

# A Trek Through Isaiah 94: Review of the Book

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## Structure of the Book

- Three parts corresponding to three pictures of the Messiah
- Isaiah standing at the bottom. He sees the present failure and then the coming ideal.
- First view is of the King
  - Chapters 1 - 37
  - Concerns God's people and Assyria
  - Q: Who is the Lord of History?
  - Isaiah sees the failed Davidic king
  - But behind him is the perfect King who will not fail. He is the Lord of History.
- Second view is of the Servant
  - Chapters 38 - 55
  - Concerns God's people and Babylon
  - Q: How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
  - Isaiah sees the failed faith of the people
  - But behind them is the perfect Servant who will redeem them.
- Third view is of the Conqueror
  - Chapters 56 - 66
  - Concerns God's people in an alien world
  - Q: How will God's people fulfill their promise?
  - Isaiah sees that they are inadequate for the task.
  - But behind them is the anointed Conqueror, who will bring to pass all of God's promises.

# Map of the Book

## Author's Preface 1:1 - 5:30

### Heading 1:1

- V1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem
  - Isaiah. Single author.

### A Comprehensive Failure 1:2-31

- Here is the introduction to the prophecy, introducing themes for the book:
- Israel's Revolt 1:2-4
  - V2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken: "Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me.
- National Situation: Desolation 1:5-9
- Religious Situation: Worthless Hypocrisy 1:10-17
- Two choices were before them 1:19-20
  - V19-20 If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; (20) but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be eaten by the sword;
- Zion's Corruption and Redemption 1:21-31
  - What the city was and has become
    - V21 How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice.
  - Outcome for the city:
    - V27 Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
  - Outcome for the wicked:
    - V28 But rebels and sinners shall be broken together...

## The Ideal Lost and Found 2:1 - 4:6

- Heading 2:1
  
- God's Ideal for His People 2:2-4
  - God's King ruling on David's throne in Jerusalem
  - The nations at peace.
  
- The Present Reality 2:5-9
  - V6 For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east...Their land is filled with silver and gold...their land is filled with horses...Their land is filled with idols
  
- The Day of the Lord 2:10-22
  - v12-17 For the LORD of hosts has a day ...; The pride of men will be humbled
  -
  
- Judgement and Redemption 3:1 – 4:1
  - Provision and Leaders Removed 3:1-7
    - V1 For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is taking away from Jerusalem and from Judah support and supply...
  - The Root Cause 3:8-9
    - V8 For Jerusalem has stumbled, and Judah has fallen, because their speech and their deeds are against the LORD, defying his glorious presence.
  - Choices and consequences 3:8-11
    - V10-11 Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds. (11) Woe to the wicked! It shall be ill with him, for what his hands have dealt out shall be done to him.
  - Leaders on Trial 3:12-15
  - Zion's Women Condemned 3:16 – 4:1
  
- Zion Redeemed 4:2-6
  - Appearance of the Messiah
    - V2 In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious
  - Cleansing of the people and the city
  - The presence of the LORD
  - Protection at all times

## Grace Exhausted 5:1-30

- The Vineyard 5:1-7
  - The parable
    - V1-6 My beloved had a vineyard...he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes...And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard....I will make it a waste
  - The application
    - V7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!
  
- Laments and Consequences 5:8-29
  - Description of the stink-fruit harvest
    - Woes and Therefore
    - V8 Woe to those who join house to house.
    - V18 Woe to those who draw iniquity with cords of falsehood,
    - V25 Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against his people...He will raise a signal for nations far away,
      - Here is the Babylonian captivity.
  
- Storm and Darkness 5:30
  - They will growl over it on that day, like the growling of the sea. And if one looks to the land, behold, darkness and distress; and the light is darkened by its clouds.
    - As mariners on the sea in a raging storm
    - They look to the land. No refuge, only darkness and distress
    - The section ends with despair.

# The Book of the King 6 - 37

Historical context: the rise of Assyria

Q: Who is the Lord of History?

## Is 6 - 12 Light Beyond the Darkness: The Coming King

Structure

- Ch 6 & 12 form an inclusio.
- Ch 7-11 contain parallel sections addressed to Judah and to Israel.
- Ch 10 is Isaiah's view of history: Yahweh is the Lord of history

Isaiah's Atonement and Commission 6:1-13

- 6:1-4 Vision
  - In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne,
- 6:5 Conviction
  - And I said: "Woe is me!"
- 6:6-7 Atonement
  - Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."
- 6:8 Call and response
  - And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"  
Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."
- 6:9-10 Mission and outcome
  - And he said, "Go, ...
- 6:11-13 Prophet's concern
  - Then I said, "How long, O Lord?"

Darkness and Light in Judah 7:1 – 9:7

- Judah's Moment of Decision 7:1-12
  - 7:1-2 Judah attacked by Israel and Syria
  - 7:3-9 Isaiah speaks to Ahaz
    - And the Lord said to Isaiah, "Go out to meet Ahaz, ...4 And say to him, 'Be careful, be quiet, do not fear... If you are not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all.'"
    - Crisis of faith: would Judah depend on the LORD?
  - 7:10-12 God speaks to Ahaz
    - Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, 11 "Ask a sign of the Lord your God...12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test."

- Divine Judgement 7:13 – 8:8
  - 7:13-16 The sign
    - And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
      - Prophecy of the Virgin birth.
  - 7:17-20 Invasion by Assyria
    - The LORD will bring upon you and upon your people and upon your father's house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria."
  - 7:21-25 Devastation
  - 8:1-8 Proclamation of coming destruction
  
- A Believing Remnant Amid An Unbelieving People 8:9-22
  - 8:9-10 Warning to the nations
    - V8, 10 Be broken, you peoples, and be shattered; ... God is with us.
  - 8:11-20a Exhortation to the believing remnant
    - V20 To the teaching and to the testimony
  
- The Royal Hope 9:1-7
  - 9:1-2 Coming light
    - v2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
  - 9:3-5 Coming redemption
  - 9:6-7 Coming King
    - V7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

#### Darkness and Light in Israel 9:8 – 11:16

- Israel's Choice of Self-Sufficiency 9:8-10
  - The Lord has sent a word against Jacob, and it will fall on Israel; (9) and all the people will know, Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria, who say in pride and in arrogance of heart: (10) "The bricks have fallen, but we will build with dressed stones; the sycamores have been cut down, but we will put cedars in their place."

- Four Consequences 9:11 – 10:4
  - Four consequences, each ended by the same phrase in 9:12,17,21; 10:4: “For all this his anger has not turned away, and his hand is stretched out still.
  - V11-12 Adversaries raised up.
  - V13-17 Society collapses
  - V18-21 Strife between people and nations
  - 10:1-4 Injustice
  
- Interlude: Woe to Assyria (Isaiah’s view of history) 10:5-19
  - 10:5-6 God’s purpose.
    - Ah, Assyria, the rod of my anger;
    - God is sending Assyria against His people.
  - 10:7-11 Assyria’s purpose.
    - But he does not so intend, and his heart does not so think; but it is in his heart to destroy, and to cut off nations not a few
    - Assyria’s intent is conquest and destruction.
  - 10:12 God will punish Assyria.
    - When the Lord has finished all his work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, he will punish the speech of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria and the boastful look in his eyes.
    - God is sovereign.
    - When He is finished punishing Judah, He will punish Assyria.
  - 10:13-14 Assyria’s view: self-pride.
    - V13 For he says: "By the strength of my hand I have done it...
    - The king of Assyria thinks that by his strength he has conquered.
  - 10:15 God’s view: Assyria is merely a tool.
    - Shall the axe boast over him who hews with it...
  - 10:16-19 Judgment on Assyria.
    - V16 Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts will send wasting sickness among his stout warriors,...The remnant of the trees of his forest will be so few that a child can write them down.
    - Fulfilled in Isa 37:36-37 And the angel of the LORD went out and struck down 185,000 in the camp of the Assyrians... (37) Then Sennacherib king of Assyria departed and returned home and lived at Nineveh.

- A Believing Remnant Preserved 10:20-34
  - 10:20-23 The believing remnant
  - 10:24-27 Do not fear Assyria.
    - V24 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD of hosts: "O my people, who dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrians when they strike with the rod and lift up their staff against you as the Egyptians did. (25) For in a very little while my fury will come to an end, and my anger will be directed to their destruction. ...
  - 10:28-32 Assyria will invade Judah; be stopped at Jerusalem.
  - 10:33-34 Mighty Assyria will be brought down.
    - V33 Behold, the Lord GOD of hosts will lop the boughs with terrifying power; the great in height will be hewn down, and the lofty will be brought low. (34) He will cut down the thickets of the forest with an axe, and Lebanon will fall by the Majestic One.
  
- The Coming King 11:1-16
  - 11:1-5 The coming King.
    - V1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
  - 11:6, 9 The coming reign of peace, based on the knowledge of the LORD.
    - V6 The wolf shall dwell with the lamb...They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.
  - 11:10 Ruler for all nations
    - V10 In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples
  - 11:11-12 Gathering of Israel
    - V11 In that day the Lord will extend his hand yet a second time to recover the remnant that remains of his people,
  - 11:13 Two kingdoms united
  - 11:14 Israel victorious
  - 11:15-16 Highways for God's people

#### Salvation, Praise, and Thanks 12:1-6

- You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. ... (6) Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."
  - Based on Isaiah's own experience in Is 6.
  - Note the emotions



## Is 13 - 27 Kingdom panorama

### Theme

- The nations reviewed.
  - The great powers: Babylon (13:1, 21:9), Assyria (14:25), Egypt (19:1)
  - The smaller states: Philistia (14:29), Moab (15:1), Aram (17:1), Edom (21:11), Arabia (21:13), Tyre (23:1)
  - Over all God is sovereign
- Single question: Where is security?
  - Five answers
  - Answer 1: World empire.
    - Security through a central government.
    - The spirit of Babylon. First appeared at Babel.
    - Continues through history in successive kingdoms on the earth.
    - But God will bring down all earthly kingdoms that seek to be supreme.
  - Answer 2: Davidic monarchy.
    - Security under the throne of David.
    - God promised David an eternal throne
    - In Isaiah's day, it seemed that the Davidic monarchy was broken forever.
    - But one day the coming King will reign from Zion.
  - Answer 3: Collective security and self-sufficiency
    - Security through power and alliances.
    - Determined to be self-sufficient.
    - Rejecting the LORD's salvation.
    - But one day all nations will enjoy the banquet provided by the LORD on Mt Zion. Moab will be excluded because of their pride.
  - Answer 4: The people of God.
    - They seem to be caught up in the things of the world and in self-sufficiency
    - But one day they will see salvation and peace
  - Answer 5: Triumphant end
    - One world, one people, one God.

### Structure

- Three sections: 13-20, 21-23, 24-27.
- Each with five parts.
- First two sections subdivided by "oracle"; last by subject.
- First part, sections are clear. Second part, sections are enigmatic. Third part, sections are marked only by subject changes.
- Moves from clear current times to hazy future to the Last Day, when everything merges together.



## Section 1

- World empire: Oracle of Babylon 13:1 – 14:27
  - Isaiah looks beyond Assyria to the greater Babylon
  - God is gathering an army of nations.
  - A day is coming when the great city will be destroyed.
  - Israel will be restored. They will take up a taunt against the king of Babylon.
  - Assyria is cited as a short-term example.
- The Davidic monarchy: Oracle of Philistia 14:28-32
  - The Philistines rejoice at the fall of the house of David.
  - But their judgment is coming.
- Collective Security and Self-sufficiency: Oracle of Moab 15:1 - 16:13
  - Moab seeks help.
  - Salvation is offered in Zion under the Davidic monarchy.
  - Moab is too proud to accept.
- The People of God: Oracle of Damascus 17:1 – 18:7
  - Aram and Ephraim are allied against Assyria. Aram named because it predominates.
  - But destruction will fall upon the ten tribes.
- Triumphant End: Oracle of Egypt 19:1 – 20:6
  - God will bring judgment upon the Egyptians for her sins.
  - But later they will cry out to God, and He will save them.

## Section 2

- One-world government: Oracle of the wilderness of the sea 21:1-10
  - A harsh vision, like a storm sweeping across the wilderness.
  - A watchman is set. This is Isaiah.
  - He watches, riders approach. They say, "Babylon is fallen."
  - The watchman announces the news to God's people.
- The Davidic monarchy: Oracle of silence 21:11-12
  - One calls from Seir (Edom): "How long is the night?"
  - The watchman answers, "Morning comes. Seek the true God and repent."
- Collective Security and Self-sufficiency: Oracle of Arabia 21:13-17
  - Arabia is in chaos; fugitives are fleeing from battle.
  - The fugitives band together for survival. There is no seeking after God.
- The People of God: Oracle of the valley of vision 22:1-25
  - Valley of vision refers to Jerusalem.
  - They were given a vision from God (His law).
  - Now Isaiah sees a vision of the city's destruction.
  - The cause is self-sufficiency.
- Triumphant End: Oracle of Tyre 23:1-18
  - Tyre will be destroyed by Babylon.
  - But later she will be visited by the LORD and will resume her commerce.

- The results of her trading will be enjoyed by God's people.

### Section 3

- One-world government: The city of chaos 24:1-20
  - The earth is devastated.
  - The world city is destroyed.
  - The believing remnant gives praise and glory to God.
- The Davidic monarchy: The King of glory 24:1-23
  - The earth is devastated.
  - The LORD will punish the host of heaven, and the kings of the earth.
  - The LORD of Hosts will reign on Mount Zion.
- Collective Security and Self-sufficiency: Salvation for all 25:1-12
  - God is praised for His works and His faithfulness.
  - All nations feast at a lavish banquet provided by Him.
  - Proud Moab is excluded.
- The People of God: The strong city 26:1-21
  - God has made a strong city, guarded by salvation.
  - The believing remnant who trust in Him are kept in perfect peace.
- Triumphant End: Universal Israel 27:1-13
  - The LORD will slay the dragon in the sea.
  - Israel will be redeemed.
  - The world city will be destroyed.
  - Israel, Assyria, and Egypt will all worship the LORD in Jerusalem.

## Isaiah 28 - 37 The Lord of History

### Overview

- These chapters form the greatest of Isaiah's interim fulfillments.
- He had prophesied one world, one people, one God. Now he answers the the question: Is it real?
- The test case was the "Egyptian alliance" situation in the days of Hezekiah. Judah was under Assyria. Merodach-Baladan of Babylon was urging alliance against Assyria. Egypt was promising assistance for a revolt. Isaiah's job was to urge the way of faith, trusting in Yahweh rather than in politics.
- Hezekiah was fascinated with military/political solutions. But in the end, with the Assyrians at the gate of Jerusalem, he trusted in the LORD, and the city was delivered.

### Structure

- Two sections
  - 28 - 35 Six woes
  - 36 - 37 Epilogue
- Developing story line
  - 28 - 29 (woes 1-3) Principles
  - 30 - 32 (woes 4 & 5) Application to current events and the future
  - 33 - 35 (woe 6) Final resolution in the far future
  - 36 - 37 (epilogue) Interim fulfillment: Defeat of Assyria

### The first woe: the word of God and the purpose of God 28:1-29

- Message regarding Samaria 28:1-6
  - V1 The pride of Samaria
  - V2-4 Coming destruction
    - Samaria's pride brings about destruction.
  - V5-6 Coming redemption
    - Samaria will be reestablished in justice and strength.
    - For the remnant, glory and strength.
- Message regarding Jerusalem 28:7-22
  - V7-8 Lost in self-reliance and sensuality
    - Picture of drunken revelry. May be a banquet to celebrate the Egyptian alliance.
    - The priest and the prophet reel. All communication with God is cut off.
  - V9-13 Mocking the word of the LORD
    - Isaiah is reviled as one who speaks childish gibberish.
    - He replies that they will hear gibberish in captivity.

- V14-19 The word of the LORD preeminent
  - Call to hear the word of the LORD.
  - Their lies will not save them.
  - God has laid in Zion a true cornerstone of salvation.
  - Righteousness will be the plumb line.
  - Judgment will come upon them.
- V20-22 Insufficient provision; appeal to repent
  - Their own provisions are insufficient.
  - God will arise in judgment.
  - Appeal to repent.
- The discriminating LORD 28:23-29
  - V23-26 Purposeful tilling and sowing. As is proper.
  - V27-28 Purposeful harvesting and threshing. Not forever.
  - V29 The LORD is wonderful in counsel and excellent in wisdom.

The second woe: Is anything too hard for the LORD? 29:1-14

- Chastening and deliverance 29:1-8
  - V1-4 Jerusalem humbled
    - Jerusalem is the LORD's ariel (altar-hearth); The place of the ever-burning fire.
    - Where the holy God dwells.
    - Where holy wrath will be poured out.
  - V5-8 Jerusalem delivered
    - The LORD will arise.
    - Her foes will be no more.
- Blindness and a coming wonder 29:9-14
  - V9 Spiritual blindness comes from willful blindness and God's judgment.
  - V10 Results are (1) mind asleep (2) means of spiritual enlightenment removed.
  - V11-12 Illustration of blindness
    - Closed book
    - Cannot read
  - V13 Diagnosis
    - External religion with no internal reality
    - Worship by conformity to the rules of men
  - V14 The LORD's response
  - wonderful things. Supernatural acts.

### The third woe: Spiritual transformation 29:15-24

- Present situation 29:15-16
  - V15. Behavior of the leaders
    - Hiding from the LORD
    - Denying His presence.
  - V16 Heart attitude
    - Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,
    - God is just like them
    - He did not make me
    - Denying God as Creator
    - He has no understanding
    - Denying God as omniscient.
- Transformation 29:17-21
  - V17 Transformed land
    - Creation turned upside-down
    - Lebanon. Wild areas become like gardens.
    - fruitful field. Cultivated areas seem like wilderness.
  - V18 Transformed people
    - deaf shall hear... eyes shall see
    - Renewed spiritual perception.
    - words of a book
    - Scriptures open.
- Application to Israel 29:22-24

### The fourth woe: Faithlessness and faithfulness 30:1-33

- Egypt is no hope 30:1-7
  - V1-2 Godless plan
    - Re the Egyptian alliance
    - stubborn children. Judah
    - Plan...alliance. Trying to obtain security apart from God
  - V3-5 Disastrous result
    - officials...envoys. Either Pharaoh's officials across the land or Judean envoys wandering from city to city.
    - shame and disgrace. The result.
  - V6-7 Oracle of the beasts of the Negev
    - Beasts of burden carrying gifts to a worthless ally.
    - Egypt is no help.

- The LORD's word rejected 30:8-17
  - V8 God's word written as a witness
  - V9-11 Refusal to hear God's word
  - V12-14 Result of refusing God's word
  - V15a Remedy for the nation
    - Returning and rest, quietness and trust
  - V15b-17 Consequences of refusing
- The LORD's promises kept 30:18-26
  - V18 God will be gracious
  - V19-25a Zion established
    - No more weeping
    - Real truth
    - Idols gone.
    - Rich harvest
    - Plentiful water
  - V25b World city brought down.
  - V26 People healed.
- Assyria is no threat 30:27-33
  - V27-28 The nations destroyed.
  - V29 God's people rejoice.
  - V30-32 Assyria defeated
  - V33 Final end of Assyria's king



The fifth woe: All things new 31:1 - 32:20

- Prologue: disaster & deliverance 31:1-5
  - V1-3 Failure of the Egyptian alliance
  - V4-5 God saves His city.
- Call to return 31:6-9
  - V6 Call to return
  - V7 Because the idols will pass away
  - V8-9 Because the Assyrian will be no more
- The coming King 32:1-8
  - V1-2 Righteousness rule
  - V3-5 Righteous people
  - V6-7 Description of the wicked
  - V8 Description of the righteous
- Call to hear 32:9-14
  - V9 Call to hear
  - V10-14 Coming disaster
- Coming regeneration 32:15-18
  - V15a The Spirit poured out
  - V15b-18 Results of the outpouring
- Epilogue: Destruction & blessing 32:19-20
  - V19 The world city brought down
  - V20 Blessings for believers

The sixth woe: Home at last 33:1 - 35:10

- Zion's salvation 33:1-6
  - V1 Assyria's treachery and coming destruction
  - V2 Prayer to the LORD.
  - V3-4 The LORD rises; the nations are scattered.
  - V5a The LORD reigns
  - V5b-6 Zion is exalted.
- World judgment 33:7-12
  - V7-8 Collapse of alliances
  - V9 Devastated land
  - V10-12 The LORD exalted in judgment
- First proclamation: promise of the new Zion 33:13-24
  - V13 Summons
  - V14-16 Zion's people 1
    - Conviction of sin
    - Requirements: (1) to walk righteously (2) to speak uprightly
    - Rewards of righteousness
  - V17-19 Zion's King 1
    - His beauty
    - His land established
    - His enemies gone
  - V20 The city of peace
  - V21 Zion's King 2
    - His waters wide and peaceful
  - Zion's people 2
    - Healed and forgiven
- Second proclamation: warning of coming judgment 34:1-17
  - V1 Call to hear
  - V2-4 The LORD's anger: coming destruction on earth and in the heavens
  - V5-6a The LORD's sword: Judgment
  - V6b-7 The LORD's sacrifice: Slaughter
  - V8-10a The LORD's day: Burning forever
  - V10b-17 Permanent desolation
- Pilgrims to Zion 35:1-10
  - V1-2 Transformation of the land
  - V3-7 Salvation for the pilgrims
  - V8-10 Highway of homecoming

## Epilogue 36:1 - 37:38

- Historical narrative paralleling 2 Ki 18-19. Hezekiah had submitted to Assyria, sending tribute to buy peace. The king of Assyria had accepted the tribute, but immediately renewed his pressure on Hezekiah, conquering all of Judah's fortified cities and coming to the gates of Jerusalem. Now the strong world ruler was in direct confrontation with the weak Davidic king in the city of promise. In Is 14:25 the LORD had promised to break Assyria, so His honor was on the line. Now was the time for Him to demonstrate His mastery of history.
- First Assyrian embassy 36:1 - 37:7
  - 36:1-22 The Rabshakeh speaks to the Judean officials, urging surrender.
  - 37:1-7 Hezekiah seeks Isaiah's help. Isaiah says do not fear; the Assyrians will depart and their king will die in his own land.
- Second Assyrian embassy 37:8-35
  - 37:8-9 The Assyrians leave and return.
  - 37:10-13 The Rabshakeh sends a letter to Hezekiah seeking his surrender.
  - 37:14-20 Hezekiah puts the letter before the LORD
  - 37:21-35 Isaiah predicts Assyria's defeat
- Defeat of Assyria 37:36-38
  - 37:36 185,000 Assyrian soldiers are killed.
  - 37:37-38 Sennacherib returns to Assyria and is assassinated.

## The Book of the Servant 38 - 55

- Q: How will God's people be redeemed from captivity?
- Historical context
  - Hezekiah is king of Judah.
  - Assyrian power waning. Babylon rising.

### Hezekiah's Test of Faith (38 - 39)

Background: Hezekiah's sickness and recovery 38:1-22

- The events 38:1-8
  - Hezekiah becomes sick, prays to the LORD, and is given healing and assurance that Assyria will not conquer Jerusalem.
- Hezekiah's witness 38:9-20
  - Hezekiah acknowledges the blessing given to him and expresses his trust in the LORD.
- Epilogue 38:21-22
  - Summary of the events: a proved answer to faith.

The test of faith 39:1-8

- Using concern and flattery, Merodach-Baladan sought alliance with Hezekiah against Assyria. Hezekiah received his embassy, forgetting his God. Isaiah therefore said that all he had would go to Babylon.
- Visit of the Babylonian envoys 39:1
  - Flattery
- Hezekiah's response 38:2
  - Glad welcome.
  - Showed them everything.
- Isaiah's inquiry 39:3-4
  - Establishing the facts
- The word of the LORD 39:5-7
  - All goods to go to Babylon.
  - Royal house to be ended.
- Hezekiah's response 39:8
  - Self-centered
  - No repentance.

## Universal consolation 40:1 - 42:17

### Consolation for the LORD's people 40:1 - 41:20

- Judgment is not the end for God's people. Comfort would come.
- Messages of comfort 40:1-11
  - A message of comfort followed by three voices crying out.
  - Comfort for Jerusalem 40:1-2
  - Voice 1: The way of the LORD 40:3-5
  - Voice 2: The word of the LORD 40:6-8
  - Voice 3: The coming of God 40:9-11
- God the Creator, guarantor of His promises 40:12-31
  - God is the Creator of all things. Before Him the nations are as nothing, idols are as nothing, the people's are as nothing. He is faithful to strengthen His people.
  - He measures the heavens and the earth. 40:12
  - He has all understanding 40:13-14
  - The nations are as nothing before Him. 40:15-17
  - Idols are as nothing. 40:18-20
  - The inhabitants of the world are as nothing. 40:21-24
  - He brings out the host of heaven. 40:25-26
  - He is faithful to strengthen His people. 40:27-31
- God the Lord of history, guarantor of His promises 41:1-7
  - God is the Lord of history. He brings one from the east to accomplish His purpose. The nations respond with trembling, self-help, and idolatry.
  - Call to hear. 41:1
  - God is the Lord of history. 41:2-4
  - Response of the nations. 41:5-7
- Guaranteed consolation 41:8-20
  - Israel is the LORD's chosen. He promises strength, deliverance, victory, a land restored.
  - Israel is the LORD's chosen. 41:8-9
  - Promise of strength. 41:10
  - Promise of deliverance 41:11-13
  - Promise of victory over enemies 41:14-16
  - Promise of a land restored 41:17-20

## Gentile hope 41:21 - 42:17

- Gentiles summoned before the court 41:21-29
  - Here the plight of the Gentiles is exposed. Their gods are nothing and empty wind.
  - Court convened. 41:21
  - The challenge: tell what is to come. 41:22-23
  - The false gods exposed 41:24
  - The true God in action and prediction 41:25-27
  - The plight of the Gentiles: their gods are nothing. 41:28-29
- The Servant: the great solution 42:1-9
  - The Servant presented 42:1-4
    - V1 Introduction
    - V1 His possession of the Holy Spirit
    - V1,3 His justice
    - V2,3 His gentleness
    - V4 His victory
  - The Servant commissioned 42:5-9
    - V5 God's the Creator
    - V6-7 The Servant called
    - V8 God the only One
    - V9 New things replacing the old
- The world sings 42:10-13
  - Response to the LORD's solution
  - V10-12 The nations sing and praise God
  - V13 The LORD has the victory.
- The LORD speaks 42:14-17
  - V14 I will give birth to a new thing
  - V15 I will transform the world
  - V16 I will transform the people
  - V17 Those who trust in idols will be put to shame.

## The LORD's plan unfolded 42:18 - 44:23

- The blind Gentiles need someone to lead them to the light. But God's servant of 41:8 (the nation Israel) is as blind as they! Another Servant is needed to carry out God's plan of redemption for the world.
- Twin themes
  - Captivity and liberation
  - Sin and redemption

## Israel's captivity and liberation 42:18 - 43:21

- The first theme: liberation from captivity

### Diagnosis: blind and captive 42:18-25

- Here is the present nation Israel: blind, in prison, plundered, under punishment for sin, without understanding.
- The servant's blindness 42:18-20
- The LORD's grace in revelation 42:21
- The servant's helplessness 42:22
- The LORD's judgment on His people. 42:23-24
- The servant's ignorance. 42:25

### Remedy: unchanging divine care 43:1-7

- But now the LORD will not abandon His people whom He loves. Rather He will gather them from the ends of the earth.
- The LORD redeems His people. 43:1-2
- The reason for His care 43:3-4
- The LORD delivers His people. 43:5-7

### No other Savior 43:8-13

- The nations are assembled in court, witnesses are called, the verdict is given. There is no other Savior than God, and none can stay His hand.
- Call to assemble. 43:8-9a
- The issue at hand: who can declare the things to come?. 43:9b
- Witnesses called. 43:10a
- Verdict. 43:10b-13

### Redemption from Babylon 43:14-21

- Babylon will be defeated. God's people will come forth and a way will be made for them in the wilderness.
- Babylon defeated. 43:14-15
- A way in the wilderness. 43:16-21

## Israel's sin and redemption 43:22 - 44:23

- The second theme: God's redemption of His people from their sins.

### Diagnosis: sin 43:22-24

- V22a you did not call upon Me.
- V23 I have not burdened you
- V24 you have burdened Me
- V22 you have become weary of Me.
- V23 (I have not) wearied you with frankincense
- V24 you have wearied Me with your iniquities

### Remedy: redemption 43:25 - 44:5

- Forgiveness. 43:25
- Justice: trial, verdict, rejection. 43:26-28
- Grace: restoration 44:1-5

### The one true God 44:6-20

- The one true God 44:6-8
  - V6 The LORD the only God
  - V7 The God who declares what is to come.
  - V8 Fear not
- V9-11 Shame for idolaters
- V12-17 The folly of idolatry
- V 18-20 The effect of idolatry

### Redemption from sin 44:21-23

- The LORD speaks 44:21-22
- Creation rejoices 44:23



## The LORD's Plan Fulfilled (44:24 - 55:13)

The great deliverance: the work of Cyrus 44:24 - 48:22

Cyrus: Builder and Conqueror 44:24 – 45:8

- God and His word 44:24-26a
  - V24 Here the LORD, Israel's Creator and Redeemer, presents Himself as the creator of heaven and earth.
  - V25 He makes the wisdom of men foolishness
  - V26a He performs His word given through His Servant and His prophets.
- God and His purpose 44:26b-28
  - V26b Here is God's purpose: to raise up Jerusalem and the cities of Judah from their ruins
  - V27 He will make a way for His people.
  - V28 He will bring Cyrus to perform this as the shepherd of God's people
- God and His Anointed 45:1-7
  - V1a Cyrus' commission. He (a pagan king) is God's anointed one to perform His purpose.
  - V1b-3 What Cyrus will accomplish. God will take his hand and go before him to subdue nations, to open gates, to level temples of pagan gods, to obtain treasures and hoards. This is so that he will know that it is the LORD who does this.
  - V4-7 The reasons for raising up Cyrus: (1) for the sake of Israel (2) that all people from east to west may know that I am the LORD and there is no other.
- God and His Creative Resolve 45:8
  - V8 Picture of the earth blossoming after a rain, bringing forth righteousness and salvation. The LORD has created this.

## Rebellion and Resolve, Quibbling and Consolation 45:9 – 46:13

- The Sovereign LORD 45:9-13
  - V9-11 Challenging the quibblers
    - V9 Woe to the clay that speaks back to the potter.
    - V10 Woe to the child who speaks back to the parents who begat him.
    - V11 Likewise, will you command the One who made you?
  - V12-13 God's purpose
    - V12 I am the Creator.
    - V13 I have stirred one up and he will build My city and set My exiles free.
- Unchanged Purpose for Israel 45:14-25
  - Here the prophet answers the assertion that the Davidic promises are lost.
  - V14-17 Israel restored
    - V14 The nations will come to Israel bringing their wealth. They will say that God is there and there is no other.
    - V15-17 The makers of idols are put to shame and confounded, but Israel is saved by the LORD with an everlasting salvation.
  - V18-21 The Creator
    - V18 I am the LORD who created the heavens and the earth.
    - V19 I do not speak in secret. I declare the truth.
    - V20-21 The idolaters have no knowledge. I am the righteous God and Savior, there is no other
  - V22-25 Call to salvation
    - V22 Here is a call to salvation to all the ends of the earth.
    - V23 God has sworn that every knee will bow to Him. Only in God are righteousness and strength.
    - V24 All those who were angry at Him will be put to shame.
    - V25 All the offspring of Israel will be justified and glorified.
- Appeal to the Rebels 46:1-13
  - V1-4 Dead idols and the living God
    - V1-2 Babylon's idols will be borne into captivity they cannot save themselves.
    - V3-4 God, rather than being borne by men, has borne His people from their birth, and will deliver them.
  - V5-7 Man-made gods, unable to save
    - V5 The idols are challenged.
    - V6-7 Here is the verdict: Idols are made by men, carried by men and set in their place by men. They cannot move by themselves. Men cry to them, but they cannot answer or save.
  - V8-11 Appeal to remember God
    - V8-9a The transgressors are challenged to remember the things of old.
    - v9b-11 The LORD is God and there is no other. He declares the end from the beginning and His counsel will stand. He will bring a man from a far country to accomplish His purpose.
  - V12 Appeal to be saved
    - V12 Here is an appeal to those who are stubborn and unrighteous. God is bringing His righteousness and salvation without delay. God will bring His salvation to Zion, and His glory to Israel.

## Free but not yet home 47:1 – 48:22

- **Babylon's Fall 47:1-15**
  - **V1-7 Divine vengeance applied and explained**
    - V1a The prophet pronounces vengeance on Babylon.
    - V1b-3a She will no longer be tender and delicate, rather she will know slavery and violation.
    - V3b-4 The LORD will take vengeance and will spare no one. He is the Redeemer and the Holy One of Israel.
    - V5-7 Here is the cause for vengeance. The LORD was angry with His people and gave them into your hand; you showed them no mercy. Rather you said, "I shall be mistress forever." You did not consider these things.
  - **V8-11 Judgment for pride**
    - V8 The prophet describes Babylon's pride. She is a lover of pleasures who sits securely, who says in her heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me, I shall not sit as a widow or know the loss of children".
    - V9 The prophet pronounces judgment: You will be childless and a widow in spite of your many sorceries and great enchantments.
    - V10 Continues the description of Babylon's pride: you felt secure in your wickedness; you said, "No one sees me"; your wisdom and your knowledge led you astray, and you said in your heart, "I am, and there is no one besides me."
    - V11 Continues the pronouncement of judgment: Disaster and ruin will come upon you suddenly. You will not be able to atone, or to charm it away.
  - **V12-15 Religion that failed**
    - V12 Challenge to look to enchantments and sorceries.
    - V13 Challenge to look to the astrologers upon whom Babylon depended for counsel.
    - V14-15 The result: All are consumed as by fire. They wander about and cannot save.

- Home, Yet Not Home 48:1-22
  - V1-2 Israel called to hear
    - V1-2 The house of Israel is called to hear. They are very religious: they swear by the name of the Lord and confess the God of Israel; they call themselves after the holy city, and stay themselves on the God of Israel...but not in truth or right.
  - V3-5 The former things: blessings for the unworthy
    - V3 The LORD declared the former things and then performed them.
    - V4-5 Why the LORD declared them: He knew that Israel was obstinate and would say that their idols were responsible.
  - V6-8 New things declared
    - V6 Now the LORD announces new things, that Israel has not known.
    - V7-8 Likewise, they were not revealed previously because God knew that Israel was rebellious and would deal treacherously.
  - V9-11 The reason for the new things
    - V9 For the sake of His name God defers His anger, otherwise Israel would be cut off.
    - V10 He has refined Israel with affliction.
    - V11 He does this for the sake of His name. His glory He will not give to another.
  - V12-13 The sovereign Lord
    - V12a Israel is called by the LORD to hear.
    - V12v-13 He is the first and the last. He laid out the earth and spread out the heavens.
  - V14-15 The acting Lord
    - V14a Call to hear. God has declared these things.
    - V14b-15 He will call one to perform His purpose on Babylon
  - V16 The Servant speaks
    - V16 Not spoken in secret; there at the beginning; now sent by God; having His Spirit.
  - V17-19 The peace that was forfeited
    - V17 God leads His people in the way they should go.
    - V18-19 If they had heeded Him, they would have had peace and righteousness, their descendants would have been as numerous as the sand on the seashore, and they would have never been cut off from God.
  - V20-21 Deliverance from Babylon
    - V20 Israel is called out of Babylon. They are to shout with joy, and proclaim their salvation to the end of the earth.
    - V21 A way is made for them just as in the Exodus.
  - V22 The continuing problem
    - V22 But these are the same people who abandoned the LORD's peace. Delivery from Babylon has not changed them. For the wicked there is still no peace.

## The Greater Deliverance: The Work of the Servant 49 – 55

### The Servant's mission 49:1-13

- Calling and trust 49:1-6
  - The second servant song
  - V1a Call to listen.
    - The Servant speaks to all peoples.
  - V1b-3 The Servant's qualifications.
    - V1b Calling. Appointment to a position.
    - V2 Preparation. Sword, arrow: prepared for all manner of fighting.
    - V3: Person. The true Israel; the One in whom the LORD will be glorified.
  - V4 The Servant's trust
    - V4a Apparent failure
    - V4b Trust in God. The LORD will determine the outcome of His work.
  - The Servant's Tasks 49:5-6
    - V5 To redeem Israel
    - V6 To redeem the nations
- Divine confirmation and successful outcome 49:7-13
  - V7 Gentile submission. Kings and princes will bow down before His Servant.
  - V8-9a A new covenant for Israel.
    - In view is the nation Israel
    - The Servant will be answered, helped, kept.
    - He will be a covenant for God's people
      - To restore their inheritance
      - To bring them into the light
  - V9b-10 Israel's journey home.
    - An exodus journey.
    - Provision: no hunger or thirst
    - Protection from wind and sun.
    - Leading in the way they should go
  - V11 -12 Worldwide ingathering.
    - A highway raised up.
    - The LORD's people gathered from the whole earth.
  - V13 Universal celebration.
    - All heaven and earth will rejoice.
    - Because God will have comforted and had compassion on His people.

## Nation and Servant Contrasted 49:14 – 50:9

- Here is the contrast between the nation and the Servant.
  - The nation complains in self-pity; they are given multiple inducements to faith but will not trust.
    - The Servant is warned of suffering to come, and responds with commitment.
    - Even so, the LORD does not give up on His people.
- The nation's complaint 49:14
  - Zion (the nation) does not believe in the deliverance just promised. Instead she complains that God has forsaken her.
- God's promises 49:15 – 50:3
  - V15-16 The promise that God's people are not forgotten.
  - V17-23 The promise of increase
  - V24-26 The promise of deliverance
- The nation's lack of trust 50:1-3
  - V1 The issue of legality.
    - There was no certificate of divorce, or unpaid debt.
    - Israel was in captivity because of her sin.
    - The LORD has the right to redeem her.
  - V2a The nation's response
    - The LORD came and called; no one answered,.
  - V2b-3 The LORD's qualifications
    - He is able to redeem and to deliver.
    - Pictures from the Exodus: sea dried up, fish dying, black darkness.
- The willing Servant 50:4-9
  - V4 The Servant's competence
    - An effective tongue
    - A disciple's ear
  - V5 The Servant's willingness
  - V6 The Servant's trials
  - V7-9 The Servant's victory
    - The LORD God helps Him.
    - He is not ashamed.
    - His enemies will wear out and be eaten up.

- Call to Trust 50:10-11
  - V10 Those who trust
    - They encounter darkness.
    - They trust in God.
    - Structure
      - Fears the LORD = trusts in the name of the LORD.
      - Obeys the voice of His Servant = relies on his God.
  - V11 Those who do not trust
    - They encounter darkness
    - They build a fire, equip themselves with torches, walk by the light of the torches.
    - Here is self-reliance, saying, “There is no God.” Contrast the believer in v10: relies on his God.
    - Result is torment from God’s hand.

To the faithful remnant 51:1 – 52:12

- Theme
  - 50:10-11 differentiates those who trust in God from those who don’t
  - Obeying the voice of the Servant is the distinguishing factor.
  - 51:1 - 52:12 addresses the believing remnant.
- Three calls to listen 51:1-8
  - First Call to Listen: comfort to Zion 51:1-3
    - V1-2 Abraham and Sarah made into a nation
    - V3 Wilderness made like the Garden of Eden with joy and gladness
  - Second Call to Listen: Salvation for the nations 51:4-6
    - V4-5 Coming judgment
    - V6 Eternal life
  - Third Call to Listen: No fear 51:7-8
    - V7 Coming trials
    - V8 Contrasting ends
- Appeal to God 51:9-11
  - V9-10 Past deliverance
    - Pictures from the Exodus
    - Rahab = Egypt
    - Dried up the sea. Red Sea crossing.
  - V11 Coming deliverance
    - Pictures from the end times.
    - The LORD’s people return to Zion.
    - Everlasting joy.
    - Sorrows pass away.

- Assurance To All 51:12-16
  - V12a Word of comfort
    - to all (city, captives, Servant)
  - V12b To the city
    - Question: “Who are you?”
    - Diagnosis: Afraid of man who dies
  - V13a To the captives
    - Diagnosis
      - Have forgotten the LORD.
      - Fear the oppressor
  - V13b-14 The coming deliverance
    - The oppressor disappears.
    - The captives are released and provided for.
  - V15-16 To the Servant
    - Equipped with God’s word.
    - Sheltered by God’s hand.
    - Given work: (1) creating heaven and earth (2) redeeming God’s people.
  - V16b Answer: “You are My people.”
- Three calls to respond 51:17 – 52:12
  - Corresponding to the three calls to listen in 51:1-8.
  - Indicates that the promises have been fulfilled; now Israel is to enter into them.
  - The first call: wrath removed 51:17-23
    - V17-20 The cup drunk
      - Picture of one rendered helpless by drink, now called to stand up.
      - Zion given the cup of the LORD’s wrath
      - Results of the cup:
        - Sons useless
        - Devastation and destruction, famine and sword
        - Sons fainted; overcome by God’s wrath
    - V21-23 The cup removed
      - Removed from Zion’s hand.
      - Given to her tormentors.



- The second call: holiness enjoyed 52:1-10
  - V1-2 Holiness and royalty
    - Call to put on strength.
    - Jerusalem now a holy city, in beautiful garments.
    - No more uncircumcised and unclean.
    - Lifted up from the dust, bonds removed
    - Seated as royalty.
  - V3-6 The LORD explains
    - God speaks of the redemption of His people.
    - V3, 4 He looks to the past and promises salvation
    - V5 He looks to the present and sees His people oppressed and His name dishonored.
    - V6 He looks to the future when His people will know His name.
  - V7-10 Zion is Redeemed.
    - The watchmen announce the good news.
    - Jerusalem is redeemed.
    - All nations see the salvation of the LORD.
- The third call: a greater exodus 52:11-12
  - Call to depart.
    - Go out from uncleanness
    - Go out to service to God
  - No haste or flight since the LORD goes before and behind.

## The Servant's triumph 52:13 – 55:13

- The climax to the book of the Servant.
- Successful work 52:13 – 53:12
  - V13 Servant exalted
    - He will act wisely
    - He will be high and lifted up.
  - V14-15 Mission accomplished
    - He will be disfigured beyond recognition
    - He will redeem many nations.
    - The nations will then see and understand what had been hidden: God's salvation.
  - V1-3 His nature
    - the arm of the LORD. God Himself in action.
    - Before Him. Separate from the LORD.
    - Grow up...like a young plant. Born and grows up: a man.
    - Like a root out of dry ground. From the barren nation Israel.
    - No form or majesty...no beauty. No outward indication that this is the Messiah.
    - despised and rejected by men. Because He is not attractive; not what they expect.
  - V4-6 His mission
    - Men will see Him as afflicted of God.
    - He will bear the punishment for their sins.
    - All men have gone astray, but by His sacrifice they will be reconciled to God.
  - V7-9 His unjust death
    - He will be unjustly oppressed and afflicted.
    - He will be silent in the face of the judgment.
    - He will be killed for the sins of His people.
    - He will be buried in the grave of a rich man
    - He will be innocent of any wrongdoing.
  - V10-12 His victory
    - It was the LORD's will to crush Him.
    - He will offer Himself as a guilt offering.
    - Thus He will see His offspring and prolong His days.
    - He will accomplish the will of the LORD.
    - He will bear men's iniquities and make many to be accounted as righteous.
    - He will share in the spoils of victory.
      - He bore the sins of many and died for them.
      - He makes intercession for their sins.

- Worldwide salvation 54:1 - 55:13
  - Zion Restored 54:1-17
    - Here are four pictures of restoration for Zion.
    - V1-3 Children for a barren woman.
      - She who was barren will have many children.
      - She will enlarge the area of her domain.
      - Her offspring will possess the nations.
    - V4-8 Everlasting love for a rejected woman
      - No more shame, disgrace, reproach.
      - The LORD is her husband.
      - Everlasting love and compassion are hers.
    - V9-10 The end of wrath for a guilty woman
      - As in the days of Noah: no more judgment.
      - Steadfast love and covenant of peace forever.
    - V11-17a Untouchable security for a storm-tossed woman
      - Foundations, pinnacles, walls laid and set with precious stones.
      - Children taught by the LORD and at peace.
      - No more oppression, fear, terror, strife.
      - No weapons or words will be effective against her.
    - V17b Summary
      - Refers to all of 54.
      - This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD.

- The Whole World Invited 55:1-13
  - V1-2 Free provision
    - To all who hunger and thirst.
    - Buy and eat without money and without cost.
    - Do not purchase and labor for what does not satisfy.
    - Listen diligently to Me and eat what is good.
  - V3-5 Co-equal citizenship
    - Included in the everlasting Davidic covenant.
    - The nations will come to Zion to seek the LORD.
  - V6-9 The way of salvation
    - Seek the LORD while He may be found.
    - Forsake wickedness.
    - Return to the LORD who will pardon abundantly.
    - His ways are higher than the ways of men.
  - V10-11 The sure word
    - Picture of rain and snow watering the earth and bringing forth a crop.
    - God's word will go forth and will accomplish its purpose.
  - V12-13 Promise of a new world
    - They shall go out in joy and peace.
    - All nature will rejoice.
    - Eden will be restored.
    - The name of the LORD will be displayed forever.

## The ideal and the actual 56:1 - 59:13

### The waiting people 56:1-8

- V1-2 Expectant waiting; resulting blessing
  - God's salvation and righteousness will soon be revealed.
  - Blessed are those who wait for Him
- V3-7a All-embracing inclusiveness
  - Two examples: the eunuch and the foreigner
- V7b-8 Summary
  - God's house will be a house of prayer for all nations.

### The divided people 56:9 - 57:21

- Failure of the leaders 56:9-12
  - V9 The beasts
    - Beasts. Israel's enemies, either external or internal.
    - Called to a feast
  - V10-12 The watchmen
    - Those charged with guarding the flock.
    - Unable: blind, without knowledge, unable to bark.
    - Unwilling: dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber
    - Insatiable appetite: never have enough
    - Selfish: all turned to their own way
    - Complacent: tomorrow will be like this day

- The prostitute's brood and the LORD's household 57:1-21
  - A jumbled passage reflecting the jumble of life in a divided society
  - V1a Society unfriendly to righteousness
    - The righteous man perishes and no one lays it to heart.
  - V1b-2 The peace of the righteous
    - He enters into peace.
  - V3-10 Offspring of adultery
    - V3-4 Mocking the LORD
    - V5-8 Pagan worship
      - Isaiah describes their apostasy using pre-exilic language. These cultic practices did not exist after the exile.
    - V9-10 Politics
  - V11-13a Judgment
    - God held His peace so they would repent, but they did not.
    - Their heritage is their idols, which are nothing.
  - V13b-19 The LORD's people
    - V13b The heritage of the righteous. To possess the land and dwell with God on His holy mountain.
    - V14 Their way prepared.
    - V15 God is with them to revive their heart and spirit
    - V16-19 True healing and peace
      - V19 Peace, peace, to the far and to the near," says the LORD, "and I will heal him.
  - V 20-21 Warning to the wicked
    - Repeats 48:22: "There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked."

#### Ineffective religion 58:1-14.

- V1 Call to the prophet. Declare to Israel their sins.
- V2 Israel's religious practice: external forms, no internal reality.
- V3-12 Fasting
  - V3a Question: Why is our fasting ineffective?
  - V3-4 What they were doing: seeking their own pleasure, oppressing their workers, quarrelling, fighting wickedly.
  - V5-7 What is acceptable fasting: humility, removal of oppression, helping the poor
  - V8-12 Benefits of acceptable fasting: light, healing, righteousness, guarded by the glory of the LORD, prayer answered, strong bones, like a watered garden, ancient ruins rebuilt, called repairer/restorer.
- V13-14 Sabbath-keeping
  - What they were doing: doing their own pleasure, going their own ways, talking idly
  - What is acceptable Sabbath-keeping: calling the Sabbath a delight, honoring it.
  - Benefits of acceptable Sabbath-keeping: delight in the LORD, ride on the heights of the earth, obtain the heritage of Jacob.

#### The guilty people 59:1-13

- V1-2 The basic problem: separated from God by sin
- V3-8 Description of their sins
- V9-13 Confession of sin and helplessness
  - The prophet identifies with his people.

## The Work Accomplished 59:14 - 63:6

Situation and remedy: the promised Conqueror 59:14-21

- V14-16a Summary of the situation
  - No justice or righteousness or truth
  - The righteous man makes himself a prey
  - No one to intercede
- V15b-16a The LORD's reaction
  - Displeased that there was no justice.
  - Wondered that there was no intercessor.
- V16b-17 The LORD's response
  - Picture of a soldier dressing for battle.
- V18-20 Results
  - To His enemies: a Conqueror who repays them for their deeds and causes them to fear the LORD.
  - To His people: a Redeemer who saves them.
  - Zion becomes the center of the world.
- V21 The Covenant Mediator
  - The LORD speaking to the Covenant Mediator.
  - One who has His Spirit
  - One who has His words.
  - The covenant: God's word will abide forever with His people.



#### The universal city 60:1-22

- V1-3 The glory of the Lord in Zion
  - Darkness covers the world
  - The Lord's glory on Zion gives light to the world.
  - The nations come to the light.
- V4-9 The world in Zion
  - Sons and daughters come
  - The wealth of the world comes
  - They are accepted at the Lord's altar.
  - Zion is radiant with joy and made beautiful by the Lord.
- V10-14 The city of destiny
  - Foreigners shall build Zion, calling her the City of the LORD
  - Her gates are open continually to receive the wealth of the nations.
  - Those who will not serve her will perish.
- V15-22 Zion transformed
  - From forsaken, hated, and shunned to majestic and a joy forever with a Savior.
  - That the Lord might be glorified.

#### The Anointed One and His transforming work 61:1-9

- V1-4 First testimony of the Anointed One: transformation
  - V1a His preparation
  - V1b-3a His task
  - V3b-4 His results: transformation
- V 5-9 Transformation elaborated
  - V5-6 World community, with willing service.
  - V7a Transformed from shame to a double portion
  - V7b Everlasting joy
  - V8 Brought into covenant with the Lord
  - V9 Under divine blessing

61:10 - 62:12 The Anointed One and His gathered people

- 61:10 - 62:7 Second testimony of the Anointed One: acceptance of the role of Savior
  - 61:10-11 Joy in the work of salvation
  - 62:1-3 A single Intercessor
    - Continues until the work is completed
  - 62:4-5 Joy in transformed Zion
  - 62:6-7 A company of intercessors
    - Set as watchmen on the walls
    - To call upon the Lord unceasingly until the work is completed.
- 62:8-12 The Lord's oath, summons, and proclamation
  - V8-9 Oath
    - Indicates peace and security.
  - V10 Summons to pilgrimage
  - V11-12 Proclamation
    - God's salvation comes
    - Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken. Zion finally perfected.

63:1-6 The consummation of the work

- With the watchmen on Zion's walls to hear the proclamation of the completion of vengeance, redemption, and salvation.
- The Conqueror comes in triumph to proclaim His victory.

## The new heavens and new earth: prayers and promises 63:7 - 66:24

### The watcher praying 63:7 - 64:12

- 63:7-14 Remembering who God is
  - V7 His steadfast love
  - V8-9 His commitment to His people
  - V10-14 His ongoing patience with their failings
- 63:15 - 64:12 Asking
  - 63:15-16 Where is Your love?
  - 63:17-19 Why do You remain distant?
  - 64:1-3 Why didn't You act?
  - 64:4-5 You act for those who wait for You. Is it too late to hope?
  - 64:6-7 We have sinned and are helpless before You.
  - 64:8-9 You are our Father; we are your people.
  - 64:10-12 Your city Zion is a wilderness. Will You ignore these things?

### The Lord responding 65:1 - 66:24

- 65:1-12 Reaching out to the peoples and to the people
  - 65:1 Reaching out to the nations
  - 65:2-7 Reaching out to Israel
    - V2-5 Provocations
    - V6-7 Penalties
  - 65:8-10 Recompense for the faithful remnant
    - Preservation
    - Secure dwelling
    - Renewal
  - 65:11-12 Recompense for the wicked
    - Slaughter
- 65:13-16 Contrasting ends
- 65:17-25 All things made new
  - V17 New creation
    - New heavens and earth
  - V18-20 New city
    - Jerusalem a city of joy and gladness
  - V21-25 New society
    - Security of tenure
    - Fulfillment in blessing
    - Nature renewed

- 66:1-24 Judgment and hope
  - V1-2 God's resting place
    - A physical building cannot contain God.
    - He comes to dwell with those who are humble, contrite in spirit, tremble at God's word
  - V3-4 False worship and its end
    - Levitical sacrifices are like idol-worship for those who will not listen to God.
    - For them, harsh treatment is coming. Their fears will come upon them.
  - V5-6 True worship and its end
    - True worship is trembling at God's word
    - True worshippers hope in God but are presently put to shame.
    - One day their hope will be vindicated and their enemies put to shame.
  - V7-14 The coming glory of Jerusalem
    - Brought into being in a day.
    - Those who mourn now over her will rejoice.
    - All that Zion means will be present to be enjoyed to the fullest.
    - She will be a city of peace and comfort
  - V15-17 The Lord's judgment
    - The Lord will come in fire of judgment
    - Those who worship falsely will come to an end.
  - V18-23 the world gathering
    - All nations will be gathered
    - A sign will be set among them. The cross.
    - Missionaries sent to those who have not heard of God's fame or seen His glory.
    - Believers will be brought from all nations as an offering to the Lord.
    - Thus all nations will worship Him.
  - V24 The end of the wicked

### Discussion

We will break into three groups for discussion. All groups have the same questions

#### For Isaiah 1 - 66

- **What did you see and come to know about God as a result of this study?**
- **How will you respond to this new understanding?**

Remember to worship the Lord: (1) See (2) Know (3) Respond

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