**A Life-Shaping Encounter with God**

Whole Bible Series

Sermon 19: Isaiah

McDonald Bible Methodist

Pastor Joey Ratcliff

June 21, 2020

**SERMON NOTES**

**Intro.** Isaiah’s vision of God’s holiness and power defined the perspective of his ministry. (6)

1. **God’s Holiness Reveals our Sinfulness**

* Jerusalem is sinful, unworthy of covenant partnership.
* God’s judgement will be poured out.

*Our deficient standard of moral acceptability is exposed by the pure fire of God’s holiness!*

1. **God’s Power Renders Other Powers Moot**

* Jerusalem is powerless to withstand God’s wrath (3:1-4)
* Assyria is not the power to be feared (8:12-15; 10:12)
* God is the God of the nations (13-24)
* Mighty Sennacherib is humbled (36-37)
* Trusting other nations is foolish (39)

*Our nation’s challenges do not even tax God’s power to accomplish His purposes in His people and the world.*

1. **God’s Righteous Rule Will Set the World Right**
2. Jerusalem will return from exile (40)
3. A new Jerusalem will light the earth (60)
4. This rule will benefit the whole world (19:29-25)
5. God’s rule is established through the suffering servant (53)

*This is the kingdom we live for as Christians!*

**Questions for Small Groups or Individual Study**

1. Look at the following passages from Isaiah, and discuss their purpose and target audience: 40:31, 53:6, 55:8, 1:18, 41:10, 26:3, 55:11, 55:6, 40:1, 59:1, 44:6, 40:28, 60:1, 40:8, 52:7, 46:9, 43:2, 45:5, 54:17.
2. We sometimes go to books like Isaiah to “harvest” verses from them. From your study above, how does understanding the context and original audience of the verse enhance its meaning?
3. Discuss Israel’s folly of relying on other nations for protection. Why was this a foolish plan? What did they not understand about God, which Isaiah understood? How would a renewed vision of God’s power affect how you approach your life?

1. Remembering the sermon, why do you think the “New Jerusalem” is called that?

**Prayer:** “Almighty God, I know that you are more powerful than *(insert your challenge)*”