

A. Introduction

- Big Picture of Isaiah: during major spiritual decline of Israel, God calls Isaiah to preach judgment and future salvation, to be brought by the coming Messiah.

1. Title: “Isaiah” [“Yahweh is Salvation” or “Yahweh will Save”]  
(1:1; 2:1; 7:3; 13:1; 20:2, 3; 37:2, 5, 6, 21; 38:1, 4, 21; 39:3, 5, 8; see 2 Kin. 19:2, 5, 6, 20; 20:1, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, 14, 16, 19; cf. 2 Chron. 26:22; 32:32)

2. Date: 739-681 B.C. (1:1; 6:1; 37:38)

- a. Uzziah (1:1; 6:1; 7:1; see 2 Kin. 14:21-22; 15:1-7 [790-739 B.C.]

- b. Jotham (1:1; 7:1; see 2 Kin. 15:5-7, 32-38 [750-731 B.C.]

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<sup>1</sup> Notes prepared with help of The Master’s Seminary BI 501 Bible Survey syllabus.

- c. Ahaz (1:1; 7:1, 3, 10, 12; 14:28; see 2 Kin. 15:38; 16:1-20 [743-715 B.C.])
- d. Hezekiah (1:1; 36:1-39:8; see 2 Kin. 18:1-20:21 [728-686 B.C.])
- e. Manasseh (see 2 Kin. 21:1-18 [695-642 B.C.])

## B. Outline

- 1. The Retribution of God (1-39)
- 2. The Restoration by God (40-66)

## C. Major Themes

- 1. Yahweh, "The Holy One of Israel" (cf. 2 Kg 19:22; Ps. 71:22; 78:41; 89:18; Jer. 50:29; 51:5; Ezek. 39:7; **25x** – 1:4; 5:19, 24; 10:20; 12:6; 17:7; 29:19; 30:11, 12, 15; 31:1; 37:23; 41:14, 16, 20; 43:3, 14; 45:11; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7; 54:5; 55:5; 60:9, 14); "The Holy One of Jacob" (29:23); "The Holy One" (10:17; 40:25; 43:15; 49:7) [MSB, 955]; The Holiness of God (5:6, 6:3, 8:13, 57:15);

2. The Sinfulness of Judah (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 29, 30, 31, 39) & Yahweh's Judgment (1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 29, 30, 31, 32, 39)

Isaiah 1:2-4 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; for the LORD speaks, "Sons I have reared and brought up, but they have revolted against Me. <sup>3</sup> "An ox knows its owner, and a donkey its master's manger, *but* Israel does not know, My people do not understand." <sup>4</sup> Alas, sinful nation, People weighed down with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, sons who act corruptly! They have abandoned the LORD, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away from Him.

Isaiah 1:10-15 Hear the word of the LORD, You rulers of Sodom; Give ear to the instruction of our God, You people of Gomorrah. <sup>11</sup> "What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?" Says the LORD. "I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams And the fat of fed cattle; And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats. <sup>12</sup> "When you come to appear before Me, Who requires of you this trampling of My courts? <sup>13</sup> "Bring your worthless offerings no longer, Incense is an abomination to Me. New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies — I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly. <sup>14</sup> "I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts, they have become a burden to Me; I am weary of bearing *them*. <sup>15</sup> "So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*, I will hide My eyes from you; Yes, even though you multiply prayers, I will not listen. Your hands are covered with blood.

Isaiah 5:14 Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure; and Jerusalem's splendor, her multitude, her din of *revelry* and the jubilant within her, descend *into it*.

3. The Sinfulness of the Nations (10, 13-23, 28, 34) & Yahweh's Judgment (10, 24, 34, 47)

Isaiah 10:5-7, 12-13 Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger; the staff in their hands is my fury! <sup>6</sup> Against a godless nation I send him, and against the people of my wrath I command him, to take spoil and seize plunder, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. <sup>7</sup> But he does not so intend, and his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few...<sup>12</sup> When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes. <sup>13</sup> For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom, for I have understanding; I remove the boundaries of peoples, and plunder their treasures; like a bull I bring down those who sit on thrones.

- Of Babylon:

Isaiah 14:9-11 Sheol beneath is stirred up to meet you when you come; it rouses the shades to greet you, all who were leaders of the earth; it raises from their thrones all who were kings of the nations. <sup>10</sup> All of them will answer and say to you: 'You too have become as weak as we! You have become like us!' <sup>11</sup> Your pomp is brought down to Sheol, the sound of your harps; maggots are laid as a bed beneath you, and worms are your covers.

- Future judgment at the return of Christ:

Isaiah 63:1-7 Who is this who comes from Edom, with garments of glowing colors from Bozrah, This One who is majestic in His apparel, Marching in the greatness of His strength? "It is I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." <sup>2</sup> Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like the one who treads in the wine press? <sup>3</sup> "I have trodden the wine trough alone, And from the peoples there was no man with Me. I also trod them in My anger And trampled them in My wrath; And their lifeblood is sprinkled on My garments, And I stained all My raiment. <sup>4</sup> "For the day of vengeance was in My heart, And My year of redemption has come. <sup>5</sup> "I looked, and there was no one to help, And I was astonished and there was no one to uphold; So My own arm brought salvation to Me, And My wrath upheld Me. <sup>6</sup> "I

trod down the peoples in My anger and made them drunk in My wrath, and I poured out their lifeblood on the earth.”

- This is the Battle of Armageddon, also foretold in Zech. 14:3; Rev. 16:16; 19:15-19.
- Christ will return in holy fury to crush his enemies (cf. Isa. 34:8; 35:4; 61:2).

Isa 63:7 I shall make mention of the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel, which He has granted them according to His compassion and according to the abundance of His lovingkindnesses.

4. The Salvation of Yahweh (11:11-16; 12:1-2; 19:20; 25:9; 33:2, 6; 37:35; 38:20; 43:11-13; 45:17, 22; 49:6; 51:5, 6, 8; 56:1; 59:16, 17; 60:16; 61:10; 63:1, 8)

a. The Salvation of Israel

- Will Israel be rejected in the future?

Isaiah 43:1-4 But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! <sup>2</sup> “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, nor will the flame burn you. <sup>3</sup> “For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. <sup>4</sup> “Since you are precious in My sight, *since* you are honored and I love you, I will give *other* men in your place and *other* peoples in exchange for your life.”

Isaiah 44:21 “Remember these things, O Jacob, And Israel, for you are My servant; I have formed you, you are My servant, O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me.”

Isaiah 49:14-16 But Zion said, “The LORD has forsaken me, And the Lord has forgotten me.” <sup>15</sup> “Can a woman forget her nursing child and have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, but I will not forget you. <sup>16</sup> “Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of *My hands*...”

Romans 11:1 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery – so that you will not be wise in your own estimation – that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in

Romans 11:28–29 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God's* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; <sup>29</sup> for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

b. The Salvation of the Gentiles

➤ The salvation of Gentiles is foretold in a few ways in Isaiah:

- **A light to the nations:**

Isaiah 49:6 He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.”

- **Universal worship:**

Isa 56:7 For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples

- **Global blessing:**

Isaiah 25:6–9 Yahweh of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples on this mountain; a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, *And* refined, aged wine. <sup>7</sup> And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, Even the veil which is stretched over all nations. <sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord YAHWEH will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for Yahweh has spoken. <sup>9</sup> And it will be said in that day, “Behold, this is our God for whom we have waited that He might save us. This is Yahweh for whom we have waited; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.”

5. Yahweh the Savior

➤ The Messiah, who we know as Jesus, is spoken of in 8 different ways:

a. The Light (9:2; 42:16; 49:6; 58:8-11; 60:1, 19, 20) [MSB, 968]

Isaiah 49:6 He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

b. The Child (7:14; 9:6-7) [MSB, 968]

Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

c. The Shoot, Branch (11:1) [MSB, 972, 960]

Isaiah 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

d. The Stone (28:16-17; 32:1-2) [MSB 995, 1002]

e. The Servant (42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; 52:13-53:12) [MSB, 1017, 1030, 1033, 1037]

Isaiah 52:13-15 Behold, My servant will prosper, He will be high and lifted up and greatly exalted. <sup>14</sup> Just as many were astonished at you, *My people*, So His appearance was marred more than any man And His form more than the sons of men. <sup>15</sup> Thus He will sprinkle many nations, Kings will shut their mouths on account of Him; For what had not been told them they will see, And what they had not heard they will understand.

Isaiah 50:4-7 The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of disciples, That I may know how to sustain the weary one with a word. He awakens *Me* morning by morning, He awakens My ear to listen as a disciple. <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened My ear; And I was not disobedient Nor did I turn back. <sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who strike *Me*, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting. <sup>7</sup> For the Lord GOD helps Me, Therefore, I am not disgraced; Therefore, I have set My face like flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

Isaiah 53:3-6 He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. <sup>4</sup> Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. <sup>6</sup> All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

Isaiah 53:10 But the LORD was pleased to crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; if He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, and the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.



- f. The Redeemer of Israel (41:14; 43:14; 44:16, 24; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7, 26; 54:5, 8; 59:20; 60:16; 63:16) [MSB, 1016]
- g. The Second Exodus (11:11-16; 40:3-5; 41:17-20; 42:14-16; 43:1-3, 14-21; 48:20-21; 49:8-12; 51:9-10; 52:11-12; 55:12-13; 58:8; 60:2, 19; 63:7-9) [MSB, 972]

Isaiah 11:11–16 Then it will happen on that day that the Lord will again recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people, who will remain, from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. <sup>12</sup> And He will lift up a standard for the nations and assemble the banished ones of Israel, and will gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth. <sup>13</sup> Then the jealousy of Ephraim will depart, and those who harass Judah will be cut off; Ephraim will not be jealous of Judah, and Judah will not harass Ephraim. <sup>14</sup> They will swoop down on the slopes of the Philistines on the west; together they will plunder the sons of the east; they will possess Edom and Moab, and the sons of Ammon will be subject to them. <sup>15</sup> And the LORD will utterly destroy the tongue of the Sea of Egypt; and He will wave His hand over the River with His scorching wind; and He will strike it into seven streams and make *men* walk over dry-shod. <sup>16</sup> And there will be a highway from Assyria for the remnant of His people who will be left, just as there was for Israel in the day that they came up out of the land of Egypt.

h. The Second Moses

- 1) Endued with Yahweh's Spirit (42:1; cf. Num. 11:25)
- 2) Will Establish Justice (42:1, 3, 4; cf. Deut. 4:8)
- 3) Called by Yahweh (49:1-2; cf. Ex. 3:1-4:12)
- 4) Will Give a Covenant (42:6; 49:8; cf. Ex. 24:1-11)
- 5) Will Be Rejected (49:7; 50:6; 53:3; cf. Ex. 2:14; Num. 12)
- 6) His Humility (42:2-3; 53:2; cf. Num. 12:3)

6. Judah and Jerusalem

- a. Judah (1:1; 2:1; 3:1, 8; 5:3, 7; 7:1, 6, 17; 8:8; 9:21; 11:12, 13; 19:17; 22:8, 21; 26:1; 36:1, 7; 37:10, 31; 38:9; 40:9; 44:26; 48:1; 65:9)
- b. Jerusalem (1:1; 2:1, 3; 3:1, 8; 4:3, 4; 5:3; 7:1; 8:14; 10:10, 11, 12, 32; 22:10, 21; 24:23; 27:13; 28:14; 30:19; 31:5, 9; 33:20; 36:2, 7, 20; 37:10, 22, 32; 40:2, 9; 41:27; 44:26, 28; 51:17; 52:1, 2, 9; 62:6, 7; 64:10; 65:18, 19; 66:10, 13, 20); Zion (1:8, 27; 2:3; 3:16, 17; 4:3, 4, 5; 8:18; 10:12, 24, 32; 12:6; 14:32; 16:1; 18:7; 24:23; 28:16; 29:8; 30:19; 31:4, 9; 33:5, 14, 20; 34:8; 35:10; 37:22, 32; 40:9; 41:27; 46:13; 49:14; 51:3, 11, 16; 52:1, 2, 7, 8; 59:20; 60:14; 61:3; 62:1, 11; 64:10; 66:8); city [*ir*] (1:8, 26; 22:2, 9; 26:1; 32:14, 19; 36:15; 37:33, 34, 35; 38:6; 45:13; 48:2; 52:1; 60:14; 62:12; 66:6); city [*qiryah*] (1:21, 26; 22:2; 29:1; 32:13; 33:20)

7. The Spirit of Yahweh (11:2; 32:15; 34:16; 40:7, 13; 42:1; 44:3; 48:16; 59:19; 61:1; 63:10, 14)

8. The Sovereignty of Yahweh (41:21-23; 42:9; 43:9-10; 44:6-8; 45:21; 46:9-11; 48:3)

Isaiah 45:1-2 Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut: <sup>2</sup> “I will go before you and make the rough places smooth; I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.

Isaiah 46:8-10 “Remember this, and be assured; Recall it to mind, you transgressors. <sup>9</sup> “Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; *I am* God, and there is no one like Me, <sup>10</sup> Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, ‘My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure’;

9. Israel’s Future Millennial Kingdom

MacArthur Study Bible, p. 1055:

| Isaiah's Description of Israel's Future Kingdom  |  |
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| Description  | Isaiah passages  |
| 1. The Lord will restore the faithful remnant of Israel to the Land to inhabit the kingdom at its beginning. | 1:9,25-27; 3:10; 4:3; 6:13; 8:10; 9:1; 10:20,22,25,27; 11:11,12,16; 14:1,2; 14:22,26; 26:1-4; 27:12; 28:5; 35:9; 37:4,31,32; 40:2,3; 41:9; 43:5,6; 46:3,4; 49:5,8; 49:12,22; 51:11; 54:7-10; 55:12; 57:13,18; 60:4,9; 61:1-4,7; 65:8-10; 66:8,9,19 |
| 2. As the Lord defeats Israel's enemies, He will provide protection for His people.                          | 4:5,6; 9:1,4; 12:1-6; 13:4; 14:2; 21:9; 26:4,5; 27:1-4; 30:30,31; 32:2; 33:16,22; 35:4; 99:8,9; 49:17,18; 52:6; 54:9,10; 55:10,11; 58:12; 60:10,12,18; 62:9; 66:16   |
| 3. In her kingdom, Israel will enjoy great prosperity of many kinds.   | 26:15,19; 27:2,13; 29:18-20; 22:22,23; 30:20; 32:3; 32:15-20; 33:6,24; 35:3,5,6,8-10; 40:11; 42:6,7,16; 43:5,6,8,10,21; 44:5,14; 46:13; 48:6; 49:10; 52:9; 54:2,3; 55:1,12; 58:9,14; 60:5,16,21; 61:4,6-10; 62:5; 65:13-15,18,24; 66:21,22         |
| 4. The city of Jerusalem will rise to world preeminence in the kingdom.                                      | 2:2-4; 18:7; 25:6; 40:5,9; 49:19-21; 60:1-5,13-15,17; 62:3,4   |
| 5. Israel will be the center of world attention in the kingdom.  | 23:18; 54:1-3; 55:5; 56:6-8; 60:5-9; 66:18-21  |
| 6. Israel's mission in the kingdom will be to glorify the Lord.  | 60:21; 61:3  |
| 7. Gentiles in the kingdom will receive blessing through the channel of faithful Israel.                     | 11:10; 19:18,24,25; 42:6; 45:22,23; 49:6; 51:5; 56:3,6-8; 60:3,7,8; 61:5; 66:19  |
| 8. Worldwide peace will prevail in the kingdom under the rule of the Prince of Peace.                        | 2:4; 9:5,6; 11:10; 19:23; 26:12; 32:18; 54:14; 57:19; 66:12  |
| 9. Moral and spiritual conditions in the kingdom will reach their highest plane since the Fall of Adam.      | 27:6; 28:6,17; 32:16; 42:7; 44:3; 45:8; 51:4; 61:11; 65:21,22  |
| 10. Governmental leadership in the kingdom will be superlative with the Messiah heading it up.               | 9:6,7; 11:2,3; 16:5; 24:23; 25:3; 32:1; 32:5; 33:22; 42:1,4; 43:15; 52:13; 53:12; 55:3-5   |
| 11. Humans will enjoy long life in the kingdom.  | 65:20,22   |
| 12. Knowledge of the Lord will be universal in the kingdom.  | 11:9; 19:21; 33:13; 40:5; 41:20; 45:6,14; 49:26; 52:10,13,15; 54:13; 66:23   |
| 13. The world of nature will enjoy a great renewal in the kingdom.   | 12:3; 30:23-26; 32:15; 35:1-4,6,7; 41:18,19; 43:19,20; 44:3,23; 55:1,2,13; 58:10,11  |
| 14. "Wild" animals will be tame in the kingdom.  | 11:6-9; 35:9; 65:25  |
| 15. Sorrow and mourning will not exist in the kingdom.   | 25:8; 60:20  |
| 16. An eternal kingdom, as a part of God's new creation, will follow the millennial kingdom.                 | 24:23; 51:6; 51:16; 54:11,12; 60:11,19; 65:17  |
| 17. The King will judge overt sin in the kingdom.  | 66:24  |

## Characteristics of the future kingdom

### 1) Believers from all nations come to worship in the Millennium

Isaiah 19:23-25 In that day there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrians will come into Egypt and the Egyptians into Assyria, and the Egyptians will worship with the Assyrians. 24 In that day Israel will be the third party with Egypt and Assyria, a blessing in the midst of the earth, 25 whom the Lord of hosts has blessed, saying, "Blessed is Egypt My people, and Assyria the work of My hands, and Israel My inheritance."

### 2) Christ will rule forever & bring about peaceful conditions

Isaiah 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with

justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

3) The earth will experience a radical upgrade to Edenic conditions

Isaiah 11:6–8 the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. <sup>7</sup> Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

4) Jews will return to the land from around the world

Isaiah 11:11 Then it will happen on that day that the Lord Will again recover the second time with His hand The remnant of His people, who will remain, From Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, And from the islands of the sea.

5) Death, sorrow, & suffering will be absent from God's people

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord GOD will wipe tears away from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

- D. Purpose: The holy Yahweh will not permit unholiness in His people, so He will chasten and purge them to make them fit to participate in His program of extending His rule over the Gentiles.

Isaiah 66:1–2 Thus says the LORD, "Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest? <sup>2</sup> "For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being," declares the LORD. "But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.

Isaiah 66:22–24 "For just as the new heavens and the new earth which I make will endure before Me," declares the LORD, "So your offspring and your name will endure. <sup>23</sup> "And it shall be from new moon to new moon and from sabbath to

sabbath, all mankind will come to bow down before Me,” says the LORD. <sup>24</sup>  
“Then they will go forth and look on the corpses of the men who have  
transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die and their fire will not be  
quenched; and they will be an abhorrence to all mankind.”

#### E. Bibliography

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