

I have read: Isaiah 40-66 .
Sperry, 75-94, 95-150
Syllabus, pp 53-59

What happened: "Isaiah's writings in this division reveal the prophet in a somewhat different mood from what we have before discovered." said Sydney Sperry in his opening paragraph of this week's assigned reading, and it took great discipline for me not to copy the whole topic paragraph because he said it so nicely. I resisted. In this section Isaiah foretells, predicts, prophesizes, the last days, the eventual restoration of Israel, the mission of the Savior, his role in the creation, his relationship to his children here on earth. These chapters contain some of the most beautiful words in scripture. His comparisons are awesome and beautiful. Some of it refers to events already past such as the destruction of Jerusalem by Babylon, but as you mentioned in class, even when we recognize that the event has already passed, still his words are pertinent to us in this day. *(in our day but still future in his)*

Points to Ponder: How can the Creator be also the Savior and Redeemer? There was a time in my life when I did not understand this concept as I do now, and I am sure there are many facets of the concept which are still obscure to me. However, to me it seems significant that Jesus Christ, who created this earth under the direction of his Father in Heaven, was chosen to be the Savior and also the Redeemer of this world. Who would be more interested in the redemption of this earth and its people than He who created it in the first place? Also, when the Lord allowed Jesus Christ to be the "One" to redeem the world, he also promised him that upon successful completion of the work of this earth, that it would become HIS (Christ's) and that those born upon this earth would eventually become His (Christ's) adopted sons and daughters. This is like saying to a contractor: "Spare no expense, use only the best of materials, etc., to assure that my plans are carried out, for when you get through building the house I am going to give it to you for yourself." *Very interesting*

What especially appealed to me? That is a hard one. Many, many things caused me to ponder. One of the more beautiful aspects of this chapter is the concept of Christ as our Savior in Chapter 53. "He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we est-

teemed him not. 4) Surely he hath borne our griefs..." This surely should have told the Israelites of Isaiah's day what Christ's mission was when he would come. I guess they are like we are now--we prefer to hear what we want to hear--and they wanted a King, to come in all His majesty, with terror and judgement, to conquer their enemies for them and restore their power. They were not looking for a spiritual king, who would save them and offer them so much more than earthly power and might, ~~even~~ Eternal Salvation, that most precious of all gifts. It is interesting to me, that although Israel in the Palestine area is portrayed as being "God's Chosen" the Lord seemed fit to show his people among the Nephites much more clearly the role and coming of Jesus the Christ. Maybe the prophets in Israel were shown the events as clearly, but their writings ^{may} have been lost. Certainly the "wise men from the East" were shown what to expect. Incidentally, did you notice that twice Isaiah said.: chapt 48:22 "There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked." and again in Chap.57:21 "There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." There is hardly a problem of mankind that Isaiah does not touch upon with force and eloquence. True!
When he comes again, in all his Glory, I hope that there will be a righteous host both of the Jew and of the Gentile to meet him so that he may never again lament:50:2 "Wherefore, when I came, was there no man? when I called, was there none to answer?" And that answer should be a great and glorious SHOUT of gladness.

V. good

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