

The Book of Isaiah

Part 1

Contents

- Introduction
- Historical Context
- The Author
- Isaiah's Ministry
- Prophecies in Isaiah
- Outline of Book
- Lessons



Introduction

Prophets	Message
Hosea, Joel, Amos	A national restoration by the Messiah
Isaiah , Micah	Predict international salvation through the Messiah
Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah	Warn of God's retribution on the nations
Lamentations	Grieves over God's retribution on His people
Jeremiah	Looks of a covenantal reaffirmation in Christ
Ezekiel	Expects the nations' religious restoration
Daniel	Predicts the nation's political restoration
Haggai, Zechariah	Exhort the people in their religious reconstruction
Malachi	Exhort the people in their social and moral reconstruction

Introduction

- Isaiah is included as one of the major prophets (Jeremiah, Daniel, Exekiel and Lamentations).
- The Book of Isaiah has been described as a mini-Bible
- 66 Chapters and there are 66 Books in the Bible
- The first part of Isaiah is 39 Chapters (OT = 39 books), and second part is 27 Chapters (NT = 27 books).
- First part speaks of the need of mankind for salvation and denounces the sinfulness of humanity (resembling the OT).
- Second part speaks of the coming of the Messiah, the suffering servant, who will offer salvation to mankind.

Historical Context



Assyria militarily and politically threatened Israel and Judah four times.

More freedom without much Assyrian pressure

Tiglath-pileser III
744-727 B.C.

Shalmaneser V
726-722 B.C.

Sargon II
721-705 B.C.

Sennacherib
704-681 B.C.



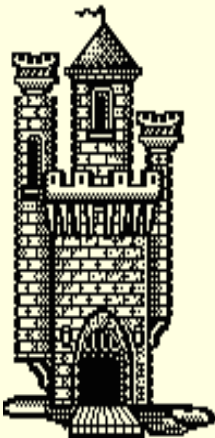
1 The reigns of King Uzziah and King Jotham.
791-740 & 750-732 B.C.

2 The reign of King Ahaz.
736-716 B.C.
Pro-Assyrian;
anti Israel.

3 King Hezekiah
725-687 B.C.
Anti-Assyrian but
pro-Egyptian.

722 B.C.
Shalmaneser
destroyed the northern
kingdom of Israel.

Three
periods of
Judah under
which Isaiah
prophesied.



The Writer



- Isaiah in Hebrew means, ‘salvation of God’ or ‘God is salvation.’
- He is identified as Isaiah son of Amoz (1:1). He came from royal family. Tradition states that Isaiah was a cousin of King Uzziah or a nephew of King Amaziah.
- Ministered to the Southern Kingdom during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah.

The Author

- He was married to a prophetess (8:3), having at least two children: Shear-jashub, (in Heb. Means “a remnant will return” (7:3)), and Maher-shalal-hash-baz, (in Heb. means “hurry spoil, the prey hastes’.”(8:1))
- Tradition mentioned that king Manasseh (Hezekiah’s son) had put Isaiah to death by sawing him in half inside of a hollow log.

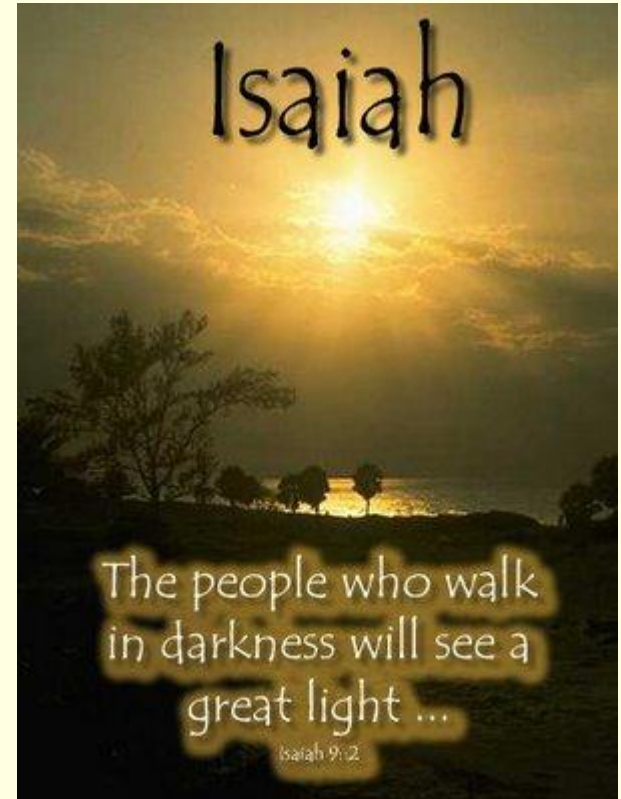


Isaiah's Ministry

- Isaiah's actual period of ministry covers about 60 years, ranging from around 740 B.C. to 680 B.C. He ministered during the destruction of the Northern Kingdom.
- Isaiah's message is that the Israelites and the surrounding nations have sinned. Judgement must come, for God cannot allow such blatant sin to go unpunished forever. But also he declares the message of hope. The Messiah is coming as a Saviour to carry the cross and to wear a crown.
- Throughout all of Isaiah's ministry, the Assyrian's were the dominant world power and were constantly threatening Judah with destruction.

Prophecies in the Book of Isaiah

- Isaiah is clearly the most Christological book of the Old Testament. It can be counted as the fifth gospel, because of the incredibly clear and detailed messianic prophecies.
- The next slide contains some examples of the prophecies in Isaiah and their fulfilment in the NT.
- The description of the 'suffering servant' and the other prophecies are amazing, especially given that Isaiah lived 700 years before Christ!



Prophecies of Christ

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Immanuel's birth to a virgin – 7:14	Matt 1:22,23
The rejection of the Christ as a “stone of stumbling” and “rock of offense” – 8:14	1 Peter 2:8; 3:14
The benevolence and universality of the Messiah's reign – 11:1-11	Romans 15:12
The corner-stone to be laid in Zion – 28:16	Romans 9:33; 1 Peter 2:6
A preview of John the Baptist and his preparatory work for Christ – 40:3-5	Matthew 3:3
The Lord's compassionate and just mission – 42:1-2	Matthew 12:18-21
A servant of suffering – 53	John 12:38; Acts 8:32-35; Mt 27:12-14; 8:17; John 1:12
Christ's mission to preach the gospel and give sight to the blind – 61:1,2	Luke 4:18
He will be of the family of David (Jesse) – 11:1	Matthew 1; Luke 3
The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him – 11:2	Matthew 3:16
He will bring light to those living in Galilee – 9:1-2	Matthew 12:14-16

Outline of Isaiah

- The fathers of the church suggest that the prophecies in the book of Isaiah are recorded according to the time of inspiration to the prophet:
 - Prophecies in the days of Uzziah: 1-5
 - Prophecies in the days of Jotham: 6
 - Prophecies in the days of Ahaz: 7-14
 - Prophecies in the days of Hezekiah: 15-66

Outline of Isaiah

- Isaiah has three major sections:
 - Part 1: The Holy Disciplinarian (The prophecies of condemnation) Ch. 1-35
 - Part 2: The Holy gives victory (Historical parenthesis) Ch. 36-39
 - Part 3: The Holy comforts with Salvation (Prophecies of comfort) Ch. 40-66

Outline of Isaiah

- **Part 1: The Holy Disciplinarian (The prophecies of condemnation)**
 - Prophecies against Judah (1-12)
 - Prophecies against other nations (13-23)
 - Prophecies of the Day of the Lord (24-27)
 - Prophecies of Judgment and Blessing (28-35)

Outline of Isaiah

- **PART 2: The Holy gives victory (Historical parenthesis)**
 - Hezekiah's Salvation from Assyria (36-39)



Outline of Isaiah

- **PART 3: The Holy comforts with Salvation (Prophecies of comfort)**
 - Prophecies of Israel's deliverance (40-48)
 - Prophecies of Israel's deliverer (49-57)
 - Prophecies of Israel's glorious future (58-66)

Outline of Isaiah

- Some terms that are used frequently:
 - “The Holy one of Israel” (repeated about 29 times in Isaiah and only 6 times in the OT). It pointed to the Messiah the creator and Saviour of Israel through His sacrifice on the cross.
 - “The servant of the Lord” (repeated about 20 times between ch.40-50). Sometimes means the first Adam who was destroyed by sin and other times means the second Adam “Jesus Christ” who saved the first Adam. There are four poems spoken by the servant of the Lord: 42:1-4; 42:5-7; 49:1-6; and 50:4-9, and two poems that speak about the servant: 50:10-11; and 52:13-53:12.

Lessons from Hezekiah's Life



- Isaiah 36-39 talks about Hezekiah's and Judah's deliverance from the Assyrian army. The Assyrian army had captured and destroyed all the cities of Judah except Jerusalem. Hezekiah trusted in God and sought advice from Isaiah and prayed to God. Read the prayer of Hezekiah as he lay down the letter from the Assyrians on the alter (37: 14-20). Without any fighting from Hezekiah, the Angel of the Lord went out and killed 185,000 people in the army of the Assyrians, and the Assyrian king (Sennacherib) went away back to his country, where his sons killed him. The Lord is waiting to show himself mighty on behalf of those whose hearts are loyal to him (Chronicles). The Lord can deliver without any input on our behalf. All we have to do is ask!

Lessons from Hezekiah's Life

- Hezekiah was sick and near death. Isaiah was sent to Hezekiah to tell him to put his house in order, for it was his time to die.
- Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done *what is good* in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.
- God sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah that the Lord had added 15 years to his life.
- God is willing to listen to us and even change his plans for us. But the prerequisite is that we must walk before him 'in truth and with a loyal heart.'



Lessons from Hezekiah's Life

- When Hezekiah recovered from his sickness, the Babylonians (enemies of Assyria, but the nation that would eventually destroy Judah) sent delegates to wish Hezekiah well.
- Hezekiah showed them his entire armoury and his treasures in his house and in the House of the Lord.
- When Isaiah heard about it, he prophesied that there was nothing that Isaiah had shown them that would not be carried back to Babylon.
- The lesson to be learnt from this is never to boast in the things that we have. God showed Hezekiah that everything he had, God had given it to him, and he could very easily take it away.
- Any talents that we have are given to us from God, we have done nothing to deserve them. Therefore, how can we take credit for them.
- In everything that you have, give glory to God and thank him for your undeserved gifts.