

VIA EMMAUS: A CHRIST-CENTERED WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE

Isaiah: The Servant-King Will Lead His People Into a New Creation (28)

INTRODUCTION

- Author** The Call of Isaiah – *Isaiah is ushered into the presence of the Lord (6:1-7; cf. John 12:37-41)*
 The History of Isaiah – *Interaction with Ahaz (7:1ff); Intercession with Hezekiah (36:1ff)*
 Born into a royal family? (Amoz the brother of Amaziah) -- Killed by Manasseh? (**Heb 11:37**)
- Date** “In the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah” (**1:1**)
 740 BC (‘In the year King Uzziah died,’ **6:1**) – 681 BC (death of Sennacherib, **37:38**)
 Lived to see the exile of Israel and the Assyrian threat to Jerusalem (ca. 722)
- Problems** *There are many scholars who posit multiple authors to the book of Isaiah – 1-39, 40-55, 56-66*
 (1) The Babylonian exile is assumed; Cyrus is recorded
 (2) The language and style of Isaiah 1-39 and 40-66 is different
 (3) The detailed predictions would not have been relevant to the original hearers (8th C. Jews)
- Answers** (1) God is sovereign over history and revelation, therefore predictive prophecy is no problem
 (2) Chapter 36-39 explain the turn to Babylon; yet little 40-66 is Babylonian, mostly Canaanite
 (3) There are many themes employed in both “sections” of Isaiah
 The “Holy One of Israel” (**25x – 12x in 1-39; 13x in 40-66**)
 “High and lifted up” – **2:12-14; 6:1; 52:13; 57:15**
 It is a false notion that one man must write the same way in all contexts
 (4) The DSS contains all 66 chapters; Sirach & Josephus attest to the singular authorship
 (5) New Testament quotes from all chapters of Isaiah, without ever distinguishing authors/dates
 John 12:41 – “Isaiah said these things [Isa 53:1 & 6:1] because he saw his glory...”
 Rom 9:27 = Isa 10:22-23; Rom 9:29 = Isa 1:9; Rom 9:33 = Isa 28:16;
 Rom 10:15 = Isa 52:7; Rom 10:20-21 = Isa 65:1-2

SIMPLIFIED OVERVIEW OF ISAIAH (Adapted from the ESV Study Bible)

	<u>Isaiah 1–39</u>	<u>Isaiah 40–55</u>	<u>Isaiah 56–66</u>
Date and Setting	8 th Century BC; Assyrian threat	Prophecies about 6 th Century BC; the Babylonian exile	Prophecies about all times and occasions until the end
Audience	God's rebellious people craving worldly security	God's defeated people under worldly domination	All who hold fast to God's covenant
Actions	God purifies a remnant of his apostate people through judgment	God consoles his discouraged people in exile	God prepares his people for his promised salvation

OUTLINE (Adapted from the ESV Study Bible)

Introduction: “Ah, Sinful Nation!” (1:1–5:30)

Judah's sins confronted (1:1–31) – *Covenant-breaking and Societal Injustice*

Judah's hope, (2:1-6), guilt (2:7-4:1), hope (4:2-6) – *The City of God destroyed and rebuilt*

Judah's sins condemned (5:1–30) – *Six Woes*

God Redefines the Future of His People: “Your Guilt Is Taken Away” (6:1–12:6)

Grace—through judgment—for Isaiah (6:1–13)

Grace—through judgment—for Judah (7:1–9:7)

Grace—through judgment—for Israel (9:8–11:16)

The enjoyment of God's grace (12:1–6)

God's Judgment and Grace for the World: “We Have a Strong City” (13:1–27:13)

1st Series: the here and now (13:1–20:6) – *Babylon, Philistia, Moab, Syrian alliance, Egypt*

2nd Series of oracles: the deeper truth (21:1–23:18) – *Babylon, Edom, Arabia, Jerusalem, Tyre*

Promises of Resurrection and Shalom after Judgment for those who trust YHWH (24:1–27:13)

God's Sovereign Word Spoken into the World: “Ah!” (28:1–35:10)

Six laments, with assurances (28:1–33:24)

Two final outcomes: judgment or salvation (34:1–35:10)

Historical Transition: “In Whom Do You Now Trust?” (36:1–39:8)

Practical trust in God vindicated (36:1–37:38)

Human inconstancy sent into exile (38:1–39:8)

Comfort for God's Exiles: “The Glory of the Lord Shall Be Revealed” (40:1–55:13)

The glorious and redeeming God of Israel (40:1–48:22)

A Better Servant than Cyrus (49:1–53:12)

The Dying and Rising Servant Ushers in the New Covenant (54:1–55:13)

How to Prepare for the Coming Glory: “Hold Fast My Covenant” (56:1–66:24)

The People of God defined (56:1–8), exposed (56:9–57:13) and invited (57:14–21)

The path to blessing: ritual vs. responsibility (58:1–59:13)

Anticipation of Zion and the New Creation (60:1–66:24)

THEMES

- God** The all-glorious God (6:1–7) who will not give his glory to another (48:11).
The holy one of Israel (1:4), who rules the nations (13:1–27:13) and saves his people (40:1–11).
He is sovereign over history, declaring the end from the beginning (46:9). He hates idols.
He is a God of wrath (9:12, 17, 21; 10:4) and a God who provides forgiveness (53:1–12)
He dwells in unapproachable light, but also with the lowly and contrite (57:15).
- Salvation/
Judgment** *Isaiah 1:2–2:5 provides a microcosm of the entire book*
YHWH warns his covenant-breaking people of impending judgment (1:2–17, 21–25)
YHWH promises pardon and restoration to those who repent & believe (1:18–20; 1:26–2:5)
Judgment on the nations (13:1ff), yet there are promises of redemption (19:19–25; 25:1–12)
After he pronounces judgment, he promises salvation and resurrection
- Messiah** *The means of God's salvation in Isaiah is the birth of a Messianic Son (cf. Gen 3:15)*
Isaiah 7:14 – This virgin-born will signal God's presence with God's people (cf. Matt 1:23)
Isaiah 9:6–7 – This royal son with divine identification will be the New King
Isaiah 11:1–5 – The branch of Jesse will be anointed with the Spirit and will bring peace
Isaiah 42, 49, 50, 53 – The suffering servant is the representative who will save his people
The portrait of the Davidic King and the Suffering Servant of Israel unite in Jesus Christ
- Zion** *Isaiah 2:1–5; 4:2–5 – The nations will stream to Zion, the dwelling place of God*
Isaiah 12:1–6 – Salvation for Israel includes a return to Zion
Isaiah 52:8; 59:20; 60:14; 61:3; 62:1, 11 – God promises to restore Zion to his people
Isaiah 66:7–24 – Zion Theology leads to God's Final Judgment/Salvation and the New Creation