

**Divided Kingdom Period:
The Prophets to Judah: The Fifth Gospel *Isaiah 1:1-66:24***

Isaiah, "*Jehovah is salvation*," is the prince of the prophets. He is the prophet of redemption and the greatest messianic prophet. Isaiah has been called the fifth evangelist along with Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Isaiah is also considered by many as the fifth gospel. Isaiah is used to interpret the New Testament and 66 times he is quoted in the NT with 20 of the 27 books containing quotes. Isaiah has been called the Bible in miniature. Many divide its 66 chapters into two divisions, 39 in the first and 27 in the second. (Remember the OT has 39 books and the NT has 27). Like the OT the first division speaks of Judgment and the second of mercy and the coming kingdom.

The author of the book is the prophet Isaiah who tradition says was of royal blood and the cousin of King Uzziah.

He was married (**8:3**) with two children; Shear-Jashub "*a remnant shall return*" (**7:3**) and Maher-Sahlal-Hash-Baz "*hasting to the spoil, hurrying to the prey*" (**8:3**). He was a prophet for many years (approximately 60+-2) and tradition says King Manasseh killed him. (Reece dates this in 681).

The book is not in chronological order and in fact was probably written over many years of the prophet's life. We see the personal call of Isaiah in ***Isaiah 6:1ff*** during the time of Uzziah's death.

Allow me to offer the following outline for our consideration. This book is very deep and we will not even begin to touch its massive depth with this study.

I- Prophecy of Judgment. *Isaiah 1-35*

II- Historic Interlude. *Isaiah 36-39.*

III- The Fifth Gospel. *Isaiah 40-66*

I- Prophecy of Judgment. *Isaiah 1-35*

The first section of Isaiah speaks of judgment of Judah and the surrounding nations. More specifically ***Isaiah 1-12*** speaks of judgment on Judah and Jerusalem. ***Isaiah 5*** is very important where Israel is illustrated as a vine. This is a picture that carries over to the church.

7:1-9:7 give a prophecy of the coming deliverer. The virgin birth prophecy is found in **7:14**. The great messianic prophecy is found in **9:6-7**. There is also a great prophecy concerning the millennial kingdom in **11:1ff**.

In ***Isaiah 13-23*** we have the prophecies concerning the surrounding nations often called Judah's enemies. Notice the following nations Isaiah prophecies concerning. The numbers following the nations are the chapters of Isaiah where the prophecy is found. Most of these prophecies have been fulfilled.

- a- Babylon: **13-14**
- b- Moab: **15-16**
- c- Damascus (Syria): **17**
- d- Land beyond Ethiopia's river: **18**
- e. Egypt: **19-20**
- f. Edom and Arabia: **21**
- g. Tyre (Phoenicia): **23**

Isaiah 24-27 contains prophecy concerning the setting up of the Kingdom of God. ***Isaiah 28-33*** gives six, "**woes**". **30:1, 31:1** deal with Judah trying to find strength in an alliance with Egypt. **30:7** says, "**...the Egyptians**

shall help in vain.." **31:3** remind them that, **"...the Egyptians are men and not God..."** Judah was guilty of trusting Egypt and not God.

In **Isaiah 35** the prophet says, **"the desert shall rejoice and bloom as a rose..." 35:1.**

II- Historic Interlude. **Isaiah 36-39.**

This section is the historical account of the invasion of Sennacherib king of Assyria.

Sennacherib had taken Israel into captivity and came against Judah. **36:1** The Assyrian king sent a message to Hezekiah requesting him to pay tribute to him. He said to the people to not let Hezekiah tell them that God would protect them. He claimed to be greater than God. **37:1** records that Hezekiah took it to God and laid it before him. Isaiah came to the King and told him to not worry. **37:33-38** records that not an arrow would fall in the city walls. The angel of the Lord fought and killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night.

The story of God giving Hezekiah 15 more years of life is found in **38:1-5.** **Isaiah 39** however records him doing a very foolish thing when he shows the bounty of the temple to the Babylonians. **39:1-2.** Isaiah gives a prophecy concerning the carrying away into Babylon of Judah in **39:6-7.**

III- The Fifth Gospel. **Isaiah 40-66**

40:1-3 sets the tone for the last part of Isaiah with the promise of the coming of the one crying in the wilderness. This was John the Baptist who preceded the Messiah.

Isaiah gives us great prophecies concerning the coming of the Messiah was to suffer but also he carries us prophetically throughout the Millennium.

One of the most remarkable prophecies in this section is the naming of the King who would allow the nation to return from captivity and rebuild the temple. **44:28** names him Cyrus. How could the prophet do this? It was not the prophet but God. **Is 46:9-10.**

Isaiah is such a great messianic prophet that I wish to concentrate primarily on the messianic message in this last section.

Allow me to offer the following prophecies found in Isaiah concerning the Messiah for our consideration. (Compiled from *Unger's Bible Handbook*, p.307)

a- His deity, eternity, preexistence, creator ship, omnipotence (all powerful), omnipresence (all present), omniscience (all knowing), incomparableness (**40:12-18; 51:13.**)

b- His incarnation (**9:6; 7:14**) NT see **Matt 1:23.**

c- His lowliness and youth in Nazareth (**7:15; 9:1-2; 11:1; 53:2.**)

d- His appearance as the Servant of the Lord, 1- anointed as such (**11:2**) 2- chosen and delighted in such (**42:1**)

e- His mild manner (**42:2**)

f- His tender ministering kindness (**42:3**) NT see **Matt 12:18-20.**

g- His message (**61:1-2**)

h- His miracles (**35:5-6**)

i- His suffering (**50:6**) as a gateway to exaltation (**52:13-15**)

j- His rejection by the Jewish nation (**53:1-3**)

k- His shame- struck, wounded, bruised (**53:4-6**)

l- His vicarious death (**53:8**)

m- His burial (**53:9**)

n- His resurrection (**53:10**)

m- His ascension (**52:13**)

n- His spiritual offspring (**53:10**)

m- His present high priestly ministry.
(53:12)

n- His future glory.

Isaiah in *Isaiah 54-57* shows that salvation comes only from the suffering Savior. **55:1; 59:1**

Isaiah 60 gives the glory of the millennial kingdom to come.

65:17-25 gives us the time of peace during the millennial reign of Christ. The New Jerusalem of the Revelation is prophesied here.

Application to Life's Steps:

1- Our God knows the beginning from the end and therefore can be trusted with our tomorrows.

2- God was the ultimate one who judged the enemies of Judah. We to should rest in the Lord to avenge any wrong we have been done and remember that the same Lord who will avenge our wrongs will avenge the wrongs we do to others.

3- Just as Judah's strength did not come from Egypt, nor any man, we to should rely on the Lord and not man.

4- The killing of the 185,000 shows us the power God has to protect His own.

5- The many prophecies of Messiah that were given, and that we look back and see were fulfilled, should assure us of the truth of God's word and of the truth that Christ was Messiah.

Review of Session:

1- What does the name Isaiah mean?

2- What nations other than Israel and Judah did Isaiah prophecy about?

3- Where is the prophecy of the virgin birth found? _____

4- How many Assyrians were killed in one night by the angel of the Lord?

5- What was the name of the King who would give the decree to return to Jerusalem after the captivity?

6- Salvation comes only from the _____ Savior.