

Firestarter: Isaiah

Scripture: Isaiah 19-22

Before you read

1. Gather a pen, paper, and highlighters (for marking in your Bible) if you don't want to mark in your Bible. Print off this sheet and mark it here.
2. Pray, asking God for wisdom and understanding of the words you are about to read.
3. Read the section more than one time.
 - First, read to understand
 - Second, read to notice
 - Third, read for questions. Record your questions as you read and see if you can answer them. Then choose three questions from the observation section and find answers to them.
 - Fourth, mark all the "in that day" sayings.

READ: Isaiah 19-22

OBSERVATION:

What did the Egyptians worship?

Who did they depend on for guidance (19:1,3,11), and what would happen to their leaders and economy as a result? (See 19:1-15 note.)

As a result of God's judgment, what will ultimately happen among nations that formerly opposed God (19:23-25), and when will this be fully realized? (See 19:25 note.)

What difficult lesson would people learn when they saw their allies destroyed and taken into captivity (20:6)?

What would happen to Babylon's objects of worship when the nation was conquered (21:9)? (See 21:9 note.)

How is Babylon's destruction symbolic of end time events? (See 21:9 note.)

What was "the Valley of Vision" (22:1), and why had trouble come on the people there? (See 22:1 note.)

What is Isaiah's attitude toward the suffering people would experience (22:4)? (See 22:4 note.)

In Judah's effort to build its defenses, what did the people fail to do (22:11), and how did this lead to destruction?

What opportunity does God give people before bringing judgment (22:12)? (See 22:12-13 note.)

APPLICATION:

How do you feel when you consider what's going on in the culture around you—how people defy God, disregard His standards and denounce His followers?

Do you feel frustrated or irritated—even fearful?

These emotions may come naturally, but God wants His people to have a supernatural sense of compassion. Though the people of Isaiah's day were destroying themselves, the prophet grieved for them. Like Isaiah, we must share God's sorrow for people who are spiritually lost and lack a personal relationship with Him.

Through God's power, we can reach them with the message of forgiveness and new life through faith in Jesus Christ.

What do these chapters teach about depending on God? (See 20:2 note.)

What can you learn from Isaiah's humiliation and obedience in chapter 20? (See 20:3 note.)

How can you apply this to your life?

Action Step: Show kindness in practical and tangible ways to someone who has given you a difficult time—particularly for your faith in Christ. Thank Jesus for the opportunity to identify with Him, and make sure you behave in a way that gives others an accurate impression of Jesus.

PRAY:

Ask God for help and guidance with issues you currently face. Pray for the strength to endure humiliation for obeying God, and pray for those who give you a hard time.