

Book of Isaiah



Lesson 2: Isaiah 3–5

Suggested Responses

1. Isaiah 3:4 tells us that God will make boys their princes and give rule to babes. Since boys and babies cannot even govern their own lives and take care of their own needs, the nation will be punished through having such immature and incompetent children rule them.
2. People begin to believe that might makes right. This is the beginning of the social acceptance of oppression. Isaiah tells us that the people will oppress one another, every man his neighbor; youth will be insolent to elders; and the bases fellow to the honorable. In another translation, it states that the young people will storm against adults, and vulgar and lowly people will rise up against respectable and honorable people.
3. The women's punishments include skin disease and the loss of many of the luxuries they enjoyed. These punishments will replace pleasant items with opposite experiences: the stench of rotteness instead of perfume; the rope of a slave instead of a fashionable girdle; rough sackcloth instead of fine clothes; and shame, especially of nakedness and sexual use, instead of beauty. The men who once protected them and acquired their luxuries will die in battle, causing the women to lament and mourn at the city gates that the dead soldiers will leave defenseless, and we find the fate of the women after the enemy defeat is that they can also expect to be raped.
4. In Philippians 2:5–8, we are told, “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” In Mark 10:42–44, Jesus called them together and said, “You know that those who are regarded as rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.” CCC 2259 states that when we pray, we should not speak from the height of our pride and will but “out of the Depths” of a humble and contrite heart. We find in Luke 18:9–14 the parable of the two men who went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee prayed that he was not like other men, but the tax collector beat his breast asking God to be merciful because he was a sinner. The Gospel tells us that the one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.

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5. The branch of the Lord is described as “beautiful and glorious because it comes from the Lord.” The survivors will take pride in the fruit because the origin of the fruit is from the Lord, not their own labor. The people will be made holy because the Lord has “washed away” the filth of the women and the bloodstains from the men with his “spirit of judgment” and “burning.”
 6. CCC 2475 states that Christ’s disciples have “put on the new man, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.” By “putting away falsehood,” they are to “put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander.” CCC 2482 tells us that the Lord denounces lying as the work of the devil: “You are of your father the devil, . . . there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks according to his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.” Proverbs 12:22 states: “Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.”