

SCHOOL OF THE WORD
PROPHETS
Kieran J. O'Mahony, OSA
www.tarsus.ie

Prophets 5

Programme

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| • What's a "prophet"? | Oct 11 |
| • Amos: Justice (i) | Oct 18 |
| • Amos: Justice (ii) | Oct 25 |
| • Who is/are Isaiah? | Nov 8 |
| • Isaiah and justice | Nov 15 |
| • Isaiah and liberation | Nov 22 |
| • Isaiah and hope | Nov 29 |
| • Isaiah: New Testament | Dec 6 |

Sequence

- Isaiah 2:1-4 (cf. Micah 4:1-3)
- Lessons
- More to it
- A map of sorts
- Blocks ABC
- For you to work on...

Isaiah 2:1-4

Isa 2:1 Here is the message about Judah and Jerusalem that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz.

- 2** In the future
the mountain of the Lord's temple will endure
as the most important of mountains,
and will be the most prominent of hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
- 3** many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the Lord's mountain,
to the temple of the God of Jacob,
so he can teach us his requirements,
and we can follow his standards."
For Zion will be the centre for moral instruction;
the Lord will issue edicts from Jerusalem.
- 4** He will judge disputes between nations;
he will settle cases for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nations will not take up the sword against other nations,
and they will no longer train for war.

Lessons

- A message for us today
- Longing for true peace
- Encounter with God
- Listening to God
- Change is possible
- Invitation again today

Now after John was imprisoned, Jesus went into Galilee and proclaimed the gospel of God. He said, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is near. Convert and believe the gospel!" (Mark 1:14-15)

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Gal 5:22-23)

- God is holy
- We too should be holy
- Importance of Zion and the Temple
- God's justice = including his "rule"

- Deep change of heart
- There's more to it...again!

More to it

- Isaiah 1–12: Announcements of Condemnation and Salvation for Judah and Jerusalem; Zion and the Davidic King; Assyria as the Lord's Instrument
- Isaiah 13–23: Oracles concerning Foreign Nations
- Isaiah 24–27: Judgment on the Entire World
- Isaiah 28–33: Judah and Jerusalem in Confrontation with Assyria and Egypt
- Isaiah 34–35: Salvation for Judah and Doom for Her Enemies
- Isaiah 36–39: Historical Accounts of Isaiah, Hezekiah, and Jerusalem

A map of sorts

- Isaiah is the only prophetic book to cover the whole traumatic period from the Assyrian invasion to the return from Exile.
- = about 250 years.
- Isaiah, along with Jeremiah and Ezekiel, realised that the old "theology" just didn't work any more.
- Message: God used the destructive power of the empire to bring Israel back to true faith in God (YHWH).
- Isaiah 1 (Assyrian), Jeremiah (Babylon), Isaiah 2 (Persia)
- Isaiah lays out his material in three large "blocks"
 - Block 1: chapters 2-12
 - Block 2: chapters 13-33
 - Block 3: chapters 34-38
- Each block has a pattern or sequence, ABC.
- Each block has a pattern or sequence, ABC.

A: Day of YHWH	<i>The appearance of God</i>
B: Human response	<i>Inviting the people/king to respond</i>
C: God's action	<i>God implements his justice / rule</i>
- We look brief at each block

Block 1 Isaiah 2-12

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------------------------|
| • A: Day of YHWH | 2:1-4:6 | Invitation, ending positively |
| • B: Human response | 5:1-9:6 | Ahaz's refusal of a sign |
| • C: God's action | 9:8-12:6 | Sin, judgment, restoration |

Block 2 Isaiah 13-33

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| • A: Day of YHWH | 13-27 | Against Babylon etc. |
| • B: Human response | 28-31 | Sinful alliances with others |
| • C: God's action | 32-33 | Destruction of Assyria and assurance of a just king |

Block 3 Isaiah 34-38 (not quite so clear)

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|------------------------|
| • A: Day of YHWH | 34-35 | Against Edom (as rep.) |
| • B: God's action | 36-37 | Against Sennacherib |
| • C: Human response | 38 | Hezekiah's Prayer |

For you to work on

- Block 1: chapters 2-12
 - 5:1-7 (the vineyard)
 - 11:1-9 (an ideal ruler)
- Block 2: chapters 13-33
 - 13:1-21 (judgment against Babylon)
 - 25:1-12 (on this mountain...)
- Block 3: chapters 34-38
 - 35:1-10 (transformation of the land)
 - 38:9-20 (the thanksgiving of Hezekiah)

(1) Isaiah 5:1-7

- Isa 5:1** I will sing to my love—
a song to my lover about his vineyard.
My love had a vineyard
on a fertile hill.
- 2** He built a hedge around it, removed its stones,
and planted a vine.
He built a tower in the middle of it,
and constructed a winepress.
He waited for it to produce edible grapes,
but it produced sour ones instead.
- 3** So now, residents of Jerusalem,
people of Judah,
you decide between me and my vineyard!
- 4** What more can I do for my vineyard
beyond what I have already done?
When I waited for it to produce edible grapes,
why did it produce sour ones instead?
- 5** Now I will inform you
what I am about to do to my vineyard:
I will remove its hedge and turn it into pasture,
I will break its wall and allow animals to graze there.
- 6** I will make it a wasteland;
no one will prune its vines or hoe its ground,
and thorns and briars will grow there.
I will order the clouds
not to drop any rain on it.
- 7** Indeed Israel is the vineyard of the LORD who commands armies,
the people of Judah are the cultivated place in which he took delight.
He waited for justice, but look what he got—disobedience!
He waited for fairness, but look what he got—cries for help!
- 8** Those who accumulate houses are as good as dead,
those who also accumulate landed property
until there is no land left,
and you are the only landowners remaining within the land.
- 9** The LORD who commands armies told me this:
“Many houses will certainly become desolate,
large, impressive houses will have no one living in them.”

(2) Isaiah 11:1-9

- Isa 11:1** A shoot will grow out of Jesse’s root stock,
a bud will sprout from his roots.
- 2** The LORD’s spirit will rest on him—
a spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom,
a spirit that provides the ability to execute plans,
a spirit that produces absolute loyalty to the LORD.
- 3** He will take delight in obeying the LORD.
He will not judge by mere appearances,
or make decisions on the basis of hearsay.
- 4** He will treat the poor fairly,
and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and order the wicked to be executed.
- 5** Justice will be like a belt around his waist,
integrity will be like a belt around his hips.
- 6** A wolf will reside with a lamb,
and a leopard will lie down with a young goat;
an ox and a young lion will graze together,
as a small child leads them along.
- 7** A cow and a bear will graze together,
their young will lie down together.
A lion, like an ox, will eat straw.
- 8** A baby will play

- over the hole of a snake;
 over the nest of a serpent
 an infant will put his hand.
 9 They will no longer injure or destroy
 on my entire royal mountain.
 For there will be universal submission to the LORD's sovereignty,
 just as the waters completely cover the sea.

(3) Isaiah 13:1-21

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Isa 13:1 | This is a message about Babylon that God revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz: |
| 2 | On a bare hill raise a signal flag,
shout to them,
wave your hand,
so they might enter the gates of the princes! |
| 3 | I have given orders to my chosen soldiers;
I have summoned the warriors through whom I will vent my anger,
my boasting, arrogant ones. |
| 4 | There is a loud noise on the mountains—
it sounds like a large army!
There is great commotion among the kingdoms—
nations are being assembled!
The LORD who commands armies is mustering
forces for battle. |
| 5 | They come from a distant land,
from the horizon.
It is the LORD with his instruments of judgment,
coming to destroy the whole earth. |
| 6 | Wail, for the LORD's day of judgment is near;
it comes with all the destructive power of the sovereign judge. |
| 7 | For this reason all hands hang limp,
every human heart loses its courage. |
| 8 | They panic—
cramps and pain seize hold of them
like those of a woman who is straining to give birth.
They look at one another in astonishment;
their faces are flushed red. |
| 9 | Look, the LORD's day of judgment is coming;
it is a day of cruelty and savage, raging anger,
destroying the earth
and annihilating its sinners. |
| 10 | Indeed the stars in the sky and their constellations
no longer give out their light;
the sun is darkened as soon as it rises,
and the moon does not shine. |
| 11 | I will punish the world for its evil,
and wicked people for their sin.
I will put an end to the pride of the insolent,
I will bring down the arrogance of tyrants. |
| 12 | I will make human beings more scarce than pure gold,
and people more scarce than gold from Ophir. |
| 13 | So I will shake the heavens,
and the earth will shake loose from its foundation,
because of the fury of the LORD who commands armies,
in the day he vents his raging anger. |
| 14 | Like a frightened gazelle
or a sheep with no shepherd,
each will turn toward home,
each will run to his homeland. |
| 15 | Everyone who is caught will be stabbed;
everyone who is seized will die by the sword. |
| 16 | Their children will be smashed to pieces before their very eyes;
their houses will be looted
and their wives raped. |
| 17 | Look, I am stirring up the Medes to attack them; |

- they are not concerned about silver,
nor are they interested in gold.
- 18 Their arrows will cut young men to ribbons;
they have no compassion on a person's offspring,
they will not look with pity on children.
- 19 Babylon, the most admired of kingdoms,
the Chaldeans' source of honour and pride,
will be destroyed by God
just as Sodom and Gomorrah were.
- 20 No one will live there again;
no one will ever reside there again.
No bedouin will camp there,
no shepherds will rest their flocks there.
- 21 Wild animals will rest there,
the ruined houses will be full of hyenas.
Ostriches will live there,
wild goats will skip among the ruins.

(4) Isaiah 25:1-12

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Isa 25:1 | O LORD, you are my God!
I will exalt you in praise, I will extol your fame.
For you have done extraordinary things,
and executed plans made long ago exactly as you decreed. |
| 2 | Indeed, you have made the city into a heap of rubble,
the fortified town into a heap of ruins;
the fortress of foreigners is no longer a city,
it will never be rebuilt. |
| 3 | So a strong nation will extol you;
the towns of powerful nations will fear you. |
| 4 | For you are a protector for the poor,
a protector for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm,
a shade from the heat.
Though the breath of tyrants is like a winter rainstorm,
like heat in a dry land,
you humble the boasting foreigners. |
| 5 | Just as the shadow of a cloud causes the heat to subside,
so he causes the song of tyrants to cease. |
| 6 | The LORD who commands armies will hold a banquet for all the nations on this
mountain.
At this banquet there will be plenty of meat and aged wine—
tender meat and choicest wine. |
| 7 | On this mountain he will swallow up
the shroud that is over all the peoples,
the woven covering that is over all the nations; |
| 8 | he will swallow up death permanently.
The sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from every face,
and remove his people's disgrace from all the earth.
Indeed, the LORD has announced it! |
| 9 | At that time they will say,
"Look, here is our God!
We waited for him and he delivered us.
Here is the LORD! We waited for him.
Let's rejoice and celebrate his deliverance!" |
| 10 | For the LORD's power will make this mountain secure.
Moab will be trampled down where it stands,
as a heap of straw is trampled down in a manure pile. |
| 11 | Moab will spread out its hands in the middle of it,
just as a swimmer spreads his hands to swim;
the LORD will bring down Moab's pride as it spreads its hands. |
| 12 | The fortified city (along with the very tops of your walls) he will knock down,
he will bring it down, he will throw it down to the dusty ground. |

(5) Isaiah 35:1-10

- Isa 35:1** Let the desert and dry region be happy;
let the wilderness rejoice and bloom like a lily!
- 2** Let it richly bloom;
let it rejoice and shout with delight!
It is given the grandeur of Lebanon,
the splendour of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the grandeur of the LORD,
the splendour of our God.
- 3** Strengthen the hands that have gone limp,
steady the knees that shake!
- 4** Tell those who panic,
“Be strong! Do not fear!
Look, your God comes to avenge!
With divine retribution he comes to deliver you.”
- 5** Then blind eyes will open,
deaf ears will hear.
- 6** Then the lame will leap like a deer,
the mute tongue will shout for joy;
for water will flow in the desert,
streams in the wilderness.
- 7** The dry soil will become a pool of water,
the parched ground springs of water.
Where jackals once lived and sprawled out,
grass, reeds, and papyrus will grow.
- 8** A thoroughfare will be there—
it will be called the Way of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel on it;
it is reserved for those authorized to use it—
fools will not stray into it.
- 9** No lions will be there,
no ferocious wild animals will be on it—
they will not be found there.
Those delivered from bondage will travel on it,
those whom the LORD has ransomed will return that way.
- 10** They will enter Zion with a happy shout.
Unending joy will crown them,
happiness and joy will overwhelm them;
grief and suffering will disappear.

(6) Isaiah 38:9-20

Isa 38:9 This is the prayer of King Hezekiah of Judah when he was sick and then recovered from his illness:

- 10** “I thought,
‘In the middle of my life I must walk through the gates of Sheol,
I am deprived of the rest of my years.’
- 11** “I thought,
‘I will no longer see the LORD in the land of the living,
I will no longer look on humankind with the inhabitants of the world.
- 12** My dwelling place is removed and taken away from me
like a shepherd’s tent.
I rolled up my life like a weaver rolls cloth;
from the loom he cuts me off.
You turn day into night and end my life.
- 13** I cry out until morning;
like a lion he shatters all my bones;
you turn day into night and end my life.
- 14** Like a swallow or a thrush I chirp,
I coo like a dove;
my eyes grow tired from looking up to the sky.
O sovereign master, I am oppressed;
help me!
- 15** What can I say?

- He has decreed and acted.
I will walk slowly all my years because I am overcome with grief.
- 16** O sovereign master, your decrees can give men life;
may years of life be restored to me.
Restore my health and preserve my life.'
- 17** "Look, the grief I experienced was for my benefit.
You delivered me from the pit of oblivion.
For you removed all my sins from your sight.
- 18** Indeed Sheol does not give you thanks;
death does not praise you.
Those who descend into the pit do not anticipate your faithfulness.
- 19** The living person, the living person, he gives you thanks,
as I do today.
A father tells his sons about your faithfulness.
- 20** The LORD is about to deliver me,
and we will celebrate with music
for the rest of our lives in the LORD's temple."