

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

SHILIN - BREAD OF LIFE

JULY 13, 2017

— BRIAN BEESON

---

## I. OVERVIEW: THE PROPHET ISAIAH AND HIS MINISTRY

- A. Isaiah was a prophet to Judah for more than fifty years (739 BC to 686 BC), covering the reign of four Kings: *Uzziah* (790–739), *Jotham* (750–732), *Ahaz* (735–715) and *Hezekiah* (715–686).
- B. The New Testament quotes Isaiah more than any other Old Testament book, referencing the prophecy 472 times. Psalms is quoted the second most at 454 times. Genesis is third at 260 references.
- C. Isaiah's ministry had a two-fold purpose (Isaiah 6:8–13; 8:12–18): *to call an apostate nation back to God*, exposing idolatry, pride and empty-religion, warning of the coming Day of the Lord, and *to bring hope to the remnant* of the coming Messiah and His Kingdom (Isaiah 1–5).
- <sup>18</sup> Come now, and let us reason together,” says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow... (Isa. 1:18)*
- D. According to church tradition, Isaiah was martyred by King Manasseh. Justin Martyr (ca. A.D. 100–165) wrote that Heb. 11:37 is a reference to Isaiah's death when at Manasseh's command, he was sawed in two.

## II. THEME ONE: THE COMING MESSIAH

- A. Isaiah gives the more insight than any other prophet about *the identity* of the Messiah, *His nature* and *mission*.
- B. He affirmed the promise God made to David that his heir would rule forever out of Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 17:11–14), detailing His divinity, character and the impact of His reign. (Isa. 7:14; 6:1–5; 9:6–7; 11:1, 10)
- <sup>14</sup>...Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. (Isa. 7:14)*
- <sup>6</sup> For unto us [Israel] a Child is born, unto us a Son is given... And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it . . . (Isa. 9:7)*
- <sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a Rod [king] from the stem of Jesse [lineage of Jesse, father of King David], and a Branch shall grow out of his roots... <sup>11</sup>“And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse [source of Jesse, King David's Father], who shall stand as a banner to the people... (Isa. 11:1, 10)*
- C. Isaiah contains four poems called, “Servant Songs,” that reveal the Messiah's role as a Servant to Yahweh (Isaiah 42:1–7; 49:1–6; 50:4–9; 52:13–53:12). The Messiah would embody the ideal Israel (Isa. 42:1; 49:3).
1. To everyone's surprise, He would be overlooked, mocked, beaten and die a brutal death.
- <sup>5</sup> The Lord God has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. <sup>6</sup> I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting. (Isa. 50:5–6)*
- <sup>2</sup>...He has no form or comeliness...when we see Him...no beauty that we should desire Him. (Isa. 53:2)*
2. Although His ministry would appear a failure, it would atone for the sins of Israel and the Gentile peoples.

*<sup>5</sup> But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities <sup>6</sup> ... the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all...<sup>7</sup>...He was led as a lamb to the slaughter...<sup>10</sup>...Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin... (Isa. 53:5–10)*

*<sup>6</sup> 'It is too small a thing...You should be My Servant...to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth. (Isa. 49:6)*

D. Isaiah details the Messiah's identity as a Bridegroom, King and Judge who would deliver Israel politically, militarily and spiritually in four additional poems towards the end of the prophecy (Isa. 59:15–63:6).

*<sup>5</sup> And as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, So shall your God rejoice over you. (Isa. 62:5)*

*<sup>1</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me [as a King]...<sup>2</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, And the day of vengeance of our God [Judge]... (Isa. 61:1-2)*

### III. THEME TWO: MESSIAH'S MILLENNIAL REIGN ON EARTH

A. Isaiah provides more details about Jesus' millennial reign above any other prophet (Isa. 2:2-4; 4:2–6; 9:1–7; 11:1–16; 25:6–8; 32:1–8; 33:17–24; 60:1–22; 61:1–9; 65:17–25; 66:10–13, 18–24). The apostle John informs us it will last 1,000 years (Rev. 20:4–6). *When we study what Jesus will do in the next age, it imparts hope, matures us and grows our partnership with Him and His plan of salvation.*

1. Jerusalem will be the religious, political and geographic epicenter of the world.

*<sup>2</sup> ... in the latter days [after Jesus returns] that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains...be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it. (Isa. 2:2)*

2. Jesus will reign on a throne in the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem, and His glory will touch the nations.

*<sup>23</sup> For the Lord of hosts [Jesus] will reign...in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:23)*

*<sup>17</sup> Your eyes will see the King in His beauty [Jesus in His resurrected body]... (Isa. 33:17)*

B. There is a common misconception that we are going away to live with God in heaven. The reality is that heaven is coming to earth where we will live with God forever (Rev. 21–22).

*<sup>2</sup> Then I...saw the...New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven... <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them [on earth]... (Rev. 21:2-3)*

C. During this time, creation will be restored, mankind's dominion returned, and the curse removed. Jesus's reign will progressively improve the quality of human society, agriculture, animal kingdom and the environment. (Isa. 4:3–4; 11:6-9, 13; 25:6–8; 33:21, 24; 30:25–26; 32:1–8; 20; 35:5–7; 41:18; 43:20; 65:17-25).

*<sup>6</sup> "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb...The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them...<sup>8</sup> And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. <sup>9</sup> They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord... (Isa. 11:6–9)*

# INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

SHILIN - BREAD OF LIFE

JULY 13, 2017

— BRIAN BEESON

D. During the 1,000 years of His reign, Jesus' mission to is prepare the earth for the Father to come and dwell with us forever (Rev. 20:4-6; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 21-22).

<sup>24</sup> *Then comes the end [1,000 yrs], when He [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father... (1 Cor. 15:24)*

## IV. THEME THREE: THE DAY OF THE LORD AND THE RESTORATION OF ISRAEL

A. How does God turn a resistant and spiritually blind people back? He will use the least amount of harm, not violating anyone's free will, to bring as many to repentance. Isaiah calls this time of great testing, *the Day of the Lord* (Isa. 2:5-20; cf. 2 Pet. 3:8-10; Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Joel 2:11; Mat. 24:21). It will be a time of great shaking that will humble the pride of man but elevate the Lord and His ways.

<sup>11</sup> *The lofty looks of man shall be humbled... and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. <sup>12</sup> For the day of the Lord of hosts shall come upon everything proud and lofty... (Isa. 2:11-12)*

B. Scripture tells us that during this time *four eschatological pressures* will climax under the Lord's leadership *to bring about a new era: creation's groan* (Isa. 24:5; Rom. 8:22), *man's sin* (Isa. 24:4-6; Dan. 8:23), *Satan's rage* (Isa. 27:1; Rev. 12:12) and *God's zeal for righteousness*, as He *shakes everything* (Isa. 24:18; Hag. 2:6-9; Rev. 15:1), *judging the wicked, weakening the forces of evil on the earth, and strengthening His saints* (Isa. 24:19-22; Rev. 11:15-19). *There is no time period like this time period* (Jer. 30:7; Dan. 12:1; Joel 2:11; Mat. 24:21). Just like labor for a woman this moment is inescapable for those who are alive at that time (Isa. 24:17; 1 Thes. 5:3).

<sup>17</sup> *Fear and the pit and the snare are upon you, O inhabitant of the earth. (Isa. 24:17)*

C. Among these pressures, Isaiah mainly focuses on the political oppression, military invasion (Isa. 8:8-10; 9:1-5; 10:24-34; 30:27-33; 59:19; 63:1-6) and the iniquity in Israel (Isa. 59:1-15; 65:2-12; 66:3-4; 17, 24).

D. After the Day of the Lord, the remnant of Israel will be saved (Isaiah 4:2-4; 59:20; 60:21; Rom. 11:25-27)

<sup>3</sup> *And it shall come to pass that he who is left [after the day of the Lord] in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded among the living in Jerusalem. (Isa. 4:3)*

E. Fulfilling the promise God made to Abraham, Israel will be a blessing to all nations (Gen. 12:1-3; Isa. 27:6). They will be a light to the Gentile peoples and serve them (Isa. 60:3; 62:2; 61:6a; Zech. 8:23; Acts 4:13). Jerusalem will no longer be source of contention but a joy for the whole earth! (Zech. 12:3; Isa 25:8b; 60:15; Psalm 48:2)

<sup>9</sup>*Their [Jewish] descendants shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring among the people. All who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are the posterity whom the Lord has blessed.* (Isa. 61:9)

<sup>15</sup>*Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, so that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, a joy of many generations.* (Isa. 60:15)

## V. THEME FOUR: THE INCLUSION OF THE GENTILE PEOPLES IN SALVATION

A. The Gentile nations will be saved (Isa. 42:1, 6; 49:5–6; 53:10–12; 66:18–21). They will put away their idols and their former ways to worship the Lord (Isa. 42:8–9; 44:9–11; 48:5; 46:5–10; 47:1, 10–15; Rev. ch. 13; 17–18). These prophecies are partially fulfilled the last 2,000 years of Church history (Isa. 55:1, 5; 65:1; Rom. 10:20).

<sup>6</sup> **...I [The Father] will also give You [Jesus] as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.**” (Isa. 49:6)

<sup>10</sup> **...He shall see His [righteous] seed...<sup>11</sup> He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied.** (Isa. 53:10-11)

B. Isaiah reveals people groups from many regions of the earth worshipping the Lord and learning His ways: Present-day *Muslim nations* (Isa. 19:18–24; 60:5–7), *Mediterranean nations* (Isa. 60:8–10; 66:18–19), *distant nations and regions* (Isa. 42:10–13; 24:16)—and *all peoples* (66:23)! They will be astounded at Jesus’ glory and beauty. The nations will join Israel and serve Him (Isa. 2:2–4; 19:18–24; 60:1–16). Gentiles from each nation will even serve the Lord as priests with great joy in the Millennial temple in Jerusalem (Isa. 56:6–8; 66:21).

<sup>10</sup> **For the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place [in Jerusalem] shall be glorious.** (Isa. 11:10)

<sup>16</sup> **From the ends of the earth we have heard songs: “Glory to the righteous [King Jesus]!”** (Isa. 24:16)

<sup>23</sup> **And it shall come to pass...all flesh [people groups] shall come to worship before Me [in Jerusalem],” says the Lord.** (Isa. 66:23)

C. Gentile nations and their kings will help rebuild the city of Jerusalem and beautify the temple of God after the Great War as they are deeply moved, witnessing God’s salvation demonstrated to Israel and offered to the whole earth (Isa. 60:10–11; 61:4; 49:23; 60:13; 23:18; 25:8; 26:9, 12–15; 52:15; 60:3, 19; 62:2; 12:2, 4–6).

<sup>10</sup> **...foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you...<sup>11</sup>...your gates shall be open continually...that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles and their kings in procession.** (Isa. 60:11)

<sup>4</sup> **“Praise the Lord... declare His deeds [of His Salvation for Israel] among the [Gentile] peoples, make mention that His name is exalted. 5 Sing to the Lord, for He has done excellent things; this is known in all the earth.** (Isa. 12:4-5)