WEEK #23
Isaiah 54-58  Am I Just Religious?

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord.

Isaiah 54:1
Hi Everyone!

Did you know there have been many false “Messiah’s” throughout history?

Just to name a few:
- Just after Jesus walked the earth, a man who called himself Simon bar Kokhba was announced as the Messiah. He led a rebellion against Rome that led to the final destruction of Judea (and the dispersal of the Jews throughout the world.)
- In the late 1800’s in Sudan, a warlord named Muhammad Ahmed announced himself to be the “Mahdi” – a messiah figure in the religion of Islam. He and his armies slaughtered his opponents, including the inhabitants of Khartoum, before he finally died of typhus.
- In the 1900’s, Adolf Hitler rose to power in Germany. While setting up what he called the Thousand Year Reich (Germany’s domination of Europe), he massacred countless Jews in his diabolical mission to rid the world of the Jewish “vermin” and establish a pure German race. He was responsible for the deaths of over 46 million Europeans in WWII and the destruction of much of Europe. He committed suicide just before Berlin fell to the Soviet army.

(This excerpt is from “The Tenth Stone”, by Bodie and Brock Thoene)

Why do I tell you this? Because the one, true Messiah, Jesus Christ, is not about hate and overpowering the weak. He’s about forgiveness, love, and mercy, even suffering personally in order to offer that mercy to those who hate Him! Read this week’s chapters, answer this week’s questions, and enjoy!

Kathleen
Isaiah Chapters 54-58 Am I Just Religious?
Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 54:1
" 'Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate that the children of the married woman,’ says the Lord."

Isaiah 54    A Great Blessing is coming

1. :1-3  What is going to happen to the one who could not bear children? Can you figure out who this is talking about?

2. :4-6  How is her “barrenness” going to be changed?

3. :7-8  Why had she been barren in the first place?

4. :9&10  What attribute of God is making this possible?

5. :11-13  What is the LORD describing here? Does it sound like a family…or like something bigger?

6. :14-17  This great blessing which God is going to give to Israel…will anyone be able to take it away from them?

Isaiah 55    You Must Purchase This Blessing Without Money

7. :1-13  Israel is told to come and “buy” this great blessing…but not with money. What, then, do they use to “buy” it? (Rev3:18)
Isaiah 56:1-8 Others Will Benefit From Your Blessing

8. :1-8 Who else will receive these blessings once Israel understands how to “buy” them?

9. :9-12 Who does God hold responsible for the wretched state Israel is in?

Isaiah 57 You Will Be Blessed even though…

10. :1-21 Israel has been wicked. Some in Israel even more than others. What have they done that is so wicked…and can they really still receive this great blessing from God even though they have done such awful things?

Isaiah 58 Clean up Your Act

11. :1-14 The blessing of God is coming. The Jews will not have houses big enough to hold it! But what must they do first?  
   (Zechariah 12:10 – 13:2)

APPLICATION:

Chapter 59 will go on to describe the repentance and salvation and blessing of the LORD….but the question to ask right now is:

**Am I just religious?**

If the answer is yes, then you will miss the blessing of God.
Isaiah Chapters 54-58 Am I Just Religious?
Kathleen’s Answers and Comments

Memory Verse: Isaiah 54:1
" 'Sing, O barren, you who have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, you who have not labored with child! For more are the children of the desolate that the children of the married woman,’ says the Lord.”

These chapters are describing the blessing God is planning on bestowing on Israel…on the Jewish people….when someday they come to the end of all their religiosity and simply bow in belief and love before their Savior, Jesus. In our day and age there are many Jewish people who believe in Jesus, but this blessing spoken of in these chapters is not just a few Jewish men and women and children…but the whole nation…at one time…just before Jesus returns to earth on the white horse. (Revelation 19:11-16.)

This miracle blessing is described beautifully and poetically in these Isaiah chapters, and is also described in so many places, like: Zechariah 12, Zechariah 13, Jeremiah 31, Ezekiel 39:27-29, Isaiah 60:21-22.

Isaiah 54  A Great Blessing is coming

1. :1-3 What is going to happen to the one who could not bear children? Can you figure out who this is talking about?

   The one who could not bear children is Israel. She was chosen by the Lord to tell the whole world about Him, but she failed, and only showed the world how far away from God she could get. But desolate Israel is going to finally be that light to the world!!!

2. :4-6 How is her “barrenness” going to be changed?

   When she believes in her Savior, she will not be able to imagine the hugeness of the blessing of seeing many, many Gentiles also believe. Israel is double-blessed. First, she gave Jesus to the world – He was born a Jew – and His death and resurrection made salvation available to both Jews and Gentiles. As a nation, she didn’t believe then, and she doesn’t believe now…but when Israel as a nation comes to belief someday right before Jesus returns…wow! many, many Gentiles will believe in Jesus!!!

3. :7-8 Why had she been barren in the first place?

   God had turned His face away from her because of her unbelief.

4. :9&10 What attribute of God is making this possible?

   Mercy. Mercy is God reaching out again, in love, to anyone who doesn’t deserve it.

5. :11-13 What is the LORD describing here? Does it sound like a family…or like something bigger?

   It sounds like a whole world blessed with the presence of God!
6. :14-17 This great blessing which God is going to give to Israel...will anyone be able to take it away from them?
No one will be able to hurt Israel again. This is describing the Millennium, that 1,000 years when Jesus is King on the earth after His return. It’s describing the privileged and responsible position of Israel and all believers in Jesus in the Millennium.

Isaiah 55  You Must Purchase This Blessing Without Money

7. :1-13 Israel is told to come and “buy” this great blessing...but not with money. What, then, do they use to “buy” it? (Rev3:18)
Answer this question after reading this whole chapter. And put yourself in the position of wanting to drink the sweet waters of a wonderful relationship with God. There is no amount of money which can buy that privilege. No “thing” you and I might possess which would be valuable enough to “buy” a relationship with God. So is there any way to “buy” what He offers? Yes. Just come, as you are, to the feet of Jesus, asking forgiveness for your sinfulness, and believe.

Isaiah 56:1-8  Others Will Benefit From Your Blessing

8. :1-8 Who else will receive these blessings once Israel understands how to “buy” them? “Dry trees” can be a part of this blessing. “Foreigners” can partake of this blessing. “Outcasts” can enjoy this blessing. In other words, not only Israel, but any other person in the world who wants to bow his knee before King Jesus can come at this last minute and believe.

9. :9-12 Who does God hold responsible for the wretched state Israel is in?
The leaders and teachers of Israel. The ones who did not tell the people what the Lord was saying. The ones who led Israel the wrong direction.

Isaiah 57  You Will Be Blessed even though...

10. :1-21 Israel has been wicked. Some in Israel even more than others. What have they done that is so wicked...and can they really still receive this great blessing from God even though they have done such awful things?
They have been cruel to people who did believe. They have engaged in sorcery, adultery, mean words, lying, worshipping idols, giving their allegiance to other nations.

And yes, they really can come to faith in the One, True God (Jesus) again, if they will hate their sin. They can’t hold on to their sin, though, and also believe in Jesus. It’s one or the other.
Isaiah 58

Clean up Your Act

11. :1-14  The blessing of God is coming. The Jews will not have houses big enough to hold it! But what must they do first?

(Zechariah 12:10 – 13:2)

They have to repent. They have to honestly admit the sins they have committed, and turn away from them. They have to do the opposite of what they used to do. They have to ask for forgiveness, knowing they do not deserve it. They have to believe…not just in their heads…but in their hearts, and with their whole lives.

APPLICATION:

Chapter 59 will go on to describe the repentance and salvation and blessing of the LORD….but the question to ask right now is:

Am I just religious?

If the answer is yes, then you will miss the blessing of God.