Chinese Martyrs Catholic Church

*C&S – Come Y& See - Isaiah*

*NCBC – New Collegeville Commentary on Isaiah*

*NJBC – New Jerome Biblical Commentary*

*SN = Special Notes*

*NAB = New American Bible*

*SK = Chinese Bible*

*CCC = Catholic Catechism*

Bible Sharing Program 2015-2016

Isaiah #5: Jerusalem’s Judgment & Salvation

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **A** | **Overview of Isaiah 28-35*** Isaiah 1-23, 28-39 are works of the 8th C prophet Isaiah (ref BSP 1 – SN2). Is 24-27, written by Trito Isaiah, is called “The Apocalypse of Isaiah” and completed around the 4th C. This has been discussed previously.

  * Isaiah 28-39 describes God’s punishment of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms (especially Jerusalem); they will be restored but will enjoy a beautiful future. This future fulfills God’s promise of the destruction of Judah’s enemy and the restoration of Jerusalem.
* Chapters 36-39 are different from the rest of the book as these chapters are based on the history of Hezekiah in 2Kings 18:31-20:19. We will only discuss chapters 28-35 in this session.
 | C&S p 61-86NCBC p 73 |
| **B** | **Key Teachings*** Is 28:1-6 – Though the Northern Kingdom (Ephraim) enjoyed tremendous wealth, the rich oppressed the poor. It will be destroyed by “one who is mighty and strong” (Assyria). “On the day the Lord of hosts will be a garland of glory, and a diadem of beauty, to the remnant of his people” (v6)
* Is 28:7-22 – Criticizing “the priest and the prophet reel with strong drink, they are confused with wine, they stagger with strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in giving judgement”.
* “See I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: ‘One who trusts will not panic’” => Messiah
* Is 28:23-29 – Just as “grain is crushed for bread, but one does not thresh it for ever … does not pulverize it”, the purpose of God’s punishment of Judah is to bring out justice and reveal His blessings.
* Is 29:1-24 – Jerusalem’s salvation began with its encampment by foreign nations. “The wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden”. This attacks rulers who are irresponsible. The image of the “potter” is also used by Paul.
* Jesus citing Is 29:13 as an objection to the holy traditions?
* Is 30:1-17 – Judah decided to form an alliance with Egypt for Pharoah’s protection instead of putting its trust in God. They ended up facing destruction in the hands of Assyria.
* Is 30: 18-33 – The Lord is merciful to Judah, “ your Teacher will not hide himself anymore but your eyes shall see your Teacher” => God is like the hidden teacher in the past who only speaks to His people through the prophets. The Messiah is the “Teacher” seen by all. He will show us the “way” => “I am the way, the truth, and the life”. “the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days, on the day when the Lord binds up the injuries of his people, and heals the wounds inflicted by his blow”. => Jesus is the compassionate Samaritan, the New Jerusalem.
* Is 31:1-9 – Judah’s decision to rely on Egypt’s horsemen and chariots has brought about punishment from God. “As a lion or a young lion growls over its prey”, Assyria will be defeated by God. (After the defeat of Assyria, generations to come will use this incident to strengthen the people’s trust in God.)
* Is 32:1-20 – The days of injustice and punishment shall pass, and “a king will reign in righteousness, and princes will rule with justice”. The spirit of God will pour over His people, “My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting-places”. => Messiah; the Church (Pentecost); Kingdom of God.
* Is 33:1-25 – Foretells the fall of the invaders (Assyria), Jerusalem will become “a quiet habitation, an immovable tent”, “there the Lord in majesty will be for us” – God.
* Is 34:1-17 – The Lord will judge all nations, especially Edom, the long-time enemy of Judah. The wars between Judah, all nations and Edom reflect God’s victory will triumph over evil powers. The hatred and exaggerated writing style reflect the author’s character.
* Is 35:1-10 – The joy of Zion: “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you”. => Messiah is God.
* “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf stopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert” – Lk 7:22, Jn 7:37 -38
 | NCBCLv 10:8-11Is 28:16 , SK Note 6Ps 118:22, 18:21Cor 10:4, 1Pet 2:4-7Mt 16:18SK Note 8Is 29:14Rm 9:21Mt 15:8, 1Cor 11:23, 15:3, 1Pet 2:15, Mt 23:1-3NABIs 30:21Jn 14:6Is 30:26Lk 10:34, Rev 21:25J. Naz p 200-201Ezek 47:1 ff, 1Cor 10:4 |
| **C** | **Appreciation of God’s Words*** “See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: ‘One who trusts will not panic.’”
* “Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.”
* “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert”
 | Is 28:16 => Mt 16:18Is 35:4Is 35:5-6 |