*C&S – Come & 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*

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| **A** | **Overview of Isaiah 51-55*** This lesson will conclude the Deutero-Isaiah, chapters 40-55. BSP #9 & 10 will focus on the Trito-Isaiah, chapters 56-66, the Revelation of Isaiah.

  * Two key points: The fourth “suffering servant”, prefigures the atonement of sin, portrays a joyful and glad New Jerusalem.
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| **B** | **Content and Key Teachings – Zion will be redeemed and glorified*** Is 51:1-2 – “Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug”. The “rock” refers to “Abraham your father and [ ] Sarah who bore you”. “You that pursue righteousness, you that pursue the Lord” comes from Abraham. The miracle that God performed for Abraham will also be performed on the people. In addition, the history and traditions within God’s communities come from those who pursue righteousness within the communities. The communities should be nurtured by the same history and traditions as they continue to pursue the truth.
* Is 51:3-8 – God “will bring near [His] deliverance swiftly”, His “salvation has gone out and [His] arms will rule the peoples”, God’s “salvation will be for ever, and [His] deliverance will never be ended”. – This is the declaration by God, the author of life who holds absolute authority. All will be fulfilled.
* Is 51: 9-23 – “Arise, Jerusalem!”: encourages those in exiled that their troubles are over and to trust in God’s power. The days of oppression and imprisonment are over; they will be restored.
* Is 52:7 – “How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news” – Paul uses this to praise those who spread the Good News.
 | Is 51:1 – 52:12NCBC p 137-8SK Note 1NCBC p 138-9Rm 10:15SN1 |
| **C** | **The Fourth Suffering Servant*** Is 52:15 – “for that which had not been told them they shall see, and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate” – “They” refers to the kings who have witnessed to things that had never happened before and will never happen again; one person can pay the price for the sins of all. Such is a truly amazing idea that has never been mentioned in the OT.
* Does the “Servant of the Lord” refer to Israel? This will be impossible due to Israel’s sins and disobedience. The writing may not be understood in a corporate sense.
* Therefore, the arguments that interpret the Lord’s “Servant” as the repenting Israel or how Israel suffers for the sake of humanity lack persuasion.
 | Is 52:13 – 53:12NCBC p 142C&S p 115, S. Hahn, *Finding Jesus in the OT*NCBC p 142-3 |
| **D** | **The Joy and Peace of New Jerusalem** * Is 54:1-10 – “Sing, O barren one who did not bear; burst into song and shout, you who have not been in labour! For the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married” -> God is the husband of Israel, therefore, “the children of the desolate woman will be more than the children of her that is married”.
* Is 54:11-12 - “I will lay your foundations with sapphires. I will make your pinnacles of rubies, your gates of jewels, and all your wall of precious stones” – New Jerusalem will rise at the end time.
* Is 55:1-7 – The abundance of God’s mercy is too overwhelming for those who receive! All is fulfilled in the Church.
* Is 55:10-11 – Jesus, the Word of God, will fulfill His mission. The power of God’s Word.
* Chapter 55, the last chapter in Deutero-Isaiah, completes the theme introduced at the beginning (chp 40).
 | IS 54-55Rev 21:10-27NCBC p 140SN3C&S p 167 |
| **E** | **Appreciation of Scripture*** Is 52:7 – How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of those who bring the Good News, announce peace and salvation to Zion, “Your God reigns!”
* Is 54:10 - the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you.
* Is 55:8 – For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways.
* Is 55:10-11 – as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.
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**SPECIAL NOTES**

1. Pope Francis on the delightful and comforting joy of evangelizing:

“Any person who has experienced a profound liberation becomes more sensitive to the needs of others…If we wish to lead a dignified and fulfilling life, we have to reach out to others and seek their good….“The love of Christ urges us on” (2 Cor 5:14); “Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel” (1 Cor 9:16).

“’Life grows by being given away, and it weakens in isolation and comfort. Indeed, those who enjoy life most are those who leave security on the shore and become excited by the mission of communicating life to others’. When the Church summons Christians to take up the task of evangelization, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment.” (The Joy of the Gospel, nos. 9&10)

1. St. JPII on the 4th Servant of the Lord:

“Those considerations (i.e. Is. 53:3-11), so rich in detail, are all the more surprising because they are the words of one who could not see with his own eyes the drama of Calvary, having lived long before. They are words, which foreshadow the theology of the sacrifice of Christ’s Cross. In a wonderful synthesis, they contain the entire Mystery of the Passion and Resurrection…Thus, we reach the summit of the narrative of the Passion which highlights the saving value of Christ’s supreme act of self-giving: ‘He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness’ (1 Peter 2:24).” (C&S. pp.158-9)

1. “Here we see fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah about the effectiveness of the Lord’s word: as the rain and snow come down from heaven to water and to make the earth fruitful, so too the word of God ‘shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it’ (cf. Is 55:10f.). Jesus Christ is this definitive and effective word which came forth from the Father and returned to him, perfectly accomplishing his will in the world.” (BXVI, On the Word of God, n.90)

“I know no other book so destructive of pride, so potent a weapon to crush your enemies.” (St. Augustine, Confessions, XIII.15)