

Survey of Isaiah

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Author

1. Isaiah means “Yahweh is Salvation.”
2. Isaiah 1:1 gives us the time-frame around 700 BC. His ministry to Judah was 40 to 60 years long, 740 -680 B.C. (1:1) spanning the reigns of four kings of Judah: Uzziah (790-739 B.C.), Jotham (739-731 B.C.), Ahaz (731-715 B.C.), and Hezekiah (715-686 B.C.).
3. Tradition says he was sawed in two by persecutors during the reign of Manasseh (cf. Heb.11:32-38).
4. Isaiah was a contemporary with Hosea and Micah prophesying during the last years of the northern kingdom but ministering primarily in Jerusalem to the southern kingdom of Judah.

Structure

The Holy One of Israel’s People (Isa. 1–12).

1:2-9 The reason for most sin.

1:10-20 Tired of doing church.

3:1-4, 11, 12 Bad leadership.

3:16-26 Judgment on women.

The Holy One of Israel’s International Ministry (Isa. 13–27).

God’s relationship with his people extends to every ethnic group internationally.

20:1-6 (cf. Micah 1:1, 6, 8, 11, 12). The naked sermon. What does the naked message tell us?

The Holy One of Israel’s Grace (Isa. 28–39).

The focus on these chapters seems to be to emphasize the sovereign grace of God to all that has been said up to this point.

29:16

30:15

37:15, 21, 36; 38:5,6

The Holy One of Israel’s Servant and Kingdom (Isa. 40–66).

42:10, 43:21, 61:10-11 The reason God made us.

42:1–9; 49:1–7; 50:1–11; 52:13–53:12, four servant songs.

65:17-25, God’s flawless kingdom comes in Christ for all who are redeemed in Christ.

Chronological Order of the Prophets

Prophets	Time	Spoke To
Jonah→ Amos→ Hosea	Pre-exilic	Israel
Obadiah→ Isaiah → Micah→ Nahum→ Habakkuk→ Zephaniah→ Jeremiah	Pre-exilic	Judah
Ezekiel→ Daniel	Exilic	Judah/ nation
Haggai→ Zechariah→ Joel→ Malachi	Post-exilic	Judah

An Argument over the Unity of Isaiah

1. Some critics claim a “Deutero-Isaiah” wrote chapters 40-66. Isaiah died prior to Judah’s exile, yet Isaiah 40-66 assumes the exile has already occurred (cf. 41:2; 42:22,24; 44:26-28; 45:1; 47:6; 51:3; 58:12; 61:43; 63:18; 64:10 as to the destruction of the city, temple, and King Cyrus already seemingly present). Scholars overlook the fact that this same section includes references to the city and the temple still standing and Cyrus as one who has yet to make his appearance (cf. 40:9; 41:25; 43:28; 46:11; 48:2; 52:1,7,8; 56:5-7; 62:6,7).

2. **The solution:** Isaiah wrote these chapters as a confident prophet, so fully assured the events God had predicted would come to pass that he wrote in the present tense to indicate their certainty. The book itself declares God’s ability to predict the future (42:9; 44:7; 46:9-11; 48:6). The problem with the critics: they assume divine prophecy is impossible, thus Isaiah could not have predicted Babylonian captivity and the return under Cyrus 150 years in advance. The New Testament claims Isaiah wrote both sections. John 12:37-41 quotes from Isaiah 6:9,10; 53:1 claiming it all to be from Isaiah. This is also true of Paul’s quotes from Isaiah (cf. Rom. 9:27; 10:16-21 with Isa. 10, 53, and 65). Other similar references are Matt. 3:3; 12:17-21; Luke 3:4-6, and Acts 8:28.

Isaiah is like the Bible in Miniature

Isaiah

1. 66 chapters
2. 2 main divisions:1) A Pre-exilic message, chs.1-39 and, 2) A Post-exilic message, chs.40-66.
3. Begins with man's accountability to his creator and responsibility for perfect obedience, 1:2-20.
4. The second section of Isaiah (chapters.40-66) begins with a "voice crying in the wilderness" making preparation for a Great God (40:3).
5. Isaiah closes with visions of a new heaven and earth, 60:1-3; 62:1-5; 66:22-24.

The Whole Bible

1. 66 books
2. 2 main divisions:1) A Pre-Christ message, books 1-39 and, 2) A Post-Christ message, books 40-66.
3. Begins with man's creation by God and accountability to God for perfect obedience, Gen.1-2.
4. The New Testament begins with the ministry of John the Baptist— "a voice crying in the wilderness" making preparations for Christ (John 1:6,23).
5. The New Testament closes with visions of a new heaven and earth, Rev. 21:1-5.

Application

1. God knows about our sin yet is willing to help us (59:1-2; 53, cf. 1 John 1:9).
2. God warns us of the consequences of our actions before they occur. Thus, it would be wise to listen to God's word and not be stubborn (46:8-13).
3. God knows every detail of the future, even who will be president of a nation 150 years from now. Thus, we should trust God! No one can prepare us for the end of times better than the one who knows end from the beginning (46:10).