

## **“How to Read Isaiah” | Isaiah 1**

### **Sermon Discussion Questions**

9/16/18

1. As you begin your time together, take a moment to share your favorite quote with everyone. Discuss what you love about the quote, what it means to you. Maybe share how you discovered the quote.
2. Pastor Jim began by pointing out that quotes have value and significance well beyond the specific context in which they were first spoken. How does this principle apply to the Word of God?
3. We were walked through a brief but detailed history of Scripture up to the point of Isaiah in order to understand that he was a real person writing during a specific time in history. Why is this important? How does understanding Isaiah’s real place in the story help us?
4. While there is value in understanding the historical setting and circumstances of the book of Isaiah, it is not meant to simply be a history book. What does the fact that Isaiah is a prophetic-poetic book mean in terms of how we read it?
5. The book of Isaiah is quoted multiple times in the New Testament, the book opens by calling it a “vision” from God. How do these facts affect our approach to reading Isaiah, or the Scriptures in general. Re-read Hebrews 4 and discuss the role of scripture in a Christ follower’s life today.
6. Pastor Jim gave four suggestions to engaging-reading the book of Isaiah:
  - Pray before reading, for an open mind and softened heart.
  - Ask God, “What are you saying to me right now?”
  - Ask God, “What are you revealing about yourself right now?”
  - Pay attention to your emotions.

Take a moment to reflect which of these you may already do in your prayer/study time. Which may God be calling you to engage in more? Which do you find the most challenging?

7. Close your time by praying for God to reveal more of Himself during the series. That He may move us into deeper and greater engagement with his Word. That we may all be open to seeking Him, waiting on Him and being made new by Him.