



# Biblical Literacy

Scripture • Substance • Spiritual Passion

## Lesson 48.1

## Old Testament Survey: The Isaiah Challenge

### Outline for Class

- Welcome
- Theme Today  
*How well do we know the famous sayings of Isaiah? This lesson is a bit different than our past lessons. This lesson is built around an Isaiah challenge: In multiple-choice fashion, we probe our memory and knowledge concerning the writings of Isaiah. Some questions will be easy, and some will be hard! After all, what fun is it to take a test where the answers all come easy! The questions come first, the answers and explanations follow.*
- Prayer for Wisdom
- Video (44 minutes)
- Discussion & Points for Home

### Points for Home

*Isaiah's popularity extends beyond the Jews and the synagogue. By at least one scholar's count, —the New Testament contains over 40 direct quotes from and nearly 390 allusions to Isaiah. Isaiah accounts for nearly one-fourth of the quotes from the Old Testament in the New Testament. Over and over, significant aspects of western culture have emphasized passages from Isaiah. Isaiah has been subject to many songs, many paintings, and many narratives and stories.*

*This week we do our Points for Home a bit differently. In the introduction we spoke of the Jewish liturgical usage of the prophets in services. The Prophetic reading (the —haftorah||) would follow a reading from the first five Biblical books (the —Torah.||) This practice dates back further than our knowledge of how it started. This week our Points for Home will come from the haftorah that is read after the first six chapters in Genesis. The concluding haftorah is from Isaiah 42:5ff*

*The Christian immediately sees these prophetic verses from Isaiah as exemplars that show the mission and work of Christ. Fulfilling the prophetic word, Jesus is the hand of the Father who opens blind eyes, is a light to the nations and becomes the new covenant for the people. So here are two Points for Home for people walking with God as new covenant people.*

- ❖ Be called out of sin. It is not what we were created for! God extends his hand to take us from sin and darkness and hold us in his light. —I am the Lord; I have called you in righteousness. Hold his hand and walk in the light!
- ❖ Grasp the Lord's hand. The prophet declared the Lord's words; —I will take you by the hand and keep you. This is touching, comforting, and powerful, all at once! Absorb this!

### Discussion Questions:

- ◆ What did you discover about Isaiah today that surprised you most?
- ◆ What excites you about what you learned from this challenge?
- ◆ What concerns you after reflecting on the great influence Isaiah has had on culture (if anything)?

[www.Biblical-literacy.org](http://www.Biblical-literacy.org)

© Copyright 2010 by W. Mark Lanier. Permission hereby granted to reprint this document in its entirety without change, with reference given, and not for financial profit.