

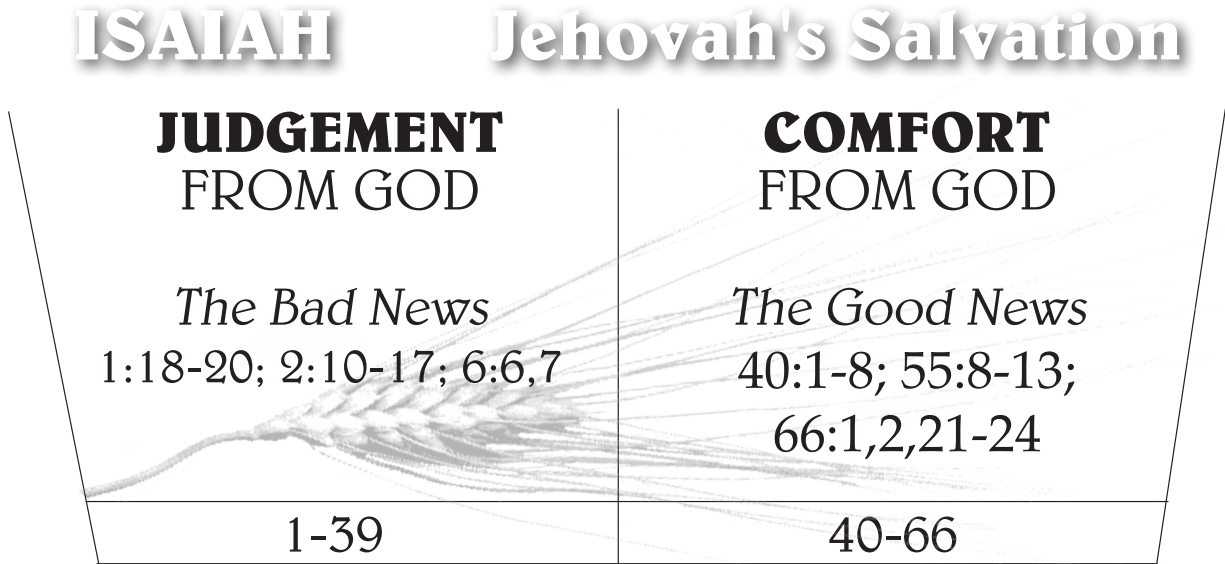


ISALAH

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Welcome to the book of Isaiah!

To begin your study of Isaiah, meditate upon the content of the book reflected in the overview chart below. As you consider each section and title we have chosen, decide how each one relates to the theme of Jehovah's Salvation. As you read the book of Isaiah, be carefully aware of the many references and prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah has been called the old Testament Gospel! In what ways do you see Isaiah as an Evangelist?



"He also is the mediator of a better covenant." 8:6

Isaiah is the first of the major prophets. They are called major because of length, not content. Also note the Scripture references listed in the overview chart above. Take this opportunity to investigate each one, looking for the relationship between the section titles and key verses. Use these passages as guideposts to unlock the message of the book. What have you learned thus far about the book of Isaiah?

Open your heart as you read!

Verses 6:6-7 speak of Isaiah's conversion and calling. Is your concept of your salvation as dynamic in your heart as it was in Isaiah's experience? Do you truly "remember" and appreciate the One upon whom "our iniquity has fallen" (53:7)? Do you have joy in your salvation?

Chapters 1-35 give the reasons for judgment upon His chosen people and the rest of the world. Chapters 36-39 describe the conditions under Hezekiah's reign. Chapters 40-66 are redemptive and speak of our gracious and loving Creator's desire to be gracious to us!

AUTHOR

Isaiah's name means the Lord is salvation, or the Lord is the source of salvation. Very little is known about the man himself. He carried on his ministry around Jerusalem and had easy access to kings and governmental leaders. Legend has it that the prophet was sawed in half under the wicked king, Manasseh. Isaiah lived during the time of Israel's destruction by Assyria.

DATE

720 - 735 B.C.

HISTORY

The book of Isaiah is like a miniature Bible, with its 66 chapters paralleling the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments. The beginning of the Old Testament presents God's case against man because of his sin. Isaiah begins the same way (Isaiah 1:18). The first section (chapters 1-39) ends with the prophecy of the coming King, just as the Old Testament ends with the prophecy of the King's coming. The second half of Isaiah (chapters 40-67) opens with the voice of one crying in the wilderness just as the New Testament opens with John the Baptist in the wilderness (John 1:6, 23). Isaiah ends with Messiah coming as Savior and Sovereign who would bear a cross and wear a crown. The book of Revelation closes the New Testament picturing Jesus Christ as the Lamb who was killed and the One who is worthy of worship as our King.

The first half of the book is prophetic and historical in nature, whereas the last half is Messianic. To better understand the historical setting during Isaiah's prophecy, read 2 Kings 15-20 and 2 Chronicles 26-32 and note the moral and political corruption of Judah and Israel. Also note the imminent danger from surrounding nations...especially Assyria and Egypt.

WHY STUDY the book of Isaiah?

1. One revolutionary has commented: "Religion is the opiate of the people". By that he meant that religion causes people to become dull, complacent, and detached... unwilling and unable to rebel. In Isaiah's day, that is precisely what happened (1:11-15). They were doing all the right things for all the wrong reasons. God hated their "worship" because their heart was not in it. Let Isaiah challenge you to consider your worship of God...has it become a shallow, empty ritual? Contemplate ways you can worship God in "spirit and in truth".
2. You'll find more New Testament quotations and allusions from the book of Isaiah than any other Old Testament book! As you read through and meditate on the book of Isaiah, try to determine why it is quoted so often in the New Testament.
3. Don't miss the context and significance of 7:20: "The Lord shall shave with a razor..." or you might end up with a strange interpretation. It is a prophecy of God shaving the nation of Israel with a razor, namely the Assyrian hordes...a prophecy that came true in 722 B.C. when Israel was shaved clean! In what areas does God need to "shave" you? Isaiah shows us Israel's failure to accurately assess her condition.



Isaiah Chapter Chart

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Judah is Condemned

Read Chapters 1-6

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What was the "reasonable" thing that Judah needed to do?
2. Note each time the words proud or lofty or something similar is recorded in chapter
3. Note 2:22. What was Judah's spiritual problem?
4. Notice the contrast of the "daughters of Zion" before God deals with them and then after. What does 4:1 mean?
5. Who is the "Branch" and what will he do?
6. How would you summarize Judah's sin in chapter 5?
7. What do you learn from Isaiah's "commission" in chapter 6?

What about today?

1. In what ways do you see "proud and lofty" attitudes or actions in your own life?
2. God's judgment many times can seem harsh! Why should a merciful God be so harsh in judgment?
3. Have you repented like Isaiah? Do you willingly fulfill your call to testify?

The same God who will judge Judah will judge every soul. Though His mercy is great His judgment is sure! Read Hebrews 12:25-29 on this crucial subject!

My thoughts on being proud and lofty by today's standards:

Israel is Condemned

Read Chapters 7-12

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What will be characteristics of Immanuel's coming?
2. What were the people (disciples) to rely upon?
3. When would the gloom of Zebulun and Naphtali cease?
4. What was the sin of Samaria?
5. What will differentiate the Branch from the root of Jesse? What will be His purpose?
6. What does the praise chapter (12) teach us about praising God for salvation?

What about today?

1. What does it mean to you to have "God with you"? (Immanuel)
2. How does one rely upon what the disciples in Israel relied upon?
3. Are you "joyously drawing water"?

Even in Israel's sin and subsequent judgment, the lord is still gracious and compassionate to provide a way of righteousness through the "Branch". Read Lamentations 3:22-25 as you consider God's mercy today!

My notes and thoughts about the Immanuel prophecy:

The Nations are Condemned

Read Chapters 13-18

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Who will be used as an instrument of judgment on Babylon?
2. Why do you think Babylon is discussed at this point in the book?
3. Why was Babylon judged?
4. What do we learn about God from the judgment on Assyria?
5. Cross reference and see where we have seen Philistia, Moab, Damascus, and Ethiopia before. How do each of the pronounced judgments upon these nations differ? In what ways are they the same?

What about today?

Read about "Babylon" in Revelation 17, 18. Note 17:9 and 1 Peter 5:13. Also note Genesis 10:10; 11:9; and Jeremiah 50:51. God will take out His wrath upon those who have not called upon Him with a pure heart! Praise God that Justice is in His hands! Let us not succumb to the temptation of believing that anyone but God is to take vengeance upon the unjust!

My notes and thoughts about my nation/culture and similarities to Babylon:

The Nations are Condemned

Read Chapters 19-23

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. How will God destroy the Egyptians?
2. What will be the final outcome for Egypt?
3. What is the peg that will fall and what does the analogy mean?
4. Note the prophecies against Tyre. She was eventually demolished by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.

What about today?

Even Egypt will be a recipient of the grace of the Lord God. Rejoice today in the fact that God's arm is not too short to save! (Numbers 11:23; Ephesians 2:11-22)

My notes and thoughts about God's work with nations in history:

The Entire World is Judged

Read Chapters 24-27

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
24		
25		
26		
27		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. When do you think 24:1-6 is referring to?
2. What similarities do you see in chapter 24 to what you know of the end-time events described in the book of Revelation?
3. Chapter 25 may also be compared to the closing chapter of Revelation.
4. What are the subjects of the song that will be sung?

What about today?

God will begin his threshing and separate the wheat from the chaff! Read Matthew 13: 24-30. Praise God that we shall escape the wrath to come (1 Thessalonians 1:10)!

My notes and thoughts and feelings about the end of time:

The Fate of Unbelievers

Read Chapters 28-35

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
28		
29		
30		
31		
32		
33		
34		
35		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Who is Samaria? What was her chief sin?
2. Note the concept of a cornerstone in 28:16. Reference 8:14; Psalm 118:22; Romans 9:33; and 1 Peter 2:6.
3. God again turns to deal with His people of Judah. Note 29:15, 16. This is the view of much of what we call "religion" today. Man exalts himself by diminishing (in his own eyes) the sovereignty of his Creator!
4. What are the main reasons for which Judah is judged?
5. How as Judah "trusting in the power of man"?
6. What was the attitude of God's daughters even though Messiah was coming?
7. Read chapter 34. Compare Revelation 6:12-14.

What about today?

Jesus is coming back to judge the nations and bestow favor upon His own! We too must be careful not to be found in alliances with Egypt when He appears! Read James 4:3-6 in this regard.

My notes and thoughts about cornerstones in the earth:

"Historical Interlude"

Read 36:1 - 39:8

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
36		
37		
38		
39		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Between the revealed judgment of God (chapters 1-35) and the future comfort of God (chapters 40-66), we have this historical account of arrogant Assyria attempting to annihilate Judah.
2. In what ways do you see Assyria's arrogance through Rabshakeh?
3. How do Hezekiah and the people respond?
4. What spiritual principle is revealed in the way the Lord chooses to rout the Assyrians?
5. Why did Hezekiah's sickness come upon him?
6. In what way did Hezekiah act foolishly?

What about today?

Remember 37:30-35. Once again God remembers His covenant! The concept of a remnant carries throughout Scripture. Read Romans 9:6,7,8. Are you thankful to be a part of God's remnant? How can a believer today fall into the same foolish sin in which Hezekiah engaged?

CONCLUSION

Read Romans 9-11 and look for similarities and actual reference to the words of Isaiah the prophet. God's judgment will be complete and severe. Apart from the grace of the Lord God, we would be as Sodom and Gomorrah (Romans 9:29)! Praise God today that, as His children, we will escape the wrath to come!

ISAIAH & THE MESSIAH

The word messiah means to anoint or to smear. The Old Testament books expect Messiah as man's need for salvation is specifically established in a millennia panorama of his sinful frailties. The new Testament views the fulfillment of that expectation with the coming of Messiah! Read Genesis 3:15; 22; and 49:8-12. What do they teach us concerning the need for Messiah (the Savior) to come? Who was the first prophet to announce the coming of a Savior?

ISAIAH GETS SPECIFIC:

Look up the following references and see what you can learn about the coming Messiah.

4:2	42:1-4
7:10-17	49:1-6
9:1-7	50:4-9
11:1	52:13-53;12
32:1-8	53
55:3,4	

DAVID HERALDS THE COMING MESSIAH:

Note each of these "messianic psalms". What do you learn about the coming One from these Psalms?

8
22
34:21
41:10
45
69
72

MESSIAH IN THE OTHER PROPHETS...What do you learn about Him?

Jeremiah 23:5,6; 31:31,33
Ezekiel 34:23, 24; 37:22
Hosea 3:4,5
Amos 9:11
Micah 5:1-4
Zechariah 9:9,10
Joel 2:28
Malachi 3:1

ISAIAH INSIGHTS FROM PARALLEL PASSAGES

61:1...Luke 4:18
28:16 quoted in Romans 9:33; 10:11; 1 Peter 2:4

OTHER PASSAGES THAT TEACH US ABOUT THE MESSIAH:

Deuteronomy 18:18; Acts 3:22; 7:37; Psalm 2:1; Acts 4:25; Matthew 3:17; Acts 13:33; Hebrews 1:5; 5:5; 2 Peter 1:17; Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44; Acts 2:34; Hebrews 5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:11, 15,21; Psalm 118:22; Matthew 21:42; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:7.

4 ISAIAH & SALVATION

We have surveyed Isaiah and isolated a number of principles that correspond to New Testament truths. Here is a great opportunity to consider in further depth the extent of the great salvation of God!

MAN'S FAILURE

1:2-4	Rebels (to break away)	Ephesians 2:2
2:8	Idolators	Colossians 3:5
3:5	Child Vice	Romans 1:30
5:12	Regard Not God's Work	Romans 1:20-21
6:5	Unclean Lips	Romans 3:13
10:15	Boasters	2 Timothy 3:1-2
14:13-14	Self-Willed (Satan)	2 Peter 2:10
16:6	Proud	James 4:6
17:10	Forgot God	Romans 1:28
37:1	Look to Man for Help	Psalms 60:11
		Phil. 3:3

GOD'S SAVIOR ANNOUNCED

2:2-4	Earthly Reign Foretold	Revelation 20:6
7:14	Sign of Virgin	Luke 1:27
9:2	Way of Light	John 1:5
9:6-7	Savior's Character	John 10:30
11:10	Provides Rest	Hebrews 4:1-3
25:8	Victor Over Death	1 Corinthians 15:20
28:16	Foundation/Cornerstone	1 Peter 2:6
		1 Corinthians 3:11

THE RESULTS OF SALVATION

1:18	Sin Cleansed	Hebrews 9:26
2:11	Lord Exalted	Philippians 2:10
4:6	He is our Tabernacle	Hebrews 9:11-14
6:8	His Call	1 Thessalonians 5:24
7:3	God's Direction (also 30:21)	1 Thessalonians 3:11
12:2-3	Brings Joy	Romans 15:13
22:22	He Will Open	1 Corinthians 16:9
25:1	Bring Praise to Him	Ephesians 1:6
26:3-4	Peace and Strength	
28:9-10	Teach Little Ones	
28:29	Wonderful Counsel and Excellent Work	
30:15	Brings Quietness and Confidence	
33:6	Wisdom and Knowledge	

ISAIAH 40-66

SEVEN MORE READINGS IN ISAIAH!

"Comfort For The Blind"

Read 40:1 - 42:25

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
40		
41		
42		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. To whom is "the voice" referring? What is each specific element of his message?
2. What does the voice teach us about God? About the ways of man?
3. Notice the tone of 40:12-31. Where have you observed this same tone before?
4. Underline all of the questions in chapter 40. Which are repeated?
5. How does chapter 41 differ from chapter 40? What is His repeated admonition to Israel?
6. What is the main contrast in chapter 42? What one word would you use to describe Israel at this point?

What about today?

1. What did "the voice" have to say to you?
2. It appears that Israel had become insensitive to the discipline of God (42:23-25). In what ways do you see yourself as either sensitive or insensitive to His ways?

Lack of response to God's law has always resulted in bondage for a nation or for an individual (42:18-22). Be careful today to listen to the "still, small voice" of God!

My notes and thoughts about listening to the voice of God:

"Consolation in Sovereignty"

Read 43:1 - 45:25

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
43		
44		
45		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What was the witness of Israel?
2. 43:18, 19 reflects the thought of Philippians 3:12, 13.
3. Where was Israel's chief area in which she had fallen short?
4. What is the most repeated phrase you have observed in chapters 40-44?
5. What is the deception of idolatry?
6. What is God's main point in chapter 45?

What about today?

1. How does the "witness" that Israel was supposed to be compare with your concept and activity in portraying Christ in your life?
2. Israel wasn't supposed to be so concerned about her shortfalls that she was weighed down to inactivity in godliness, nor was she to treat her sin lightly. Satan works to draw us to one of these two extremes. We must always observe the principles of 1 John 1:9 and Matthew 22:34-40 in contrast!

My notes and thoughts the witness of truth and righteousness in my life:

"Destruction of Babylon"

Read 46:1 - 48:22

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
46		
47		
48		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Who are Bel and Nebo? What is God's purpose for using them in chapter 46?
2. Who is God terming "His people" in a section where He is discussing Babylon?
3. What is the purpose for Babylon's destruction (chapter 47)?
4. Why does God use the agency of prophecy to speak to His people?
5. How did God test Israel?
6. To what does God appeal to substantiate that He will bring His people out of captivity from Babylon?

What about today?

God says that He will not give His glory to another (48:11). Are you trying to make Him share His glory with any of the gods of modern Babylon? Praise God for His miraculous grace that leads His people out of the bondage of Babylon!

My notes and thoughts about modern Babylon:

"The Servant of Israel"

Read 49:1 - 53:12

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
49		
50		
51		
52		
53		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What was God's purpose for Israel? To what does He liken His relationship with her?
2. Go through and observe the parent-child analogy between God and His people. What do you learn?
3. Notice the consistent reference to the "Redeemer".
4. What is the basis of being a disciple?
5. What is Israel specifically exhorted to do in chapter 51?
6. What does the phrase, God is our "rear guard", mean?
7. What do we learn about the purpose of the death of the Lord Jesus in chapter 53?

What about today?

Do you have the tongue of a disciple? The ears of a disciple? Read Psalm 45:1 and Psalm 78:1-8 (and contexts) in this regard.

My notes and thoughts about my tongue of disciples:

"The Serving of Israel"

Read 54:1 - 57:2

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
54		
55		
56		
57		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. Read Hosea One in connection with the "wife" of chapter 54.
2. What is the heritage of a servant?
3. How can we seek and know of the ways of God?
4. What is the reward for obedience? The condition of those who are disobedient?
5. What was the sin of those who were leading and why was it so horrible?

What about today?

There is (and will be) no peace for the wicked! A sobering thought. God will reward obedience and punish disobedience in this life and, more critically, in the life to come!

My notes and thoughts about the peace that obedience brings:

"Peace in Worship"

Read 53:1 - 62:12

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
58		
59		
60		
61		
62		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What is the stated purpose for God's chosen fast?
2. What is the essence of why God wanted the people to keep the Sabbath?
3. Why was Israel separated (chapter 59)?
4. What was God's response to Israel's wickedness (same chapter)?
5. Compare Isaiah 61:1-3 with Luke 4:18, 19 and context. What do you learn?

My notes and thoughts on the Sabbath rest in my life:

"Peace in the Final Rest"

Read 63:1 - 66:24

Chapter	Title	Key Verse
63		
64		
65		
66		

KEY QUESTIONS

1. What "day" is being spoken of in chapter 63?
2. What request is given in chapter 63?
3. What are each of the elements of the prayer in chapter 64?
4. Why was permission given so graciously in chapter 65?
5. What made God able to look upon a man (chapter 66?)
6. What are the particulars of Jerusalem's glorious future?

What about today?

Once again we see judgment and mercy!
Read Psalm 51 (especially vs. 14-17) in this regard.

CONCLUSION

We have viewed Yahweh's condemnation in the first half of Isaiah. Now we have considered the wonders of consolation in the Servant, the Lord Jesus Christ. Certainly we have a "God of mercy" who comforts us even in affliction!