

# Isaiah: How Does God Fit into My Plans?



## How Does God Fit into My Plans?

- I read through the Bible once a year
- I have been teaching Bible studies since I was 17
- I went to a Christian College and Seminary
- I became a Pastor
- I sent my children to Christian Colleges
- I have served in Church leadership for about 30 years
- I have served on a denominational mission board
- I am an adjunct professor for a Christian College
- Did I mention, I am a pastor?

## Luke 18:11–12

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.'

**Philippians 3:7–8**

But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

**Luke 18:13–14**

But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

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# Isaiah: How Do I Fit into God's Plans?

Isaiah 1-4



## Isaiah 1-4

- The Rebellious Children 1:1-20  
(Who Pretend to be Obedient)
- The Restoration of Order 1:21-31  
(Through Judgment)
- The Reign of the Lord in the Future 2:1-4  
(Which has Nothing to do with Nationalistic Dreams)
- The Rejection of Israel 2:5-4:1  
(According to the Flesh)
- The Renewal of Zion 4:2-6  
(Spiritual Israel)

## The Rebellious Children (Isaiah 1:1-20)

- The Formal Charge Isaiah 1:1-5a
  - "They have rebelled" (v. 2)
  - "They have forsaken the LORD" (v. 4)
- The Evidence Isaiah 1:5b-9
  - "Your country lies desolate" (v. 7)
  - "Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard ..." (v. 8)
  - In other words, Israel is experiencing the curses of Deut. 28
- The Pretense Isaiah 1:10-20
  - Keeping up Appearances (vv. 10-15)
  - Repentance is Needed (vv. 16-20)

## The Restoration of Order (Isaiah 1:21–31)

- Order Is Restored through Judgment
- “I will turn my hand against you” (v. 25)
- “I will restore your judges” (v. 26)
- “Zion shall be redeemed by justice” (v. 27)
- “Rebels and sinners shall be broken” (v. 2)



## The Reign of the LORD in the Future (Isaiah 2:1–4)

- Has nothing to do with nationalistic dreams
- “The house of the LORD shall be established” (v. 2)
- God will teach us His ways (v. 3)
- God will settle disputes (v. 4a)
- Result: “they shall beat their swords into plowshares” (v. 4b)



## The Rejection of Israel (Isaiah 2:5–4:1)

- Rejected because of What they Seek (vv. 2:5–8)
  - “Things from the east” (v. 6)
  - “Silver and Gold” (v. 7a)
  - “Horses” (v. 7b)
  - “Idols” (v. 8)
- The Humbling of Israel (vv. 2:9–22)
  - Examples: vv. 11 and 17
- How the Humbling is Accomplished (vv. 3:1–4:1)
  - “Taking away ... support and supply” (v. 3:1)
  - “Taking away the finery” (vv. 3:18ff.)
  - Cf. Romans 9:6 (but see Isaiah 3:10)



## The Renewal of Zion (Isaiah 4:2-6)

- “He who is left in Zion ... will be called holy” (v. 3)
- “A cloud by day, ... a flaming fire by night” (v. 5)
- Cf. Galatians 3:7-9

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## How Do I Fit into God's Plans?

- Luke 17:10  
So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty.’
- Matthew 25:21,23  
“Well done, good and faithful servant”

## Matthew 11:20–30

<sup>20</sup> Then he began to denounce the cities where most of his mighty works had been done, because they did not repent.

<sup>23</sup> “And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You will be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I tell you that it will be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.”

<sup>28</sup> “Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

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