

ISAIAH

1st book of the Major Prophets

-not called "major" because of their importance, only because of the length of their books

Written by Isaiah between 681 and 700 B.C.

The book can be divided into two sections

-Ch. 1-39 written during his ministry (words of Judgment)

-Ch. 40-66 written near the end of his life (words of comfort)

-interesting note:

The book of Isaiah is similar to the bible itself

-66 chapters in Isaiah; 66 books in the bible

-1st 39 chapters deal with judgment for sin; 1st 39 books of the bible are the Old Testament

-chapters 40-66 are about hope for God's people; books 40-66 are the New Testament

Isaiah contains some of the most graphic portrayals of the Messiah in the Old Testament.

The book opens with Isaiah's vision from the Lord concerning Israel

-they have gone astray and have abandoned the Lord

Isa 1:4 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.

-it's said that the God of the Old Testament is just mean and vengeful

-so it's at this point that we would expect the Lord to rain fire and brimstone on these people

-but the Lord says:

Isa 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are as scarlet, They will be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They will be like wool.

Isa 1:19 "If you consent and obey, You will eat the best of the land;

Isa 1:20 "But if you refuse and rebel, You will be devoured by the sword." Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

- this is one of the reasons it is so important to go through the entire bible
 - we begin to see a more complete picture of God
 - it's true that He does deal with some people harshly in the Old Testament
 - but for every act of harsh discipline, you can probably find an act of grace

- It's the same in the New Testament
 - everyone seems to think that Jesus was just smiling all the time and nice to everyone he met
 - yes He was the epitome of grace, but for every picture you find of Him extending grace, you will probably find one of Him dealing harshly with someone

- before long, we see that Hebrews is right when it says:
[Heb 13:8](#) Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

Ch. 2

- Isaiah receives vision about the end times
 - describes what the world will be like during the thousand year reign of Christ

[Isa 2:4](#) And He will judge between the nations, And will render decisions for many peoples; And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, And never again will they learn war.

But he also warns them what will happen to those who reject the Lord

[Isa 2:19](#) *Men* will go into caves of the rocks And into holes of the ground Before the terror of the LORD And the splendor of His majesty, When He arises to make the earth tremble.

About 750 years later, John describes this event in the book of revelation

- speaking of the future 2nd coming of the Lord (same event)

[Rev 6:15](#) Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

[Rev 6:16](#) and they *said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb;

Ch. 5

-by the warnings he gives, you can see that the culture then was much like it is today

-most of the chapter is “woe to the wicked who....”

Isa 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Isa 5:21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!

Isa 5:22 Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine And valiant men in mixing strong drink,

Isa 5:23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!

-compare these statements to today’s political, cultural and entertainment sectors...

-pretty good description

Ch.6

One of my favorite passages in the bible

-Isaiah gets a vision of the throne room of God

Isa 6:1 In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.

Isa 6:2 Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Isa 6:3 And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."

Isa 6:4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.

Isa 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I live among a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts."

Isa 6:6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

Isa 6:7 He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

-one of my favorite songs is taken almost word for word from this section of scripture

-I heard a great teacher one day talking about this

-he said that there is so much truth in verse 1

“In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne...”

-Uzziah was the leader at that time

-He was a descent king but tried to take over the duties of the high priest

- so he became leprous and died
- the point is, although he was a good king, he should not have been trying to take people's focus off of God

- some of us may have the same problem
 - we have people in our lives we really look up to
 - radio or TV preachers and teachers
 - authors or people we want to be like
 - although they mean well, sometimes they can get in the way of our true relationship with God

- So Isaiah says "In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne"
 - once he was gone, Isaiah was able to see the Lord clearly
 - may work for us too

- then Isaiah begins to describe the throne room of God
 - what God looks
 - what the angels look like
 - what he hears in heaven

Then after hearing God speak, he says

Isa 6:5 Then I said, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips

But in the next verse it says

Isa 6:6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.

Isa 6:7 He touched my mouth *with it* and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips; and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Isa 6:8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

The order is important:

- his iniquity was taken away
- then he heard the voice of the Lord speak to him
- Have you ever wondered why the voice of the Lord seems so distant, so quiet some times?
 - it doesn't take much sin to silence the voice of the Lord
 - at first, we may hear the Lord but decide to ignore it and do our own thing
 - as time goes by, He gets harder to hear, just like background noise
 - we learn to tune it out

-but He still speaks, and once our iniquity is removed, we will be able to hear Him again

-Isaiah has many prophecies with dual meanings
-one near and one far fulfillment

-Ch. 14 is a great example
-the near fulfillment was possibly Nebuchadnezzar
-but its ultimate prophecy is obviously Satan

Isa 14:12 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations!

Isa 14:13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north.

Isa 14:14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.'

Isa 14:15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.

Isa 14:16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, *saying*, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms,

-here we get a great picture of Satan's rebellion and fall
-we also see his ultimate fate

Isa 14:16 "Those who see you will gaze at you, They will ponder over you, *saying*, 'Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms

-although the devil is very powerful, one day we will realize that he is not God's opposite/equal
-he is a created being who ultimately is still accountable to God and will receive his proper punishment

-the last verses in ch. 26 are very meaningful to me
-8 years ago (July 14th 2006) I had a dream
-I've only had 2 dreams in my life that I were so powerful that I believe they were from the Lord
-this was one of them

In my dream, there was a big set of doors in the Holy Land. Every day the local people (Jewish or Israeli women in traditional clothing) would come out and try to close these doors, but they were never able to. It seemed that the doors were out of alignment, but they tried every day. During my dream, they went out to try as usual, but this time they were actually able to close them. They were VERY excited. It was as if this was something they had been looking forward to for a long time. This was a

very big deal to them. When I awoke, I had one of my favorite praise/worship songs in my head and I felt like God was revealing something through this dream.

-This was the only part of scripture that I could find that seemed to fit

Isa 26:20 Come, my people, enter into your rooms And close your doors behind you; Hide for a little while Until indignation runs *its* course.

Isa 26:21 For behold, the LORD is about to come out from His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; And the earth will reveal her bloodshed And will no longer cover her slain.

-I'm not saying it was prophetic, but it was intense

-the theme of judgment continues until you get to ch. 40

-then like a switch, it changes

-now you start seeing phrases like

Isa 43:2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you

Isa 43:18 "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past.

Isa 43:19 "Behold, I will do something new,

sa 43:25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins.

Then in 49:16 He says something interesting

sa 49:16 "Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms *of My hands*

-interesting to think about when considering where He took the nails for us on the cross

In ch. 65 and 66 we have great descriptions of the earth during the millennial reign and the new heavens and new earth

Isa 65:25 "The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent's food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain," says the LORD.

One more thing of note before we leave Isaiah:

-the one thing that sets the bible apart from every other holy book is

Prophecy

-the bible is the only book that stakes its reputation on foretelling the future

Isa 66:8 "Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things? Can a land be born in one day? Can a nation be brought forth all at once?"

On May 14, 1948, the Jews declared independence for Israel as a sovereign nation for the first time in 2900 years.

During that same day, the United States issued a statement recognizing Israel's sovereignty. During a 24-hour span of time, foreign control of the land of Israel had formally ceased, and Israel had declared its independence, and its independence was acknowledged by other nations and the UN.

Jesus Types:

-Some books had to be scoured to find a reference to Jesus

-A blind man could find them in the book of Isaiah

Isa 9:6 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.

Isa 43:3 "For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior....."

Isa 43:14 Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel....

Isa 44:8 "..... Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any *other* Rock? I know of none."

Isa 50:6 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.

Isa 52:14 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.

Almost all of Ch. 53

I have to read this because it is probably the most descriptive prophesy in the OT about the life, death and suffering of Jesus

Isa 53:2 For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

Isa 53:3 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.

Isa 53:4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

Isa 53:5 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.

Isa 53:6 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.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

Isa 53:8 By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due?*

Isa 53:9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Isa 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.

Isa 53:11 As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

Isa 53:12 Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.