

An 11-week study of the Book of Isaiah

And Its New Testament Usage

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Week 1: Introduction to Isaiah & Isaiah Chapter 1

So you want to read a Prophet.

Isaiah 1:1 (The vision) (concerning Judah and Jerusalem) (that Isaiah son of Amoz saw during the reigns of Kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah of Judah.)

- **“The Vision”: What is Prophetic writing in the Bible and what are we to do with it today?**

- Prophetic writing has two purposes:
 1. Sometimes it gives a future thing to see.
 - i. Daniel 2’s statue of different materials that represent different empires.
 2. Most of the time it gives a way of seeing what really is and where reality is leading.
 - i. Nathan’s rebuking vision to David about the poor man and his one lamb.
- This is why when we talk about Prophecy, we talk about it in terms of “Forthtelling” NOT “Foretelling”. It is the giving of what really is and what is really coming.
- Prophetic writing peels back the filter of our circumstances and shows us the reality of what is going on both in God’s plans, but also in our motives and actions.
- Also, important to note “Vision” singular not “visions” as in this is a singular compilation of the whole prophetic ministry of Isaiah.

- **“Concerning Judah and Jerusalem”: What is Isaiah pointing back to?**

There is an assumption in Isaiah that there are some things that you already know.

- Assumption ONE: It begins with God - The Goodness/Holiness/Glory of God
 1. **Isaiah 6:2–3** Above him stood the seraphim. ... And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!
 2. **Isaiah 12:6** Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the *Holy One of Israel.*”
 3. **Isaiah 52:10** The LORD has bared his *holy arm* before the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
 4. **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning *God created* the heavens and the earth.,
 5. **John 1:1–4** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- Assumption TWO: God Made man in His Image to display His Glory (Man)
 1. **Isaiah 63:8** For he said, “*Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.*” And he became their Savior.
 2. **Genesis 1:26–27** Then God said, “Let us make man **in our image**, after our likeness. ...27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

- Assumption THREE: Man rebelled against God (Sin)
 1. **Isaiah 1:2–3** 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*. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”
 2. **Genesis 3:6–7** 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
 3. **Romans 3:22–23** 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

- Assumption FOUR: God makes promises on behalf of His people. (Covenants)

Covenant to Adam

1. **Genesis 3:14–15** The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; *on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life*. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
2. **Isaiah 65:25** The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like cattle, *but the serpent’s food will be dust!* They will not do what is evil or destroy on my entire holy mountain,” says the LORD.

Covenant to Abraham

1. **Isaiah 41:8** But you, Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
2. **Genesis 12:1–3** Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
3. **Genesis 15 & Genesis 17**

Covenant to Israel

1. **Exodus 19:4–6** You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples,

for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”

2. **Isaiah 42:6** “I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you; I will give you as a covenant for the people, a light for the nations,

Covenant to David

1. **2 Samuel 7**
2. **1 Chronicles 17:11–15** When your days are fulfilled to walk with your fathers, *I will raise up your offspring after you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom.* 12 He shall build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. 13 I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from him who was before you, 14 but I will confirm him in my house and in my kingdom forever, and his throne shall be established forever. 15 In accordance with all these words, and in accordance with all this vision, Nathan spoke to David.
3. **Psalm 2:7-8** I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “You are my son; today I have begotten you. 8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.
4. **Isaiah 55:3** Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.

(Isaiah assumes that you know all this backstory of the history and theology leading to his prophetic writing. He won't really explain it, he'll just reference it and assume you fill in the rest.)

- **“That Isaiah...saw during the reigns of Kings... of Judah.”: What is Isaiah’s Story and the book’s structure.**

- Isaiah was a prophet in the Southern Kingdom of Judah.
- The time of his prophetic ministry spanned from 740BC till sometime after 701BC.
- Contemporary Biblical prophets of his day: Hosea (Northern Kingdom), Amos (Northern Kingdom), Micah (Southern Kingdom)
- Jewish rabbinic tradition says that Isaiah was sawn in half by King Manasseh and is probably who Hebrews 11 is referring to when it says (Hebrews 11:37–38) “They were stoned, *they were sawed in two*, they died by the sword, they wandered about in sheepskins, in goatskins, destitute, afflicted, and mistreated. 38The world was not worthy of them...”
- Key Historical Events that correspond to the chapter layout of Isaiah
 - i. 722 BC -- Assyrian empire destroys and exiles Northern Israel (see 2Kings 17) and forces Southern Judah under king Ahaz into paying tribute. [Isaiah 5-10]
 - ii. 701 BC – Hezekiah, King of Judah, rebels against the Assyrian empire, and trusts Yahweh to save Jerusalem [Isaiah 28-39]
 - iii. 610–586 BC -- Babylon conquers Assyria, subjugates Judah, destroys Jerusalem and exiles the Judeans [Isaiah 39]
 - iv. 540 BC -- Judeans called back to Jerusalem in the hope of the LORD’s (YHWH) promises [Isaiah 40-66]

Literary Structure of Isaiah

Chapters	Summary	Literary style
1-12	Jerusalem rebels, is judged, and redeemed	Poetry + Narrative [Ahaz]
13-27	God's justice and salvation among the nations	Poetry
28-35	God's justice and salvation among Israel	Poetry
36-39	Jerusalem saved > Babylon is coming	Narrative + Poetry [Hezekiah]
40-48	Israel called out of Babylon as a witness to the nations	Poetry
49-55	God calls a servant to act on behalf of Israel	Poetry
56-66	Israel back in the land > awaiting future redemption	Poetry

- Running Themes in Isaiah to be watching for:
 - i. Covenant disobedience (breaking the covenant)
 - ii. The consequences of breaking covenant
 - iii. Remnant
 - iv. Criticism of "Religious" worship
 - v. Social Justice
 - vi. Judgement leading to salvation.
 - vii. Judgement leading to destruction.
 - viii. Salvation beyond the Jewish people

- ***What is Isaiah looking forward to?***

These are the future prophetic promises looked forward to by Isaiah.

- God fulfills his promise to redeem His people in righteousness and justice. (Atonement)
 1. **Luke 22:20** And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.
 2. **1 Peter 2:24** He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
 3. **Isaiah 53:4-6** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

- God saves (Redemption)
 1. **Isaiah 1:27** Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
 2. **Isaiah 41:14** Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
 3. **Isaiah 44:22** I have blotted out your transgressions like a cloud and your sins like mist; return to me for I have redeemed you.

- God Walks again with His People (Sanctification)
 1. **Isaiah 48:17** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go.
 2. **John 16:7–8** Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment.
 3. **Romans 12:2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- God returns and makes all things new. (Consummation)
 1. **Isaiah 65:17** For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.
 2. **2 Peter 3:13** But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.
 3. **Revelation 21:1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
 4. **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- ***And that's just VS 1!!!***
 - So, with what time we've got left let's look at the rest of Chapter 1:

Isaiah 1:2–31 (ESV)

²Hear, 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. ³The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master’s crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.” ⁴Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the LORD, they have despised the **Holy One of Israel**, they are utterly estranged. ⁵Why will you still be struck down? Why will you continue to rebel? The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. ⁶From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it, but bruises and sores and raw wounds; they are not pressed out or bound up or softened with oil. ⁷Your country lies desolate; your cities are burned with fire; in your very presence foreigners devour your land; it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners. ⁸And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard, like a lodge in a cucumber field, like a besieged city. ⁹**If the LORD of hosts had not left us a few survivors, we should have been like Sodom, and become like Gomorrah.** ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom! Give ear to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹“What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the LORD; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ¹²“When you come to appear before me, who has required of you this trampling of my courts? ¹³Bring no more vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations— I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. ¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hates; they have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶**Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause.** ¹⁸“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ¹⁹**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; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” ²¹How the faithful city has become a whore, she who was full of justice! Righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers. ²²Your silver has become dross, your best wine mixed with water. ²³Your princes are rebels and companions of thieves. Everyone loves a bribe and runs

The “Holy One of Israel” is Isaiah’s favorite name for YHWH. It’s significant because it ties the name of God to the Israelite people through covenant.

See Romans 9:29 – God’s sovereign will in choosing blessing and judgement.

Man’s will in choosing God’s way or his own will.

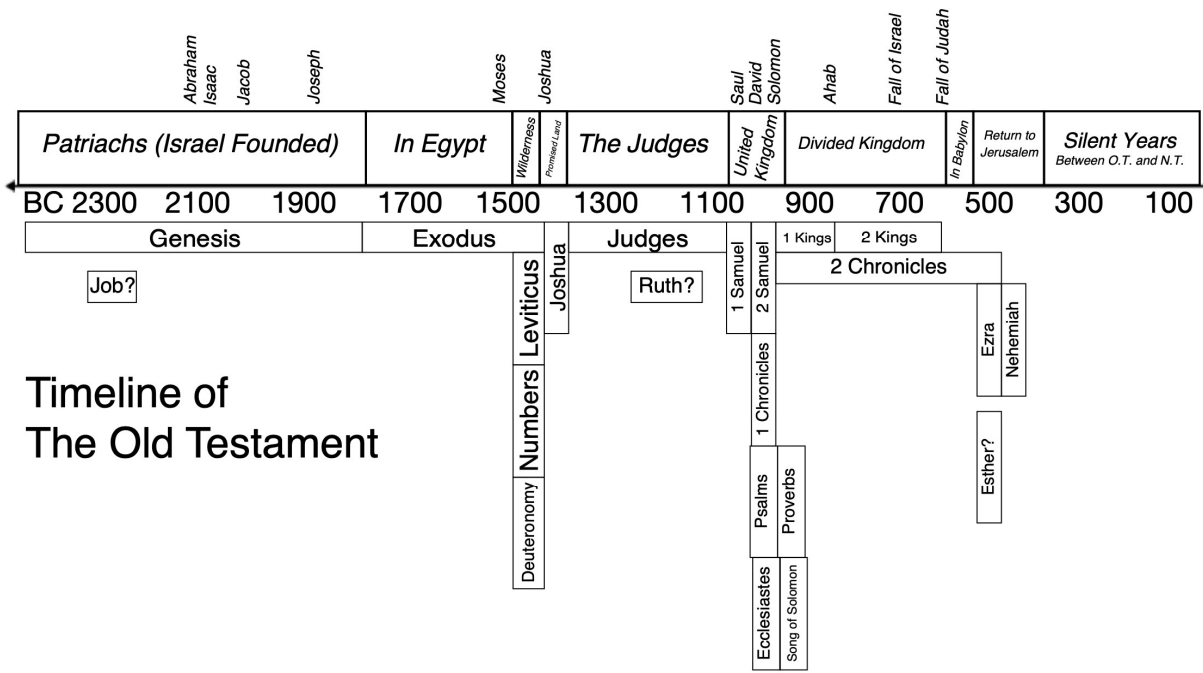
after gifts. They do not bring justice to the fatherless, and the widow's cause does not come to them. ²⁴Therefore the Lord declares, the LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel: "Ah, I will get relief from my enemies and avenge myself on my foes. ²⁵I will turn my hand against you and will smelt away your dross as with lye and remove all your alloy. ²⁶And I will restore your judges as at the first, and your counselors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city." ²⁷Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness. ²⁸But rebels and sinners shall be broken together, and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed. ²⁹For they shall be ashamed of the oaks that you desired; and you shall blush for the gardens that you have chosen. ³⁰For you shall be like an oak whose leaf withers, and like a garden without water. ³¹And the strong shall become tinder, and his work a spark, and both of them shall burn together, with none to quench them.

There is a difference between what is truly "good" and what "feels" kind.

Oaks/Gardens – Places of Idolatry. Isaiah is going to be addressing both physical and functional Idolatry.

BEFORE NEXT WEEK:

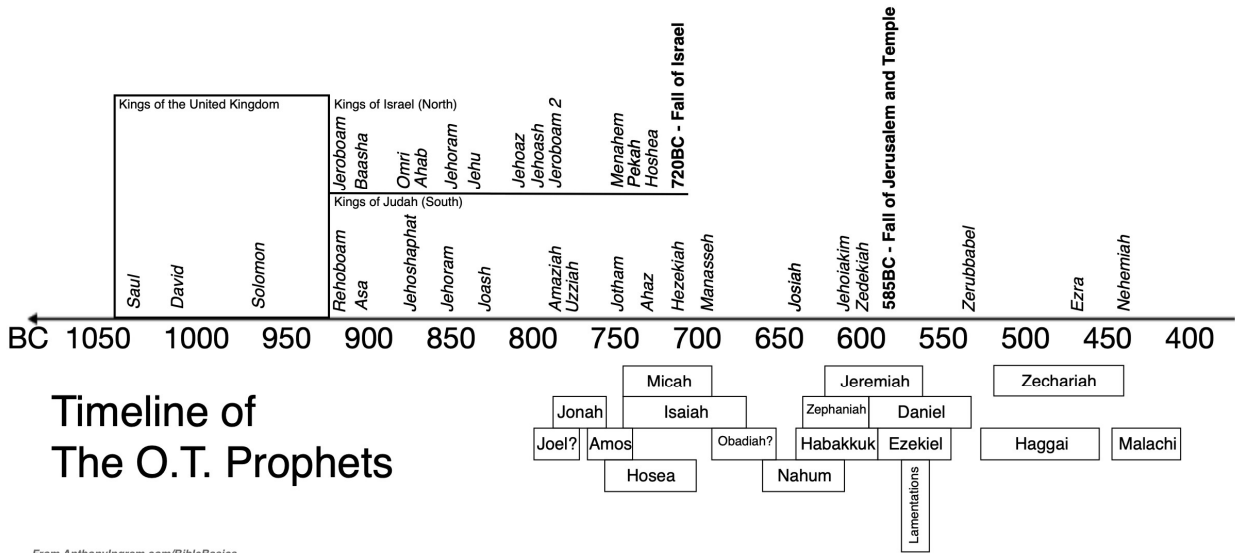
- Read Isaiah 2:1 through 5:30
- Suggested Reading from *Isaiah: God Saves Sinners* – Chapters 1-4
- Review the main themes and structure of Isaiah from this lesson.
- Pray through the "Look back and look forward" of Isaiah and ask the Holy Spirit to show you what areas you need to grow in faith and knowledge in these areas.



Timeline of The Old Testament

From AnthonyIngram.com/BibleBasics

The Prophets (see next chart)



Timeline of The O.T. Prophets

From AnthonyIngram.com/BibleBasics