

From the Garden to Glory

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah

Timeline: c. 740 - 683 B.C. (2 Kings 15 - 20)

Location: Israel & Judah

Category: Prophetical, Major Prophet

Theme: Salvation is from the Lord

Overview:

The book of Isaiah covers approximately sixty years of Isaiah's life. Isaiah was called when Uzziah reigned as king. He prophesied during the last years of the Northern Kingdom of Israel before its captivity and ministered to the Southern Kingdom of Judah which was following in the sins of Israel. In chapters 1 - 39 Isaiah speaks of the judgment on Judah's sin and their need for salvation. Chapters 40 - 66 declare a message of hope-God's provision for salvation, Messiah is coming!

Introduction:

As we begin our study of the book of Isaiah, consider the following questions and write your responses:

1. The book of Isaiah is said to be "a miniature Bible." Just as the first thirty-seven books of the Old Testament are filled with God's judgment on a sinful world, so too are the first thirty-seven chapters of Isaiah. This pattern continues into the New Testament as its final twenty-seven books are filled with a message of hope, just like Isaiah's final twenty-seven chapters. How does this parallel your own life? How was your life filled with judgment before coming to know the Lord? In what ways is your life filled with hope now?

2. Isaiah's prophetic ministry covered at least forty years. What are you doing today to assure longevity in your own ministry?

3. Tradition tells us that Isaiah was martyred by being sawn in two because he spoke against King Manasseh's acts of idolatry. What suffering have you experienced for speaking against evil? How do "speak the truth in love" as you address the evil in our world?

God's Case Against Judah

Read Isaiah 1:1-25

1. Look at verse 2. Define the word *nourish*. How has the Lord nourished and brought *you* up? In what way(s) have you rebelled against Him?

2. Look at verses 16-17. List at least one specific way you can do each of the following commands from verse 17:
 - Learn to do good
 - Seek justice
 - Rebuke the oppressor
 - Defend the fatherless
 - Plead for the widow

3. Look at verses 18-20. What were the options between which the people needed to choose? What were the consequences of each option? How are these same options available to you today?

Isaiah's Commission

Read Isaiah 6

1. Look at verses 1-3. What does it mean that the Lord is "holy"? Take some time today to sit at His feet and praise Him for His holiness.

2. Look at verses 5-7. What was Isaiah's response to the Lord's holiness? When has this been your response?
3. Look at verse 8. What did the Lord ask of Isaiah? What was Isaiah's response? When has the Lord asked this of you? How did you respond? What were the consequences?

Christ--Israel's Hope

Read Isaiah 7:10-16 and Isaiah 9:1-7

1. Look at 7:14 and Matthew 1:18-25. What was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14? How was it fulfilled in the book of Matthew?
2. Look at 9:2. Before becoming a Christian, how were you a person who "walked in darkness"? In what way(s) has your relationship with the Lord caused you to "see a great light"?
3. Look at 9:6. Consider these titles for Jesus Christ. Define them and then note how each one causes you to relate to Him and worship Him.
 - Wonderful
 - Counselor
 - Mighty God
 - Everlasting Father
 - Prince of Peace

A Great God

Read Isaiah 40

1. Look at verse 11. Note the way(s) in which the Lord has cared for you in each of the following ways:

- fed you
- gathered you with His arms
- carried you in His bosom
- gently led you

2. Meditate on verse 28. How is this verse an encouragement to you?

3. Look at verses 29 and 31. Describe a time when you were weak and the Lord strengthened you.

Christ Our Substitute

Read Isaiah 53

1. According to The New Open Bible (Study Edition), "Isaiah 53 lists the most remarkable and specific prophecies of the atonement of the Messiah." Fill in the chart below, noting the subject and fulfillment of each of these prophecies found in Isaiah 53.

PROPHETIC SCRIPTURE	SUBJECT OF THE PROPHECY	FULFILLMENT
Isaiah 53:1		John 12:37-38
Isaiah 53:3		John 1:10-11
Isaiah 53:5		Romans 5:6,8
Isaiah 53:7		Mark 15:4-5

Isaiah 53:9		Matthew 27:57-60
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2. Re-read Isaiah 53 slowly, meditating on the tremendous price Jesus paid for your salvation. Write out a prayer of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord.

A Glorious Salvation

Read Isaiah 55

1. Look at verses 1-2. How has your relationship with the Lord allowed you to "eat what is good" and caused your soul to "delight itself in abundance"?
2. Look at verses 8-9. Describe a time when the Lord's thoughts and ways in a particular situation were different from yours. Specifically, how were His thoughts and ways higher than yours?
3. Look at verses 10-11. According to John MacArthur, "Moisture from heaven invariably accomplishes its intended purpose in helping meet human physical needs. The Word of God will likewise produce its intended results in fulfilling God's spiritual purposes." How has the Word of God been used in your own life to accomplish His purposes? Be specific.

Summary

As you conclude your study of the book of Isaiah consider the following questions and write your answers:

- 1.** What is the most important lesson you have learned from your study of this book? How can you apply this lesson in your life this week?
- 2.** What "new insights" did you learn about the Lord and yourself from your study?
- 3.** List one way in which your study caused you to do each of the following:

Praise and worship the Lord:

Confess an area of sin to the Lord:

Thank the Lord:

Ask for something from the Lord: