

Isaiah 15-17
Remember Your God

Repulsiveness of War (15)

Sudden destruction (II Peter 3:10 / II Thessalonians 5:3) **How quickly things change!**
Shaved heads and sackcloth – shame and reproach - **the walk of defeat**
Sobbing and lamenting (Romans 6:20-21) – **the things we regret**
Seeing more to come – endless destruction (II Thessalonians 1:8-9) – **losing hope**

Recognizing a difference (16:1-4a) – **turning to those you once rejected – God’s people**

Sending tribute – **hoping to appease for past wrongdoing**
Seeking counsel – **wondering if there is any hope???**
Shelter desired (Psalm 27:5) – **wanting protection**

Righteous leaders (16:4b-5)

Ending oppression and destruction – **these are signs of poor leadership**
Establishing a throne – from the house of David – **our Messiah**
In love (Proverbs 20:28)
In faithfulness - **all three are important**
In righteousness (Psalm 89:14)

Refusing to truly repent (16:6-14) – **we must admit our sin and be broken before God**

Pride gets in the way of repentance (II Corinthians 7:10) – **is there a desire to change?**
Prayers are to no avail (Psalm 66:18 / James 4:3) – **We can only approach God His way**
People are despised – **the result of being selfish and prideful**

Rendered useless (17:1-6) – **the destruction of Damascus (Jeremiah 49:23-27)**

Fortified city will disappear – **this prophecy is yet to be fulfilled**
Fading glory (II Corinthians 4:16) – **Israel was also under God’s judgment**
Few will remain – **the remnant whose hearts are seeking God**

Remember your God (7-14)

Look to the Maker (Psalm 121:1-2) – **He is the only source for true deliverance**
Leading to disease and incurable pain – the results of forgetting God our Savior
Like chaff – those who seek to destroy God’s people (Psalm 1:4-6) – **those who turn their backs on God, the wicked, will be blown away**

Discussion questions for Isaiah 15-17

Why does war lead to such hideous actions? What is at the root of this problem? (James 3:15-16; 4:1-2) ***Our ambition, pride and selfishness are never satisfied. Those who stand in our way become obstacles to despise and remove. The evil in our hearts (Jeremiah 17:9) becomes evident when we gain positions of power.***

Consistency vs. compromise. What do people look for when they are facing trouble? Why? (Ephesians 4:12-15 / I Peter 3:15) ***Those who can rise above adverse circumstances become attractive to others when trouble comes. When we are not swayed by every new idea and when we live consistent with what we claim to believe, we are often sought out by those whose circumstances have become overwhelming.***

What characterizes a righteous leader? (James 2:8-13)
A genuine love and care for people – over and above themselves. Faithful and trustworthy in all their dealings – keeping promises and commitments. Righteous and just in their decisions – treating everyone with equality – no favoritism.

Walking in pride leads to what end? Who befriends a prideful person? (James 4:4-6)
Pride leads to destruction. It is a path apart from God. The world is happy to befriend a prideful person, but only seeking benefit for themselves. If the benefit goes, so does the friendship. (Luke 15:13-14)

Why is it much more important to develop the character on the inside than the impression that is on the outside of a person? (II Corinthians 4:18 / Matthew 23:25-26 / Jeremiah 17:10) ***All that can be seen is temporary – while our heart and soul are eternal. Cleaning the outside may impress others, but it does not impress the One who looks into our heart.***

Why is it critical for us to remember our God? What practices help us to do just that? (John 15:5-8) ***We can do nothing apart from Jesus. We must abide in the vine. Having daily devotions, spending time in the Word and prayer. Having regular fellowship with the body of Christ. Drawing near to God and keeping ourselves from the pollution of the world's influence. (Romans 12:1-2)***

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