

Hope When There Was No Hope

Isaiah 9.1-7; 11.1-2

According to Mental Health America, over 2.5 million young people have severe depression, and nearly 5% of adults report having serious thoughts of suicide. In a world crying out for hope, the Christmas story is a message about hope when there seems to be no hope.

Isaiah's Day: Increasing Wickedness

Isaiah's Warning: Impending Judgment

Isaiah's Prophecy: Hope when there is no hope



Digging Deeper

Isaiah 7-12 includes dire judgment and ultimate redemption. As such, it's a rich source of truth about God, how He works in our lives, and His unwavering love. To get the big picture, start at chapter six, and read through chapter 12.

Chapter 6: What does God tell Isaiah to say to Israel? What was the spiritual state of Israel? What lies ahead for them? In 6.13, what spark of 'future hope' does God reveal?

Chapter 7: What threat was Judah (and king Ahaz) facing? What is Isaiah's message to Ahaz? (4-11) What is Ahaz's response? (12) What is God's response to his arrogance?

Chapter 8: What doom awaits Israel – far worse than the threat posed by Aram and Israel? In vv9-10, God issues a warning to nations that attack Israel. What is it?

Chapter 9: Judgment is coming, but what does God promise for a future day? Describe the heart of God in this chapter.

Chapter 10: In 1-5, what are Israel's sins (see the "Woes" in Isa. 5.8-25). What is coming for Assyria (5-19, 28-34)? How would you describe the remnant of Israel in vv20-27?

Chapter 11: Who is the 'shoot from the stump of Jesse'? (1) What parallels do you see between 9.1-7 and ch.11? What new promises are revealed here? When will this happen?

Chapter 12: What will Israel finally do in "that day"? What is the lesson for God's people in every day?