

Christ in the book of Isaiah

Introduction to the book of Isaiah

The book of Isaiah is the longest of the prophetic books and counted one of the major books of prophecies in the Old Testament (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel). It resembles the Bible in miniature format. Just as the Bible has 66 books, so Isaiah has 66 chapters. Just as the Bible has an Old Testament of 39 books (in Hebrews OT) and a New Testament of 27, Isaiah breaks down into two sections, the first being 39 chapters long and the other being 27 chapters. Where the Old Testament speaks to the foundation of the coming of Christ, Isaiah 1-39 speaks of the need of mankind for salvation. The second part of Isaiah resembles the New Testament in that this section through prophecy reveals God's provision of the offering of Salvation through the Messiah and the Messianic Kingdom. So, the book of Isaiah is about Messiah and foreshadows both His first and second Advents.

THE WRITER

1. Background

- ❖ Isaiah means in Hebrew, '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.
- ❖ 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).]
- ❖ He was giving advice to the kings on foreign affairs and was their counsellor (7:3,4; 8:2 30:1-7; 36:1-38:8, 21; 2 Kings 18:3-20:19).
- ❖ Tradition mentioned that king Manasseh had put Isaiah to death by sawing him in half inside of a hollow log. That someone died this way is found in (*Heb 11:37*).

2. His Ministry

- ❖ He was a prophet to Judea (the Southern kingdom) ,before the captivity.
- ❖ The prophets actual period of ministry covers about 60 years, ranging from around 740 B.C. to 680 B.C
- ❖ Isaiah may have been active in king Uzziah's court prior to the king's dismissal because of his leprous . Uzziah's death comes in 740 B.C (2 Ch. 26). Isaiah's ministry would extend through the reigns of Jotham (740-731 BC), Ahaz (731-715 BC), and Hezekiah (715-686 BC). It is probable that the prophet was active into the reign of Manasseh (686-642 BC).
- ❖ **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. Messiah is coming as a Saviour to carry the cross and to wear a crown.

THE BOOK

- ❖ Isaiah is clearly the most Christological book of the Old Testament. It can be counted as **the fifth gospel**, because of the incredible clear and detailed Messianic prophecies
- ❖ The book is written in poems except ch.36-39. The Holy Spirit used all the writer artistic talents and imagination (Isaiah considered as Shakespeare of the prophets) to present to us one of the greatest books in holy bible.
- ❖ 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 although some of the recent scholars reject this

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| 1. Prophecies in the days of Uzziah | Isaiah 1-5 |
| 2. Prophecies in the days of Jotham | Isaiah 6 |
| 3. Prophecies in the days of Ahaz | Isaiah 7-14 |
| 4. Prophecies in the days of Hezekiah | Isaiah 15-66 |

- ❖ Some terms are repeated many times in this book as:
 1. **“The Holy one of Israel”** (repeated about 29 times and only 6 times in the OT) and pointed to the Messiah the creator and Saviour of Israel through His sacrifice on the cross.
 2. **“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.
- ❖ The establishment of the church of Alexandria was prophesied in Ch.19:1 ,18-22
- ❖ Chapter 14 which prophesied about the destruction of the king of Babylon may be an indication to the fall of Satan before the creation of the human being.
- ❖ “The gospel according to Isaiah”, has three major sections:
 - The Holy Disciplinarian (The prophecies of condemnation) Ch. 1-35
 - The Holy gives victory (Historical parenthesis) Ch. 36-39
 - The Holy comforts with Salvation (Prophecies of comfort) Ch. 40-66

Analysis of the Messianic Prophecies

1. Prophecies about the Life of Jesus Christ

a) His birth from a Virgin

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Is. 7:14)

b) From the root of Jesse

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. (Is. 11:1)

c) He is called from Egypt

“ Behold, the Lord rides on a swift cloud, And will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst.” (Is 19:1)

d) Anointed with the Holy Spirit

The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. (Is 11:2) Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. (Is. 42:1)

e) Gentleness is the feature of His life

‘He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law. (Is. 42:2-4)

2. Prophecies about His Office

a) The foundation stone

Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily. (Is 28:16)

For some He is a stumbling block

He will be as a sanctuary, But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken. (Is 8:14-15)

b) The Mighty God

“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.” (Is. 9:6-7)

c) He has the Keys of David

*Then it shall be in that day, That I will call My servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah; I will clothe him with your robe And strengthen him with your belt; I will commit your responsibility into his hand. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem And to the house of Judah. **The key of the house of David I will lay on his shoulder; So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.** I will fasten him as a peg in a secure place, And he will become a glorious throne to his father's house. (Is 22:20-23)*

3 . Prophecies about His Mission

a) The Healer

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.
Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall
burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.(Is35:5-6)*

b) The Covenant

*“Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread
forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And
spirit to those who walk on it: I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, And will hold
Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the
Gentiles, To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in
darkness from the prison house. (Is 42:5-7)*

c) The Saviour

*“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has anointed Me To preach
good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, To proclaim liberty
to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the
acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who
mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy
for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called
trees of righteousness, The planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.” (Is 61:1-3)*

d) The Shepherd

*He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry
them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young. (Is. 40:11)*

4. Prophecies about His Suffering

a) Carries all our sins

*“ Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very
high. Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man,
And His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall
shut their mouths at Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they
had not heard they shall consider.*

*Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?
For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He
has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should
desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with
grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem
Him. Surely He has borne our grieves And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him
stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.*

*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The
chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.
All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the
Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He
opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its
shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from
judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the*

living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked--But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief.

When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors” (Is 52:13-53:12)

b) Carries all the burden alone

Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Travelling in the greatness of His strength?--I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.

Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress? I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. I looked, but there was no one to help, And I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me. I have trodden down the peoples in My anger, Made them drunk in My fury, And brought down their strength to the earth. (Is 63:1-6)

c) Carries my shame

The Lord God has opened My ear; And I was not rebellious, Nor did I turn away. I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.(Is 50:4-9)

5. Prophecies about His Resurrection

a) He opens the way to heavenly Zion

And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, And sorrow and sighing shall flee away. (Is 35:10)

So the ransomed of the Lord shall return, And come to Zion with singing, With everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness; Sorrow and sighing shall flee away (Is. 51:11)

b) He will pour the Spirit

For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;(Is.44:3)

c) He begins the Messianic age and its blessings

For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; For behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, And her people a joy.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem, And joy in My people; The voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, Nor the voice of crying. No more shall an infant from there live but a few days, Nor an old man who has not fulfilled his days; For the child shall die one hundred years old, But the sinner being one hundred years old shall be accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; They shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; They shall not plant and another eat; For as the days of a tree, so shall be the days of My people, And My elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, Nor bring forth children for trouble; For they shall be the descendants of the blessed of the Lord, And their offspring with them. It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear. (Is 65:17-23)

