

Isaiah and Ezekiel

06 Isaiah 40–57

As we move into the second and final major section of the book, Isaiah continues to exhort Yahweh's people to trust him. Isaiah 40–66 addresses and interweaves three significant topics. First, Yahweh, the true God, is the sovereign ruler over the story of providence; from the daily tedium to the world-shaping events—it's all his story. Second, through his suffering Servant, it is Yahweh's unstoppable plan to pay for the sins of his people. Third, having atoned for his people, he will welcome them into a gloriously bright future. Thus we can summarize Isaiah's call in this portion of the book: Trust Yahweh, the true God, because he atones for and glorifies his people. Yahweh accomplishes this mission by sending his suffering servant to represent and to redeem Judah and to become a light for the Gentiles.

1. Isaiah 40–48: Yahweh incomparably excels and defeats all pretenders to his title of God.
 - 1.1. Isaiah 40–42:17: Yahweh, the incomparable God, has a plan to console Israel.
 - 1.1.1. Isaiah 40: Yahweh reigns and will exalt those who trust him.
 - 1.1.2. Isaiah 41: Your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; one from the north will march over rulers.
 - 1.1.3. Isaiah 42:1–17: Yahweh's servant will come meekly but bring global justice and Israel's joy.
 - 1.2. Isaiah 42:18–44:23: Yahweh has a plan to redeem Israel.
 - 1.2.1. Isaiah 42:18–43:28: Yahweh has exiled his wayward servant, Israel, but he will retrieve and forgive them.
 - 1.2.2. Isaiah 44:1–23: Jacob, the servant, will be restored by Yahweh (not the senseless idols).
 - 1.3. Isaiah 44:24– 48:22: Yahweh, as history's master, declares his plans to use Cyrus for his people's good.

- 1.3.1. Isaiah 44:24–46:13: Israel and the nations will bend the knee to one savior and God.
- 1.3.2. Isaiah 47: Babylon, self-assured in oppression and divination, will find no one to save.
- 1.3.3. Isaiah 48: Yahweh, acting for his reputation in destroying Babylon, calls Israel to depart.

2. Isaiah 49–57: Yahweh sends his suffering servant to secure redemption for Israel and the nations.

- 2.1. Isaiah 49:1–50:3: Yahweh entrusts Israel and the nations to his servant.
 - 2.1.1. Isaiah 49:1–13: Yahweh's Servant represents and restores Israel.
 - 2.1.2. Isaiah 49:14–50:3: An apparently forgotten Zion will mother a multitude.
- 2.2. Isaiah 50:4–52:12: The servant obediently receives his charge.
 - 2.2.1. Isaiah 50:4–11: Yahweh's servant was not rebellious but trusted in Yahweh's help.
 - 2.2.2. Isaiah 51:1–52:12: Yahweh comforts Zion. How can Zion fear?
- 2.3. Isaiah 52:13–55:13: Through suffering, the servant succeeds in his mission.
 - 2.3.1. Isaiah 52:13–53:12: Yahweh justifies many by crushing his righteous servant.
 - 2.3.2. Isaiah 54: Yahweh will restore Israel with compassion and love her eternally.
 - 2.3.3. Isaiah 55: "Come to me; listen, you who thirst, so that you will live."
- 2.4. Isaiah 56:1–57:21: A worldwide sabbath shall be proclaimed, but in the present there is strife.
 - 2.4.1. 56:1–8: Yahweh welcomes the nations at the coming temple.
 - 2.4.2. 56:9–57:21: Idols and idolaters will be carried off like chaff; Yahweh alone gives refuge.