

SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT MONDAY'S LECTURE:

WHAT IS JEREMIAH'S "DOUBLE BIND"?

HOW IS THAT EXPERIENCE RELATED TO HIS
CONCEPTION OF THE "NEW COVENANT"?

WHAT IS AN ALLEGORY?

WHAT IS THE VEHICLE OF EZEKIEL'S
ALLEGORY?

WHAT IS THE TENOR?

HOW IS THAT TENOR RELATED TO EZEKIEL'S
CONCEPTION OF A NEW HEART?

TODAY'S LECTURE:

A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS: 2ND & 3RD ISAIAH & JONAH

1ST ISAIAH (CHS. 1-39)

PROPHESED IN THE 8TH CENTURY
BEFORE THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY (587 BCE)

2ND ISAIAH (CHS. 40-55)

PROPHESED IN THE 5TH CENTURY
NEAR THE END OF THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY
(c. 540 BCE)

3RD ISAIAH (CHS. 56-66)

COLLECTS VARIOUS PROPHESES
FROM THE PERIOD FOLLOWING
THE RETURN FROM EXILE

REFER TO THE "ISAIAH" HANDOUT FOR A MORE
DETAILED SYNOPSIS OF THE THREE ISAIAH'S

THE BABYLONIAN EXILE IS THE CRUCIBLE IN WHICH JUDAISM (vs. YAHWISM) WAS FORGED.

BUT WHAT DOES “JUDAISM” MEAN?
HOW IS IT DEFINED BY THAT SUFFERING?

HOW WOULD THE “NEW ISRAEL” EXIST
IN RELATION TO THE LARGER WORLD?

TWO ANSWERS:

EXCLUSIONIST –
EZRA, NEHEMIAH, & MACCABEAN JUDAISM

AND INCLUSIONIST –
2ND & 3RD ISAIAH & JONAH

READ 2ND ISAIAH AS A MEDITATION ON
THE MEANING OF ISRAEL’S **SUFFERING**
LEADING TO AN INCLUSIONIST VISION
OF ISRAEL AS A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS:

Here is **my servant**, whom I uphold,
 my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
 he will bring forth justice to the nations. . . .
Thus says God, the LORD,
 who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
 who gives breath to the people upon it
 and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the LORD,
 I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
 a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
 to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
 from the prison those who sit in darkness.
(Isaiah 42:1, 5-7)

Who is the Servant?

What does it mean to be “a light to the nations”?

REREAD Ch. 53:3-12 FOR MORE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE IDENTITY OF THE SERVANT
AND THE MEANING OF SUFFERING.

Listen, you that are deaf;
and you that are blind, look up and see!
Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf like my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind like my dedicated one,
or blind like the servant of the Lord?
(42:18-19)

Who is blind but my servant, JONAH?

A WEIRD AND WONDERFUL STORY
ABOUT A RELUCTANT PROPHET

WHY DOES JONAH FLEE FROM G*D'S WORD?

[The fact that YAHWEH did not destroy Ninevah] was very dis-pleasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live."

And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?"

(Jonah 4: 1-4)