

## UNIT ONE

### THE USES OF THE BIBLE

#### Define the term “Bible”

- The **Bible** refers to the *sacred writings of the Christian Religion, comprising the Old and New Testaments.*

#### Explain the Bible as the inspired word of God

- *During the process of writing and canonisation, God was with the authors. God worked through the people that wrote the Scriptures as individual books. He also worked with those that collected the Books into one collection known as the Bible.*

#### What is Canonisation?

- Canonisation means *the process of collecting authoritative books of the Bible.*

#### Describe uses of the Bible

##### 1. For Worshipping

- The Bible is used for showing of passionate religious devotion to one's God through praying.
- **Worshipping** means *the showing of passionate religious devotion to one's God.*

##### 2. For Meditation

- When the Bible is read, one need to reflect on passages read in order to understand it.
- **Meditation** means *reflecting deeply on spiritual matters.*

##### 3. For Guidance and Counselling

- After reading the Bible, people get pieces of advice on issues that affect their lives.
- **Guidance and Counselling** means *assisting and giving advice.*

##### 4. For Administration of justice or swearing

- The Bible is used as a way of assuring the court that they will not give any false information regarding the case.

- The Bible is used by officers to assure people that there will be justice in the delivery of services to the people.

- **Administration of Justice or Swearing** is *a process or structure which allows conflicts between parties to be settled by a body dedicated to that purpose.*

##### 5. For Singing

- People use the Psalms as songs for worship and other scripture from other Bible Books in churches and entertainment theatres.
- **Theatre** means *the stage where different entertainment activities take place.*
- **Singing** means *producing musical sounds with the voice.*

##### 6. For Preaching and Teaching

The Bible is used to teach people in different aspects of life such as the importance of loving one another.

##### 7. For Funeral Rights

The Bible is used to comfort and encourage the relatives and friends of the deceased when someone has died.

##### 8. For Wedding Ceremonies

- The pastor reads the Scripture from the Bible reflecting on what it says about marriage and advising on what is expected from them as married people.

##### 9. For Academics

- Teachers use the Bible to teach about spiritual matters to develop an understanding of God.

##### 10. Source of Healing

- Christians today believe that they get healed through their faith in what the Bible teaches.

### Who is a prophet?

- *A prophet is a person appointed by God to speak on His behalf.*
- *A prophet is a messenger of God.*
- The word **Prophet** comes from Greek word "*Profetes*" meaning **to advocate or speak for.**

### State the Duties or Roles of a Prophet

1. Speaking on behalf of God
2. Revealing the nature and attributes of God to people.
3. Communicating the Laws of God to people.
4. Bringing back the people to the obedience of God's Laws.
5. Foretelling God's future events.
6. Revealing the truth about God
7. Exhorting leaders and people to maintain the love relationship with their God
8. Observing the social, political and religious situations and say what God thinks about them
9. Being a conscience of society in that they guide society on what is right or wrong, just or unfair.
10. Condemning people's sins and warning them of the coming punishment

### How can people be faithful to the Covenant?

- a. Obeying the commands of Yahweh
- b. Putting their trust in Yahweh alone

### What is a prophecy or an oracle?

- *A prophecy is a proclamation made by a prophet often introduced or concluded by a phrase "The Lord says..."*
- *A prophecy is a proclamation made by a prophet on behalf of God.*

### List Religious leaders of today that take the role of Old Testament Prophets

- Reverends
- Bishops
- Pastors
- Priests
- Apostles
- Preachers

### Types of Prophecies

#### a. *Woe Prophecy*

- This is a prophecy that **denounces evil** and **announces punishment.**

#### b. *Weal Prophecy*

- This is a prophecy that announces blessings.

### What is a prophetic vision?

- *This is something that a prophet perceives in his mind or dreams that reveals God's word or truth.*
- *It is something that a prophet sees and hears in his mind or dream.*

### THE BOOK OF PROPHET ISAIAH

## PARTS OF THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

### 1. PROTO OR FIRST OR JERUSALEM ISAIAH (Chapters 1 – 39)

- This is what properly belongs to the real historical Isaiah.
- This part contains prophecies in **the period before the Babylonian Exile**, between **765 – 680 BC.**
- By then, the **super power** was **Assyria.**

### 2. DEUTERO OR SECOND OR EXILIC ISAIAH (Chapters 40 – 55)

- This is the work of a disciple or student of Isaiah.
- He prophesied in the period **towards 638 BC**, the **end of the Babylonian Exile.**
- By then, the **super power** was **Babylon.**

### 3. TRITO OR THIRD OR POST EXILIC ISAIAH (Chapters 56 – 61)

- This is the work of the student or disciple of Deutero Isaiah
- He prophesied during the period after the Babylonian Exile **530 – 510 BC.**
- By then the **super power** was **Persia.**

## ISAIAH TRADITION

- Jerusalem Isaiah had a school of disciples who after his death recalled his words, studied and wrote them.

- Deuteron Isaiah is unknown prophet, probably one of the students of Jerusalem who was active in Babylon.
- Trito Isaiah was a student of Deutero Isaiah who also studied the work of the first and second Isaiah and prophesied in the same tradition.

## UNIT 2

### FIRST OR PROTO OR JERUSALEM ISAIAH (Chapters 1 - 39)

#### Outline facts about Jerusalem Isaiah

- He lived in Judah particularly in Jerusalem City
- Was called in the year that King Uzziah died (742 BC) during the enthronement of Jotham.
- Had 2 sons **Shear Jashub** and **Quick-Loot-Fast-Plunder**
- Was well informed on Judah's political situation
- Had access to the King
- Was politically active
- Was a city man and well educated
- Was the son of Amoz.

#### THE TITLE OF THE BOOK (ISAIAH 1:1)

- The Book contains the messages about **Judah** and **Jerusalem**.
- The **Father of Isaiah** was **Amoz**
- The Kings during the time of Proto Isaiah
- **Uzziah** (*My Strength is Yahweh*) **782 – 742 BC**
- **Jotham** (*Yahweh is Perfect*) **742 – 735 BC**
- **Ahaz** (*Yahweh grasps hand*) **735 – 715 BC**
- **Hezekiah** (*Yahweh is my strength*) **715 – 687 BC**
- **Isaiah** means *Yahweh is salvation*.

#### GOD REPRIMANDS HIS PEOPLE

##### (ISAIAH 1: 2 – 9)

##### Isaiah 1: 2 – 4

- Isaiah prophesied in Judah in which he said that the people have rebelled against God and likened them to cattle and donkeys. He however said that cattle and donkey are much better than the Israelites because *these animals know their master and where they are fed but Israelites have rebelled against their master, therefore, they do not know their master and do not understand the one who feeds them.*

##### What was the main sin of Judah?

- a. **Rejection** of or **rebellion** against Yahweh her king and loving father.

##### Why did God call Israel a doomed nation, corrupt and evil?

- a. Their sins dragged them down; their sins prevented them from doing God's will.
- b. They had rejected the LORD.
- c. They had turned their backs on the LORD; they had stopped listening to Him.
- d. They had rebelled against the LORD:

##### Earth and Sky

- To act as *witness* in the case that Yahweh has against his people.

##### Children

- This refers to **Israel** the **chosen people of Yahweh**.
- They have rebelled against Yahweh.

***Cattle know who owns them...***

- By breaking the covenant with Yahweh Israel is behaving worse than animals in disobeying Yahweh.

***The Holy God of Israel***

- God is totally different from people because of ***perfect goodness***.

**Isaiah 1: 5 – 9**

**Describe the Picture of Israel as a nation after Punishment**

1. A devastated country
  2. A country with destroyed cities
  3. A country taken over by foreigners and in ruins
  4. A country with Jerusalem alone left but under siege.
- God, however, will not destroy all people, ***there shall be a remnant***.
  - God likened the sins of Judah to those of Sodom and Gomorrah and the people of Judah therefore deserved the same punishment as those of Sodom and Gomorrah. However, ***with God's mercy and His promises to the people of Israel regarding salvation, a few shall remain***.

***Your heart and mind are sick***

- There is decay in the political, social, moral and religious life of the people of Judah due to their rebellion against Yahweh.

***From head to feet ...not a healthy spot on your body***

- All aspects of Israel's life such as political, social, moral and religious aspects are full of sinful acts.

***Jerusalem alone is left***

- All other cities and towns have been destroyed by Assyria.

***Jerusalem would have been destroyed ...as Sodom and Gomorrah***

- Jerusalem is saved because of faithful survivors just as Sodom and Gomorrah would have been saved if there were some faithful people.

**CONDEMNATION OF RELIGIOUS PRACTICES IN JUDAH (IS. 1:10-17)**

- The **real cause of God's anger** is ***the people's hypocrisy***. They observed many religious festivals, offered sacrifices to God, worshipped in the Temple, observed the Sabbaths and gathered together for a religious cause but **God was not happy because of their sins**.

**What did the people of Judah do to please their God?**

- a. They offered sacrifices to God
- b. They worshipped in the Temple
- c. They observed many religious festivals such as New Moon Festival, Passover, Pentecost
- d. They observed the Sabbath and gathered together for a religious cause

**Why were people offering sacrifices to God?**

- a. To worship Yahweh.
- b. To ask for forgiveness of sins.
- c. To thank God for the harvest

**Why does the Lord liken the leaders of Jerusalem to the people of Sodom and Gomorrah?**

- a. They are as sinful as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.

**Why did God reject the people's sacrifices?**

- a. The worshippers continued to sin against Him.
- b. They exploited Yahweh's favourites: ***the poor, the orphans and the widows***.
- c. The sacrifices are corrupted by the people's sins.

**Describe the worship in Judah**

- People purified themselves through ritual bathing and ablutions.
- They brought ritually clean animals to have them as burned sacrifices.
- They said prayers with outstretched hands.
- They burnt incense.
- They sang Psalms and hymns.

**Describe religious ceremonies that were practised by the Jews but condemned by Isaiah**

1. *New Moon Festival*

- A day of rest at the beginning of each month when Jews offered sacrifices to God.

2. *Sabbath*

- The seventh day of the week in the Hebrew calendar, a day of rest and prayer.

3. *Religious gathering*

- Less frequent or annual religious meetings such as the *Passover, The Jewish New Year, the Day of Atonement, the Feast of the Tabernacle*.

**Why are rulers and people like those of Sodom and Gomorrah?**

- a. They are as sinful as those of Sodom and Gomorrah

**Relate what God says to show His anger towards Religious hypocrisy.**

- When people lift their hands in prayer, God will not look at them.
- No matter how much people pray, God will not listen for their hands are covered with blood.
- People should wash themselves clean.
- People should stop doing evil and learn to do right.
- People should see that justice is done.

**Why are the people's hands covered with blood?**

- a. Because of their crimes and sins

**What does Yahweh expect the worshippers to do? Or Conditions God gave the people if He was to listen to them:**

- a. They should wash themselves clean
- b. They should stop doing evil
- c. They should learn to do right.
- d. Do justice to the oppressed such as the orphans and widows.

**How should the people see that justice is done?**

- a. They should help the oppressed.
- b. They should give orphans their rights.
- c. They should defend widows

**Why do Christians give offerings to God today?**

- a. To take care of the ministers of God.

- b. To thank God for the blessings they have received.
- c. To assist in running the Church
- d. To assist the needy through the Church

**Isaiah 1: 18 – 20**

- Yahweh is acting as a judge in court in a case where Judah is given a chance to defend herself.
- Yahweh draws the attention of the people to His power of **forgiveness** and invited the Jews to discuss the matter at hand for a solution to their problems.
- Fortunately, God Himself is ready to forgive them but what He asks them to do is to **repent, change their way of life and obey His commandments**.

*...stained red...*

- This symbolises the sins of the people.

*...as clean as snow...*

- This symbolises repentance and forgiveness

**Outline two alternatives for the people of Judah**

- a. Either they obey Yahweh and enjoy all the privileges associated with it such as eating the good things the land produce.
- b. Or they continue defying or rebelling God and face punishment of death as its consequence.

**THE SINFUL CITY (ISAIAH 1: 21 – 31)**

**Isaiah 1: 21 - 23**

**What examples or pictures did Isaiah use to describe the condition of Judah?**

- 1. Israel was taken as a whore, an unfaithful wife because she had rebelled against her God.
- 2. Israel was once filled with righteous people, but now only murderers remain.
- 3. Israel was once seen as silver but now is something worthless.
- 4. Jerusalem was likened to wine mixed with water.
- 5. The Leaders of Israel had become rebels and companions of thieves instead of justice and righteousness, there was injustice and unrighteousness.

*...behaving like a whore...*

- She has rebelled against her God because of her sins of injustice and dishonesty.

*...once silver...now worthless...*

- Jerusalem's former purity, faithfulness and obedience to Yahweh are now mixed with sins especially the sin of injustice of the leaders of the City.

*...now only water...*

- Injustice has corrupted the whole of Judah's life contrary to what the Lord insists.

**Why are the Leaders of Judah rebels and friends or companion of thieves? OR Mention the Sins of the Leaders.**

1. They are always accepting gifts and bribes.
2. They never defend orphans in court.
3. They never listen when widows present their case.

Isaiah 1: 24 – 26

- God announces His **judgement** over the city of Jerusalem **because of injustice and unrighteousness**. They have become enemies of God and God will punish them.
- God, however, **promises to purify them** and that becomes **the aim of punishment**. Jerusalem will be a pure city with **rulers who will be just and righteous**.
- God will judge and **punish Jerusalem to restore faithfulness and righteousness**.

**How will Yahweh restore Jerusalem?**

1. He will purify His people.
2. He will give them rulers and advisers like those they had long ago.
3. He will save Jerusalem and everyone who repents.
4. He will crush everyone who sins and rebels against Him: He will kill everyone who forsakes Him.

Isaiah 1: 27 – 31

- Isaiah described the division that will be there because of God's judgement. On one hand, there will be **those that will repent and will be saved by God** and on the other hand, there will be **rebels and sinners who will be destroyed because of their deeds**.
- Isaiah said that those that will repent will feel sorry for worshipping trees and planting sacred

gardens referring to their idol worship. They will feel sorry for themselves for worshipping idols.

**Why will those who repent feel sorry for themselves?**

- a. They will feel sorry that they ever worshipped trees and planted sacred gardens.

**How can God react to people's religious practices today?**

- a. He cannot be happy because people are worshipping Him but continue to sin.

**List the sins of the people of Judah**

1. Rejection of or rebellion against Yahweh her king and loving father.
2. Doing injustice
3. Leaders being rebels and friends of thieves.

**EVERLASTING PEACE (ISAIAH 2: 1 – 4)**

**What do you understand by the term ...in the days to come...?**

- The remote or near future when God will be accepted by all nations and there will be universal peace based on justice and love.

**What did Isaiah predict about the mountain where the temple stands?**

1. It will be the highest one of all.
2. It will be towering over all hills.
3. Many nations will come streaming to it.

**Why will people stream to the mountain where the Temple stands?**

1. To be taught what God wants them to do.
2. To learn to walk in the path that God has chosen.
3. To accept Yahweh as the only true God



**Describe the universal peace that God promised to establish**

- a. God will settle disputes among great nations.
- b. Nations will hammer their swords into ploughs.
- c. Nations will hammer their spears into pruning knives
- d. Nations will never go to war
- e. Nations will never prepare for battle again.

**CHAOS IN JERUSALEM (ISAIAH 3: 1 – 15)**

**Political factors that led to the leadership crisis in Jerusalem**

- a. Ahaz was young and inexperienced, weak and became easily threatened by the foreign powers.
- b. Leading citizens had been exiled to Nineveh by the Assyrians
- c. People refused responsibility.

**What did Yahweh promise to take away from Jerusalem and Judah?**

- a. Food
- b. Water
- c. Heroes and soldiers
- d. Judges and prophets
- e. Fortune tellers and statesmen
- f. Military and civilian leaders
- g. Politicians
- h. Everyone who uses magic to control events

**What kind of leaders was God going to take away?**

- a. Heroes and soldiers
- b. Judges and prophets
- c. Fortune tellers and statesmen
- d. Military and civilian leaders
- e. Politicians and magicians

**Summary of what God promised to take away from Jerusalem and Judah**

- 1. Everything and everyone they depended on.
- 2. Food and water.
- 3. Every leader they had.

**What would be the consequences or results of Yahweh's action?**

- a. People will be governed by immature boys or inexperienced people.
- b. Everyone will take advantage of everyone else
- c. Young people will not respect their elders
- d. Worthless people will not respect their superiors
- e. People will run away from responsibilities or refuse to take up leadership positions

**How will Yahweh punish his people?**

- a. Food and water will be taken away
- b. Leaders will be taken away
- c. People will be governed by immature boys
- d. Qualified people will refuse responsibility
- e. Young people will not respect their elders
- f. Worthless people will not respect their superiors

**Suggest reasons why Yahweh will punish his people (People's sins) OR What would lead Jerusalem and Judah into such chaos?**

- a. Everything people said and did was against Yahweh
- b. They openly insulted Yahweh
- c. They sinned openly as people of Sodom did
- d. Money lenders oppressed or exploited God's poor people
- e. Creditors cheated God's poor people

**What did God accuse the leaders and the elders of?**

- a. They plundered the vineyards of the poor
- b. They had filled their houses with what they had taken from the poor
- c. They have crushed God's poor people
- d. They had taken advantage of the poor

**Why is Jerusalem doomed?**

- a. The Assyrians will ruin the country.

**Describe the Judgement to come**

- f. The righteous will be separated from the wicked
- g. The righteous will be happy
- h. The wicked will be doomed: what they have done to others will be done to them



**What led to the chaos?**

- a. The leaders were misleading the people

**Why will the people be governed by immature boys?**

- a. The elders will not be willing to take up leadership positions

**List excuses people will give to refuse leadership**

- a. I cannot help you
- b. I have no food
- c. I have no clothes

**What would happen to the following groups of people?**

**i. The righteous**

- They will be happy
- They will enjoy what they have worked for
- Things will go well for them

**ii. Evil people**

- They are doomed
- What they had done to others will now be done to them

## **A WARNING TO THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM (ISAIAH 3: 16 – 4: 1)**

**What were the women of Jerusalem accused of? (Their sins)**

1. Pride which makes them despise the poor
2. Arrogance shown in holding their heads high while taking little dainty steps
3. Always flirting or wanton glances that aim at seducing men into sleeping with them
4. Excessive love of luxuries that makes them agree with their husbands to rob the poor
5. They seduced men
6. They liked showing off

**How will God punish these women?**

1. Their heads will be shaven bald
2. All their ornaments and jewels will be taken away
3. Their bodies will stink
4. They will lose their husbands in war

5. They will suffer the disgrace of being childless and without a husband
6. Poverty since they will dress in rags
7. Their beauty will turn to shame

**Why is punishing wrongdoers sometimes necessary?**

1. It reforms the wrong doers for the good or benefit of society.
2. It deters others from doing wrong.
3. It abrogates or annuls the wrong done.
4. In case of capital punishment (death penalty), it eliminates wrong doers.

**Explain how the women of Jerusalem will be disgraced and humbled?**

1. The Lord will take away everything they are proud of.
2. Instead of using perfumes, they will stink.
3. Instead of fine belts, they will wear coarse ropes.
4. Instead of having beautiful hair, they will be bald.
5. Instead of fine clothes, they will be dressed in rags.
6. Their beauty will be turned into shame.

**Relate what the women will say to convince a man to marry them**

- We can feed and clothe ourselves, but please let us say you are our husband, so that we won't have to endure the shame of being unmarried.

## **JERUSALEM WILL BE RESTORED (ISAIAH 4: 2 – 6)**

**Describe how Jerusalem will be restored**

- There will be new growth after destruction.
- There will be holiness after cleansing.
- God will punish the people in order to clean the nation.
- God will be with the people.

**List the symbols of the presence of God.**

1. Cloud in the day time
2. Smoke at night
3. Bright flame at night.

*...plant and tree...*

- The **Messiah** who will bring a kingdom of peace and justice.
- The **survivors** who kept their faith in God

## THE SONG OF THE VINEYARD

### (Isaiah 5: 1 – 7)

#### What is a parable?

- a. An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
- b. A simple story drawn from everyday life that teaches one a spiritual or moral lesson.
- c. A comparison which contains a teaching.
- d. A short story that uses familiar situations to illustrate a religious or moral point.

#### Mention the characteristics of a parable

1. It has one main message.
2. It is a picture of something observed in daily life.
3. The lesson comes at the end.

#### Why did Isaiah use a parable?

1. For people to understand the message easily.
2. For people to remember the message easily.
3. To catch people's attention
4. To avoid debates which end up being useless and divisive
5. To convey the truth about God's relationship with His people
6. To give a last chance to the people of Judah to see the truth and repent.
7. To make the lesson interesting.

#### Relate or Narrate the parable of the Vineyard

- Isaiah's friend had a vineyard on a very fertile land that was well prepared. He did everything possible to protect the crop. He then waited for the grapes to ripe but every grape was sour.
- Out of frustration, the farmer decided to remove whatever protected the vineyard. He decided not to weed or prune the vines and would forbid the cloud to let rain fall on it.
- In this parable, the friend is Yahweh, the vineyard is Israel, the vines are the people of Israel, good grapes represent expected good behaviour of Israelites and the sour grapes

represent Israel's sins. God will punish them for their sins.

#### Describe the characters in the parable

- a. **Friend of Isaiah:** God
- b. **Vineyard:** Israel
- c. **Vines:** People of Israel
- d. **Grapes:** Behaviour of the people
- e. **Sweet or Good Grape:** Good behaviour
- f. **Sour Grapes:** Sins or bad behaviour

#### How did the farmer or friend of Isaiah show that he loved the vineyard? OR How did the friend of Isaiah or the farmer prepare his vineyard?

1. He dug the soil, cleared it of stones.
2. He planted the finest vines.
3. He built a tower to guard them.
4. He dug a pit for treading the grapes.

#### What harvest did the farmer expect from the vineyard?

- a. Good grapes

#### What harvest did the farmer get?

- a. Sour grapes

#### What was the reaction of the farmer?

- a. He was very disappointed.

#### What would the farmer do to the vineyard?

1. He will take away the hedge round the vineyard.
2. He will break the fence that protects it.
3. He will let wild animals eat and trample it.
4. He will let it be overgrown with weeds.
5. He will leave it without pruning or hoeing the ground.
6. He will let briars and thorns cover it.
7. He will forbid the clouds to let rain fall on it.

#### Relate the meaning of the parable of the vineyard. OR How was the parable relevant to the people of Judah?

- Israel was the vineyard of the LORD and the people of Judah were the vines.
- God cared for them and expected them to do good, but instead they were unfaithful and disobedient to God. He expected them to do

what is right but their victims cried out for justice.

**How had God shown His love to the people of Judah?**

1. He had freed them from slavery in Egypt.
2. He gave them the fertile land of Canaan.
3. He protected them from their enemies.
4. He chose them to make Him known to all nations.
5. He revealed Himself to them through the events of History.
6. He gave them the Law to guide them.
7. He made a covenant with them.
8. He gave them the prophets and leaders to guide them.

**Mention the privileges Israel had as the chosen people of God**

1. Knowledge of One, True God.
2. Knowledge of the Law which guided their way of life.
3. Being the chosen people.
4. Being entrusted with the responsibility of teaching other nations the truth about God.

**Explain how Israel was unfaithful to God**

1. Rejection of or rebellion against Yahweh
2. Practised hypocritical religion
3. Practised injustice, oppression of the weak
4. Practised murder, stealing and bribery
5. Practised idol worship

**Describe the punishment God would give the people of Judah**

1. He will remove His protection from the people of Judah
2. Foreign nations will invade the land of Judah
3. The land will turn into a bush
4. Drought will loom in the country

**What would happen to Judah the moment God removes His protection?**

1. Judah would be attacked and destroyed by foreign nations.

**What lessons can children learn from the parable of the vineyard?**

1. Parents take care of their children with the expectation that they behave well.

2. Parents send their children to school with expectation that they become productive citizens.
3. If the children misbehave, parents are at liberty to punish them.

**THE CALL OF ISAIAH (ISAIAH 6: 1 – 13)**

**What is a vision?**

- A vision is something that God makes someone see and hear in his mind to reveal a truth.

**On what occasion did Isaiah see this vision?**

- During the celebration of the Kingship of God, when King Jotham was enthroned, in the year that King Uzziah died, **742 BC**

**Narrate or Relate the Call of Isaiah**

- Isaiah's vision in the Temple that happened in the year that King Uzziah died made him see the Lord sitting on His throne, His robe filling the whole Temple, surrounded by flaming creatures which were praising Him.
- In His reaction, Isaiah said that there was no hope for him. He said that he was doomed because every word that passed his lips was sinful and that he lived among people whose every word was also sinful. His sin was forgiven when one of the flaming creatures touched his lips with a burning coal.
- God called Isaiah to be His messenger despite the fact that failure in Isaiah's work was already foretold.

**Why was the death of King Uzziah a big crisis to the people of Judah?**

1. The country had lost a pillar of peace, prosperity and unity.
2. His death meant an end of God's blessings since people believed that God's blessings come to people through the king.
3. Uzziah's Son Jotham, his successor, was weakling.
4. Tiglath Pileser of Assyria had planned to attack Judah.

**Describe the setting of the vision and its indicators**

- The vision took place in the Temple since:
- 1. The LORD's throne was symbolically in the Temple.
- 2. It is said that the LORD's robe filled the whole Temple
- 3. It is said that the smoke filled the Temple.
- 4. The mention of the altar which was found in the Temple only.
- 5. It is said that there was the shaking of the Temple foundations.

**Mention what Isaiah saw in the Temple**

1. The Lord sitting on His throne.
2. The Lord's robe that filled the whole Temple.
3. Flaming creatures having six wings each.
4. Smoke which filled the whole temple

**What symbolised God's presence in the vision?**

1. Smoke that filled the temple
2. The shaking of the Temple foundation
3. The Lord's robe filling the temple

**Describe what the flaming creatures did in this vision**

1. Praising God's Holiness
2. One of them touched Isaiah's lips with a burning coal

**What were the uses of the six wings of each of the flaming creatures?**

1. Two were for covering their face since no one can see God's majesty.
2. Two for covering their bodies out of reverence of God.
3. Two for flying symbolising their swiftness in carrying out God's commands.

**Relate Isaiah's response to the vision**

- He said that there was no hope for him.
- He said that he was doomed because every word that passed his lips was sinful and he lived among people whose every word was sinful yet with his own eyes He had seen the LORD.

**Describe Isaiah's response to the vision?**

1. He said there was no hope for him.
2. He said he was doomed (lost).
3. At the end he accepted to be the LORD's messenger,

**Why did Isaiah say he was doomed or lost?**

1. Every word that passed his lips was sinful.
2. He lived among people whose every word was sinful.

**How was Isaiah cleansed?**

- a. His lips were touched with a burning coal.

**How was Isaiah called?**

- The Lord said: "*Who shall I send? Who will be our messenger?*"

**What was Isaiah's response to the Lord's call?**

- "I will go! Send me!"

**What was Isaiah called for? OR Why was Isaiah called?**

- To be the Lord's messenger or prophet.

**What was the message Isaiah was to deliver to the people of Judah?**

- No matter how much you listen, you will not understand.
- No matter how much you look you will not know what is happening.

**What was the actual meaning of the message?**

- God wants his people to receive the message and repent but people will choose to go on hearing and seeing without understanding because they do not want to due to their sin.

**What was to be Isaiah's mission?**

- Make the minds of people dull, their ears deaf, and their eyes blind so that they cannot see or hear or understand.

**How was Isaiah prepared for his mission?**

- a. His lips were touched with the burning coal.

**What was the significance of the touching of Isaiah's lips with the burning coal?**

- a. Forgiveness of sins.

**What question did prophet Isaiah give the LORD?**

- How long will it be like this LORD?

**Relate the LORD's response to Isaiah's question**

- Until the cities are ruined and empty
- Until the houses are uninhabited
- Until the land itself is a desolate waste

**Why will there be failure in Isaiah's mission?**

- a. The people will choose not to understand the prophet's message.
- b. The people will be turned away further from God because of their sins.

**...stump...**

- New beginning for God's people
- Destruction but also hope for the survival of the **remnants** that will be the future hope of the nation.

**Why was there always hope for the people of Judah after destruction?**

1. Through the remnants, God would fulfil the promise He had made to Abraham that Abraham would be a blessing to many nations.
2. Through the remnants, God would fulfil His promise that David's dynasty would last forever.
3. Through the remnants, God would fulfil the promise of a Messiah of the Future King.

**Describe the main themes in the story**

- a. **God is King:** It is God alone who is the ruler and controls creation and history.
- b. **God is Holy:** - He is not part of creation
  - He is different from man
  - He cannot be controlled by man
  - He has no defect of fault; He is perfect
  - God's blamelessness exposes man's sinfulness
- c. **God is Glorious:** This is revealed when suffering and oppression cease or when God cares for the oppressed, the outcasts, the poor and the powerless.

**d. Judgement/Punishment:** God punishes His people in **two ways**:

1. He punishes through natural calamities such as plagues, droughts and floods.
2. He also punishes through political instabilities.

**e. Sinfulness and Repentance:** Man should realise his sinfulness and repent just as Isaiah did.

**f. Hope:** God's punishment is meant for purification and not for elimination or destruction.

## PROPHET ISAIAH AND KING AHAZ

### POLITICAL BACKGROUND

- Ahaz, Jotham's son became the next King of Judah in 735 BC. Soon after Ahaz was made king, he was approached by **King Rezin of Syria** and **King Pekah of Israel** asking him to form **an alliance against Assyria** to which **Ahaz refused**. At this time, Assyrian King **Tiglath Pileser III** targeted Egypt in his plan of expanding his empire. For this to work, he had to conquer Syria, Israel and Judah. Ahaz's refusal to join the alliance made Pekah and Rezin threaten to attack Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, replace King Ahaz with Tabeel's son.
- God through Isaiah informed Ahaz that he should not be threatened by Syria and Israel because they had no power and would soon be destroyed.
- Instead of Ahaz trusting in God, he sought for help from Assyria. Later Assyria attacked and destroyed Damascus in 732 BC and invaded and destroyed Israel in 721 BC. Judah was saved from Syria and Israel but at a cost in that she lost her independence and had to pay tribute to Assyria every year. Refusal to do so would attract heavy punishment.

**What political fear pre-occupied Ahaz at the beginning of his reign?**

- a. The alliance between Syria and Israel which plotted against him.

**Explain why King Ahaz and the people of Judah became terrified with the threat by Syria and Israel**

1. They would lose their property
2. They would lose their land
3. It would result into deportation
4. It would result into the destruction of Jerusalem
5. It would result into the destruction of the Temple

**How did Ahaz react to the threat?**

1. He burned his son as a sacrifice
2. He made an alliance with Assyria for protection against Syria and Israel.
3. He inspected the tunnel for Jerusalem's water supply and defence mechanism

**Why did King Ahaz make alliance with Assyria?**

1. He was pro-Assyrian like his father King Jotham.
2. He was afraid of Syria and Israel combination
3. He believed Assyria would not attack Judah
4. He trusted the power of men more than God

**Why did Isaiah disapprove or become against the alliance?**

1. It showed lack of faith and trust in God.
2. There was no need for Judah to panic because God had already arranged for the destruction of Syria and Israel
3. History is controlled by Yahweh and not Kings Pekah and Rezin.
4. Alliances had bad or evil effects or consequences.

**Explain the evil effects or consequences of alliances**

1. Worshipping of Assyrian gods as a condition for protection.
2. It led to more corruption and oppression of the poor.
3. It led to consultation of fortune tellers and mediums to get assurance for the future.

4. It led to the practice of sacred prostitution and fertility rites in honour of Syrian gods.
5. People started copying consultation of mediums and fortune tellers.

**Describe the actual results of Judah's alliance with Assyria**

1. Judah started paying heavy tribute to Assyria.
2. Judah allowed the worship of Assyrian gods
3. Judah allowed the practice of pagan religion.

**Describe how the alliances help people today**

1. They help nations in doing trade.
2. They help nations in getting military support
3. They help minority governments to function well especially in parliament.
4. They help individuals to get any form of assistance from others

**A MESSAGE FOR KING AHAZ**

**(ISAIAH 7:1 – 9)**

**Describe the political threat or situation which faced King Ahaz at the beginning of his reign**

- There was war that break out. Rezin, king of Syria and Pekah king of Israel attacked Jerusalem because King Ahaz had refused to join their alliance against Assyria. So, these two kings wanted to replace him with a certain Tabeel's son.

**What was the reaction of King Ahaz of Judah?**

- a. King Ahaz and the people were so terrified that they trembled like trees shaking in the wind.

**Relate God's instructions to Isaiah**

- Take your son **Shearjashub**, and go to meet King Ahaz.
- You will find him on the road where the cloth makers work, at the end of the ditch that brings water from the upper pool.

**Where did Isaiah meet Ahaz?**

- a. On the road where cloth makers worked, by the end of the ditch that brought water from the upper pool.

**Why did Ahaz go to the place where Isaiah was to meet him?**

1. To inspect the tunnel for Jerusalem's water supply.
2. To inspect the tunnel that would also be used as a defence mechanism in times of the siege.

**Describe God's message to King Ahaz**

- Keep alert
- Stay calm
- Do not be frightened
- Do not be disturbed
- The anger of King Rezin and Pekah is no more than smoke from two smouldering sticks.

**How did Isaiah convey the message to King Ahaz?**

- a. By action since he took his son Shearjashub as a sign.
- b. By word since he told King Ahaz to keep alert, stay calm and not to be frightened or disturbed.

**Which nations were likened to two smouldering sticks?**

1. Syria
2. Israel

**Why were the nations likened to two smouldering sticks?**

- a. They were weak and soon would soon be defeated.

**Describe the plot of Syria and Israel**

- To invade Judah
- To terrify the people into joining their alliance
- To put Tabeel's son on the throne

**Why did Syria and Israel plot against Judah?**

1. To terrify the people into joining their anti-Assyrian alliance.
2. To replace King Ahaz with Tabeel's son so as to force him join the anti-Assyrian alliance.

**What reasons did God give to prove that the plot of Syria and Israel would not succeed?**

1. Syria was no stronger than Damascus its capital city and Damascus is no stronger than king Rezin.
2. Within 65 years Syria will be destroyed.
3. Israel is no stronger than Samaria, its capital city and Samaria is no stronger than King Pekah

**What was the response of Ahaz to the message?**

- a. He neither took the warning nor accepted the advice.

**What does the name Shearjashub symbolise or mean?**

- a. A few will come back
- b. There will be a few remnants
- c. A remnant shall return

**Explain the two applications of the meaning of Shearjashub**

1. Positively it means that not all people will be destroyed as some people shall remain.
2. Negatively it means that many people will perish and only a few will survive r remain

***"...smoke from two smouldering sticks..."***

- Israel and Syria are no longer a threat as they are weak and will soon be destroyed.

***"...no stronger than..."***

- Kings Rezin and Pekah are mere creatures and can be destroyed by God hence Ahaz should not be afraid of them.

***"...If your faith does not endure..."***

- Ahaz should trust in Yahweh or risk destruction.

**THE SIGN OF IMMANUEL (ISAIAH**

**7: 10 – 25)**

**Define the word sign**

- This is an event that has a special meaning.



**Relate the Lord's message to King Ahaz**

- Ask the LORD your God to give you a sign.
- It can be from deep in the world of the dead or from high up in heaven.

**Describe Ahaz's response to the message**

- He said that he would not ask for a sign.
- He said that he refused to put the LORD to the test.

**Give reasons why Ahaz refused to ask for a sign**

- a. He had already made alliance with Assyria.
- b. He did not want to put the LORD to the test.

**What was the main reasons why Ahaz refused to ask for a sign?**

- a. He had already made an alliance with Assyria.

**What was Isaiah's reaction to Ahaz's response?**

- a. He wondered if Ahaz wanted to wear out God's patience as well.
- b. He said the LORD would give Ahaz a sign.

**What sign did the LORD give King Ahaz?**

- a. It was the sign of Immanuel.

**What does Immanuel mean?**

- a. God is with us

**What was the significance of the sign of Immanuel?**

- a. God would protect Judah from Syria and Israel.

**Why did Isaiah give Ahaz the sign of Immanuel?**

- a. To assure Ahaz that God will protect His people.

**Relate the sign the LORD gave King Ahaz**

- A young pregnant woman will have a son and will name him **IMMANUEL**.
- By the time he is old enough to make his own decisions; people will be drinking milk and eating honey.
- Even before that time comes, the lands of Israel and Syria will have been deserted.

**Explain the meaning of the sign given to Ahaz**

- Before the child to be born grows up, there will be peace in Judah after the defeat of Syria and Israel.

**What was Ahaz policy?**

- a. Making alliance with Assyria.

**What were the consequences of Ahaz's policy?  
OR What Prophecies were given in response to Ahaz's disobedience?**

1. God would whistle a signal for Egyptians to come like flies and the Assyrians like bees to fight in Judah causing great damage on Judah
2. The same Assyrians hired for assistance will destroy Judah.
3. The destruction of Judah would cause desolation of the land.
4. The fertile land would be changed to a country where only hunters would come and cattle would graze

**Describe how were the above prophecies fulfilled historically**

1. Ahaz's trust in Assyria made Judah a subject of Assyria and had to pay tribute to the king of Assyria.
2. Syria was destroyed by Assyrians in 732 BC while Israel was fully destroyed in 721.
3. In 701 BC, Judah was severely damaged by Sennacherib of Assyria.
4. In 586 BC, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians.

**What were the respective symbols of the armies of Egypt and Assyria?**

- a. **Egypt:** Flies
- b. **Assyria:** Bees

**Which nation was referred to as a barber from the East?**

- a. Assyria.

**How will Judah suffer under Assyria?**

- a. Judah will lose independence
- b. Judah will pay tribute to Assyria

**What were the results of Ahaz's alliance with Assyrians?**

1. Judah lost its independence
2. Judah had to pay a heavy tribute to Assyria
3. Judah adopted pagan religion of the Assyrians.

**Who could this Immanuel refer to?**

1. **Hezekiah, Ahaz's son:** by this time Ahaz's wife was pregnant.
2. **The Messiah:** a future king through whom God would eventually make his promise come true.
3. **Jesus:** He was a descendant of King David through whom God had fulfilled all the promises he had made to his people.

## **ISAIAH'S SON, QUICK-LOOT-FAST-PLUNDER, AS A SIGN TO THE PEOPLE (ISAIAH 8: 1 – 4)**

**Describe what God instructed Isaiah to do in this passage**

- Take a large piece of writing material and write on it **QUICK-LOOT-FAST-PLUNDER**.
- Get **two** reliable men, **Uriah the Priest** and **Zechariah** to serve as **witnesses**.

**What message did God give Isaiah to do in this passage?**

- Name your son **QUICK-LOOT-FAST-PLUNDER**.
- Before the boy is old enough to say "Mummy" and "Daddy" all the wealth of Damascus and all the loo of Samaria would be carried off by the King of Assyria.

**What did QUICK-LOOT-FAST-PLUNDER refer to?**

- The destruction or defeat of Syria and Israel was just near and therefore were not something to go by or fear.
- The liberation of Judah from war
- The protection of Judah

**Who witnessed the writing of QUICK-LOOT-FAST-PLUNDER?**

1. Uriah
2. Zechariah

**How did Isaiah make his prophecy solemn?**

- a. He put it in writing.
- b. It was attested by two witnesses.
- c. He dedicated it to his own son, QUICK-LOOT-FAST-PLUNDER.

**What was Ahaz's general reaction to Isaiah's prophecy?**

- a. He did not believe.

**How did Isaiah react to Ahaz's reaction to the prophecy?**

- a. He gave two signs that Syria and Israel would soon be defeated; that of Immanuel and that of Quick-Loot-Fast-Plunder.
- b. He made his prophecy solemn
- c. He announced disasters as yet another sign
- d. He withdrew from public ministry.

## **THE EMPEROR OF ASSYRIA IS COMING (ISAIAH 8: 5 – 9)**

The LORD will bring the **emperor of Assyria and his forces to advance like flood waters of River Euphrates** to sweep through Judah in a flood.

## **WARNING AGAINST CONSULTING THE DEAD: ISAIAH' TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL FROM PUBLIC MINISTRY (ISAIAH 8: 10 – 9: 1)**

**Why did Isaiah withdraw from public ministry?**

1. His prophetic work was fruitless.
2. He was wearied out by adamant attitude of King Ahaz concerning the Assyrian alliance.
3. He wanted to pay more attention to his disciples.

4. He wanted to give his disciples a chance to put his messages in writing.
5. He waited for his prophecies to be fulfilled

**In his time of withdrawal, what message did he tell his disciple?**

- Guard and preserve the message that God had given him.
- People would be consulting mediums which his disciples should discourage because **mediums do not put trouble away.**
- People were going to be in trouble and in their anger they were going to curse their King and God.

**“...my children...”**

- a. Isaiah’s own two sons
- b. His disciples or followers

**What would people ask his disciples to do according to this passage?**

- To ask for messages from fortune tellers and mediums who chip and mutter.

**Why would they ask for such a thing from Isaiah’s disciples?**

- a. All people would be asking messages from spirits.
- b. All people would be consulting the dead on behalf of the living.

**What answer were Isaiah’s disciples to give to the people’s demand?**

- Don’t listen to mediums because what mediums say cannot keep trouble away; instead listen to what the LORD is teaching you.

**What troubling experiences would the people of Judah go through this time?**

- a. People would wonder through the Land, discouraged and hungry.
- b. In their hunger and anger, they would curse their God and King.
- c. They would have no way to escape from the time of trouble.
- d. Instead they would see trouble and terrifying darkness.
- e. They would see nothing when they looked up to the sky or stare at the ground.

**Why should the people not listen to mediums?**

- a. What they say cannot keep trouble away.

## **THE FUTURE KING (ISAIAH 9: 2 – 9)**

**Mention the two tribes that would see the light in the time of the future king.**

1. Zebulum
2. Naphthali

**Describe how these two tribes were disgraced**

- They were conquered by the Assyrian Emperor, Tiglath Pileser III.
- The Israelites living there were dispersed.
- The Assyrians and other peoples were made to settle in the territories of these tribes.

**What would happen to these tribes when the new king came to the throne?**

- They would see great light after walking in darkness for so long.
- The LORD would give them joy and happiness as the joy and happiness the people have when they harvest their corn or when they divide captured wealth.

**Describe how God would bring about this joy and happiness upon these tribes.**

- a. He would break the yoke that burdened them.
- b. He would break the rod that beat their shoulders.
- c. He would defeat the nations that oppressed and exploited his people.
- d. The boots and the blood stained clothing of the invading army would be destroyed by fire.

**Describe the titles accorded to the Future King**

**a. *Wonderful counsellor***

He would make right plans and right decisions according to God’s will.

**b. *Mighty God***

He is a great warrior who cannot be defeated since he will have divine power.

**c. *Eternal Father***

He will love and care for his people just as Yahweh cares for his people.

**d. Prince of Peace**

Under his kingship, there will be complete peace and harmony.

**What would be the characteristics of this future king?**

1. One of David's descendants
2. One inspired by the Spirit of God
3. One who is wise and knowledgeable
4. One to rule with justice and integrity
5. One who brings universal peace

**Mention the duties of this Future King**

1. Bringing peace in Judah
2. Breaking the yoke that burdened the people
3. Defeating the nation that oppressed and exploited them

**Mention two groups of people who would benefit from the Future King's justice.**

- a. The poor
- b. The helpless

**What would characterise the leadership of this future king?**

1. His royal power will continue to grow
2. His kingdom will always be at peace
3. He will rule as King David's successor, basing his power on right and justice.

**What was the significance of each of the following things in the Jewish Society?**

1. **Land:** a sign of God's covenant with His people.
2. **Temple:** a sign of God's presence among his people.
3. **King:**
  - God's blessings on people passed through their King.
  - Represented the people before God.
  - Was a symbol of unity
  - Through the King, there was the continuation of David's Dynasty.
  - Kept the Messianic expectation alive

***“...Zebulum and Naphthali walked in darkness...”***

- These tribes of Israel, the Northern Kingdom were defeated by and became slave of Assyrians.

***“...seen great light...”***

- The liberation brought by the new ideal King.

***“...yoke and rod...”***

- Oppression and slavery of the Jews after the Assyrian conquest.

***“... a child is born to us...”***

- The coming of a new king since every king was adopted by God as a child
- 

## THE PEACEFUL KINGDOM (ISAIAH 11: 1 – 9)

**Why was the royal line of David compared to a tree that had been cut down?**

- a. A new King would rise from David's descendants.
- b. A new King would have humble beginning.

**Describe the gifts the new King would have**

- a. **Wisdom:** will enable him to have Yahweh as his guide.
- b. **Understanding:** of the difference between truth and falsehood.
- c. **Counsel:** ability to give sound advice and point to the right decision without fear or favour.
- d. **Might:** will have the moral courage to abide by the decision to be taken.
- e. **Knowledge of God:** will know what Yahweh really is, that is, Holy, loving and mighty.
- f. **Fear of the Lord:** with due respect to Yahweh's holiness and the faithfulness to obey him.

**Classify the gifts of the New King into three groups.**

1. **Intellectual gifts:** wisdom and understanding
2. **Practical gifts:** counsel and might
3. **Religious gifts:** knowledge of God and fear of the Lord

**Explain how the new king would judge and rule his people**

- a. He will not judge by appearance or hearsay
- b. He will judge the poor fairly
- c. He will defend the right of the helpless

- d. At his command, the people will be punished and evil people will die.
- e. He will rule his people with *justice and integrity*

**Describe the peace and harmony that would be established as a result of the peace brought about by the new king**

1. Wolves and sheep will live together in peace.
2. Leopards will lie down with young goats.
3. Calves and lion cubs will feed together.
4. Little children will take care of calves and young lions.
5. Cows and cubs will lie down in peace.
6. Lions will eat straw as cattle do.
7. Even a baby will not be harmed if it plays near a poisonous snake.

**“...stump...”**

- Hope or new beginning.
- David, the ancestor of all Kings after David.

**“...branch...”**

- The Messiah

## PROPHET ISAIAH AND KING

### HEZEKIAH

#### POLITICAL BACKGROUND

- Sennacherib, the Assyrian Emperor attacked the 46 cities of Judah in 701 BC when King Hezekiah had ruled it for 14 years. Sennacherib through his chief official asked Hezekiah to pay tribute to Assyria and surrender the city of Jerusalem to the Assyrians.
- Hezekiah stopped paying heavy tribute to Assyria and then joined anti-Assyrian alliance with Egypt. Later the chief official delivered a speech to the people which undermined the people's self-confidence.

**What did Hezekiah do to assert Judah's independence?**

1. Removed the Assyrian altar from the Temple
2. Stopped paying tribute to Assyria
3. Condemned idol worship

4. Constructed the Siloam tunnel to be ready for a siege by Assyrians.

**Why did Hezekiah join the Anti-Assyrians alliance?**

1. Judah's influential people encouraged him to do so
2. He thought he would manage to break away since Assyria was busy crushing Babylonian rebellion
3. He thought Assyria would not hear about the revolt
4. He hated being subjected to Assyria paying heavy tribute and worshipping Assyrian gods

**What was Isaiah's reaction to Hezekiah's joining of alliance?**

- a. He was not happy and disapproved the alliance.

**Suggest reasons why Isaiah did not agree with the anti-Assyrian alliance**

1. Hezekiah weakened his faith in God by joining the alliance
2. It exposed God's people to idol worship
3. Assyria was used by Yahweh therefore it was not good for him to revolt against Assyria
4. The king should always put his trust in Yahweh

**Describe how the Assyrians reacted when they heard of an anti-Assyrian alliance**

1. Attacked Phoenicia and Philistia
2. Attacked Judah, destroying 46 cities
3. Besieged Jerusalem
4. Defeated Egypt after withdrawing from Jerusalem

**Analyse Hezekiah's religious reforms**

1. Re-opened the Temple for worship
2. Removed the altars of the Assyrian gods from the Temple
3. Revived the old covenant between Yahweh and the Jews
4. Re-introduced the celebration of the Passover which was stopped

**How was Hezekiah a man of faith?**

1. Purified Judah's religion
2. In his sickness, he turned to Yahweh
3. He accepted the word of prophet Isaiah when he reprimanded him for seeking alliance with Babylonia
4. He went to the Temple when he received the Assyrian threats
5. He promised that going to the Temple would be the first thing he would do if recovered.

**How was Hezekiah the most outstanding King of Judah?**

1. He truthfully worshipped Yahweh
2. He turned to Yahweh in his sickness
3. He accepted the prophet's criticism for seeking alliance with Babylon
4. He was angered most by Assyrian insults against Yahweh.

**Describe Hezekiah's character**

1. He was very enterprising by fortifying Jerusalem
2. He was a man of mistakes by making alliances with Egypt and Babylon
3. He was active in international politics by joining alliances
4. He was a man of faith by always turning to God for help.

**What can political leaders learn from King Hezekiah?**

1. Should be very enterprising to develop their nations
2. Should be very patriotic in making policies
3. Should accept their own mistakes and learn from them
4. Should be very active in international politics
5. Should have faith in God.

**ASSYRIANS THREATEN**

**JERUSALEM (ISAIAH 36: 1 – 37: 7)**

**Where had the Assyrians camped at this time?**

- a. At Lachish

**Suggest a reason why Sennacherib sent his chief official from Lachish to Jerusalem?**

- a. To demand that King Hezekiah and the people of Judah should surrender.

**Mention the Judean Officials who came to meet the Assyrian official**

1. Eliakim, in-charge of the Palace
2. Shebna, the court secretary
3. Joah, in-charge of the courts.

**Outline the points in the Assyrian Official's speech**

1. Mere words cannot substitute military skill and power.
2. They should not rely on Egypt because she is weak and cannot help them.
3. Their King Hezekiah deceives them when he tells them to rely on Yahweh.
4. Their army is far much unskilled if compared to the Assyrian army.
5. The Lord is bringing judgement on Judah using Assyrians as his instrument.
6. It was God who sent Assyrians to punish them.
7. The Assyrian god has proved to be stronger than any other god including Yahweh.
8. Sennacherib will take care of the Jews and resettle them in another land where they will eat their own produce.

**Which nation was likened to a "reed" in the speech?**

- a. Egypt

**Why was Egypt likened to a "reed" in the speech?**

- a. Egypt was a weak nation; as such it would break and jab their hands.

**Why did the Assyrian official believe that God would not listen to King Hezekiah (would not save Judah)**

- a. Hezekiah had destroyed God's shrines.
- b. It was God who sent the Assyrians to punish the Jews.
- c. The Assyrian god was stronger than any other god including Yahweh.

**Outline the military arguments raised in the speech**

1. Mere words cannot substitute military skill and power.
2. They should not rely on Egypt because she is weak and cannot help them.
3. Their army is far much unskilled if compared to the Assyrian army.

**Outline the religious arguments raised in the speech**

1. Their King Hezekiah deceives them when he tells them to rely on Yahweh.
2. The Lord is bringing judgement on Judah using Assyrians as his instrument.
3. It was God who sent Assyrians to punish them.
4. The Assyrian god has proved to be stronger than any other god including Yahweh.

**State the political argument the official put forward in the speech**

1. They should not rely on Egypt because she is weak and cannot help them.

**What proposal did the Assyrian Official give if people surrendered?**

- Sennacherib would treat the Jews well in their own land or take them to a land better than Judah

**Suggest reasons why the people had to surrender according to the Assyrian official**

1. The Jews had no protection and would soon be defeated.
2. Sennacherib would treat the Jews well in their own land.
3. Sennacherib would take them to a land better than Judah

**What language did the Assyrian official use in the speech?**

- a. Hebrew

**Why did the Assyrian official use that language?**

- a. He wanted even the common people to get the message and pressurise their King to surrender.

**What rude prediction did the Assyria official say about the people of Judah?**

- a. They would eat their excrement
- b. They would drink their urine

**What demand did the Judean officials make to the Assyrian official?**

- a. To use Aramaic the official language.

**Why did the Judean officials make such a demand to the Assyrian official?**

- a. They felt the issue was more diplomatic than for public consumption.
- b. They thought the people of Judah would riot against the King, forcing him to surrender so as to avoid trouble.

**Discuss how what Hezekiah's officials did to the common people is similar to what happens in Malawi today**

- a. Politicians sometimes make decisions without consulting common Malawians.
- b. Politicians sometimes do not explain their actions to common Malawians.
- c. Public officers sometimes take advantage of the illiterate level of Malawians to lie to them.
- d. Malawians sometimes are not given adequate chances to voice out their concerns on issues that affect them.

**Describe the reaction of the people**

- a. They kept quiet, just as King Hezekiah had told them; they did not say a word.

**Describe the reactions of the Judean officials**

1. Tore their clothes in grief
2. Went and reported to the King what the Assyrian official had said.
3. They put on sack cloth

**Describe the reaction of King Hezekiah to the speech**

1. Tore his clothes in grief
2. Put on sack cloth
3. Went to the Temple of the Lord
4. Sent his officials with the message to Isaiah, the Prophet of God.



**Mention the officials Hezekiah sent to Prophet Isaiah**

1. Eliakim
2. Shebna
3. Senior Priests

**Relate Hezekiah's message to prophet Isaiah**

- Today is a day of suffering.
- We are punished and are in disgrace.
- We are like a woman who is ready to give birth, but is too weak to do it.
- Sennacherib, through his official, insults the living God.
- May the Lord hear these insults and punish those who speak them.
- Pray to God for the survivors.

**Describe Isaiah's response to King Hezekiah's message**

- Do not let the Assyrians frighten you.
- The Lord will cause the emperor to hear a rumour that will make him go back to Assyria.
- The lord will have him killed there.

**How did King Hezekiah show faith in God in this situation?**

1. After getting the message, he went to the Temple of the LORD.
2. He consulted Isaiah' God's prophet, ready to follow his advice.
3. He asked Isaiah to pray to Yahweh for the people of Judah.
4. He believed that Yahweh would punish Sennacherib.

**THE ASSYRIANS SENDS ANOTHER THREAT – A LETTER (IS. 37: 8 – 38)**

**Describe the content of the letter**

- Your God cheats you when he says I will not defeat you.
- Yahweh cannot save you since Assyrian gods are greater than and gods including Yahweh.
- From the past, Assyria has been victorious over nations with their gods.

- Judah will not escape the destruction from the Assyrian Emperor

**How is this message in the letter similar to how politicians command respect of the day in Malawi?**

1. Party leaders often dismiss from the party anybody who does not respect their decisions.
2. Party leaders always want their followers to praise them even if they are making wrong decisions.
3. The ruling party threatens not to bring development in areas where people did not vote for them overwhelmingly as a punishment.
4. The ruling party leaders forget that they are just Yahweh's instruments and start threatening their subjects.

**What was Hezekiah's reaction after receiving the letter from Sennacherib?**

- He read it
- He went to the Temple
- He placed the letter before the Lord
- He prayed

**Narrate the prayer that Hezekiah offered to God**

- You alone Yahweh are God
- You are the creator and ruler of everything
- Listen to the insults from Sennacherib
- The gods Sennacherib claims to have destroyed do not exist
- Rescue us from the Assyrians so that all nations should know that you alone are God

**Why did Hezekiah ask Yahweh to save them from the Assyrians?**

- a. To prove that Yahweh, the God of Israel was the only living God.

**Outline God's taunt song against Sennacherib**

- Jerusalem laughs at you as a young girl makes fun of a great conqueror
- You have been disrespectful to Yahweh
- You have forgotten that you are only God's instrument carrying out his plans
- Yahweh will punish you for your arrogance and pride

**Relate Isaiah's message to King Hezekiah**

- Sennacherib will not enter Jerusalem or shoot a single arrow against it
- No soldiers will come near Jerusalem and no siege mounds will be built around it
- Sennacherib will go back by the road on which he came without entering the city
- The Lord will defend the city of Jerusalem
- God is in control because of the promise he made to David that his kingdom will last forever, his dynasty will never end

**For what reasons will Yahweh defend Jerusalem?**

- a. For the sake of His honour.
- b. For the sake of the promise He made to King David.

**Describe the prophecy that is fulfilled in this passage**

- The Kingdom of David will last forever and that Davidic dynasty will never end.

**Explain the signs given in Yahweh's response to show that He would save Jerusalem**

- a. In three years - time people will be planting and harvesting their vineyards
- b. The people in Judah will flourish like plants that send roots deep into the ground and produce fruits.
- c. There will be survivors in Jerusalem and mount Zion.

**Describe the LORD saved Jerusalem**

- 185,000 soldiers in the Assyrian camp died because of a plague.
- The Assyrian Emperor withdrew and went to Nineveh where he was killed in the temple by his own two sons.

**What punishment did God give Sennacherib?**

- Sennacherib was killed in Nineveh by his own sons.

**Mention the people who killed Sennacherib**

- 1. Adramelech
- 2. Sharezer

**How did Hezekiah show his faith after receiving the letter from Sennacherib?**

- a. He went to the Temple
- b. He placed the letter in the presence of the Lord
- c. He prayed
- d. He praised the Lord and the One, True God

**KING HEZEKIAH'S SICKNESS AND RECOVERY (ISAIAH 38: 1- 8)**

**What was Hezekiah suffering from?**

- a. He had a boil

**Relate the message prophet Isaiah delivered to Hezekiah over his illness**

- Put everything in order because you will not recover
- Get ready to die

**What was the advantage of the knowledge of his death by Hezekiah?**

- a. He would have written a will over his property
- b. He would have facilitated power transition
- c. He would have prepared his spiritual life to meet the Lord

**Describe Hezekiah's response to this message**

- 1. He turned his face to the wall
- 2. He prayed
- 3. He cried bitterly

**Narrate Hezekiah's prayer to the Lord**

- Remember Lord that I have served you faithfully and loyally
- I have tried to do what you wanted me to.

**Suggest reasons why Hezekiah cried bitterly**

- 1. He had been faithful and dedicated in serving God
- 2. He was sad at the thought of dying so soon
- 3. There was a belief at that time that there was no real life after death

**Relate the Lord's response to Hezekiah's prayer**

- I, the Lord have heard your prayers and seen your tears
- I will let **you live 15 years longer**
- I will rescue you the Jerusalem City from the Assyrian emperor
- I will continue to protect the city

**How did Hezekiah react to the Lord's response?**

- a. He asked for a sign to prove that he would recover and go back to the Temple

**Explain why Hezekiah asked for a sign**

1. He doubted the promise of recovery God made to him
2. He wanted people to realise that his recovery was due to the almighty God

**Describe the sign give to Hezekiah**

- On the stairway built by King Ahaz, the Lord made the shadow go back 10 steps.

**Describe how Hezekiah was treated**

- a. Putting a paste of figs on his boil

**MESENTERS FROM BABYLONIA (ISAIAH 39: 1 - 8)**

**Give reasons why King Merodach Baladan of Babylonia sent messengers to King Hezekiah**

1. To congratulate King Hezekiah for his recovery from sickness
2. To seek Hezekiah's (Judah's) help against Assyria; to join anti-Assyrian alliance
3. To see the wealth of Judah
4. To bring a letter to King Hezekiah
5. To bring presents or gifts to King Hezekiah

**What was the main reason for visiting Judah?**

1. To seek Hezekiah's (Judah's) help against Assyria

**How did Hezekiah impress the Babylonians?**

1. He welcomed them.
2. He showed them Judah's wealth
3. He showed them his military equipment

**How did Hezekiah welcome the visitors?**

- a. He showed them everything; wealth and military equipment

**What did Hezekiah show the visitors?**

1. Wealth such as silver, gold, spices and perfumes
2. Military equipment

**List the wealth that Hezekiah showed visitors from Babylonia**

1. Silver
2. Gold
3. Spices
4. Perfumes

**Why did Hezekiah impress the visitors from Babylonia?**

1. He was flattered by the visitors from a powerful country
2. He wanted to show that he was an equal partner in the alliance
3. He was showing off
4. To get favourable terms for the alliance

**Relate Isaiah's questions to the King**

- a. He asked where the messengers came from
- b. He asked what the visitors said to Hezekiah
- c. He asked was the visitors saw in Judah

**Narrate Hezekiah's response to Isaiah's questions**

- a. The messengers came from Babylonia
- b. They saw everything: there is nothing in the storerooms that I did not show them

**What was Isaiah's reaction to Hezekiah's action?**

1. He was not happy
2. He predicted disaster upon Jerusalem

**Suggest reasons why Isaiah was not happy with Judah's alliance with Babylonia**

1. Yahweh's help was enough to project Judah
2. It showed lack of faith in God's will and power to protect His people
3. The same Babylonians would come to destroy Judah
4. Many Jews will be castrated or made eunuchs while in Babylonian exile

**State what Isaiah predicted as a result of what Hezekiah did**

- a. Babylonia will become Judah's enemy and attack Judah
- b. The wealth of Judah will be carried to Babylonia
- c. Some of the descendants of Hezekiah will be taken into exile
- d. While in Babylonia, some of the Jewish exiled people will be castrated or be made eunuchs

**What did Hezekiah say in response to Isaiah's prediction?**

- a. The message you have given me from the Lord is good

**Suggest reasons why Hezekiah responded like that**

- a. He understood that the troubles would fall on Judah after his lifetime
- b. He did not want to oppose Yahweh but bow down to His wish

**Describe how Isaiah's predictions were fulfilled**

- In **586 BC**, about 100 years later, Babylonia destroyed Judah and took all Judah's wealth.
- Hezekiah's descendants were taken in to exile and some were castrated

**Why were the Jews sent into exile?**

- a. It was a punishment for their sins

**Which Kings ruled Judah from the time after Hezekiah to the time when the Jews were taken into exile?**

1. Manasseh
2. Josiah
3. Jehoiachim
4. Jehoiachin
5. Zedekiah

**Outline the main message of First or Proto or Jerusalem Isaiah**

1. **He rebuked sins:** the Israelites were warned about their sins which made them rebel against their God.
2. **He called for repentance:** God sent Isaiah to warn the people so that they should repent and walk in God's ways
3. **He predicted judgement of the people by God:** Isaiah told them that because of their disobedience to God, they will be taken captives in a foreign land
4. **He gave a message of hope:** Isaiah said that though the people will be taken as captives in a foreign land, there shall be some remnants that will go back or return to Judah.

## UNIT 3

### DEUTERO OR SECOND ISAIAH (40 – 55)

#### Describe the events that led the people of Judah to be taken into exile

- Towards the end of the 8<sup>th</sup> Century BC, Isaiah had told Hezekiah that one day the wealth and the people of Judah would be taken to Babylon. This happened in **587 BC**, some **100 years later**.
- In **612 BC**, Nineveh, the Assyrian Capital was defeated by the combined armies of the Medes, Babylonians and Scythians. The new Babylonian empire became the superpower. During this time, **Josiah** took advantage to *make Judah independent and purify the Jewish Religion*.
- Egypt and Assyria rose up against Babylon while Josiah remained opposed to Assyria. Pharaoh Necho II defeated Judah and killed Josiah and replaced him with Josiah's son **Jehoiachim**. Necho II forced Judah to take the Egyptian side against Babylonia.
- In **605 BC**, Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon defeated Necho II at Carchemish. Judah had to pay tribute to Babylon. However, Egypt was not totally defeated; in 601 BC, it dealt a heavy blow to Nebuchadnezzar. Jehoiachim of Judah stopped paying tribute to Babylonia. Nebuchadnezzar then encouraged Judah's neighbours to invade Jehoiachim's kingdom. In the battle against them, he was killed, succeeded by his 18 years old son, **Jehoiachin**.
- Nebuchadnezzar wanted to punish Judah for having refused to pay tribute. To avoid disaster in **597 BC**, the young king, Jehoiachin, went into voluntary exile and was replaced by **Zedekiah**.
- Foolishly, Zedekiah conspired with Egypt against Babylonia. To punish him and put an end to any trouble from Judah, **Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonia destroyed Jerusalem and its Temple in 587 BC**. He took the remaining Jews into exile. Only the poorest were allowed to stay.

#### What made the Jews stay together, distinguished from the Babylonians while in exile?

1. The belief that their God was the only true God in the world
2. They did not worship idols
3. They all went through the process of circumcision
4. They all observed the Sabbath
5. They abstained from unclean food

#### Describe the religious life of the exiled Jews in Babylonia

1. They observed the Sabbath more strictly
2. The Old Testament Books, especially the Law and the Prophets were compiled and written
3. They began the Synagogue service on the Sabbath, having missed the Temple
4. They had prophets to guide them especially Ezekiel and Deutero Isaiah

#### Describe the Socio-political life of the exiled Jews in Babylonia

1. They learnt how to eat like the Babylonians
2. They learnt the Babylonian language
3. They grouped themselves in settlements of their own
4. They set up institutions like communes, led by elder
5. Some Jews were employed at the palace of the Babylonian King and had to be castrated (Eunuchs)
6. Some Jews became important leaders of Babylon
7. The exiled King Jehoiachin was still treated as the King of the People of Judah in Babylonia

#### Describe the economic life of the Jews in Babylonia

1. Some Jews became traders
2. Some learnt new professions such as carpentry, building and sculpture
3. Some became rich and important

4. Some were employed by the Babylonian government

**Suggest reasons why God allowed the Jews to be taken into exile**

1. It was a punishment for their sins
2. He wanted them to realise their sins and repent
3. He wanted to purify them
4. He was preparing them for the mission of bringing salvation to all nations

**How did the Jews keep their faith in exile?**

1. They were allowed to stay together
2. They did not mix or inter-marry with the Babylonians
3. They re-told their traditional stories of their ancestors
4. They came together on the Sabbath leading to the birth of the synagogue
5. They followed keenly their ancestral customs such as circumcision
6. They had prophets like Ezekiel and Deutero Isaiah who encouraged and comforted them.

**Describe the roles of the Prophets in exile**

1. Stressing that the people should worship Yahweh alone
2. Explaining that *exile was a punishment* for their sins.
3. Telling the Jews that once they repent they will be forgiven
4. Telling the Jews that Yahweh will not fail to keep His promise to save His people.

**Explain reasons why some Jews were worried, disappointed and lost trust in Yahweh**

1. It looked as if Yahweh had abandoned them
2. If Yahweh had given them Canaan, how could he allow the Babylonians to conquer it
3. If Yahweh was the almighty God, how could he allow the destruction of his dwelling place, the Temple
4. It looked as if Nebuchadnezzar controlled History and not Yahweh

**Mention the reasons why some Jews got attracted to idol worship during their exile in Babylonia**

1. Nebuchadnezzar ascribed his success to the Babylonian god, Marduk

2. The Babylonian religious ceremonies and processions were very impressive and attractive
3. The Jew were a backward people compared with the highly civilised Babylonians
4. The highly educated Babylonians followed their religion seriously
5. Marduk was seen while Yahweh was unseen
6. God did not provide immediate response to their cry

**Explain how the Babylonians were more civilised than the Jews**

1. They had highly developed Agriculture
2. They had highly developed industry
3. They had highly developed administration
4. They had highly impressive temples and religious ceremonies

**Why did the Jews need strong faith and courage to return to Judah?**

1. It was a long journey
2. Some people were reluctant to give up their comfortable life
3. The future in Judah was unsure
4. Most of them were unaware of Judah's conditions having been born in Babylonia

**How did Deutero Isaiah encourage the Jews to return to Judah?**

1. Telling them that Yahweh will take care of them during the journey
2. Telling them that Jerusalem and the Temple will be rebuilt
3. Telling them that Yahweh will give them a mission *to preach to all nations*
4. Telling them that the return would glorify Yahweh as the caring God
5. Telling them that the return was a "yes" to Yahweh's invitation to a banquet
6. Telling them that God would bless them in their land

**What was the main message of Deutero Isaiah?**

- *Comfort and hope*

**Describe the message or teachings of Deutero Isaiah**

1. Suffering was a punishment and having repented the Jews will be brought back to Judah
2. Yahweh is not only the creator he also controls History
3. The gods of other nations are just the work of human hands and not gods at all
4. Only Yahweh is God
5. Jerusalem will be rebuilt
6. God will save other nations through Jews

**Why is Deutero Isaiah a Book of Comfort?**

1. It was written for the Jews who were in exile
2. Deutero Isaiah's main mission was to comfort God's people
3. The main teachings of Deutero Isaiah are meant to comfort the people

**Describe how the exiled Jews suffered spiritually**

1. They missed their Temple
2. It was painful for the faithful Jews to see fellow Jews falling away from their faith
3. Doubts and confusion caused them pain

**Describe teachings of Deutero Isaiah that comforted the Jews in Exile**

1. The exile is punishment after which the Jews will see better times
2. The return to Judah is near
3. God will take care of the Jews during the return journey
4. Their suffering is fruitful because it leads to the salvation of all nations
5. The Jews in exile have nothing to fear for God will protect them
6. Yahweh uses Cyrus to save His people

**Explain how Deutero Isaiah interpreted suffering**

1. It was a punishment for their sins
2. It was God's way of bringing about salvation

**Describe main themes in Deutero Isaiah**

1. **Monotheism:** Only Yahweh is God, all other gods do not exist
2. **Salvation:** suffering leads to salvation

3. **Universalism:** Yahweh is the God of all nations and desires to save them all
4. **Suffering servant:** Yahweh has chosen a special servant to carry out His plan of salvation
5. **God's power over nature:** Yahweh is in control of everything
6. **Justice:** Yahweh's glory is seen on earth when justice is done and oppression of the poor ends
7. **God's power over History:** all events in history have a hand of God since He controls them

**WORDS OF HOPE (ISAIAH 40: 1-17)**

**Why Deutero Isaiah is called the Book of Comfort?**

- a. The message is meant to comfort the exiled Jews who were suffering in Babylonia

**Relate the message of comfort and hope Deutero Isaiah delivered to the exiled Jews**

- They had suffered long enough and that their time of suffering has ended
- Their sins are forgiven
- Their punishment was over

**Why did the people suffer according to Deutero Isaiah?**

- a. They had sinned against God

**What was the main mission of Deutero Isaiah?**

- a. To comfort the people of God

**Mention the prophet who brought the message of comfort and hope**

- a. Deutero Isaiah

**Describe the preparations to be made for the return to take place**

1. Preparing a road in the wilderness
2. Clearing the way in the desert for God
3. Filling every valley and level every mountain
4. Making hills plain
5. Making rough country smooth



**Suggest reasons why the road had to be prepared**

1. The return journey will surely take place soon
2. Yahweh will travel with his people
3. The travellers should know that Yahweh cares for them
4. The nations must see how Yahweh takes care of the poor

**What was the significance of this preparation?**

- a. No obstacle or human opposition would prevent God's plan of salvation from being fulfilled

**What would be the result of the safe and smooth return of the exiled Jews?**

- a. The glory of God would be revealed

**Suggest reasons why strong faith and great courage were needed for the Jews to go back to Judah?**

1. It was a long journey, of about 1500 kilometres
2. A good number of the Jews were reluctant to give up the comfortable life they enjoyed in Babylon
3. The future in Judah was uncertain as many years had passed since they were brought to Babylonia
4. To most exiled Jews, Judah was an unknown country for most of them were young when they were living in Judah or were born in Babylonia

***"A voice cries out, 'Proclaim a message!'"* Relate the message that was to be proclaimed**

- All human beings are like grass
- They last no longer than wild flowers
- Grass withers and flowers fade when the Lord sends the wind over them
- People are no more enduring than grass
- But the word of God endures forever

**What was the significance of the message to be proclaimed?**

1. Man is weak and does not last long
2. Salvation does not depend on man's effort
3. Salvation depends on God's word, the promises that are everlasting

**Relate the good news that God sent Jerusalem to proclaim?**

- Their God is coming to rule with power, bringing with him the people he has rescued
- He will take care of his flock like a shepherd
- He will gather the lambs together and carry them in his arms
- He will gently lead their mothers

**Describe the qualities that God displays in this passage**

1. **Power and strength:** He will defend the people against any danger
2. **Gentleness:** He will be gentle with the weak

**How will God be like a shepherd?**

1. He will take care of His people
2. He will defend his people against any danger
3. He will hurry his people back to the promised Land, Canaan

**How does God show himself to be incomparable in this passage?**

1. He measures the ocean by handfuls
2. He measures the skies with his hands
3. He holds the soil of the earth in a cup
4. He weighs the mountains and hills on scales
5. No one can tell him what to do
6. No one can teach him or give him advice
7. He does not consult anyone in order to know and understand and learn how things should be done
8. To him nations are nothing, no more than a drop of water
9. To him distant nations are as light as dust
10. All animals in the forest of Lebanon are not enough for a sacrifice and its trees are too few to kindle the fire

**What was the main significance of the message of incomparable God?**

- a. God is also in control of nations like Persia and Babylonia

**State the challenges faced by the returning exiles shown in this passage**

1. The exiles heard that there will be a clash between two giants, Persia and Babylonia and were afraid of what would happen to them.
2. It was a long journey, of about 1500 kilometres

3. A good number of the Jews were reluctant to give up the comfortable life they enjoyed in Babylon
4. The future in Judah was uncertain as many years had passed since they were brought to Babylonia
5. To most exiled Jews, Judah was an unknown country for most of them were young when they were living in Judah or were born in Babylonia

## **GOD'S ASSURANCE TO ISRAEL**

### **(ISAIAH 41: 1- 20)**

#### **Relate what God said to assure Israel of his favour and protection in this passage**

- Israel is my servant
- Israel are the people I have chosen; I brought them from the ends of the earth, I called them from the farthest corners of the earth
- Don't be afraid, I am with you
- I am your God, let nothing terrify you
- I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you.

#### **What would happen to the enemies of Israel according to this passage?**

1. Those who were angry with Israel will know the shame of defeat
2. Those who fought against Israel will die and disappear from the earth

#### **Describe the loving care of God for his people**

1. There will be the abundance of water
2. There will be good vegetation symbolising the well-being of the people

#### **Explain why the Jews need not to fear**

1. Yahweh chose them as His own
2. He keeps his promise to their ancestors
3. He does not abandon his people
4. He will make them stronger than any enemy
5. He will protect them
6. They will gain total victory over their enemies

#### **What would be the result of making Israel a threshing board?**

1. She will thresh mountains and destroy them

2. Hills will crumble into dust
3. She will toss hills and mountains in the air and wind will carry them off
4. She will be happy and praise God

#### **How did God show that He is in control of History?**

1. He is the one that brought the conqueror (Cyrus) from the East
2. He is the one who made him (Cyrus) triumphant wherever he went
3. He is the one who gave him victory over kings and nations
4. He is the one that made him strike nations and kings down as if they were dust
5. He is the one who made him scatter nations and kings like straw before the wind
6. He made him follow in pursuit and matched safely on so fast that he hardly touched the ground
7. He was there at the beginning and he will be there at the end

#### **What did the people of distant lands do in reaction to what God had done?**

1. They were frightened
2. They trembled with fear
3. They assembled together
4. The craftsmen helped and encouraged one another to make an idol
5. The carpenter also encouraged the goldsmith
6. The men who beat the idol smooth also encouraged the one who nailed it together

#### **What was the significance of such reactions?**

1. They worked together to make an idol that they thought would defeat the LORD of Israel but their efforts would be fruitless

#### **What does the prophet teach about God and his purpose in this passage?**

1. Yahweh is the Lord of History
2. Yahweh is Holy; His thoughts are not like the thoughts of man
3. Yahweh is the God of all nations, his salvation is universal
4. Yahweh uses Cyrus to free his people and to glorify his holy name before all nations

#### ***"...small and weak..."***

- The Jews needed God's tender love and care
- God's love for Israel is so dear

- Israel is defenceless without Yahweh

## THE LORD IS THE ONLY GOD

### (ISAIAH 44: 1 – 8)

**How did God show that He is the only God according to this passage?**

1. He is the first, the last, the only God
2. There is no other God apart from Him
3. He alone had predicted what happened
4. He alone created Israel
5. He alone created all things
6. He alone stretched out the heavens
7. When he made the earth, no one helped him

**What did God say to convince Israel to return?**

- Israel is my servant
- The people of Israel are the people I have chosen; I will never forget you.
- I have swept your sins away like a cloud
- I am the one who saves you; I am the one who created you

**How does God guide the following groups of people?**

1. **Fortune tellers:** he makes fool of them
2. **Astrologers:** he frustrates their predictions
3. **Wise men:** he refutes their words and shows that their wisdom is foolishness
4. **His servant:** he makes his plans and predictions come true

**What predictions did God make in this passage?**

1. In Jerusalem people will live there again
2. The cities of Judah will be rebuilt
3. Cyrus will rule for him
4. Cyrus will do what he wanted him to do
5. Cyrus will order Jerusalem to be rebuilt
6. Cyrus will order the Temple foundations to be laid

## THE LORD'S CHALLENGE TO FALSE gods (ISAIAH 41: 20 – 29)

**Explain what the gods of the nations are called upon to do**

1. Explain the past
2. Predict the future
3. Do something good
4. Bring about disaster

**How does the Lord show that He is the controller of history in this passage?**

1. He had chosen Cyrus from the East
2. He would bring him to attack from the north
3. He chose him to trample on rulers as if they were mud, like a potter trampling clay
4. He was the one who had predicted that it will happen

**Outline arguments to prove that only Yahweh is God**

1. He knows the past and the future
2. He know the meaning of events
3. He performs signs and wonders which inspire admiration and fear
4. He controls Cyrus even though Cyrus is not aware of it
5. The idols failed to predict Cyrus' victories
6. Idol worshipers are disgusting

**What does God say to challenge the false gods**

1. Come and predict what will happen so that we know it when it takes place
2. Explain to the court the events of the past and say what they mean
3. Tell us what the future holds
4. Do something good or bring some disaster

## IDOLATRY IS RIDICULED (ISAIAH 44: 6 – 20)

**What is idolatry?**

- This is the worship of anything as a god

**What is an idol?**

- It is anything that is worshipped as a god

**Why did Deutero Isaiah attack idolatry?**

1. It hurt his love for Yahweh the Holy one of Israel
2. His fellow Jews tempted to believe in the idols of Babylon
3. The attack on the faith in idols gave comfort
4. Idol worship was meaningless

**How does God make fool of idol worship?**

1. Idols are made by man yet a human being cannot make a God
2. The energy and skill of idol makers and the materials used are all God's gifts
3. The same tree that is used to make a god is used to make fire
4. The maker of idols become tired in the process of making their gods
5. The idol worshippers do not even doubt the wisdom of worshipping a block of wood
6. The makers of idols rely on fire and hammer when making their gods
7. The maker chooses the material to use for making a god

**Explain negative effects of idol worship on the people**

1. People will be disgraced
2. They will be humiliated
3. They will be terrified
4. They will become too stupid to know what they are doing
5. They will be too senseless to admit that idols are not gods at all

**Suggest some of the idols that are worshipped today**

1. Wealth
2. Spouses
3. Celebrities
4. Children
5. Positions
6. Leaders

**Suggest reasons why people are afraid of abandoning idolatrous practices**

1. They fear losing their status in society
2. They fear losing their wealth

3. They fear losing their life
4. They fear becoming deformed

**CYRUS AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SALVATION (ISAIAH 41: 1- 20; 44: 24 - 28; 45: 1 - 13)**

**What was God's plan in choosing Cyrus?**

1. To rule on His behalf
2. To order Jerusalem to be rebuilt
3. To order the Temple foundations to be laid

**Explain the tasks of Cyrus OR Why did God appoint Cyrus?**

1. To be King; a Gentile ruling on behalf of Yahweh
2. To conquer nations
3. To order help Israel, the chosen people of God return
4. To order Jerusalem to be rebuilt
5. To order the Temple to be rebuilt

**Explain how God would help Cyrus to succeed**

1. He would prepare Cyrus' way
2. He would give Cyrus wealth to use
3. He would give Cyrus the needed strength
4. He would give Cyrus honour

**Suggest reasons why Cyrus might have allowed the exiles to return**

1. As a way of ensuring their allegiance to him
2. He wanted their gods to protect him since he encouraged their worship
3. To promote peace, stability and submission in his empire
4. It was out of his own kindness and generosity

**Why did the Jews question Yahweh's decision of using Cyrus as his instrument?**

1. Yahweh had chosen a pagan as his instrument
2. Yahweh had given Cyrus a mission to rescue them yet he was a pagan
3. Yahweh had given Cyrus power though he was a gentile
4. Yahweh had anointed Cyrus making him a Messiah yet he was not a Jew

5. Yahweh had made Cyrus a shepherd yet he was a gentile
6. Cyrus was not circumcised
7. Cyrus did not know the God of Israel

**Relate Yahweh's response to people's questioning**

1. Such questioning is not proper just as a pot cannot question a potter or a child cannot question the parent
2. God is Holy; totally different from man hence his thoughts are not like man's
3. The creator is too great to be questioned
4. He has chosen Cyrus to fulfil His purpose

**Describe the illustrations Yahweh uses to show that questioning him is not proper**

1. **The clay pot and the potter:** the clay pot does not argue with its maker
2. **The child and its parents:** a child does not complain to its parents why it is made in the way it is

**Suggest reasons why Yahweh chose Cyrus, a Gentile, to carry out His mission**

1. To show his absolute freedom and authority as the creator and master of people
2. To show his righteousness; Yahweh's plan of salvation is for all nations
3. To show that Yahweh is Holy; His ways are not like man's ways

**Outline tasks that Cyrus did for the Jews on Yahweh's behalf**

1. Defeating the Babylonians, the captors of the Jews
2. Setting Jews free
3. Rebuilding Jerusalem

**Who was Cyrus?**

- King of Persia
- From the East (Persia)
- Conqueror of Babylonia

**Outline the edict that Cyrus issued in favour of the exiled Jews**

1. All the exiled Jews are allowed to return to their country
2. The Temple vessels once carried off by the Babylonians must be returned

3. Jerusalem and the Temple must be rebuilt
4. The returning Jews will receive a grant from Cyrus
5. Sheshbazaar was appointed as the leader for the returning Jews

**How did God bless Cyrus?**

1. He opened the gates of the cities for him
2. He prepared a way for him
3. He levelled mountains and hills for him
4. He broke down bronze gates for him
5. He gave him treasures
6. He made him victorious
7. He called him by name

**JUDGEMENT ON BABYLON (ISAIAH 47: 1 – 15)**

**Suggest reasons why Babylon was personified as a virgin**

1. She had never been conquered
2. It implies youth and beauty since it had just risen up as an empire

**Mention charges made against Babylon**

1. Being cruel and merciless to the captives
2. Thinking that she was as everlasting as Yahweh
3. Seeking a life of pleasure
4. Thinking that she was the greatest, an insult to Yahweh
5. Thinking she will escape God's judgement
6. Thinking she was god

**Explain punishments that will come upon Babylon**

1. She shall no longer rule the world
2. She shall be humiliated and shall lose all the privileges of a rich and free nation
3. War will cause the death men and children
4. The country will be devastated and ruined
5. Babylonian magicians, sorcerers will be unable to help her
6. The nation will lose its sense of direction

**Describe how Babylonian astrologers worked**

- They started the stars, mapped out the zones of the heavens
- They predicted what was going to happen to Babylonia

**What punishment would the fortune-tellers or astrologers get?**

- a. They will be burned when it would be discovered that they were cheats and frauds

**Suggest reasons why Deutero Isaiah hated and despised the Babylonians**

1. They forced him to live in their country
2. He saw his fellow Jews suffer
3. He was offended by their arrogance, pleasure seeking life style, idolatry and sorcery

**Which nation was personified as a virgin?**

- a. Babylon

**GOD'S OFFER OF MERCY or GOD'S INVITATION FOR THE BANQUET (ISASIAH 55: 1 – 9)**

**Relate God's invitation**

- Come everyone who is thirsty, here is water
- Come, you that have no money, buy corn and eat
- Come! Buy wine and milk - it will cost you nothing
- Why spend money on what does not satisfy? Why spend your wages and still be hungry?

**List the groups of people invited**

1. The thirsty
2. The poor who have no money

**What observations can you make about the offer or the banquet?**

1. It is free, no need to spend anything
2. It is for all and not only for the Jews
3. It is a fulfilment of God's promise made to people through David

**Explain the conditions to be fulfilled to receive God's offer of mercy**

1. Listen to the word of God and put it into action
2. Seek God wherever he may be found and trust him
3. Repent, leave sinful ways and come back to God
4. No hesitating or delaying

**List the blessings people would receive for accepting the invitation**

1. Israel as a nation will be glorified
2. All nations will be attracted to God
3. God will offer mercy and forgiveness to those who repent

**What would happen to the people who listened and did what God had said?**

1. They will enjoy the best food of all
2. They will have life
3. God will make a lasting covenant with them
4. God will give them blessings promised to David to make him leader and commander of nations

**What will be the consequences of turning down the invitation offer?**

1. People will be punished
2. Israel as a nation will be disgraced

**Describe the role that Israel will play as a light to other nations**

1. Summoning foreign nations
2. Through Israel, nations will come running to join her
3. God will give Israel honour and glory

**What reasons did God give for the invited to leave their wicked ways and change their way of thinking**

1. He is merciful
2. He is quick to forgive

**How did God show Himself to be different from man?**

1. His thoughts are different from man's
2. His ways are different from man's
3. His ways and thoughts are as high as the heavens are above the earth

**Identify similarities between the invitation in Isaiah and the parable of the Great Feast in Luke**

1. Everything is free
2. Those invited are the poor

## THE SERVANT SONGS

These are special poems that discuss a mysterious figure, the servant of Yahweh who reveals how Yahweh saves through the suffering of His servant.

**Who can this servant be?**

1. **Israel:** the poems speak Israel's call, qualities, mission, suffering and final triumph.
2. **Cyrus:** he would bring back God's people from exile
3. **Jesus Christ:**
  - Jesus identifies Himself as the Messiah who would suffer to carry out his mission
  - He predicted that he would suffer and be delivered up like a servant

## THE FIRST SERVANT SONG (ISAIAH 42: 1 -7)

**Outline the qualities or characteristics of the servant**

1. Has God's powers
2. Is filled with God's Spirit
3. Is gentle in that he does not complain about his condition
4. Is patient and compassionate to the weak, poor and helpless
5. Is courageous in that he does not get discouraged by the rejection
6. Is faithful and pleases God by his faith and obedience
7. Will bring justice to all nations

**Explain how the servant is prepared for his future task**

1. God has filled him with his Spirit
2. God has strengthened him
3. God has given him power

**What is astonishing about this servant?**

1. He knows his mission is urgent yet he does his work gently
2. He is gentle rather than violent
3. He does not lose hope though it seems that his work is fruitless

**What is the mission of this servant?**

- a. Bringing justice to every nation with patience and compassion

**Explain the meaning of Justice**

1. Truth
2. True religion
3. Obedience to God's law especially laws protecting the poor

**Mention the tasks of this servant**

1. Bringing justice to every nation
2. Bringing light to nations
3. Opening the eyes of the blind
4. Setting free those in dark prisons

**How does Jesus fit in as the First servant?**

1. During presentation in the Temple, Simeon said that Jesus would bring light to the nations
2. During Baptism, Jesus was declared God's dear son with whom God is pleased
3. At Nazareth, Jesus announced that the Spirit of the Lord was upon him to proclaim liberty to prisoners
4. During transfiguration, Jesus was declared as the chosen son of God

## THE SECOND SERVANT SONG (ISAIAH 49: 1 – 6)

**Mention the qualities or characteristics of this servant**

1. Ability to express himself
2. He is a pillar of strength due to his strong faith in Yahweh
3. He knows his goal in life and is determined to achieve it
4. He is chosen, prepared and protected by Yahweh to be His servant



5. He has been given authority to speak to all the people of the world
6. He has been given God's powers through which people will glorify God
7. He has confidence in God that he will not fail this time though he failed in the past
8. He affirms Yahweh's purpose to restore Israel spiritually through him
9. He is to bring salvation to everyone including the Gentiles

**How is the servant prepared for his task?**

1. God has made his words as sharp as a sword
2. God has protected him
3. The servant will become active when God releases him like an arrow
4. God has given him his Law

**What is astonishing about this servant?**

1. He believes he has a mission to save even the Babylonians
2. He does not avoid suffering
3. He kept his faith in God in spite of the failure to accomplish his mission

**Suggest reasons why the second servant kept his faith in God despite failure**

1. He was appointed by God before he was born
2. The Lord has given him power
3. The Lord is the source of his strength

**What is the mission of the second servant?**

- a. Bringing lost Jews back to God

**What are the tasks of this servant?**

1. Bringing back the lost Jews to God
2. Being a light to the nations
3. Bringing salvation to the whole world

**How does Jesus fit in as the second servant?**

1. The angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would be the chosen one
2. Simeon said that Jesus would be the light to the nations
3. In his lament for Jerusalem, Jesus was willing to bring back people to God

## THE THIRD SERVANT SONG

### (ISAIAH 50: 4 – 9)

**List the qualities or characteristics of the third servant**

1. He is strong and fearless
2. Determination to carry out his task despite opposition
3. Ability to speak eloquently and encouragingly
4. Obedience to the will of God
5. Accepting suffering innocently and silently
6. God has given him the spirit of understanding
7. He believes that God will defend him if put under court of Law

**How did the servant suffer?**

1. He was smitten or beaten
2. People pulled his beards
3. People spat on him

**How is the servant prepared for his future task?**

1. God has taught him what to say
2. God has made him eager to listen to God
3. God has made him understand that suffering makes him a good master

**What is astonishing about this servant?**

1. He suffers in pain and shame without resisting
2. He knows he is innocent but suffers silently
3. He kept his faith in God in spite of his failure to accomplish his mission

**Suggest reasons why the servant kept his faith in God in spite of his failure**

1. God helps him hence he knows that he cannot be defeated
2. The God who will justify him is near
3. If God declares him innocent, the accusations against him are of no value
4. He is secure in God's hands
5. Only God lasts, all people pass quickly

**What is the mission of the third servant?**

1. Strengthening the weary

**How does suffering make one a good master?**

1. It gives courage to those who despair
2. The one suffering listens to God

3. The one suffering accepts suffering with patience
4. The one suffering does not fear his enemies

**How does Jesus fit in as the third servant?**

1. Jesus decided to go to Jerusalem where he knew He would suffer
2. Pilate declared Jesus innocent but Jesus continued suffering

## **THE FOURTH SERVANT (ISAIAH 52: 13 – 53:12)**

**Mention the qualities or characteristics of the fourth servant**

1. He does not look attractive or successful
2. Affliction puts its stamp on him
3. He suffers without complaining or defending himself
4. He is honest, sincere, truthful and trustworthy
5. He will be exalted
6. He will be astonishing because of his work
7. He will be despised and rejected by people
8. He will be wounded and bruised
9. He will endure the oppression and affliction

**Describe 6 stages in the life of the fourth servant**

1. At birth, he looked malformed and rejected
2. During his life, he was maltreated
3. His case was dealt with unjustly
4. He died a cruel and shameful death
5. He was buried with criminals
6. After his death, he would see the fruits of his death

**What is the mission of the fourth servant?**

1. Triumphant glory

**Outline the tasks of the fourth servant**

1. Carrying out the sorrows and sins of others
2. Healing others by the sorrows inflicted on him
3. Making himself an offering for sins

**Explain why teachings of the fourth servant were strange to the Jews**

1. Jews believed that suffering was a sign that the sufferer had sinned
2. They believed that a dead person would not come back to life
3. They believed that suffering could always benefit the sufferer to repent and not others
4. They believed that the Messiah would not have to suffer

**How does Jesus fit in as the fourth servant?**

1. It was God's will that Jesus suffered
2. Jesus was arrested, sent off to death and led to die
3. He was so disfigured that he hardly looked human
4. He was despised and rejected
5. He was treated harshly but endured it humbly
6. Jesus' death was a sacrifice
7. Jesus rose from the dead hence glorified highly

**What are the similarities between the third and fourth servants?**

1. Both servants were humiliated
2. Both servants were triumphed

**Outline the main message of Deutero or Second Isaiah**

1. He calls for the return of the exiled Israelites
2. He attacks idol worshipping of the exiled people
3. He assures people of God's fulfilment of His promises
4. He describes Yahweh's servant

## UNIT FOUR

### TRITO OR THIRD ISAIAH (56 – 66)

#### Political background

- In **538 BC** Cyrus allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem. However, not many Jews were willing to return to Judah.
- The first group was led by **Sheshbazzar**. The second group was led by **Zerubbabel** the grandson of Jehoiachin
- When the first group started rebuilding the Temple, they stopped because of the opposition from the Samaritans after their assistance was rejected by the returned Jews. The second group led by Zerubbabel resumed the rebuilding of the Temple and was completed in **515 BC**.

#### Describe problems or troubling experiences faced in Judah

1. Only a few disappointed Jews went back, some remained in Babylonia
2. They found a poor country
3. The Jewish nation had bad leaders who encouraged corruption and injustice
4. The tiny, weak country suffered attacks from its neighbours
5. There was tension between the new arrivals and the Jews who had stayed behind
6. There was hostility between Jews and Samaritans
7. It looked as if God was failing to fulfil his promises of making Jews a light to the nation

#### What was the main problem experienced by the returned Jews?

- a. Yahweh's promise of a glorious is not being fulfilled

#### What was the mission of Trito or third Isaiah?

1. To announce Good news that salvation is delayed but not cancelled
2. To denounce bad practices such as corrupted leadership, religion and justice
3. To announce punishment to the enemies of the returned Jews
4. To solve the problem about the admission of castrated men and foreigners into the Temple

### THE CONVERSION OF FOREIGNERS AND THE CASTRATED MEN (ISAIAH: 56: 1 – 8)

#### Why were the foreigners not allowed into the Temple?

1. They were not circumcised
2. They were not descendants of or from the seed of Abraham

#### Narrate Isaiah's response to the problem of the foreigners

1. God will bring them to Zion his sacred hill
2. God will give them joy in the house of prayer
3. God will accept their sacrifices

#### Mention the conditions for the foreigners to be accepted

1. They should observed the Sabbath
2. They should love and serve God
3. They should keep God's covenant faithfully

**Why were the castrated men not allowed into the Temple?**

1. They mutilated their bodies
2. They were not contributing to the Jewish race since they could not pass life.

**Narrate Yahweh's response to the problem of castrated men**

1. Their names will be remembered in God's Temple
2. They will be accepted as Jews
3. They will be remembered among his people

**State the conditions for the castrated men to be accepted**

1. They should honour God by keeping the Sabbath
2. They should keep God's covenant faithfully
3. They should do what pleases Yahweh

**Outline Yahweh's message to the returned Jews on the problem of the foreigners and the castrated men**

1. He will save the faithful foreigners and accept their burnt offering
2. He will honour the faithful castrated men
3. He will bring still other people to join the exiles as his people

**Suggest reasons why some Church members are excluded from their congregations today**

1. Infidelity
2. Theft
3. Corruption
4. Pre-marital sex
5. Beer drinking
6. Smoking
7. Polygamy

**ISRAEL'S LEADERS ARE  
CONDEMNED (ISAIAH 56: 9 - 12)**

**List the leaders that are condemned in this passage**

1. Social leaders
2. Political leaders
3. Religious leaders

4. Judges

**Mention the accusations against the leaders**

1. They are blind in that they do not warn the people against superstition and idolatry
2. They are greedy in that they are interested in their own personal gains and advantages
3. They are irresponsible in that they have no understanding of their responsibilities
4. They are selfish in that they please themselves
5. They do not take care about the death of pious people
6. They are corrupt
7. They were lazy

**Why have the leaders become corrupt?**

1. They follow the example of Gentile leaders
2. They use their positions to enrich themselves
3. They do not understand what it means to be a leader
4. They forget they are chosen or appointed by God to be leaders

**How will Yahweh punish the leaders?**

- a. He will use pagan nations to attack the people of Judah

*"...like watch dogs that do not bark..."*

- They do not denounce abuses and injustices

*"...like greedy dogs..."*

- They seek their own advantage

**ISRAEL'S IDOLATRY IS  
CONDEMNED (ISAIAH 57: 1 - 13)**

**Why did the returned Jews start worshipping idols?**

1. They forgot Yahweh and his covenant love
2. They had evil and corrupt leaders who gave bad examples to the people
3. There was religious syncretism that they found in Judah
4. They were copying from foreign nations

**Describe religious practices Yahweh condemned**

1. Worshipping fertility gods by having sex under sacred trees
2. Offering children as sacrifices in rocky caves
3. Offering sacrifices to idols such as stone
4. Indulging in immoral sexual behaviours

**Explain why the people were accused**

1. They thought that their sins affected them only and they did not know that they were sinning against God
2. Their engagement in sacred prostitution which was done to please certain gods did not please Yahweh
3. They were offering children as sacrifices
4. They were making wine and grain offerings which did not please God
5. They were offering sacrifices in high mountains and engaged in prostitution right there which did not please God
6. They were having secret and unlawful practices in their own houses such as setting up idols and worshipping them, conducting sacred prostitution just to satisfy their lust

**Why does Yahweh condemn idol worship?**

1. Idolatry offends him because it is a failure to love God
2. Idolatry makes people fail to recognise Yahweh's majesty
3. The people forsake Yahweh because of idols

**Explain how Yahweh will punish the people for worshipping idols**

1. He will expose their bad conduct
2. Foreign nations will come like wild animals and devour them
3. He will not save them when they cry for help
4. He will send wind that will carry their idols off will destroy the idols

**Describe the reward for those who trust in Yahweh**

1. They will live in the Promised Land
2. They will worship Yahweh in his Temple

**Why is the death of the righteous people good?**

1. No calamity can hurt them

**THE PROPHET CONDEMNS THE PEOPLE'S SINS or THE PEOPLE'S COMPLAINT AND YAHWEH'S ANSWER (ISAIAH 59: 1 – 11)**

**What made the people become upset or start complaining?**

1. Salvation promised by Deutero Isaiah had not yet come
2. Innocent people were oppressed by the evil doers
3. Pagan nations had not yet come to worship Yahweh

**Relate the people's complaint**

- Yahweh is weak since has done nothing to save them
- Yahweh is too deaf to hear them since He seems not to answer their prayers
- Yahweh does not love them since He has left them alone
- Salvation promised by Deutero Isaiah was cancelled
- Yahweh's promise of a glorious is not being fulfilled
- Yahweh is blind since He seems not to see their suffering

**Summarise the people's complaint**

- a. Yahweh's promised salvation is delayed and wanted to know why this was the case

**Describe Yahweh's response to the complaint**

- God is not weak; is powerful to do everything
- God is not deaf; could easily answer their prayers
- God could easily save them
- Salvation is not cancelled but just delayed
- It is because of the people's sins that God cannot hear them

**List the sins that Yahweh accused the people of doing**

1. Corruption of lawyers
2. Lies including perjury
3. Murder of innocent people
4. Plans to hurt others

5. Crooked deeds
6. Violence
7. Injustice in that judges are easily bribed and turn the administration of justice into a shameful mockery

## **THE GOOD NEWS OF DELIVERANCE (ISAIAH 61: 1 -11)**

### **How was the prophet prepared to do the work?**

1. He was filled by the Spirit of God
2. He was anointed or chosen by Yahweh

### **Outline the tasks or mission of the prophet**

1. Bringing good news to the poor
2. Healing the broken-hearted
3. Announcing release to captives and freedom to those in prison
4. Comforting those who mourn and giving them victory and joy
5. Proclaiming the coming salvation when all people will be freed from all sorts of oppression
6. Bringing salvation to people

### **How would the future glory of God's people be as stated in this passage?**

1. Judah's ruins will be re-built
2. Strangers will feed Judah's flock
3. Foreigners and strangers will be attracted to Israel
4. Foreigners will do manual work for Judah
5. Foreigners will tend Judah's vineyard
6. The people of Judah will become priests of the Lord and do His service
7. Nations will be saved through Judah
8. The people of other nations will know that the Lord had blessed His people
9. The people of Judah will serve an everlasting covenant with their God
10. All the nations will praise the Lord for His action
11. Jerusalem will rejoice because of the Lord's action

### **How did Jesus use this passage during His ministry?**

- a. He confirmed the fulfilment of this prophecy in Him and His mission

### **How did the Gospel writers understand the fulfilment of this passage?**

1. They understood Jesus as the Messiah, the anointed one
2. They understood Jesus as the deliverer from sin
3. Jesus was filled by the Spirit of God
4. Jesus proclaimed the Good News of salvation
5. Jesus healed the sick
6. Jesus raised the dead
7. Jesus' miracles were understood as a fulfilment of this prophecy

### **Explain why Jerusalem should rejoice in the Lord**

1. God has saved her from her sins and has made her righteous
2. God will spread His righteousness to all people of the world

### **Explain why Isaiah could not be the coming deliverer**

1. Anointing and the coming of the Spirit of God are associated mostly with Kings and the Messiah and rarely with prophets
2. Tasks described in the servant song are identical to those described in this passage.

**“...good news...”**

- Refers to God's protection and encouragement to the troubled Jerusalem community after the return from Babylon

**“...release captives...”**

- Release from sufferings and injustices

### **Outline the main message of Trito or Third Isaiah**

1. Universal salvation
2. Conditions for the return of the exiles
3. Message of restoration
4. Deliverance