

Title: Confident Hope: Christmas Through the Eyes of the Prophet Isaiah, Pt 1: “Ruined and Remade by the Holy Lord and Child” – Isaiah 5-7

Big Idea: Be RUINED and REMADE in the same moment by the Holy Lord and Child of Christmas.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

1. The world is RUINED – Isaiah 5

Read Isaiah 1:1-4. What do you think it means to be estranged from God?

Read Isaiah 5:1-7. How does Isaiah’s obvious love for God and compassion with God in his grief over Israel’s failure to produce good fruit set an example for us as Christians?

What is the answer to the question, “What more could I have done for my vineyard than I did” (5:4)? What are some examples of the kinds of grace God has shown to us?

Read Isaiah 5:8-23. Pay attention to the six “woes” that are mentioned. How many of the sins exposed by the six woes are still obvious today? How should this make us concerned for the future?

How is verse 20 especially vital for us today? What are some examples of the ways that people call evil good and good evil today?

2. We can be RUINED and REMADE by the Holy Lord – Isaiah 6

Read Isaiah 6:1-13. How does the stability of the reign of King Jesus on his heavenly throne give us confidence, even in times of political instability (like when King Uzziah died)?

Isaiah says, “I saw the Lord seated on a high and lofty throne.” How can we “see” the Lord now by faith in his Word? How would such a spiritual vision of the Lord fuel our worship?

What does “holy” mean? Why do the seraphim say it three times? Why would you say that holiness is the most important attribute of God for us sinners to embrace?

What effect did this awesome heavenly scene have on Isaiah? What do you think it means to be “ruined” in the presence of the Holy Lord? How does being “ruined” by Him lead to being “remade” by Him?

Do you find the message of verses 9-10 difficult to swallow? How can we understand the intentions of God in purposely hardening hearts and blinding eyes to spiritual truth?

How is the image of stump as it relates to Israel both humbling and hopeful for them?

3. We can be RUINED and REMADE by the Holy Child – Isaiah 7

Read Isaiah 7:9-17. What is the significance of the statement, “If you do not stand firm in faith, then you will not stand at all” (v.9)?

How does God show amazing grace and patience with a wicked man like Ahaz? How does Ahaz, in effect, throw it back in God’s face?

What is the significance of the first prophecy of the virgin birth of Christ (7:14) being given in the context of judgment on an unbelieving king? How is this both humbling and hopeful?

Read John 12:39-41. What does this passage reveal about the identity of the Holy Lord of Isaiah 6 as it relates to the Holy Child of Isaiah 7? How does this give you hope?

“Next Steps” Takeaways – Discuss and pray through the following:

- With God:
 - For the first time or again and again, will you confess your sin and surrender your life to the Holy Lord?
- With Others:
 - Will you pray for our church family to have a fresh encounter with the holiness of God this Christmas season?
- On Mission
 - Will you consider giving to our “Light of the World” Year-End Offering in order to express the benevolence of God to a dark and lost world?