

Isaiah Notes

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Video Explanation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0A6Uchb1F8>

Isaiah lived in Jerusalem and spoke on God's behalf to the leaders

Isaiah's Message

1. **Judgement!** - Israel's rebellion will come at a cost God was going to use Assyria and then Babylon to judge Jerusalem if they continued in idolatry and oppression of the poor

2. **Hope!** - The Fulfillment of God's covenant promises
- The future king from the line of David (see [2 Samuel 7](#))
 - Lead Israel in obedience to the laws of The Covenant (see [Exodus 19](#))
 - God's blessing to the Nations (see [Genesis 12](#))

Chapters 1-12 Judgement & Hope for Jerusalem

Old and New Jerusalem

Old Jerusalem - Rebellion, Idolatry, and injustice'

Judge the city by sending the nations to conquer Israel; Isaiah says this will be like a purifying fire that burns away all that's worthless in Israel in order to create a New Jerusalem

New Jerusalem - populated by a remnant of have repented and turned back to God. This is when God's kingdom will come all nations will come to the temple in Jerusalem and learn of God's justice & peace for all nations



The theme above is repeated over and over again.

Isaiah's Temple Vision



- God is surrounded on His throne by heavenly creatures and shouting God is Holy (see [6:3](#))
- Burning coal to Isaiah's mouth, but it does not burn but purifies (see [6: 6-7](#))
- God commissions Isaiah with a difficult task to keep announcing coming judgement, but because Israel has reached a point of no return, his warnings will have a paradoxical effect of hardening the people. Isaiah must trust God's plan.
- Assyria will be the 1st to who will chop down Israel like a tree and left like a stump in the field, and the stump itself will be scorched and burned, but this stump is a holy seed will survive into the future - small sign of hope

Chapters 7-12

- Isaiah confronts Ahaz - a descendant of David and a king of Jerusalem. He announces his downfall. Great Empire Assyria will be the 1st to who will chop down Israel and devastate the land, but there is hope.
- Because of God's promise to David, God is going to send after this destruction a new king named "Immanuel = God with us" and His kingdom will set God's people free from violent oppressive empires.
- Isaiah describes this coming king a small shoot of new growth (*A new branch from the stump of David's family*).
 - This king is the Holy seed from Chapter 6.
 - The king will be empowered by God's spirit to rule over a new Jerusalem and bring justice to the poor and all Nations will look to this messianic king for guidance.

- His kingdom will transform all creation bringing peace.

Chapters 13-27 Judgement and Hope for the Nations

Chapters 13-23 Fall of Babylon and Israel's Neighbors

- Assyria will be overthrown by the Empire of Babylon which was more destructive and arrogant
- Babylon's Kings claimed they were higher than all other gods : I will ascend to Heaven and make myself like the Most High God! (14:14)
 - God vows to bring Babylon down and its similarly corrupt neighbors
 - Neighbors: Philistia, Damascus, Egypt, Tyre, Moab

Chapters 24-27 A Tale of Two Cities

The Lofty City - has exalted itself above God and become corrupt and unjust

- Archetype of rebellious humanity
- Described with images from 4-23
- City destined for ruin

VS.

The New Jerusalem

- God's Kingdom over all nations
- No more suffering or death

A message for all who are waiting for rescue from oppressive systems

Chapters 28-39 The Rise and Fall of Jerusalem

Chapters 28-35 Accusation of Jerusalem's Leaders

- (Alliance) Turning to Egypt for military protection against Assyria
 - Only trust and repentance will save Israel

Chapter 36-38 The Rise of Hezekiah - The King of Jerusalem

Just as Isaiah had prophesied the Assyrian army came and tried to attack the city

- Hezekiah humbles himself before God and prays for divine deliverance and the city is miraculously saved over night
- Hezekiah soon falls

Chapter 39 Hezekiah's Fall

- He hosts a delegation from Babylon and tries to impress them by showing everything in Jerusalem's treasury, temple, and palaces.

- Clearly an effort to create an alliance for protection
- Isaiah hears about this and confronts Hezekiah for his foolishness
 - He predicts that this ally will one day turn on Jerusalem
 - Babylon Attacks: Isaiah was right over 100 years later Babylon would turn on Jerusalem, come destroy the city, its temple, and carry the Israelite's away ([2 Kings 24-25](#))
- The purpose of God's judgement lead to this moment: purify Jerusalem and bring the Holy seed and messianic kingdom over all nations.

Chapters 40-66 Hope

Chapters 40-48 Announcement of Hope

- Chapter 40 "Comfort, comfort my people!" The Exile is over!
- Israel's sin has been dealt with
- Israel can return home
- God's kingdom is coming

Isaiah predictions of judgement (see [8:16](#), [29:10-12](#), [30:8-9](#))

- After Isaiah was rejected by Israel's leaders, he wrote and sealed up all of his prophetic messages and passed them to his disciples for witness to come
 - 720 B.C. written, but came to pass after the Exile in 530s B.C.
 - The disciples then open up the scroll and it is then extended to future generations
 - A True Prophet

Chapters 41-47 The Trial

- The Accusation:
 - God has ignored us and our trouble ([40:27](#))
 - Maybe the gods of Babylon are more powerful than our God
- God's Response
 - 1) Exile was judgement, not neglect
 - 2) For Israel's sake, God raised up Persia to conquer Babylon (see [13:17](#)) fulfilling Isaiah's word
- The Right Conclusion
 - Israel's God is the true King of History! Not the idols of the nations
 - God's servant to the Nations (Chapter 42)
 - Israel should see God's hand at work and so become His servant telling them who He is

...BUT...BY THE END OF THE TRIAL IN CHAPTER 48

Chapter 48 Israel is Still Rebellious and Hardhearted

Just as their ancestors were

- So God disqualifies them as His servant, but God is still on a mission to bless the nations
 - So the prophet says that God is going to do a New Thing to solve this problem!
 - (See [48:15](#))“I, even I” - Surely me (God) Authority as seen in Matthew 28:18-20

Chapter 49-55 The Servant Fulfills God’s Mission

Chapter 49 God’s Servant

God’s Servant is now called “Israel”

- This Servant will do what Israel has failed to do
- Purpose(s)
 - 1) Restore the people back to their God (See [49:8-9](#))
 - 2) To become God’s Light to the Nations (See [49:6](#))
- This person is empowered by God’s Spirit to announce good news and to bring God’s kingdom over the nations.
 - How?
 - He is to be rejected and killed **Jesus is speaking?!** (See [50:4-9](#), [52:13-53:12](#))
 - He is dying on behalf of His own people
 - Servant’s death=a sacrifice for sin
 - The Crucifixion is foretold 600 years before it happened!
 - After the Servant’s death He is Alive Again (See [53:10-12](#))

Chapters 54-55 I Declare You Are Right With God

2 Ways People can respond to the Servant:

- 1) Respond with humility to and turn from their sins-repentance “The Servants” aka “The Seed” (See Ch. 6) - these are the one’s who receive the blessing of the messianic kingdom
- 2) Called “the wicked” who reject the Servant and his servants

Chapters 56-66 The Servants Inherit God’s Kingdom

Designed as a symmetry that brings together all the themes of the Book

Chapter 59 Prayer of Repentance

- Servants confess Israel’s sin and grieve over all of the evil they see in the world around them

Chapters 60-62 Servant Announces God's Kingdom

At the center - 3 poems

- Describe how the spirit-empowered servant is announcing the good news of God's kingdom to the poor.
- Reaffirms all of the promises of hope from earlier in the book
- The New Jerusalem inhabited by God's servants will be the place from which God's justice, mercy, and blessing flow out to all of the nations of the world

Chapters 63-64 Prayer of Repentance

- They ask God to Forgive them and that His kingdom would come as it is in heaven

Chapters 56b-58 to 65-66a Contrast Between the Wicked and the Servants

- The Wicked:
 - Will Face God's Justice on all who pollute the world with their evil, selfishness, and idolatry
 - He will remove them from His city forever
- The Servants:
 - Those who are humble before God and who repent and own their evil
 - They are forgiven and they will inherit the New Jerusalem
 - New Jerusalem = an image for an entirely renewed Creation
 - Where death and suffering is gone forever

Chapters 56a -66b All Nations Invited to Join God's Covenant Family

In this renewed world, everyone can know their creator and redeemer

Powerful Hope: The Book of Isaiah ends with a grand vision of the fulfillment of all of God's covenant promises. Through the suffering servant King God creates a covenant family of all nations who are awaiting the hope of God's justice in bringing a renewed creation, where God's kingdom finally comes here on earth as it is in heaven