

Remember: God is in control, God has a people, and God has plan of salvation for his people.

The Book of Isaiah

Theme: God delivers his people.

Context: The book of Isaiah comes from the hand of the prophet “Isaiah, the son of Amoz” (Isaiah 1:1). Prophesying to the nation of Judah during the tenure of four kings (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah [1:1]), Isaiah received a formal and recorded call “in the year king Uzziah died” (6:1). This was ~740 BC, which is around 150 years before the fall of Jerusalem. Because of Isaiah’s closeness to the kings recorded, it is posited that his family was close to or in the royal court. At the very least, it seems he resided with his family in Jerusalem itself (7:3). In the sixty-six chapters of the book of Isaiah, many things happen. Empires rise and fall, kings doubt and believe, deliver and destroy, and prophecy happens that informs the “now” as well as the “to come.” Because of the vastness of the literature, the multitude of prophecies, and time involved, some scholars have subscribed to multiple authors of this one book. This has been done for multiple reasons, which include the desire to explain away prophetic visions of the fall of Jerusalem, and so on. Recognizing Isaiah as a prophet given otherworldly information by God to deliver to his people, as the book clearly calls for, does away with such theories—not to mention the linguistic and stylistic themes that one can find throughout the entire book. Isaiah’s message is clear: God is in control, God has a people, and God will deliver his people. Alongside this positive message is the negative one: those opposed to God and his people will find themselves in judgment.

Connection: The book of Isaiah is the most extensively quoted prophecy in the New Testament. Aside from the Psalms, Isaiah is the most quoted book of the Old Testament. As a small sample, Matthew 1:23 and Isaiah 7:14 (the virgin shall conceive), Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:2, Luke 3:4, and John 1:23’s use of Isaiah 40:3 (the voice of one crying in the wilderness), and Isaiah 53’s presence in Matthew 8:17, Luke 22:37, John 12:38, Acts 8:32, Romans 10:16, and 1 Peter 2:22, 24. And this is a small drop in the bucket of direct citations. To include obvious allusions expands the connection of this book to the New Testament as whole even more. Put simply, all of Scripture is connected and revealing of Jesus our Lord, but Isaiah’s God-given revelation held a special place in many of the New Testament writers’ hearts (in all likelihood due to its clarity, length, and content). With Isaiah’s prophecy in mind, a theological framework was formed for what Jesus was revealing about himself. God was truly delivering his people from sin.

Easy Outline¹:

- Isaiah 1-5—God’s people need saving
- Isaiah 6-12—God’s people get saved
- Isaiah 13-27—God’s got the whole world in his hands
- Isaiah 28-37—God’s especially got his people in his hands
- Isaiah 38-55—God’s people need God to especially have them in his hands
- Isaiah 56-66—God’s got salvation in his hands

¹ This is from Alec Motyer’s commentary on Isaiah. It provides an excellent breakdown of content and follows Isaiah’s flow of writing.

Remember: God is in control, God has a people, and God has plan of salvation for his people.

Solid Rock Verses:

- 1:18—*though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...*
- 4:3, 4—*when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed...*
- 6:5-6—*Woe is me! For I am lost... your guilt is taken away, your sin atoned for...*
- 7:14—*the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
- 9:1-7—*the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light... for to us a child is born...*
- 11:1, 10—*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse... of him shall the nations inquire..*
- 12:1-6—*with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation...*
- 25:8, 9—*He will swallow up death forever... let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*
- 26:19—*Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise...*
- 28:16—*I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion... a precious cornerstone...*
- 29:22-24—*Therefore thus says the LORD, who redeemed Abraham... those who go astray in spirit will come to understanding...*
- 30:18-26—*Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious... to show mercy to you... you shall weep no more... your eyes shall see your Teacher... the LORD binds up the brokenness of his people...*
- 32:1—*Behold, a king will reign in righteousness...*
- 32:18—*My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings...*
- 33:22—*For the LORD is our judge... our lawgiver... our king; he will save us.*
- 35:1-10—*And the ransomed of the LORD shall return to Zion with singing...*
- 40:1, 2—*Comfort, comfort my people... her iniquity is pardoned...*
- 40:11—*He will tend his flock like a shepherd...*
- 40:31—*they who wait for the LORD... shall mount up with wings like eagles...*
- 41:10—*fear not, for I am with you... I will uphold you with my righteous right hand...*
- 42:1-4—*Behold, my servant...*
- 43:1-28—*Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine... I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior...*
- 44:21-23—*I have blotted out every transgression like a cloud and your sins like mist...*
- 45:14-25—*But Israel is saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation...*
- 46:13—*I bring near my righteousness... I will put salvation in Zion...*
- 49:14-16—*Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands...*
- 51:1-3—*For the LORD comforts Zion... and makes her wilderness like Eden...*
- 53:1-12—*the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all...*
- 55:1, 3—*Come, everyone... incline your ear... I will make with you and everlasting covenant...*
- 56:8—*The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts o Israel, declares, 'I will gather yet others...'*
- 57:14-21—*I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit*
- 59:1—*Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save...*
- 60:18-22—*the LORD will be your everlasting light... your people shall all be righteous...*
- 61:1-3—*the LORD has anointed me to bring good news... bind up... liberty... opening of the prison*
- 62:1-12—*Behold, your salvation comes... and you shall be called Sought Out...*
- 64:8—*You are our Father, we are clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand.*
- 65:17-25—*I create new heavens and a new earth... before they call I will answer...*
- 66:12—*For thus says the LORD, 'Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river...'*
- 66:22, 23—*all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the LORD.*