

Tanya Howze – Lesson 1

Oswalt pp. 19-66 / Background video - Interpreting OT Prophecy

**What is one new thing you learned or idea to which you were exposed?**

The video on Isaiah was very interesting and eye-opening. Something that is new and compelling to me was that the book of Isaiah is a book of prophetic oracles that were spoken over a period of time under different circumstances. It intrigued me of the many oracle forms that were encountered when reading the book of Isaiah. There are the oracles of judgement, war oracles, woe oracles, disputations, and salvation oracles. It was also enlightening to know that it is possible to read a chapter and all of the oracle forms have been collected together.

The text tells us that the central theme of the book of Isaiah is something like a symphony, with themes appearing and reappearing in fascinating harmony (Oswalt, 41). Not only themes but we also see that there are a number of figures of speech. Some of these include trees, highways, banners, deserts, gardens and fertile fields, children, and the light and dark. Now that I am aware of the figure of speeches, they will allow me to focus more on the readings in the text. I was familiar with the light and the dark and the gardens and the fertile fields, but the other ones are new to me.

Another thing that I did notice in the book of Isaiah was the recurring feature of the pairing of the opposites. You have some such as judgement and hope, servanthood and kingdom, trust and rebellion and arrogance and humiliation. (Oswalt, 42). I get great satisfaction out of reading the chapters and verses with the opposites because it really gets me thinking about how can you be one way and yet still be another way at the same time.