christ their sure foundation will find salvation and spiritual sanctuary. But to those who reject Him, He becomes a "rock of offence." Their unbelief causes them to stumble over what should be their foundation.

Rejection does not change the Stone. Christ is still the living Cornerstone. Neither man's faith nor his unbelief changes the Stone in any way. Anyone who puts faith in the Stone and claims it as his personal foundation can also claim the promises. But in the end, those who stumble over the rock will find themselves destroyed by it.

"Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone  
and rock of offence."

Romans 9:33

## Lesson 9

### Circle the letter of the best ending to each statement.

18. To those who reject Jesus, He is \_\_\_\_.
- a. the chief cornerstone
  - b. an enemy of Satan
  - c. a sure foundation
  - d. a stone of stumbling and rock of offence
19. Those who make Christ their foundation will \_\_\_\_.
- a. find salvation and spiritual sanctuary
  - b. be cornerstones like Him
  - c. never be bothered by Satan again
  - d. all of the above
20. The unbelieving will eventually \_\_\_\_.
- a. come to trust in Jesus as their rock
  - b. be destroyed by the Stone
  - c. choose Satan for their foundation
  - d. be stumbling blocks to others

## Memory Work Focus

### Write the memory selection for this section, including the reference.

21. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Review

### Circle *T* if the statement is true and *F* if it is false. If the statement is false, correct the italicized part.

22. **T** **F** It was *unusual* for Jesus to attend the synagogue on the Sabbath.
23. **T** **F** Jesus taught in the synagogues in Galilee in the power of *the Spirit*.
24. **T** **F** God sent the Saviour to free mankind from *wicked governments*.
25. **T** **F** Those in *spiritual captivity* are trapped by evil desires and temptations.
26. **T** **F** Jesus released prisoners of *the Roman Empire*.

### Complete the exercise.

27. Circle the roles of Jesus that Isaiah foretold.

King	Bread of life	Living Water	Servant
Son of man	Alpha and Omega	Saviour	

**Answer the questions.**

28. What does it mean to be “poor in spirit”?

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29. What does it mean to be “brokenhearted”?

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30. What could only God’s Anointed do?

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31. What is Satan powerless to do?

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32. How long did Jesus live in Nazareth of Galilee?

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