

IMMERSE: PROPHETS

Week 4 – Isaiah: The Bible in Miniature

June 25, 2023

The overall message of the prophets: judgment and hope! The hope for Israel will be the restoration of Israel which impacts the world! God has said that He would bless the world through Israel (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18); and so we read in the Prophets that those within Gentile nations who have come to faith in Jesus will be included in the Kingdom of God/the Millennial Kingdom (Matt. 25:31ff)

In our reading of the Prophets, we are told that Israel was being judged and dispersed to the nations for covenant disobedience. What was the covenant disobedience? Obeying God's command to keep the land fallow one year out of seven years which is the Sabbath rest for the land (Lev. 25:1-4). Because they didn't obey God re: the land's rest, captivity in Babylon would amount to 70 years (Jer. 25:8-11; II Chron. 36:21; Lev. 26:33-35).

However, in the latter days the one third of the nation of Israel remaining alive following the tribulation (Zech. 13:8-9; Zech. 12:10), would be regathered and restored to her land and experience New Covenant blessings (Jer. 31:31-34; Eze. 36:24-27; Matt. 24:29-31).

Isaiah ministered from 739 BC (before the Assyrian captivity) to 681 B.C. (before the Babylonian captivity). For approx. 20 years, he spoke to both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. After the northern kingdom of Israel's fall to the Assyrians in 722 B.C., Isaiah continued to prophesy to Judah.

The book of Isaiah, written over 700 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem Ephrathah (Micah 5:2), is filled with many prophecies of the Messiah...of His first coming and His physical second coming. For this reason, Isaiah has been called "The Fifth Gospel." The name Isaiah means *Salvation is of the LORD*.

ISAIAH

Isaiah has been called the Bible in miniature. There are 66 books in the Bible. There are 66 chapters in Isaiah.

- There are two sections in Isaiah regarding the historical narrative.
- The first section – chapters 1 through 39 represent the 39 books in the OT.
- The second section – chapter 40 through 66 represent the 27 books in the NT.
- The smaller section is clearly different from the larger section. The prophet Isaiah was inspired by God to pen both sections: John 12:37-41 – v. 37 – from Isa. 53 (second section); v. 41 – from Isa. 6 (first section).
- In Genesis 1-3 we read how God created the heavens and the earth, how He created Adam and Eve, and how they sinned against God.
 - In Isaiah 1:2 – "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Lord hath spoken (creation of the world), I have nourished and brought up children (Adam & Eve) and they have rebelled against me."
- Isaiah 66:22 closes Scripture with a fleeting glimpse of the new heavens and the new earth.

○ Revelation 21 & 22 – the last book of the Bible – closes with a description of the new heavens and the new earth in the last two chapters.

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• Isaiah 40 is the beginning of the second part of Isaiah. In the same way, Matthew is the 40th book of the Bible.

○ How does Isaiah 40 begin? *Comfort yes, comfort My people.* “Comfort” – to console; to express compassion; to speak to the heart.

• Isaiah 40:3 - *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’*

○ NT counterpart – Matthew 3:1-3 – *In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, and saying. . . ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight.’*

Israel became a nation in 1948. In 1947 the Dead Sea Scrolls were found. The only complete scroll found is the scroll of Isaiah. Prior to the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest Isaiah manuscript was 900 AD. The book of Isaiah (Dead Sea Scrolls) has been dated at 125 BC. The impact of this discovery is the exactness of the Isaiah scroll (dated 125 BC) w/ the Masoretic text of Isaiah (916 AD) 1,000 years later. This demonstrates the precise accuracy of the copyists of the Scripture over a thousand-year period.

Isaiah’s audience: Isaiah’s words spoke to 3 periods of time...and beyond!

• **Isaiah chapters 1-39** – 8th C Israelites.

○ 722 BC – Assyria carried away the northern Kingdom of Israel.

○ Isaiah then warned Judah that they would fall (586 BC) to Babylon.

○ Isa. 1:18 – In the midst of judgment, Isaiah speaks to his people about the bright hope of reconciliation with God when they repent.

▪ *Come, let us reason together, says the LORD* – reason – to decide, to judge, to prove, to convince. To agree together re: Israel’s sinful condition.

▪ *Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.* Scarlet and crimson are two shades of deep red, symbolic of sin. Red is the color of blood. To overcome sin, God provided the blood of atonement for reconciliation. White is the color of innocence, of sins forgiven.

• **Isaiah chapters 40-55** – God used Isaiah to comfort the future exiled people within the Babylonian captivity.

○ Isa. 42:23-25 – Isaiah said that the captivity was due to the discipline of God;

○ Isa. 52:1-10 – Isaiah spoke of their return to the land of Israel.

○ Isa. 48:20 – Declaring victory in the return to Israel - *Go forth from Babylon! Flee from the Chaldeans! With a voice of singing, declare, proclaim this, utter it to the end of the earth* (since Israel is to be a witness to what God is doing); *say, ‘The LORD has redeemed His servant Jacob!’*

○ Isa. 41:14-15ff – They were to entrust their future to God - *Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I will help you, says the and LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy*

One of Israel. Why are the Israelites called a *worm*? The worm does not gnaw trees as they do not have teeth. The worm “gnaws” with its mouth, which is very tender.

Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth;

You shall thresh the mountains and beat them small, and make the hills like chaff (chaff is worthless). God will so empower Israel that they will be able to cut down mountains as if they were a great threshing machine, removing mountains and seeing their dust blown away. The point is clear: *nothing*, not even a mountain, will stand in their way when God EMPOWERS!

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- Isa. 53 – THE SUFFERING SERVANT – THE MESSIAH!
- **Isaiah chapters 56-66** – Isaiah exhorts Jews who returned to the land of Israel - 58:12; 61:4; 64:10.
 - Complete restoration was to come in the future - 49:8-26.
 - The promised Messiah would appear – 61:1-3; 63.
 - Gentiles will join the remnant to become the servants of God – 56:3; 65:1, 15, 16
 - New heavens and new earth – 65:17-19

God will purify Israel through judgment/chastisement, but this will be followed by restoration and renewal of covenant relationship. Israel will be restored and Jerusalem will function as the capital city of God’s worldwide kingdom in the future. Jesus, from the line of David, will rule over Israel from the earthly throne of King David in the earthly kingdom of Jerusalem...in the future (Psa. 2:6-9; Luke 1:31-33).

Nations that were hostile to Israel will become God’s people through Jesus alongside Israel. This will be accomplished through the ultimate Servant of the Lord Who represents and restores the nation of Israel and brings blessings to the nations of the earth (Isa. 49:3-6).

THE MAJOR THEMES OF ISAIAH

- The nation of Israel’s sinful condition.
- Israel’s unfaithfulness to God will bring about divine chastisement in the form of a foreign invasion and captivity. Isaiah refers to this chastisement as “the day of the LORD” (2:12; 13:6, 9....).
- The nations that God is using as instruments of punishment, will in turn be judged for their arrogance and cruelty (1:24; 10:5-13; 13:11-13).
- God’s judgment is based on His holiness, justice, and His eternal love and the gracious purpose of the restoration of Israel (4:5, 6; 24:23; 25:10; 26:1; 31:5; 32:6)
- The faithful remnant of Israel will be restored (6:13; 10:20-22).
- “In the latter days” God will set up His King, the Messiah/the Anointed One, God the Son, on God’s holy hill of Zion/Jerusalem Psa. 2:6, Who will rule over the Kingdom of God (2:1-3; 9:5-6; 25:6).
- Future prophecies speak of the ultimate triumph of the Kingdom of God. The vision of a redeemed, restored Israel and those who are regenerated/born again from the nations serving God and living in peace with one another.

The book of Isaiah contains extensive and precise prophecies about the coming of the Messiah as well as the life and crucifixion of Christ. Briefly these include: (this is not an exhaustive listing)

- The reign of Christ in the kingdom ([Isaiah 2:3–5](#))
- The virgin birth of Christ ([Isaiah 7:14](#))
- The reign of Christ ([Isaiah 9:2, 7](#))
- Jesus’ rule over the world ([Isaiah 9:4](#))
- Christ as a descendant of David ([Isaiah 11:1, 10](#))
- Christ to be filled with the Spirit ([Isaiah 11:2; 42:1](#))
- Christ to judge with righteousness ([Isaiah 11:3–5; 42:1, 4](#))
- Christ to rule over the nations ([Isaiah 11:10](#))
- Christ to be gentle to the weak ([Isaiah 42:3](#))
- Christ to make possible the New Covenant ([Isaiah 42:6; 49:8](#))

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- Christ to be a light to the Gentiles and to be worshiped by them ([Isaiah 42:6; 49:6–7; 52:15](#))
- Christ to be rejected by Israel ([Isaiah 49:7; 53:1–3](#))
- Christ to be obedient to God and subject to suffering ([Isaiah 50:6; 53:7–8](#))
- Christ to be exalted ([Isaiah 52:13; 53:12](#))
- Christ to restore Israel and judge the wicked ([Isaiah 61:1-3](#)).

ISAIAH 1

Isa. 1:1 - The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Vision – “chazon” – a revelation by means of a vision, a divine communication. A vision is not a typical “dream” but represents an actual experience in which the individual is given superhuman insight or awareness. Speaking of perceiving in an ecstatic state.

The book of Isaiah is speaking to the Kingdom of Judah and to the city of Jerusalem! We’re talking about literal geographical locations.

Isaiah spoke more than any other prophet of the great kingdom into which Israel would enter at the coming of the Messiah in judgment on the world and the restoration of Israel (Zech. 12:10). Isaiah discussed the depths of Israel’s sin (as we’re reading in Isaiah 1) and the heights of God’s glory and His coming kingdom.

Isaiah’s message to his people, the children of Israel (Jacob): they should trust in the God Who had promised them a glorious kingdom through King David (II Sam. 7:12-16). Isaiah urged the nation of Israel not to rely on any foreign power – as an alliance in fighting – or as a protector. The LORD was the only protection they would need!

Isa. 1:2 - Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: ‘I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against Me....

In God’s plan, the restoration and redemption of the nation of Israel has redemptive significance for the world (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18; Rom. 11:15).

Envision a courtroom scene! The Lord is the plaintiff bringing a lawsuit against His people! The nation of Israel is the defendant! Instead of responding to God's ultimate care and provision for them, Israel had failed to worship Him and obey. They worshipped other gods!!!

God is calling on the earth – the earth which was to have been blessed by Israel (Gen. 12:3; Gen. 18:18; Deut. 32:8-9). God is calling on the earth to look on Israel's sin!!!

The book of Isaiah is SIGNIFICANT – not only for Israel or for the generation of Isaiah...but for ALL nations and ALL times!!!!

Children – the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Rebelled against Me – speaks of the nation of Israel dethroning God in that they did not revere Him as their King...the King of the universe.

Isaiah was calling the people of Judah back to a proper covenantal relationship with God. He was reminding his generation of the sinful condition in which they were living and of its consequences.

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Isa. 1:25-26 - *I will turn My hand against you, and thoroughly purge away your dross, and take away all your alloy. ²⁶I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city.*"

God's judgment of Israel has future restoration as His goal. In Scripture we read of a complete and permanent restoration which will make Jerusalem supreme among the nations (Jer. 3:17; Eze. 5:5; Mic. 4:2; Zech. 8:22; Zech. 14:16). The purging speaks of the yet future "time of Jacob's trouble" – the tribulation (Jer. 30:7; Daniel's 70th week [Dan. 9:24-27]) and the physical Second Coming of Jesus (Zech. 14:4).

The purging spoken of in Isa. 1:25 dramatically leads to Isa. 2.

Isa. 2:1 - *The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.*

Isaiah "saw" the word? How does one see a "word"? Could this perhaps be a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Who is the WORD? What does Isaiah see? Judah and Jerusalem. And, what does Judah mean? What does Jerusalem mean? We're understanding Judah and Jerusalem literally.

Isa. 2:2-4 - *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. ³Many people shall come and say, 'Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.' For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴He shall judge between the nations, and rebuke many people; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.*

The timeframe of Isaiah 2: the latter days – the Millennial Kingdom (Hos. 3:5; Mic. 4:1). "Mountain of the LORD" can refer to the Kingdom of God. Mountain frequently means

“kingdom” in the OT. (Zion is noted) The “house of the LORD” is the temple. (Millennial Temple – Eze. 43).

Zech. 14:4-8 tells us that when Jesus returns to earth there will be massive geographic changes that affect the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem, and the land of Israel.

Nations will stream to the Mountain of the LORD to learn God’s law. It will be a time of perfectly administrated enforced righteousness on this earth.

Isaiah addressed international harmony among nations in the kingdom with Jerusalem at its center and Israel as the head and not the tail (Deut. 28:13; Isa. 49:22-23; Isa. 60)

Isa. 9:6-7 - 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, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ 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.