

“3 WAVES OF PROPHETS”

this whole series connects both the Historical Urgency and also the Poetic Intelligence of the 17 OT prophets in such a way that it helps unlock: (1) God’s actual “Personality” of deep-character, top-priorities, and intimate-feelings (2) the proper balancing of one’s spirituality & society-ethics, and (3) “shapes-of-the-future” that God keeps building His People towards

[study #8] ISAIAH: Showdown of Trusts

— covering ISAIAH chpts. 36-39 —

ACTION #1. Recall that, after God promised to give King Ahaz a child called *GOD IS WITH US*, sure enough: his own son *Hezekiah* was born and it was said of him that “Yahweh was with him” (2 Kings 18:7), plus God even used Hezekiah’s role as king to *also* save most the people living in Judah. Read this next account about when Hezekiah was older (in **Isaiah 36:1-10 ... 37:1-7 ... 37:14-20 ... 37:36-38**) and then afterwards discuss:

- re-construct all the details of these verses in your own words... what all happened from start to end?
- Hezekiah did more than “casually believe” Isaiah’s encouraging words from God... what *more* did he do?

ACTION #2. Read how Hezekiah dealt with his own terrible illness (**Isaiah 38:1-9 & 38:17-21**) and then discuss:

- describe what all happened in these verses and what stands out to you as most interesting
- how does this passage show us more of what Hezekiah was like?

ACTION #3. One of Isaiah’s suprising qualities is he not only “foresaw” **ASSYRIA soon conquering ISRAEL**, but that he also “foresaw” a wave of events well beyond his own lifetime: **BABYLON conquering JUDAH 150 years after**. Read these interesting facts below, then afterwards discuss the questions on the right.

- Assyria had a strategy for when it conquered nations: deport the old population to somewhere else and then switch-them-out with a totally different population they conquered far away
 - Assyria had another strategy for its conquered nations, which was to build new roadways and political systems pointing straight to Assyria’s capital city far away
 - Assyria had ANOTHER strategy, which was to admire, preserve, and restore their favorite ancient civilization from the past (Babylonia!)—never realizing it might actually revive-&-conquer them some day (think: Jurassic Park)
- which of these facts about Assyria do you find most interesting...why?
 - which fact do you think ultimately caused the most “damage” or “change” to people’s already existing way-of-life in that area of the world?
 - read and see what **Isaiah 39:1-8** adds to the whole story of these interesting facts... what do you think about each of the characters’ motives in this account?

ACTION #4. Each person share briefly one final summary, personal take-away, “ah-ha!” insight, or new question or curiosity from today’s study.

EXTRA... FOR THOSE MOTIVATED, DEVOTED, & WITH SOME SELF-COMMAND:

GOLD CHALLENGE ...read ahead (& maybe journal about) for next study: **Isaiah 40-66**

PENGUIN CHALLENGE ...throughout this series read the kings-&-exile books (this week’s portion: **1 Kings 17-22**)