

Isaiah 18-20
God Sees All

God is watching (Ch. 18)

Wake up call (1-3) – let all the people hear it (II Corinthians 6:1-2)

Watching from His dwelling place (4) – He misses nothing (Hebrews 4:13)

Wiping out the harvest (5-6) – where have you placed your trust (Luke 12:16-21)

Wanting to be right with God (8) – bringing Him gifts

God will destroy everything man has trusted (Ch. 19:1-15) – the idols tremble

Losing heart (II Corinthians 4:1, 16)

Looking to the dead (Isaiah 8:19-20)

Loss of resources (Hebrews 11:37-40)

Led by fools (Micah 2:11; 3:5-7 / Psalm 14:1)

Left without hope (Ephesians 2:11-13)

God will make Himself known (Ch. 19:16-25) – In that Day

(Zechariah 12:10/Matthew 24:30-31/Philippians 2:9-11)

Fear of His uplifted hand (John 3:36)

Five cities swearing allegiance to the LORD Almighty (contrast Revelation 9:20-21)

Following the LORD – in the heart of Egypt and at the border (Joshua 24:14-15)

From Egypt to Assyria – the freedom to worship God (John 8:31-36)

God will put to shame all who trust in man (Ch. 20)

Bearing their shame (I Peter 2:21-24)

Boasting in man's strength for protection (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Bewildered – where do we turn now for help? (Proverbs 29:25)

Discussion questions for Isaiah 18-20

In what ways does God make Himself known, so that people will turn to Him? (Psalm 19:1-6; 7-11 / II Corinthians 5:17-21 / Revelation 9:20-21)

Where do people turn, apart from God, to find meaning, purpose, and hope? Why do these always fail? (Psalm 15:1-11 / I Timothy 6:6-10 / II Peter 2:17-22)

Why is true freedom only found in becoming a bond-slave of Jesus? (i.e. what happens to those who reject Him when He comes?) (John 8:31-36 / II Thessalonians 2:9-12) What is true freedom?

In what way did Jesus bear our shame on the cross? How might we follow His example in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus? (I Peter 2:20-24 / Luke 23:33-37 / Acts 16:22-24)

God Sees All

God is watching (Ch. 18)

Wake up call (1-3) – let all the people hear it (II Corinthians 6:1-2)

Judgment is coming. Are you ready?

Watching from His dwelling place (4) – He misses nothing (Hebrews 4:13)

He has offered us everything. He waits patiently for our response (II Peter 3:9)

Wiping out the harvest (5-6) – where have you placed your trust (Luke 12:16-21)

When the fruit of your labor is snatched from you, what then?

Wanting to be right with God (8) – bringing Him gifts

It is not the gift we give, but the gift we receive that matters (Romans 6:23)

God will destroy everything man has trusted (Ch. 19:1-15) – the idols tremble

Losing heart (II Corinthians 4:1, 16) ***Investing in idols leads to ruin.***

His work may bring an outward toll – but it also brings inward renewal

Looking to the dead (Isaiah 8:19-20) ***Consulting spirits leads to demonic lies.***

Consulting His word lies to life-changing truth (John 17:17)

Loss of resources (Hebrews 11:37-40)

Unbeliever will lose everything – believers will lose nothing that truly matters

Led by fools (Micah 2:11; 3:5-7 / Psalm 14:1)

Deceived and darkened in their thinking (Romans 1:21-22 / Ephesians 4:17-19)

Left without hope (Ephesians 2:11-13)

There is no remedy apart from the Lord (John 15:5-7)

God will make Himself known (Ch. 19:16-25) – In that Day

(Zechariah 12:10/Matthew 24:30-31/Philippians 2:9-11)

Fear of His uplifted hand (John 3:36)

His wrath remains on those who do not believe

Five cities swearing allegiance to the LORD Almighty (contrast Revelation 9:20-21)

Reject Him or repent – we do have a choice

Following the LORD – in the heart of Egypt and at the border (Joshua 24:14-15)

A national stand as to whom they believe

From Egypt to Assyria – the freedom to worship God (John 8:31-36)

The freedom to approach God – to serve God – to worship God

God will put to shame all who trust in man (Ch. 20)

Bearing their shame (I Peter 2:21-24)

Isaiah's example. Jesus bore our shame on the cross

Boasting in man's strength for protection (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Only One in whom we may boast (I Corinthians 1:28-31/Galatians 6:13-14)

Bewildered – where do we turn now for help? (Proverbs 29:25)

Trusting in man => a snare. Trusting in God => kept safe

Discussion questions for Isaiah 18-20

In what ways does God make Himself known, so that people will turn to Him? (Psalm 19:1-6; 7-11 / II Corinthians 5:17-21 / Revelation 9:20-21) ***His creation reveals His power, knowledge, and beauty. His Word reveals His holiness, righteousness and justice and His love, mercy, and grace. His wrath and discipline cause us to fear Him. Yet we are capable of rejecting Him in spite of overwhelming evidence.***

Where do people turn, apart from God, to find meaning, purpose, and hope? Why do these always fail? (Psalm 15:1-11 / I Timothy 6:6-10 / II Peter 2:17-22) ***We create idols in our own minds regarding who God is and who we are. We seek security in our possessions, thinking they will bring joy to our lives. We pursue our fleshly desires hoping to distract us from reality and believing we can choose our own path.***

Why is true freedom only found in becoming a bond-slave of Jesus? (i.e. what happens to those who reject Him when He comes?) (John 8:31-36 / II Thessalonians 2:9-12) What is true freedom? ***The typical idea of freedom is to be able to do whatever you want whenever you want to do it. The problem with that idea is that violates God's purpose for our lives, it violates our own conscience, and it violates the concern for others. When we reject God, we become slaves to our own depravity and are under the influence of our enemy (Eph. 2:2) To face our Creator and the offer of His love after ignoring Him in life is a frightening position. Only Jesus can offer us freedom from our sin. True freedom is the ability to live in a manner that you know to be right and to live for the purpose you were created. To honor and glorify the One who made us and to live in relationship with Him.***

In what way did Jesus bear our shame on the cross? How might we follow His example in reaching out to those who do not know Jesus? (I Peter 2:20-24 / Luke 23:33-37 / Acts 16:22-24) ***The cross was the most shameful means of execution. As Jesus hung there, He did not threaten or retaliate against those who mocked and abused Him. On the contrary, He prayed for the Father to forgive them. The apostle Paul and Silas were willing to be beaten and jailed (which they could have avoided simply by saying they were Roman citizens) rather than hinder the opportunity to share the gospel. It is better to be wronged and shamed than to claim our rights and lose the opportunity to show God's love to those who do not know Him. (I Corinthians 6:1-8)***