

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

LESSON SERIES

Old Testament Survey - Unit IV
The Books of Prophets during the Northern Kingdom's Fall and Decline
The BOOK of ISAIAH

for

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE
CHRISTIAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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**THE PROPHETS OF THE PERIOD OF
THE DIVIDED KINGDOM****EIGHT CENTURY PROPHETS IN JUDAH**

During the chaotic period in the latter half of the eight century B.C. when Israel (the Northern Kingdom) was moving through her final days toward destruction by the Assyrians in 721 B.C., two prophets Isaiah and Micah were active in Judah (Southern Kingdom).

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH**A. ISAIAH'S BACKGROUND**

Isaiah Ben Amos possibly born about 760 B.C., was a younger contemporary of Amos and Hosea. Isaiah was very close to the royal house of Judah, especially in the reign of King Hezekiah. The Northern Kingdom of Israel under Jeroboam II of the dynasty of Jehu enjoyed prosperity, but it was rotten to the core (II Kings 14:23-29). The dominant world power in Isaiah's day was Assyria. During Isaiah's lifetime, the mighty Assyrian army swallowed up Israel and invaded Judah, seriously threatening it. At various times, Judah sought alliances either with Assyria or Egypt and Isaiah denounced these, calling on the nation to turn back to God.

Isaiah was married, and his wife was a prophetess (Isaiah 8:3). They had two sons with highly significant names. In fact, these names sum up Isaiah's ministry:

- Shear-Jashub (meaning remnant shall return), Isaiah 7:3
- Marar-shalal-hashbaz (meaning speed and plunder), Isaiah 8:1

Isaiah means "**Jehovah saves.**" Isaiah's prophecy was of the Syrian invasion of Damascus and Samaria and in fact, on Judah itself. This came to pass with speed and plunder. Furthermore, his prophecy was one of hope for Judah although they would reject his message and be in exile. A remnant would return. Then, of course, his prophecy was of Jesus, "Jehovah saves." **NOTE:** This prophecy was not remote, but related to the prevailing circumstances (Eze. 3:14-17). Isaiah lived through four kings. One was Uzziah, upon whose death he was commissioned (Isaiah 6), and the others were Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. Isaiah prophesied for some sixty years.

B. ISAIAH'S PROPHECY

Perhaps the easiest way to remember the content is to see it as **two main divisions** - **The first thirty-nine chapters reveal the judgment of God. A marked change takes place in chapter 40, and then twenty-seven chapters reveal comfort.**

In chapter one, God's indictment of the kingdom of Judah in Jerusalem is actually called Sodom (verses 10 and 21). **NOTE:** Even in the midst of this, God reasons (vs. 18). Jesus referred to this book in John 12:37-41, proving that in the midst of Isaiah's difficult rejection and faithful proclamation, he was like Jesus (Isaiah 6:10-11). Isaiah was a prophetic defender of his nation against encroachments of heathen nations. Chapter 39 - the visit of the king of Babylon (vs. 7 and 8). It seems that Isaiah went through such a

prophetic barrenness, not as a result of false prophecy, but simply rejection, that he becomes more of a seer later on in the following ways:

- Chapter 40 and 41 - He reveals the comforter (40:1-28; 41:9-10).
- Chapter 44 and 45 - He sees Cyrus and names him by name before it even happened in Babylon.
- Chapter 53 - He sees Jesus, His death and resurrection.
- Chapter 54 - He sees needy souls such as the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:28)
- Chapter 59 and 60 - He sees when all nations shall acknowledge Jesus.
NOTE: We are yet in the first part of Isaiah 61 - the day of vengeance has not yet come (Luke 4:20).
- Chapter 62 - He sees Jerusalem as "praise in the earth" (vs. 7 and 12).
- Chapter 65 - He sees the Millenium (vs. 19, 20-25).

Isaiah is the prophet of "**the servant of the Lord.**" This theme permeates the book from chapter 41 onwards - "**The servant is Jesus Christ**" "**The servant is the church.**" The Hebrew meaning of servant is "a person at the disposal of another." Isaiah was this.

I. OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

A. JUDGMENT, CHAPTERS 1-35

Revelation of the Sovereign on the Throne (The Crown, chapter 6. The Government of God)

1. Solemn Call to the Universe to Come into the Court Room to hear God's **Charge** Against the Nation Israel, Chapter 1
2. **Preview of the Future** for Judah and Jerusalem, Chapter 2
3. **Present View** of Judah and Jerusalem, Chapter 3
4. Another **Preview** of the Future, Chapter 4
5. Parable of the vineyard and Woes Predicted on Israel, Chapter, 5
6. Isaiah's **Personal Call** and Commission, Chapter 6
7. Prediction of Local and Far Events, Chapters 7-10 (Hope of Future in Coming Child)
8. **Millennial Kingdom**, Chapters 11,12
9. **Burdens** of Surrounding Nations (largely fulfilled), Chapters 13-2
 1. Burden of Babylon, chapters 13,14
 2. Burden of Noah, chapters 15,16

3. Burden of Damascus, chapter 17
4. Burden of the Land Beyond the Rivers of Ethiopia, Chapter 18
5. Burden of Egypt, chapters 19,20
6. Burden of Babylon, Edom, Arabia, chapter 21
7. Burden of the Valley of Vision, chapter 22
8. Burden of Tyre, chapter 23
10. **Kingdom, Process and Program** by which the Throne is Established on Earth, Chapters 24-34
11. **Kingdom**, Blessings of the Millennium, Chapter 35

B. HISTORICAL INTERLUDE, CHAPTERS 36-39

These Historical narratives are practically a verbatim transcript of II Kings 18:13-20:19, except for Hezekiah's song of thanksgiving in Isaiah 35:9-20. This section is probably a prophetic **picture** of how God will deliver His people in the Great Tribulation.

1. **King Hezekiah and the Invasion of Sennacherib**, King of Assyria, chapter 36
2. **King Hezekiah's Prayer** and the Destruction of the Assyrian Hosts, chapter 37
3. **King Hezekiah's Sickness**, Prayer and Healing, chapter 38
4. **King Hezekiah** Plays the **Fool**, chapter 39

C. SALVATION, CHAPTERS 40-66

Revelation of the Savior in the Place of Suffering - The Cross, chapter 53, the Grace of God. (There is a threefold division marked by the concluding though in each division, "There is no peace to the wicked.")

1. Comfort of **Jehovah** - Which comes through the **Servant**, chapters 40-48 (Polemic against Idolatry - Help and Hope come only through the Servant)
2. **Salvation of Jehovah** - Which comes through the **Suffering Servant**, chapters 49-57
 1. Redeemer of the Whole World, who is God's Servant, chapters 49-52:12
 2. Redemption Wrought by the Suffering Servant, Who is God's Sheep (Lamb), chapters 52:13-53
 3. Results of Redemption Wrought by the Redeemer, Who is God's only Savior, chapters 54-57

3. **Glory of Jehovah** - Which comes through the **Suffering Servant**, chapters **58-66**.
 1. Sin Hinders the Manifestation of the Glory of God, chapters 55,59
 2. Redeemer is coming to Zion, chapters 60-66 (Nothing can hinder God's progress - He will Judge Sin)

END of Lesson

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