

# *Isaiah*

## *"The Messiah is Coming"*

### **Background Information**

Isaiah means "The Lord is salvation."

This book is directly quoted in the New Testament far more than any other prophet, around 65 times.

He is contemporary with both Hosea and Micah, and tradition holds that he was put to death under king Manasseh by being cut with a wooden saw (Hebrews 11:37).

Some have called this book "the miniature Bible," because it has 66 chapters, and divides its contents into the first 39 chapters and final 27 chapters.

### **Time Covered and Outline**

Isaiah 1:1 shares that the prophet worked during the reign of four kings of Judah (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah). His work, then, was from about 739-680BC. He penned the account of Sennacherib's death, which occurred about 681BC. He died about 35 years later.

While this is a lengthy book, it divides naturally into three parts for outlining.

- I. Judgment (chapters 1-35)
  - A. Concerning Judah and Jerusalem (1-12)
  - B. Judgment and salvation of various nations (13-23)
  - C. God is over all (24-27)
  - D. Warnings against alliance with Egypt (28-35)
- II. Historical Interlude (36-39)
  - A. Sennacherib attempts to capture Jerusalem (36-37)
  - B. Hezekiah's illness and recovery (38)
  - C. Babylon sends envoys to Jerusalem (39)
- III. Salvation through the coming Messiah
  - A. Deliverance from captivity (40-48)
  - B. The suffering Servant (49-57)
  - C. God's people will be glorified (58-66)

### **Major Themes**

The Messiah will come, but will suffer

Salvation

God's sovereignty

Judgment of nations

## God's Character in Isaiah

Reachable (55:3)  
Eternal (9:6)  
Faithful (49:7)  
Glorious (2:10)  
Holy (6:3)  
Just (45:21)  
Kind (54:8-10)  
Light (60:19)  
Patient (30:18)  
Loving (38:17)

Merciful (49:13)  
Powerful (26:4)  
Providence (10:5-17)  
Righteous (41:10)  
True (25:1)  
Unsearchable (40:28)  
Wise (28:29)  
Wrathful (1:4)  
Promise Keeping (1:18)

## Jesus in Isaiah

Isaiah has been called "The Messianic Prophet," since so much of his work foretold the coming of Jesus. The clearest picture is the "Suffering Servant" of chapter 53, but there are at least 12 additional prophecies of Jesus in this book (7:14; 9:1-2; 9:6; 11:1; 11:2; 40:3-5; 42:1-4; 42:6; 50:6; 52:14; 61:1). They include everything from His birth of a virgin to His death.

## Key Words in Isaiah

Light (Hebrew *'or*); Literal or symbolic of purity. 2:5; 5:30; 10:17; 13:10; 30:26; 45:7; 58:10; 60:20  
Blessing (Hebrew *berekah*); to make fruitful. 19:24-25; 44:3; 51:2; 61:9; 65:8; 65:16; 66:3  
Servant (Hebrew *'ebed*); "to work by serving." 20:3; 24:2; 37:35; 42:1; 49:5; 53:11  
Salvation (Hebrew *yeshu'ah*); "deliverance." 12:2; 25:9; 33:6; 49:6; 51:8; 59:11; 62:1

## Elsewhere in the World...

During the time of Isaiah, the legendary founder of Rome, Romulus, divided the calendar into 10 months. Also, the Italians invented false teeth.

## Elsewhere in Scripture...

Since Isaiah tells us the four kings under which his was serving, we can place his book historically. Second Kings 15 begins the reign of Uzziah—called "Azariah"—and the death of Hezekiah is recorded in 2 Kings 20. Much of the same material is also found in Second Chronicles 26-32.