

# The Prophets of the Old Testament

## Part 7 – Isaiah

### THE WRITTEN PROPHETS OF THE OLD TESTAMENTS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

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|-------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jonah?   | 2. Obadiah    | 3. Joel?      | 4. Amos     |
| 5. Hosea    | 6. Isaiah     | 7. Micah      | 8. Nahum    |
| 9. Jeremiah | 10. Zephaniah | 11. Habakkuk  | 12. Ezekiel |
| 13. Daniel  | 14. Haggai    | 15. Zechariah | 16. Malachi |

### THE PROPHETS SO FAR

In this study, we will review the prophets placing them historically within the narrative of the Old Testament and our primary goal is to understand what they say about the Messiah, His Kingdom, or the events that will lead up to His arrival.

As we have progressed through the prophets, we have seen that the Messianic predictions have been woven into the prophetic message to David, Israel, Judah, and the nations. The main content from the books of prophecy includes judgment and a call to return to the Lord through the keeping of the Mosaic Covenant.

### Isaiah

Now we move to Isaiah. The content about the person and what's in the book is so voluminous that an in-depth study would take years to get a full understanding. C. Hassel Bullock calls Isaiah the "Prophet Par Excellence." Reading it would take an average reader well over 3 hours to complete. For me, it took three days.

Isaiah lived during the rapid decline of Israel (Northern Kingdom) as God prophesied and handed them over to judgment as they are taken into captivity by Assyria. If you read the text, you will see the Messianic promises are sprinkled throughout the entire text, but there are large sections where the Messianic prophecies are very clear.

The book is directly quoted over 65 times with allusions totaling over 200 times in the New Testament. One of the most important phrases in Isaiah, "Holy One of Israel," is used 28 times. One cannot separate YHWH from Israel. God is God and, if Israel is ever completely wiped out, then YHWH is not God.

In Isaiah 1:1, he gives "the days" in which he ministered. It was during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah." In light of God's judgment upon the northern tribes and through the prophets of God, Isaiah being one of the foremost, Judah makes spiritual renovations under king Uzziah and Hezekiah.

Isaiah 1-5 is a vast poetic prophetic utterance against Israel and Judah. Then Isaiah 6 records the personal call and commission of Isaiah. Why not lead with this? I look at chapters 1-5 as a prelude and then chapter 6 as the beginning of the story.

One of the most well-known prophets, Isaiah is both chronicled in the narrative and has an extensive work of prophecy. His ministry ranges from about 740 BC through about 685 BC (about 65 years). The chronological history of Isaiah and his dealings with Israel and Judah begins in Isaiah 7:1-8. This all occurs

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around 735 BC (2 Kings 16:5-6). It is interesting that in Isaiah 7:9 he tells Ahaz, “If you do not believe, you surely will not last.”

How does Ahaz respond? 2 Kings 16:7-9 – Ahaz does not believe and relies upon and submits to foreign kings; he even removed portions and furniture from the house of the Lord to appease the king of Assyria.

As we see in Chapters 7-12, Isaiah confronts Ahaz and Judah and Israel for their reliance upon foreign kings and unfaithfulness to God (Exodus 23:31-33).

In Isaiah 13-23, 10 foreign nations are prophesied against:

Babylon (13:1-14:23, 21:1-10)

Assyria (14:24-27)

Philistia (14:28-32)

Moab (15:1-16:14)

Damascus (17:1-3)

Ethiopia (18:1-7)

Egypt (19:1-20:6)

Edom (21:11, 12)

Arabia (21:13-17)

Tyre (23:1-18)

Isaiah 24-27 – The Lord will take His vengeance upon the nations of the earth and will restore Israel.

Isaiah 28-35 – There are warnings of judgment against Judah for their disregard of the Lord and reliance on Egypt for their safety (Read 30:1-3).

Isaiah 36-39 is a historical section where the text records the crisis when the Assyrian army encompassed Jerusalem. Hezekiah’s laments, prayers, praises, and mistakes are demonstrated (Read 37:3-4, 15-20, 38:1-3, 18-20, 39:1-8). This section is the most direct prophecy about the captivity of Judah by Babylon.

Isaiah 40-66 is often referred to as the hope or salvation section of Isaiah. It begins (40-48) with the hope of Israel’s restoration given to those who would be taken captive and the promise that Israel will once again be the great and powerful nation on the earth (read Isaiah 44:21-28). In chapter 45, Isaiah mentions Cyrus, who is not even on the scene yet, and it will be Cyrus who gives the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.

Isaiah 49-57 is the section where redemption is provided through the suffering Servant of YHWH. Redemption is presented to the whole world and is accomplished by His sacrifice.

The glory of YHWH and restoration of Israel are stated emphatically in Isaiah 58-66. This is presented in many poetic forms and straightforward discourse. The end of the book is a direct prophecy about the Millennial Kingdom (read 66:22-24) and possibly the eternal age.

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### Messianic Observations

The Servant Songs – Isaiah 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-7, 52:13-53:12

1. Messiah Will Come - Isaiah 9:6-7, 22:22
2. Born of a virgin – Isaiah 7:14
3. Sinless – Isaiah 53:9
4. Rejected by the people – Isaiah 8:14-15
5. Proclaim to both Gentiles and Israel – Isaiah 9:1-2, 11:10
6. The redemptive nature of the sacrifice of Messiah – Isaiah 52:13-53:12
7. In the end, all will bow to the Messiah – Isaiah 45:23