OLD TESTAMENT · MAJOR PROPHETS · BOOK 23 OF 66

# Isaiah

*Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God (40:1)*

| 66 | Isaiah | c. 740–681 B.C. | The Holy One |
|---|---|---|---|
| Chapters, 1,292 Verses | Son of Amoz | About Sixty Years | of Israel |

STRUCTURE

## The Book in Four Parts

Isaiah has two great halves. Chapters **1–39** are mostly judgment, with promises of the coming King; chapters **40–66** are mostly comfort, with the Servant of the LORD and the new creation.




Each bar shows that part's share of the 1,292 verses.

**I** 1–12 · 252 verses

### Judgment and Promise for Judah

Sin exposed, Isaiah's call, Immanuel, and the Branch of Jesse.

**II** 13–27 · 258 verses

### The Nations and the Whole Earth

Burdens on the nations, then judgment and joy for all the earth.

**III** 28–39 · 256 verses

### Woes, Trust and Hezekiah

Six woes, the King in His beauty, and the Assyrian crisis.

**IV** 40–66 · 526 verses

### Comfort and the New Creation

Comfort, the one true God, the Suffering Servant, and new heavens and earth.

ISAIAH 1:1

## The Kings of Isaiah's Day

Isaiah prophesied "in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah" (1:1). Dates B.C. are approximate.

c. 740 B.C.
**Uzziah Dies**
Isaiah sees the Lord (6:1)

c. 735 B.C.
**Ahaz**
Immanuel promised (7:14)

722 B.C.
**Samaria Falls**
Assyria takes Israel captive (2 Kings 17:6)

c. 715 B.C.
**Hezekiah**
A king who trusted the LORD

701 B.C.
**Sennacherib**
Jerusalem saved (37:36)

c. 701 B.C.
**Fifteen Years**
Hezekiah healed (38:5)

681 B.C.
**Sennacherib Dies**
Slain by his sons (37:38)

Foretold
**Babylon and Cyrus**
Exile (39:6) and return (44:28)

ISAIAH 6

## Isaiah Sees the Lord

Isaiah's call shows what every true servant of God needs: a sight of God, a sight of self, cleansing, and a willing heart.

> *"Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory."*
> Isaiah 6:3 (KJV)

**1** 6:1–4
### The Lord on His Throne
"high and lifted up"

**2** 6:5
### "Woe Is Me!"
"I am a man of unclean lips"

**3** 6:6–7
### Cleansed
A live coal from the altar

**4** 6:8
### Sent
"Here am I; send me."

"These things said Esaias, when he saw His glory, and spake of Him" (John 12:41): Isaiah saw the glory of Christ.

ISAIAH AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 6

# The Coming King and the Burdens on the Nations

ISAIAH 7–11

## Promises of the Coming King

In the dark days of Ahaz, God gives Isaiah some of the clearest promises of the Messiah in the Old Testament.

7:14 · MATTHEW 1:23

### Born of a Virgin

*"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel"*

9:1–2 · MATTHEW 4:15–16

### Light in Galilee

*"The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light"*

11:1–2 · ROMANS 15:12

### The Branch of Jesse

*"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him"*

ISAIAH 9:6

### Unto Us a Child Is Born

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

ISAIAH 13–27

## Burdens on the Nations

God rules over every nation. Isaiah carries His "burden" (a heavy message of judgment) to Judah's neighbours.

13:1–14:23
**Babylon**

14:24–27
**Assyria**

14:28–32
**Philistia**

15–16
**Moab**

17
**Damascus**

18; 20
**Ethiopia**

19–20
**Egypt**

21:1–10
**Babylon Again**

21:11–12
**Dumah (Edom)**

21:13–17
**Arabia**

22
**Jerusalem, the Valley of Vision**

23
**Tyre**

Chapters 24–27 widen to the whole earth: judgment, then a feast for all people on mount Zion, where the LORD "will swallow up death in victory" (25:8).

# The Nations in Isaiah’s Day

ISAIAH 7–48 · MAP

## The Nations in Isaiah’s Day

Isaiah spoke to Judah, but also to the nations around it, from Babylon and Assyria to Egypt and Ethiopia. The map shows the nations of his burdens, Sennacherib’s march against Judah, and the way home from Babylon that God promised. The numbers match the cards below.




*“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.”*

ISAIAH 45:22 (KJV)

*Ethiopia (Cush) lay far up the Nile, south of Egypt. Places and routes are approximate.*

BibleStudyForAll.com · Map positions approximate · Scripture from the King James Version

**1** 1:1; 22; 36–37

### Jerusalem

Isaiah’s city, “the valley of vision”; delivered when the angel of the LORD smote the Assyrian camp.

**2** 13–14; 21:1–10; 39; 47

### Babylon

“Babylon is fallen, is fallen” (21:9); Hezekiah shows his treasures to her envoys.

**3** 10:5–19; 14:24–27; 37:37

### Assyria (Nineveh)

“O Assyrian, the rod of Mine anger”; Sennacherib returns home to Nineveh.

**4** 14:28–32; 20:1

### Philistia

A burden in the year that king Ahaz died; Ashdod taken by the Assyrians.

**5** 15–16

### Moab

“My heart shall cry out for Moab.”

**6** 7:1–9; 17

### Damascus

Syria and Israel plot against Judah; “Damascus is taken away from being a city.”

**7** 18; 20:3–6; 37:9

### Ethiopia

The land “beyond the rivers of Ethiopia”; Tirhakah king of Ethiopia comes out to fight.

**8** 19–20; 30:1–7; 31:1

### Egypt

“Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help”; yet “Blessed be Egypt My people” (19:25).

**9** 21:11–12; 34; 63:1

### Edom (Seir)

“Watchman, what of the night?”; “Who is this that cometh from Edom?”

**10** 21:13–17

### Arabia (Tema, Kedar)

A burden upon Arabia: the travelling companies of Dedanim and the glory of Kedar.

**11** 23

### Tyre

“Howl, ye ships of Tarshish”; the proud merchant city laid waste.

**12** 44:28; 45:1–4

### Persia (Cyrus)

God names Cyrus, “My shepherd,” to set the captives free and say to Jerusalem, “Thou shalt be built.”

# Hezekiah, the Assyrians, and Comfort for God's People

ISAIAH 36–39

## Hezekiah and the Assyrians

The only long stretch of history in the book shows what happens when a king turns to the LORD in trouble.

1 36

### Rabshakeh's Taunts

The Assyrian officer mocks Hezekiah's trust in the LORD before the walls of Jerusalem.

2 37:14–20

### Hezekiah's Prayer

He spreads the letter before the LORD: "Thou art the God, even Thou alone."

3 37:36–38

### The LORD Delivers

The angel of the LORD smites 185,000 Assyrians; Sennacherib goes home.

4 38

### Fifteen More Years

"I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears" (38:5); the shadow goes back ten degrees.

5 39

### Envoys from Babylon

Hezekiah shows his treasures; Isaiah foretells the Babylonian captivity.

ISAIAH 40–48

## Comfort Ye My People

To a people facing exile, God shows Himself as the Creator, the only Saviour, and the Lord of history.

40:8

### His Word Stands

*"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever"*

40:31

### New Strength

*"they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength"*

41:10

### Fear Not

*"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God"*

43:11

### The Only Saviour

*"I, even I, am the LORD; and beside Me there is no saviour"*

44:9–20

### Idols Mocked

A man burns half a tree for fire and makes a god of the other half.

44:28–45:1

### Cyrus Named

About 150 years before he decreed the return (Ezra 1:1–3).

> *"Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."*
>
> Isaiah 45:22 (KJV)

# The Servant Songs and Isaiah 53

THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

## The Four Servant Songs

Four passages describe the Servant of the LORD, fulfilled in Jesus Christ (Matthew 12:17–21; Acts 8:32–35).

1 **42:1–9**

### God's Chosen Servant

*"Behold My servant, whom I uphold; Mine elect, in whom My soul delighteth"*

2 **49:1–13**

### A Light to the Gentiles

*"I will also give Thee for a light to the Gentiles"*

3 **50:4–11**

### The Obedient Servant

*"I gave My back to the smiters, and My cheeks to them that plucked off the hair"*

4 **52:13–53:12**

### The Suffering Servant

*"Behold, My servant shall deal prudently, He shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high"*

ISAIAH 52:13–53:12

## Isaiah 53: The Suffering Servant

Written about seven hundred years before the cross, this chapter tells why Jesus died.

ISAIAH 53:5–6

### He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

53:3 · JOHN 1:11

### Rejected

"despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows."

53:7 · MATTHEW 27:12–14

### Silent

"as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth."

53:9 · MATTHEW 27:57–60

### Buried with the Rich

"and with the rich in His death."

53:10 · ROMANS 4:25

### An Offering for Sin

"He shall prolong His days": risen again.

53:11 · ROMANS 5:19

### Justifies Many

"by His knowledge shall My righteous servant justify many."

53:12 · LUKE 23:34

### Intercedes

"numbered with the transgressors; … and made intercession for the transgressors."

ISAIAH AT A GLANCE · PART 6 OF 6

# Isaiah in the New Testament, Key Themes and Key Verse

FULFILLED IN CHRIST

## Isaiah in the New Testament

The New Testament quotes Isaiah by name more than twenty times, from both halves of the book.

40:3 · MATTHEW 3:3

### The Voice in the Wilderness

John the Baptist prepares the way of the Lord.

61:1–2 · LUKE 4:17–21

### Jesus Reads Isaiah

“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

53:1; 6:10 · JOHN 12:38–41

### Unbelief Foretold

“These things said Esaias, when he saw His glory.”

53:7–8 · ACTS 8:32–35

### The Ethiopian Eunuch

Philip “preached unto him Jesus” from Isaiah 53.

28:16 · 1 PETER 2:6

### The Corner Stone

“he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.”

65:17 · REVELATION 21:1

### New Heaven and New Earth

“the first heaven and the first earth were passed away.”

BIG IDEAS

## Key Themes

### The Holy One of Israel

God is holy, high and lifted up.

1:4; 6:3; 57:15

### Judgment on Sin

Judah and the nations are judged for pride and idolatry.

1:2–4; 5; 13–23

### Salvation

Isaiah’s name and message: the LORD is salvation.

12:2; 45:22; 52:10

### The Messiah

Virgin-born King, Branch of Jesse, Suffering Servant.

7:14; 9:6–7; 11:1; 53

### Trust the LORD

Not Egypt or Assyria, but the LORD alone.

26:3–4; 30:15; 31:1

### The Only God

Idols are nothing; beside Him there is no God.

44:6–20; 45:5; 46:9

### Comfort

God comforts and restores His people.

40:1–2; 49:13; 66:13

### A Remnant

A faithful remnant shall return.

10:20–22; 37:31–32

### New Creation

New heavens and a new earth, and joy for ever.

65:17–25; 66:22

KEY VERSE

*“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.”*

**Isaiah 53:5 (KJV)**