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# Isaiah

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## History

Israel was nearing destruction from Assyria. Syria and Israel conspired to invade Judah [2Kings 16, 2Chr 28]. Isaiah was between 50-60 years old when Assyria carried away Israel. Judah (under Hezekiah) rebelled against Assyria. Advisors tried to get Egypt to help Judah, but that effort failed. Isaiah advised leaning on God instead which proved successful.

## Application

Just as Israel and Judah failed in their relationship with God, we can disappoint God with our lack of faith and trust as we look to the world for answers to our problems. God desires us to bear His likeness (compassion, love, goodness, faithfulness).

## Author Background

author	Some "experts" think the book had multiple authors; however, Christ says in <a href="#">John 12:41</a> "these things said Isaiah, when he saw His glory," not they or a group of writers. Isaiah (salvation of Jehovah)
status	Isaiah likely had a high social status, having access to kings Ahaz and Hezekiah ( <a href="#">Isa 7</a> & <a href="#">Isa 37</a> ). He was a man of wealth. Isaiah was also a writer, creating accounts of the reigns of Uzziah and Hezekiah ( <a href="#">2Chr 26:22</a> , <a href="#">2Chr 32:32</a> ).
wife	<a href="#">Isa 7:3</a> , Isaiah's wife was a prophetess: <a href="#">Isa 8:3</a>

## General Information

### *Type of Book*

The book of Isaiah is the first of the five "Major" and 12 "Minor" prophets (referring to a book's length rather than importance). Chronologically, Isaiah was likely the fifth of the 17 prophets.

Isaiah is the longest prophetic book of the Bible. It has the fullest Messianic predictions in the Old Testament testifying to "the suffering of Christ, and the glory that should follow."

Prophecies about the Messiah include: His virgin birth ([Isa 7:14](#), [Mat 1:23](#)) and Divine reign ([Isa 9:6-7](#), [Rev 12:5](#)). Some prophecies are fulfilled two or three times: (1) historically in the days of Judah, (2) at Christ's first coming, and (3) at Christ's second coming.

### *Target Audience*

Isaiah preached to the southern kingdom of Judah ([Isa 1:1](#)) for at least 60 years. Isaiah warned Judah to return to God both before and after the northern kingdom of Israel went into exile.

## Themes

Key themes include:

- Yahweh as the "Holy One of Israel" (Yahweh occurs 30 times in Isaiah compared to 6 times in the rest of the OT)
- Israel as God's holy people
- Jerusalem (Zion) as God's holy city and mountain
- Gentile nations to be included in His people

The book of Isaiah is the book of “the Lord’s salvation.” The key word “salvation” appears 28 times. (“Savior” appears eight times.)

The prophets often referred to an event called “the day of the Lord” ([Isa 2:12](#), [Isa 13:6](#)) or simply “that day” ([Isa 2:17](#), [Isa 28:5](#)). Though many of these prophecies were fulfilled in Israel’s day, their ultimate fulfillment will be in the return of Christ and establishment of His kingdom ([1The 5:2](#), [Mark 13:32](#)).

### Key Chapters and Verses

The key chapter in the book of Isaiah is [Isaiah 53](#). It contains one of the richest and most detailed prophecies in all the Old Testament on the Messiah: His coming, humility, rejection, sorrow, suffering, burial, and payment for sins. The key verse is [Isaiah 53:5](#) which speaks about the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ.

- root out of a dry ground, lowliness ([Isa 53:2](#))
- despised and rejected of men ([Isa 53:3](#))
- **suffered for the sins of others** ([Isa 53:5](#))
- God Himself laid our sins on Him ([Isa 53:6](#))
- He was afflicted yet did not open His mouth ([Isa 53:7](#))
- He died as a felon ([Isa 53:8](#))
- He was cut off prematurely ([Isa 53:8](#))
- He was innocent, had done no violence, spoke no deceit ([Isa 53:9](#))
- He was to live on after His sufferings ([Isa 53:10](#))
- God’s pleasure was then to prosper in His hand ([Isa 53:10](#))

- He was to enter with triumph after His suffering ([Isa 53:11](#))
- His death was to justify many, He was to live again ([Isa 53:12](#))

### Book Outline

Some call Isaiah a “mini-Bible” since it has 66 chapters that roughly parallel the 66 books of the Bible. Some group the chapters in Isaiah as 35 + 3 + 28. Others group them as 39 + 27 (paralleling the Old and New Testaments).

39 OT books mainly focused on the Law  THRONE	first 39 chapters of Isaiah focus = JUDGMENT on the covenant people because of their disobedience to the Law. Isaiah’s warning progresses from Judah to Israel to the Gentile nations to the whole world.	moving to put the Lamb on the Throne ( <a href="#">Rev 1-5</a> ) unveiling of the THRONE ( <a href="#">Rev 4</a> )
27 NT books message of divine Grace and provision for salvation  LAMB	last 27 chapters of Isaiah message of Divine GRACE and comfort and coming salvation (grouped in 3 sets of 9 chapters)	the LAMB on the throne ( <a href="#">Rev 5</a> )

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## Personal Reflection and Application

- In **Isaiah 6**, the prophet Isaiah gets caught up in a heavenly vision and comes face to face with God Almighty. After preaching several “woes” to the nation of Israel, when Isaiah sees God, he turns his finger from pointing at others to pointing at himself. He says emphatically “woe is ME.” His glimpse of God’s holiness caused immediate repentance. Read Isaiah 6 slowly and observe the prophet’s response – both to God’s holiness and to God’s call on his life. If God gave you a similar calling, how would you respond?
- Read **Isaiah 25:4** and **8**. When you don’t have the strength to deal with today’s struggles, where is the one place to turn if Christ is your Savior? When the future seems hopeless, what thoughts about eternity with Christ can change your point of view?
- We all seek personal peace. When we have confidence in our Savior and allow Him to do so, He will sustain us through His Word (**Isa 26:3**). A weekly meal of the Word is not sufficient to sustain us. Oh, to follow Isaiah’s example (**Isa 26:9**)! There’s nothing we can do to earn peace (**Isa 26:12**). It is a gift of The Word, the Lord Jesus Christ (**John 14:27**). Will you allow Him to sustain you and give you His peace?
- Read the entire chapter of **Isaiah 53**. Reflect on the meaning of this prophecy. Some 700 years before Christ, Isaiah gave this graphic portrayal of the suffering that Jesus would endure for us. Despite the gruesomeness of his depiction, he makes one of the most awe-inspiring statements about Christ in saying that, “by His stripes, we are healed” (**Isa 53:5**). Write a prayer of gratitude to God.

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## Small Group Conversation Guide

- Read **Isaiah 40:3** and **Luke 3:4**. John’s work was to prepare the hearts of the people to receive the gospel and welcome their Savior. Without the gospel, the path people attempt to take to heaven is crooked, bumpy, and never leads to the destination they desire. Hearts open to the gospel find a road that is straight, smooth (though not always easy), and arrives at the correct destination. Discuss what we each can do to prepare the hearts of others for the gospel.
- Think about how you spend your money. In **Isaiah 55:2**, bread represents something that is sustaining to life. When was the last time you spent money on something that was not sustaining to life? As a group, make a list of things people buy that are not sustaining to life.
- Fasting makes your heart more attentive to God (**Isa 58:8-12**). Fasting brings us into agreement with God by removing the static in our lives so we can better connect with God. The apostle Paul stated that while many things may be okay to do, he was determined not to let them control his life (**1Cor 6:12**). Make a list of things that are often static in our lives.

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# Leadership Principles from Isaiah

## Send Me

Read [Isaiah 6:5-8](#). If you saw the Lord on His Throne, you would respond as Isaiah did, "Woe is me!" You would know that everything you have [talents, time, treasure] are from Him. You would know that He gave those things to you for a reason.

When the Lord asked, "Whom shall I send...?" would you respond as Isaiah did, "Here am I! Send me"?

You could define Christian leadership as simply listening to God and doing what He says. In this case, Isaiah heard from God and said "yes" even before he received his mission.

Do you have that kind of total abandonment to God? Are you willing to say, "Yes God! Now, what do you want me to do?"

## Are You a Servant Leader

Beware of unjustly treating those over whom you have authority ([Isa 10:1-6](#)). God condemns oppressive leaders. God looks for servant leaders such as:

- ▶ Abraham ([Gen 26:24](#))
- ▶ Moses ([Exo 14:31](#))
- ▶ Caleb ([Num 14:24](#))
- ▶ Samuel ([1Sam 3:9](#))
- ▶ Elijah ([2Kings 9:36](#))
- ▶ Isaiah ([Isa 20:3](#))

In what ways are you behaving as a servant leader?

## Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter. Try these:

01. What God offered to do with Judah's "red" sins	02. What God warned the kingdom of Judah to hide from
03. Why the kingdom of Judah has stumbled and fallen	04. What the "Branch" (Messiah, Jer 23:5) means to Judah
05. What God planned for His unfruitful "vineyard" Israel	06. How Isaiah responded to seeing a stunning vision of God
07. What "sign" God gave to Judah's wicked King Ahab	08. How Isaiah knew the Assyrians would be invading soon
09. How Isaiah foresaw Christ's ministry (Mat 4:12-16)	10. Why God would judge Assyria after using their invasion
11. How Isaiah foresaw Christ's first and second comings	12. What happens to God's anger after salvation
13. What God said to expect on "the day of the Lord"	14. What were the five "I will" statements against God
15. How Moab, Israel's enemy, would react to their defeat	16. How Isaiah wept over Moab's fall instead of rejoicing
17. How Israel would return to God when seeing God judge	18. How the Ethiopians would someday worship God
19. How the mighty Egyptians would fall to a cruel king	20. How Isaiah warned Judah not to rely on Egypt / Ethiopia

21. How "Babylon is fallen, is fallen" points to Revelation 18	22. What Judah did for protection instead of seeking God
23. How long the rich seaport of Tyre would be forgotten	24. What people did to defile/pollute the whole earth
25. What God promised to "swallow up forever" someday	26. What God promised to those whose minds are on God
27. How God vowed to gather His vineyard Israel someday	28. How the northern kingdom was led by arrogant drunks
29. How the southern kingdom was giving God lip service	30. What the people were asking their prophets to preach

31. How Judah relied on Egypt to save the from Assyria	32. How some were foolishly at ease thinking all was well
33. What God promised to those who walked righteously	34. How God was angry with every nation against Him
35. How Isaiah foresaw Christ's miracles (Luke 7:22)	36. Why Israel did not answer the Assyrian army's threats
37. What God told King Hezekiah about the Assyrian army	38. How many years God extended Hezekiah's life
39. What mistake Hezekiah made with the Babylonians	40. How Isaiah's tone radically changes in this chapter
41. What names God called Israel	42. How Isaiah foresaw Christ's humility (Matthew 12:14-21)
43. Why God said He created people	44. How foolish it is to worship gods created by people
45. How God used King Cyrus when Cyrus didn't know God	46. What God said made Him different than anyone else
47. Why God allowed the evil Babylonians to defeat Judah	48. Why God restrained His anger against Israel
49. How Christ would be a light to the Gentiles (Luke 2:32)	50. How Christ would be beaten and humiliated (Mark 14:65)

51. Why Jerusalem would no longer need to be afraid	52. What is beautiful about those who share good news
<b>53. How Christ would be wounded to pay for our sins</b>	54. Why weapons and words against God's servants fail
55. How God's thoughts and ways are different than ours	56. How God's house is for all nations (i.e. people groups)
57. What no one considers when good people die young	58. What God said was the real purpose of fasting
59. Why God stopped listening to Judah's prayers	60. What all the nations will do to worship God someday
61. How Isaiah foresaw Christ's ministry (Luke 4:18-19)	62. How God planned to restore Jerusalem to prominence
63. How Isaiah foresaw Christ's return (Revelation 19:13-15)	64. What Isaiah compares to human righteousness
65. What will be forgotten in the new heavens and earth	66. How Isaiah described the coming of the Lord