

Through the Bible Course

**March 30, 1947**

**Isaiah**

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Key Word: Salvation of Jehovah

Key Verse: 1:18-20 (meaning of Isaiah's name)

Time: Under reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. Covered period of 60 or 65 years; about 760 BC to 695 BC. We find in 2 Kings 15-21 the historical account of conditions prevailing during time of Isaiah's prophecies.

Conditions:

1. Isaiah began to prophesy when Israel, the northern kingdom, was outwardly rich and prosperous, but inwardly it was very corrupt, and soon went to pieces and was conquered and carried captive by the Assyrians.
2. Judah, to whom Isaiah especially spoke, was oppressed and wickedness and idolatry existed everywhere.

Isaiah: Son of Amoz. Tradition says Amoz was brother of King Amaziah so that Isaiah was of royal blood. Tradition also says he was sawn asunder under Manasseh and that Hebrews 11:37 probably refers to him.

The book can be divided into three parts.

I. Part I – chapters 1 through 35

1. Introduction tells what book is about – chapter 1
2. Forecast of future reaching to final purification and restoration of Israel – ch. 2 to 5
  - a. Parable of vineyard, showing Israel's failure; also woes upon Israel – chapter 5
3. Isaiah's call – includes vision of the Lord; consciousness of his sin and that of nation; the fire from off the altar signifying removal of pollution and inspiration for his marvelous speech which has entranced the world – chapter 6
4. Here we have the predictions of judgments to come upon Judah through the Assyrian invasion; the promise of the virgin birth of Immanuel, the coming of the Son and closes with the announcement of the coming of a blessed day when Israel is converted. Here have joy of world described; antagonisms of nature gone. The miseries and wretchedness of life replaced with blessings, righteousness, and peace which shall cover the earth – chapters 7 through 12
5. Predictions respecting the nations of Babylon, Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Ethiopia, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, and Tyre. All of these were at one time enemies of Judah and had contributed to her downfall – chapters 13 through 23
6. Predictions of judgment on the world; tells of sins of Samaria and Judah which provoked these judgments. Have prediction of Assyrian invasion and captivity of Israel –

chapter 28. Solemn warnings against all earthly alliances (chapters 29-33). Chapter 35 gives another prophecy of coming glory – chapters 24 through 35

II. Part II – chapters 36 through 39

1. This section is set in time of Hezekiah. It records the siege of Jerusalem by Sennacherib, and the supernatural deliverance. Notice 2 Kings 18-20 and 2 Chronicles 19-32; notice 2 Kings 19 and Isaiah 37 are same.

2. Relation of Hezekiah's sickness and recovery – chapters 38-39

III. Part III – chapters 40 through 66

1. Here we have the weakness of man contrasted with power of God. The antithesis between idols and Jehovah. Here also we have the promise of return under Cyrus (44:28-45:4) – chapters 40 through 48

2. Presents Jehovah's servant in humiliation securing salvation and the glory which should follow – chapters 49 through 57; but ends with warning – 57:19-21

3. Restoration of Zion and Messianic kingdom – chapters 58 through 66

a. Jehovah desires true not formal worship – chapter 58

b. After punishing her sins, Jehovah will redeem Zion and give her glory – chapters 59-60

c. Merciful program for new age and picture of the glory of renewed Zion – chapter 61-62

d. Prayer of penitent Israel after God crushes Edom – chapter 63-64

e. Jehovah answers the prayer and promises salvation to Judah – chapters 65-66

Note: There are some notable passages in Isaiah with which all should be familiar.

- Chapter 1:18-20 – call to reason
- Chapter 6 – call to Isaiah
- Chapter 7:10-16 – virgin birth
- Chapter 9:1-7 – divine Child only hope
- Chapter 11 – the branch
- Chapter 14:12-17 – with Ezekiel
- Chapter 28:12-19 – fall of Satan
- Chapter 40 – greatness of God
- Chapter 44:1-17 – the foolishness of idolatry
- Chapter 53 – the suffering Servant
- Chapter 55 – the everlasting salvation