

The Prophets
Falls International Baptist Institute
Class Five: Isaiah – Part One

Text: Isaiah 1

Introduction: In Isaiah 1:1, we are introduced to the message of Isaiah: “*the vision*”. Then we are introduced to the man who is the author and prophet of this book: “*Isaiah, the son of Amoz.*” Furthermore, he introduces us to the monarchs during whose consecutive reigns Isaiah prophesies: “*Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.*”

I. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MAN: ISAIAH

- A. “*Most of the prophets moved in an orbit of obscurity and anonymity. They did not project their personalities into the prophecy they proclaimed. Jeremiah and Hosea are exceptions to this, which we will see when we study their books. Isaiah gives us very little history concerning himself. There are a few scant references to his life and ministry.*” – J. Vernon McGee
- B. “*The name ‘Isaiah’ means ‘salvation of the Lord’, and salvation (deliverance) is the key theme of his book. He wrote concerning five different acts of deliverance that God would perform: 1) the deliverance of Judah from the Syrian invasion (chapters 36-37); 2) the deliverance of the nation from Babylonian captivity (chapter 40); 3) the future deliverance of the Jews from worldwide dispersion among the Gentiles (chapters 11-12); 4) the deliverance of lost sinners from judgment (chapter 53); and 5) the final deliverance of creation from the bondage of sin when the kingdom is established (chapters 60; 66:17).*” – Warren Wiersbe
- C. Isaiah was married to a lady whom God calls “*the prophetess*” in 8:3. They had two sons named Shearjashub (*a remnant shall return*), and Maher-shalal-hash-baz (*quick to plunder, swift to the spoil*).
- D. Isaiah was called into the ministry in the year that King Uzziah died according to Isaiah 6:1. In this chapter, we see Isaiah in the Presence of God. If we are to be called and commissioned into the service of the Lord, we must be in the Presence of God.
- E. “*Isaiah was a man who loved his nation. The phrase ‘my people’ is used at least twenty-six times in this book...He was also a man who hated sin and sham religion. His favorite name for God is ‘the Holy One of Israel,’ and he uses it twenty-five times in his book.*” – Warren Wiersbe
- F. Isaiah predicted the Fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians. But his main focus and ministry was to Judah and Jerusalem. His ministry continued approximately sixty years through the reigns of the four kings mentioned in 1:1. Jewish tradition says that King Manasseh (Hezekiah’s son) commanded to put Isaiah into a hollow log and to saw him in half. Some believe that Isaiah is referred to in Hebrews 11:37 when the Bible says “*they were sawn asunder.*”

II. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE MONARCHS:

- A. King Uzziah: Isaiah 1:1; 6:1 Isaiah was living during King Uzziah's reign and was called and commissioned to be a prophet of the LORD in the year that King Uzziah died.
1. Uzziah was a prosperous king who sought the Lord in the beginning of his reign (as a sixteen year-old boy) over Judah. The Bible says that "*as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.*" He reigned fifty-two years in Jerusalem. II Chronicles 26:3-5
 2. Uzziah became a proud king: The Bible says that "*when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his own destruction.*" He intruded into the office of the priesthood. II Chronicles 26:16-18 tells the story.
 3. Uzziah was a punished king: God smote him with leprosy and he eventually died from the leprosy. II Chronicles 26:19-21 Isaiah looked at Uzziah as his hero-king and the year he died, God gave Isaiah the vision where He called and commissioned him to the ministry.
- B. King Jotham: Isaiah 1:1 Not much is known about King Jotham except that he did right in the sight of the LORD. He would not enter into the house of the LORD (probably because of what happened to his father). He rebuilt the gates of the Temple and he reigned sixteen years. Isaiah's ministry really began during this period of time. II Kings 15 and II Chronicles 27 tell his story.
- C. King Ahaz: King Ahaz was the son of Jotham. He did evil in the sight of the LORD as he reigned for the next sixteen years. Isaiah 7 tells the story of how God told Ahaz that the king of Israel and the nation of Syria were conspiring to come against Judah. God told Ahaz to ask of Him a sign that God would establish Ahaz and the kingdom of Judah. Ahaz refused, rejected God's message of hope, and lost his soul in the process. Because of his rejection of God, God allowed Syria and Israel to kill 120,000 of Judah's soldiers. As a result, King Ahaz hired the Assyrians to help him against Israel and Syria and those same Assyrians would eventually not only take the northern kingdom of Israel into captivity but they would make Judah their vassals. King Ahaz was a wicked man who burnt his own children in the fire to the false gods of heathen nations. Imagine Isaiah living through all of this carnage as he prophesies both of the pending Assyrian invasion of Israel and their captivity and the judgment of God that would befall his beloved Judah and Jerusalem.
- D. King Hezekiah: This good king was the son of the wicked Ahaz. Hezekiah was one of the best kings to sit upon the throne of Judah, "*and he is distinguished as the greatest in faith of all of Judah's kings (II Kings 18:5).*" – Lockyer This good king ascended to the throne at the age of twenty-five and began a period of revival in Judah which was encouraged by the prophet Isaiah. Hezekiah and Isaiah together were used of God to pray and defeat the Assyrian army. God killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers

in one night. When Hezekiah was faced with a terminal illness, he again prayed and God sent Isaiah to tell him that he would not die, but live for another fifteen years. But pride got the best of this good king as is revealed in II Chronicles 32:24-25 and God sent judgment upon Judah as a result. He reigned for twenty-nine years.

- E. King Manasseh: Isaiah tells us in Chapter 1:1 that he saw his vision during the reign of the four previous kings. History tells us that King Manasseh had Isaiah killed. Manasseh was as godless and Hezekiah was godly. King Manasseh was an idolatrous, immoral, prodigal son for twenty-three years. God tells us that he filled Jerusalem with blood from one end to the other. But he was captured and imprisoned in Babylon for twelve years and this godless king got right with God. He was restored to his throne after twelve years and he spend the next twenty years trying to undo what he had done.

III. AN INTRODUCTION TO HIS MESSAGE: THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

- A. *“The book of Isaiah may be compared to the Bible. The Bible has sixty-six books; Isaiah has sixty-six chapters. The Old Testament has thirty-nine books; the first section of Isaiah has thirty-nine chapters. The New Testament has twenty-seven books; the last section of Isaiah has twenty-seven chapters. The Old Testament covers the history and sin of Israel, as does Isaiah 1-39. The New Testament describes the Person and ministry of Christ, as does Isaiah 40-66. The New Testament begins with the ministry of John the Baptist. The second section of Isaiah (chapter 40) by predicting this ministry. The New Testament ends by referring to the new heavens and the new earth. Isaiah ens his book by describing the same things. (Compare Isaiah 66:22 with Revelation 21:1-3).” – Wilmington’s Guide to the Bible*
- B. The book of Isaiah was quoted in the New Testament more than any other Old Testament prophet. *“There are sixty-six direct quotations from Isaiah in the New Testament...Twenty of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament have direct quotations. Isaiah is woven into the New Testament as a brightly colored thread is woven into a beautiful pattern.” – J. Vernon McGee*
- C. *“The New Testament presents the Lord Jesus Christ as its theme, and by the same token Isaiah presents the Lord Jesus Christ as his theme. Isaiah has been called the fifth evangelist and the Book of Isaiah has been called the fifth gospel.” – J. Vernon McGee*
- D. Let’s quickly examine just how much Isaiah prophesied concerning the Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. Consider the following:
1. His Birth:
 - a. Isaiah 7:14 *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”*

- b. Isaiah 9:6 *“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.”*
- 2. His Boyhood:
 - a. Isaiah 11:1-2 *“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”*
 - b. Isaiah 53:2 *“For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.”*
- 3. His Heavenly Father-Son Relationship:
 - a. Isaiah 42:1 *“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.”* Fulfilled in Matthew 12:18
 - b. Isaiah 50:4-5 *“The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.”*
- 4. His Ministry to the Gentiles:
 - a. Isaiah 9:1-2 *“Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.”*
 - b. Wilmington says *“Here Isaiah points out that the very region where Assyrian armies brought darkness and death would be the first to rejoice in the light brought by the preaching of Christ. Matthew refers to the fulfillment of this prophecy.”* Matthew 4:12-16
- 5. His Miracles:
 - a. Isaiah 35:5-6 *“Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.”*

- b. Examples of the fulfillment of these prophecies are found in Matthew 9:29; 11:5; 9:2 among many others.
6. His Message:
- a. Isaiah 61:1-3 *“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”*
 - b. We see the awesome fulfillment of this Messianic prophecy when Christ Himself read ½ of these verses and said *“This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.”* Luke 4:16-21
7. His Sufferings and Death:
- a. Isaiah 50:6 *“I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”*
 - b. Isaiah 52:14 *“As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men.”*
 - c. Isaiah 53:1-10a *“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 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. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people*

was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief.”

8. His Resurrection and Glorification:
 - a. Isaiah 52:13 *“Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.”*
 - b. Isaiah 52:15 *“So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.”*
9. His Millennial Reign:
 - a. Isaiah 9:7 *“Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*
 - b. Isaiah 42:4-7 *“He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law. Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.”*
 - c. Isaiah 11:3-5 *“And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.”*
 - d. Isaiah 49:1-12
 - e. Isaiah 32:1 *“Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment.”*
 - f. Isaiah 33:22 *“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us.”*