

ENGAGING GOSPEL DOCTRINE 113.2

Lesson 36 (Study Notes): [The Glory of Zion Will Be a Defense](#)

Class Member Reading: Isaiah 1-6

1 The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

The Wickedness of Judah

2 Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth;
for the LORD has spoken:
I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.

3 The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master's crib;
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.

4 Ah, sinful nation,
people laden with iniquity,
offspring who do evil,
children who deal corruptly,
who have forsaken the LORD,
who have **despised** the Holy One of Israel,
who are **utterly estranged!** (Powerful word, and one of the greatest tragedies of life... relationships that should be close, loving, intimate, but are not)

5 Why do you seek further beatings? (Um... deeply problematic)
Why do you continue to rebel?
The whole head is sick,
and the whole heart faint.

6 From the sole of the foot even to the head,

there is no soundness in it,
but bruises and sores
and bleeding wounds;
they have not been drained, or bound up,
or softened with oil.

⁷ Your country lies desolate,
your cities are burned with fire;
in your very presence
aliens devour your land;
it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.

⁸ And daughter Zion is left
like a booth in a vineyard,
like a shelter in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.

⁹ If the LORD of hosts
had not left us a few survivors,
we would have been like Sodom,
and become like Gomorrah.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah! (Using these names to communicate cities worthy of
complete destruction)

¹¹ What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams
and the fat of fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

¹² When you come to appear before me,
who asked this from your hand?
Trample my courts no more;

¹³ **bringing offerings is futile;**
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—
I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.

¹⁴ Your new moons and your appointed festivals
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me,
I am weary of bearing them.

¹⁵ When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.

¹⁶ **Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;**
remove the evil of your doings
from before my eyes;

cease to do evil,

¹⁷ **learn to do good;**

seek **justice,**

rescue the oppressed,

defend the orphan,

plead for the widow. Once again, powerful call for social justice. Once again, God says religious rituals do nothing, in fact are abominable, if our hearts are not clean and drawn out caring for others. Shockingly strong language.

¹⁸ Come now, let us argue it out, (“Let us reason together” ... I LOVE this verse and concept)

says the LORD:

though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

¹⁹ If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;

²⁰ but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be devoured by the sword;

for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The Degenerate City

²¹ How the faithful city
has become a whore!
She that was full of justice,
righteousness lodged in her—
but now murderers!

²² Your silver has become dross,
your wine is mixed with water.

²³ Your princes are rebels
and companions of thieves.

**Everyone loves a bribe
and runs after gifts.**

They do not **defend the orphan**,
and the **widow's cause** does not come before them.

²⁴ Therefore says the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel:
Ah, I will pour out my wrath on my enemies,
and avenge myself on my foes!

²⁵ I will turn my hand against you;
I will smelt away your dross as with lye
and remove all your alloy.

²⁶ And I will restore your judges as at the first,
and your counsellors as at the beginning.
Afterwards you shall be called the city of righteousness,
the faithful city. ([Restoration after punishment](#))

²⁷ Zion shall be **redeemed by justice**,
and **those in her who repent, by righteousness.**

²⁸ But rebels and sinners shall be destroyed together,
and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed.

²⁹ For you shall be ashamed of the oaks
in which you delighted;

and you shall blush for the gardens
that you have chosen.

³⁰ For you shall be like an oak
whose leaf withers,
and like a garden without water.

³¹ The strong shall become like tinder,
and their work like a spark;
they and their work shall burn together,
with no one to quench them.

The Future House of God

2 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come
the **mountain of the LORD's house**
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may **teach us his ways**
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth **instruction,**
and the **word of the LORD** from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall **judge** between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more. Beautiful and inspiring promise and hope.

Turning weapons into instruments to nourish and preserve life. I hope we are able to do this.

Judgement Pronounced on Arrogance

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

⁶ For you have forsaken the ways of your people,
O house of Jacob.

Indeed they are full of diviners from the east
and of soothsayers like the Philistines,
and they clasp hands with foreigners.

⁷ Their land is filled with silver and gold,
and there **is no end to their treasures**; (sin of amassing wealth)

their land is filled with horses,
and there is no end to their chariots.

⁸ **Their land is filled with idols;**
they bow down to the work of their hands,
to what their own fingers have made.

⁹ And so people are humbled,
and everyone is brought low—
do not forgive them!

¹⁰ Enter into the rock,
and hide in the dust
from the terror of the LORD,
and from the glory of his majesty.

¹¹ The haughty eyes of people shall be brought low,
and the pride of everyone shall be humbled;
and the LORD alone will be exalted
on that day.

¹² For the LORD of hosts has a day
against all that is proud and lofty,
against all that is lifted up and high;

¹³ against all the cedars of Lebanon,
lofty and lifted up;
and against all the oaks of Bashan;

¹⁴ against all the high mountains,
and against all the lofty hills;

¹⁵ against every high tower,
and against every fortified wall;
¹⁶ against all the ships of Tarshish,
and against all the beautiful craft.
¹⁷ The **haughtiness of people shall be humbled,**
and the **pride of everyone shall be brought low;**
and the **LORD alone will be exalted on that day.**
¹⁸ The idols shall utterly pass away.
¹⁹ Enter the caves of the rocks
and the holes of the ground,
from the terror of the LORD,
and from the glory of his majesty,
when he rises to terrify the earth.
²⁰ On that day people will throw away
to the moles and to the bats
their idols of silver and their idols of gold,
which they made for themselves to worship,
²¹ to enter the caverns of the rocks
and the clefts in the crags,
from the terror of the LORD,
and from the glory of his majesty,
when he rises to terrify the earth.
²² Turn away from mortals,
who have only breath in their nostrils,
for of what account are they?

3 For now the Sovereign, the LORD of hosts,
is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah
support and staff—
all support of bread,
and all support of water—
² warrior and soldier,
judge and prophet,
diviner and elder,
³ captain of fifty
and dignitary,

counsellor and skilful magician
and expert enchanter.

⁴ And I will make boys their princes,
and babes shall rule over them.

⁵ The people will be oppressed,
everyone by another
and everyone by a neighbour;
the youth will be insolent to the elder,
and the base to the honourable.

⁶ Someone will even seize a relative,
a member of the clan, saying,

‘You have a cloak;
you shall be our leader,
and this heap of ruins
shall be under your rule.’

⁷ But the other will cry out on that day, saying,

‘I will not be a healer;
in my house there is neither bread nor cloak;
you shall not make me
leader of the people.’ (Break down of social stability, leadership, experience,
wisdom)

⁸ For Jerusalem has stumbled
and Judah has fallen,
because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD,
defying his glorious presence.

⁹ The look on their faces bears witness against them;
they proclaim their sin like Sodom, (Note the sins mentioned—pride, magnifying
own positions and wealth rather than caring for those in need; Sodom’s sin was a
failure against hospitality norms)

they do not hide it.

Woe to them!

For they have brought evil on themselves.

¹⁰ Tell the innocent how fortunate they are,

for they shall eat the fruit of their labours.

¹¹ Woe to the guilty! How unfortunate they are,
for what their hands have done shall be done to them.

¹² My people—children are their oppressors,
and women rule over them.

O my people, your leaders mislead you,
and confuse the course of your paths.

¹³ The **LORD rises to argue his case;**
he stands to judge the peoples.

¹⁴ The LORD enters into judgement
with the elders and princes of his people:
It is you who have **devoured the vineyard;**
the **spoil of the poor is in your houses.**

¹⁵ What do you mean by **crushing my people,**
by **grinding the face of the poor?** says the Lord GOD of hosts.

¹⁶ The LORD said:

Because the daughters of Zion are haughty
and walk with outstretched necks,
glancing wantonly with their eyes,
mincing along as they go,
tinkling with their feet;

¹⁷ the Lord will afflict with scabs
the heads of the daughters of Zion,
and the LORD will lay bare their secret parts.

¹⁸ On that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets, the headbands, and the crescents; ¹⁹ the pendants, the bracelets, and the scarves; ²⁰ the head-dresses, the armlets, the sashes, the perfume boxes, and the amulets; ²¹ the signet rings and nose-rings; ²² the festal robes, the mantles, the cloaks, and the handbags; ²³ the garments of gauze, the linen garments, the turbans, and the veils.

²⁴ Instead of perfume there will be a stench;
and instead of a sash, a rope;
and instead of well-arranged hair, baldness;
and instead of a rich robe, a binding of sackcloth;

instead of beauty, shame.

²⁵ Your men shall fall by the sword
and your warriors in battle.

²⁶ And her gates shall lament and mourn;
ravaged, she shall sit upon the ground.

4 Seven women shall take hold of one man on that day, saying,

‘We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes;
just let us be called by your name;

take away our disgrace.’ (“two themes of 3:1-23—corrupt and unworthy male
leaders and immoral women—combine in a description of a single punishment
suitable to both” Jewish Study Bible)

The Future Glory of the Survivors in Zion

2 On that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the **survivors** of Israel.³ Whoever is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem,⁴ once the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgement and by a spirit of burning.⁵ Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over its places of assembly a cloud by day and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night. Indeed, over all the glory there will be a canopy.⁶ It will serve as a pavilion, a shade by day from the heat, and a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain. (again, restoration after punishment)

The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard

5 Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard
on a **very fertile** hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,

and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he **expected it to yield grapes,**
but it yielded wild grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ **What more was there to do for my vineyard**
that I have not done in it? (Poignant plea, makes me think of Jacob 5)
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;
I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts
is the house of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;
he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;
righteousness,
but heard a cry! (Again, makes me think of the lament in Moses 7)

Social Injustice Denounced

⁸ Ah, you who join house to house,
who add field to field,
until there is room for no one but you,
and you are left to live alone
in the midst of the land!

⁹ The LORD of hosts has sworn in my hearing:
Surely many houses shall be desolate,
large and beautiful houses, without inhabitant.

¹⁰ For ten acres of vineyard shall yield but one bath,
and a homer of seed shall yield a mere ephah.

¹¹ Ah, you who rise early in the morning
in pursuit of strong drink,
who linger in the evening
to be inflamed by wine,

¹² whose feasts consist of lyre and harp,
tambourine and flute and wine,
but who do not regard the deeds of the LORD,
or see the work of his hands!

¹³ Therefore my people go into exile without knowledge;
their nobles are dying of hunger,
and their multitude is parched with thirst.

¹⁴ Therefore Sheol has enlarged its appetite
and opened its mouth beyond measure;
the nobility of Jerusalem and her multitude go down,
her throng and all who exult in her.

¹⁵ People are bowed down, **everyone is brought low,**
and the eyes of the haughty are humbled.

¹⁶ But the LORD of hosts is exalted by **justice,**
and the Holy God shows himself holy by **righteousness.**

¹⁷ Then the lambs shall graze as in their pasture,

fatlings and kids shall feed among the ruins.

¹⁸ Ah, you who drag iniquity along with cords of **falsehood**,
who drag sin along as with cart-ropes,

¹⁹ who say, 'Let him make haste,
let him speed his work
that we may see it;

let the plan of the Holy One of Israel hasten to fulfilment,
that we may know it!'

²⁰ Ah, you who **call evil good**
and good evil,

who put darkness for light
and light for darkness,
who put bitter for sweet
and sweet for bitter!

²¹ Ah, you **who are wise in your own eyes,**
and shrewd in your own sight!

²² Ah, you who are heroes in drinking wine
and valiant at mixing drink,

²³ who **acquit the guilty for a bribe,**
and **deprive the innocent of their rights!**

Foreign Invasion Predicted

²⁴ Therefore, as the tongue of fire devours the stubble,
and as dry grass sinks down in the flame,
so their root will become rotten,
and their blossom go up like dust;
for they have **rejected the instruction** of the LORD of hosts,
and have **despised the word** of the Holy One of Israel.

²⁵ Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people,
and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them;
the mountains quaked,
and their corpses were like refuse

in the streets.

For all this his anger has not turned away,
and his hand is stretched out still.

²⁶ He will raise a signal for a nation far away, (*Assyria*)
and whistle for a people at the ends of the earth;

Here they come, swiftly, speedily!

²⁷ None of them is weary, none stumbles,
none slumbers or sleeps,

not a loincloth is loose,
not a sandal-thong broken;

²⁸ their arrows are sharp,
all their bows bent,
their horses' hoofs seem like flint,
and their wheels like the whirlwind.

²⁹ Their roaring is like a lion,
like young lions they roar;
they growl and seize their prey,
they carry it off, and no one can rescue.

³⁰ They will roar over it on that day,
like the roaring of the sea.
And if one looks to the land—
only darkness and distress;
and the light grows dark with clouds.

A Vision of God in the Temple

6In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty;
and the hem of his robe filled the temple. ²Seraphs were in attendance above him;
each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered
their feet, and with two they flew. ³And one called to another and said:

'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.'

⁴The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house
filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a **man of unclean lips,**

and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King,
the LORD of hosts!’

6 Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from
the altar with a pair of tongs. ⁷ The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: ‘Now
that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted
out.’ ⁸ Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send, and who will go
for us?’ And I said, ‘**Here am I; send me!**’ (Symbolically or spiritually, Isaiah is present
at the divine council, charged to carry the message of God to the people) ⁹ And he
said, ‘Go and say to this people:

“Keep listening, but do not comprehend;
keep looking, but do not understand.”

¹⁰ Make the mind of this people dull,
and stop their ears,
and shut their eyes,
so that they may not look with their eyes,
and listen with their ears,
and comprehend with their minds,
and turn and be healed.’ (Very unexpected commandment!)

¹¹ Then I said, ‘How long, O Lord?’ And he said:

‘Until cities lie waste
without inhabitant,
and houses without people,
and the land is utterly desolate;

¹² until the LORD sends everyone far away,
and vast is the emptiness in the midst of the land.

¹³ Even if a tenth part remains in it,
it will be burned again,
like a terebinth or an oak
whose stump remains standing
when it is felled.’

The holy seed is its stump.

Additional Reading: 2 Nephi 11

1 And now, Jacob spake many more things to my people at that time; nevertheless only
these things have I caused to be written, for the things which I have written sufficeth

me.

2 And now I, Nephi, write more of the words of Isaiah, for my soul delighteth in his words. For I will liken his words unto my people, and I will send them forth unto all my children, for he verily saw my Redeemer, even as I have seen him.

3 And my brother, Jacob, also has seen him as I have seen him; wherefore, I will send their words forth unto my children to prove unto them that my words are true.

Wherefore, by the words of three, God hath said, I will establish my word. Nevertheless, God sendeth more witnesses, and he proveth all his words.

4 Behold, my soul delighteth in proving unto my people the truth of the coming of Christ; for, for this end hath the law of Moses been given; and all things which have been given of God from the beginning of the world, unto man, are the typifying of him.

5 And also my soul delighteth in the covenants of the Lord which he hath made to our fathers; yea, my soul delighteth in his grace, and in his justice, and power, and mercy in the great and eternal plan of deliverance from death.

6 And my soul delighteth in proving unto my people that save Christ should come all men must perish.

7 For if there be no Christ there be no God; and if there be no God we are not, for there could have been no creation. But there is a God, and he is Christ, and he cometh in the fulness of his own time. *(It isn't quite that simple...)*

8 And now I write some of the words of Isaiah, that whoso of my people shall see these words may lift up their hearts and rejoice for all men. Now these are the words, and ye may liken them unto you and unto all men.

Other Reading: