

Lesson 6

Isaiah 1–23

The following assignments include various learning activities, such as questions, lists, essays, charts, comparisons, contrasts, and surveys. To receive credit for this lesson, you must complete the number of assignments indicated below and submit them to your institute instructor or administrator. You may submit your work either electronically or on paper, handwritten or typed.

Each lesson should take approximately 60–90 minutes to complete, the same amount of time you would typically spend in a weekly institute class. Since reading the scripture block listed in the lesson heading is expected of all institute students prior to class, the estimated time for each assignment does not include the time you need to spend reading the scripture block.

Complete assignment 5 and any two of the remaining assignments:

1. Introduction to the Book of Isaiah

- a. Isaiah is the only book of scripture that the Lord commanded by name that we should read and search diligently (see 3 Nephi 23:1). To better understand Isaiah, read 2 Nephi 25:1–7; 3 Nephi 20:11; 23:1–3 and the chapter in the institute student manual entitled “Enrichment E, Understanding Isaiah” (pp. 131–35). If you were to explain to someone who didn’t understand Isaiah, and you could only emphasize three helps from this chapter, record which three you would choose and why.
- b. The prophet Nephi quoted from the book of Isaiah as did the Savior when He ministered to the Nephites. In doing so they identified some of the major themes of the book of Isaiah. Read 1 Nephi 15:20; 19:23; 2 Nephi 11:2–5; 25:4–8; 3 Nephi 20:11–13 and the Bible Dictionary entry “Isaiah” (p. 707). From what you read, list the prevalent themes in the book of Isaiah.

2. Isaiah 1–4. Isaiah’s Teachings about the Last Days

- a. Read Isaiah 1:2–14, 21–23, 30–31. List the images or symbols Isaiah used to describe the people of Judah and their sins. Read Isaiah 1:16–20 and explain in writing what Isaiah charged them to do to be forgiven of their sins.

What does Isaiah 3:9–11 teach concerning the consequences of sin?

- b. Read Isaiah 2:1–5; student manual commentary for Isaiah 2:1–5, “In the Last Days . . . the Mountain of the Lord’s House Shall Be Established” (p. 138); commentary for “Isaiah 2:3, “Out of Zion Shall Go Forth the Law . . . the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (pp. 138–39). Briefly summarize the significance of these verses as they deal with the Restoration and the last days.
- c. Read Isaiah 2:6–9 and answer the following questions:
 - What is the divine invitation to the family of Jacob?
 - Note or list the wickedness that interferes with the divine invitation.
 - What word in 2 Nephi 12:9 is added to Isaiah 2:9 to bring more clarity to the verse?
- d. After reading Isaiah 2:6–22, select words or phrases that indicate pride among the people.
- e. Read Isaiah 4:5–6 and the first paragraph in the Bible Dictionary for “Temple” (p. 780–81). After you study these verses and the footnotes, explain in writing what Isaiah taught about the potential of our homes. What do you feel a family must do to receive these promises?

3. Isaiah 5:26–30; 11:12; 18:1–7. An Ensign to the Nation

- a. Read Isaiah 5:26; 11:12; 18:1–7; the words to the hymn “High on the Mountain Top” (*Hymns*, no. 5); and the student manual commentary for Isaiah 5:26–30, “‘He Will Lift Up an Ensign to the Nations’ in the Latter Days” (p. 142). List two themes that connect the scriptures with the hymn.
- b. What will the Lord do to extend the ensign to other nations, and where will He bring them?

4. Isaiah 6. Isaiah’s Call and Vision

- a. Carefully read Isaiah 6 and the student manual commentary for Isaiah 6:5–8, “The Prophet Received Forgiveness” (p. 144). Write a one-

page paper describing Isaiah’s feelings as he was called by the Lord. Include answers to the following questions as you write your paper:

- How did Isaiah feel at the beginning of the vision?
- What happened to change those feelings? What is the symbolism? How does this experience relate to Doctrine and Covenants 121:45–46?
- What evidence was there that Isaiah had confidence in the presence of the Lord?
- How does this experience compare to Alma 36:10–22?
- What do the accounts of Isaiah and Alma teach you about the effect the Atonement can have upon a person?

- b. Write about either (1) a time when you experienced a change in your confidence with the Lord or (2) what you can do to more effectively draw upon the powers of the Atonement so you, like Isaiah, may experience its transforming effects, bringing confidence in the presence of the Lord.

5. Isaiah 7:14–16; 8:13–15; 9:1–7; 12:2. Messianic Prophecies

- a. Read Isaiah 7:14–16; 9:1–7. Use chapter summaries, footnotes, and the student manual for further help to understand these verses. Write a detailed explanation of what was promised in these Messianic prophecies. Which of these prophecies were fulfilled in the “First Coming” of the Lord? Which pertain to the “Second Coming”?
- b. Read Isaiah 8:13–15 and explain in writing how Jesus can be both the rock upon which we build a sure foundation (see Helaman 5:12) and a “stone of stumbling” and a “rock of offence” (Isaiah 8:14).
- c. Read the following verses from Isaiah 1–12, and list all of the different names and name-titles Isaiah used for Jesus Christ:
- Isaiah 1:24
 - Isaiah 2:3
 - Isaiah 3:1
 - Isaiah 5:16

- Isaiah 5:24
- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 8:14
- Isaiah 9:6
- Isaiah 11:1 (see chapter heading)
- Isaiah 12:2

Write what you think is significant about each particular name. What do the name and name-titles emphasize about the Lord’s character, actions, or mission?

- d. Read Isaiah 19:20; 22:20–25 and the student manual commentary for Isaiah 22:15–25, “Types of Christ” (pp. 158–59). Write a few sentences about what these Messianic verses teach about Jesus Christ.

6. Isaiah 13–14. Babylon and Lucifer

- a. Read Doctrine and Covenants 1:16; 16g and the student manual commentary for Isaiah 13:1, “What Was the Burden of Babylon?” (p. 153), and identify what is symbolically represented by the term *Babylon*. Read Isaiah 13 and write a paragraph about what Isaiah prophesied would happen to “Babylon.” How is this chapter of Isaiah an example of dualistic prophecy—a prophecy that applies to more than one time period and people? How does the world today compare to how Babylon is described in these verses? Inasmuch as we are surrounded by the world, what are some ways you could be less influenced by what is happening in the world?
- b. Read Isaiah 14:12–14; Abraham 3:26–28 and the student manual commentary for Isaiah 14:12–15, “Who Was ‘Lucifer, Son of the Morning’?” (p. 155). From the information in these scriptures, explain how Lucifer became Satan.
- c. One of the reasons we try to learn about Jesus Christ is so we can follow His example and be more like Him. The scriptures briefly mention how Satan became the devil so we can identify what we must do to avoid following him. As you think about what you read in Isaiah 14 about Lucifer’s fall, describe in a paragraph the characteristics and motives of Satan that you would want to avoid in your own life.