

## **ISAIAH'S WITNESS TO GOD'S GREATNESS**

God sent Isaiah to expose the wickedness of the Southern Kingdom and prepare them for a time of certain judgment. Isaiah's ministry reached from 740–700 B.C. during the reign of four kings of Judah.

- He was a contemporary of Amos, Hosea, and Micah.
- He wrote of historical events and prophesied of future things.
- He spoke of true hope for a people in spiritual and political darkness.

The Northern Kingdom was already in captivity (since 722 B.C.) and Isaiah was calling Judah's kings and people to trust and obey the Lord. Trusting in the Lord when enemies were threatening was possible for those who understood the greatness, the goodness, and the sovereignty of the Almighty.

God's people could be safe from all threats if they loved and worshipped him only. But if they continued in idolatry, nothing would protect them from the pagan nations God would use to chasten them.

The holy God had a faithful remnant. To them God promises salvation and glorious rule as they have never seen before. Isaiah preached tirelessly for sixty years calling a rebellious people to turn to a righteous, holy, omnipotent God. He pointed past a present crisis to a coming King.

### **ISAIAH 1–8:**

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| 1:1–20  | The worship God will not accept          |
| 1:21–31 | The purifying work of judgment           |
| 2:1–5   | The prospect of glory in Jerusalem again |
| 2:6–22  | The warning idolaters should heed        |
| 3:1–26  | The coming crisis because of sin         |
| 4:1–7   | The promise of God's glorious presence   |
| 5:1–30  | The picture of righteous wrath           |
| 6:1–13  | The vision to a commissioned prophet     |
| 7:1–25  | The sign of grace and gravity            |
| 8:1–22  | The oracle of an inevitable invasion     |

## **ISAIAH 1–39**

### Judgment

Things may seem comfortable now,  
but judgment is coming on you

You may have escaped the destruction  
Israel experienced at Assyria's hands,  
but God will judge you.

## **ISAIAH 40–66**

### Comfort

After God has judged you,  
you will be restored

You will return from exile in Babylon  
and God will regather you  
and send his Messiah.

## **ISAIAH 40–66**

The second section of Isaiah's prophecy contains three distinct parts:

- 40–48: theology proper – God is the Creator and Redeemer
- 49–57: soteriology – salvation through the Servant
- 58–66: eschatology – “In that day...”

This section also contains the four “Servant Songs”

(42:1–4; 49:1–6; 50:4–9; 52:13–53:12)

## **ISAIAH 40–48:**

- 40: God's wisdom and power
- 41: God's provision for Israel
- 42: God's deliverance by the Servant of the LORD
- 43: God's restoration of Israel
- 44: God's uniqueness and superiority to idols
- 45: God's restoration of Israel by Cyrus' hand
- 46–47: God's destruction of Babylon
- 48: God's merciful release of stubborn Israel