

Lesson 1: Isaiah

GROW University - Old Testament 103

Context¹

Theme

Yahweh is the only God. We know this for four reasons:

Exhibit A: He alone is holy, "the Holy One of Israel," whereas the idols are the creation of man's idolatrous heart, and the people are sinful.

Exhibit B: He alone is high and lifted up, majestic, whereas the idols and kings of the earth are lifted up only in vain pride.

Exhibit C: He alone controls history, sees and controls the future, whereas the idols and great kings of the nations can do nothing and cannot save.

Exhibit D: He alone can save, bringing peace to the earth in the form of a New Creation, whereas the idols cannot save and the kings only bring war.

¹ There a number of scholars who make the case that there were actually many "Isaiahs," and that this book is really a compilation of a number of different writings. There are a number of reasons for this. One is that this book is full of both judgment and grace. And no one author can write about both of those, right? The main reason though is this: Isaiah names King Cyrus by name (44:28 & 45:1). What's the big deal about that? Well, Isaiah is here predicting something, down to the very details of someone's name, about 200 years before it happens. It's one thing to predict and make prophecies, it's another to have such intricate detail. For this reason, it's concluded *a priori* that the part of Isaiah with the prophecies about Cyrus could not have been written until after Cyrus' reign. Well, I reject these notions. First, as an inspired text, I can't accept that it's presenting itself as prophecy in fraudulent way. But a more convincing reason may be this: That Yahweh can to only predict the future, but actually has control over the future is the *very thing* that makes Him different from, and superior to, the idols of the nations. The whole point of the book is to demonstrate superiority. What better way to do that , than by naming the very man He'll use in His future plans. Thus, Yahweh's name of Cyrus is an argument for, not against, the claim of a single author, Isaiah, having written one book in the 8th century BC, under the inspiration of God. Finally, Jesus himself accredits the entire book of Isaiah in John 12:37-41 when He quotes Isaiah 6 and 53 citing Isaiah for both quotes.

Outline W/Pivotal Tets

1. Isaiah 1-39 — Yahweh is/has a King

- A.) Chapter 1-6: Yahweh and His sinning people (ch. 6 a pinnacle)
- B.) Chapters 7-12: Yahweh and His saving promise (ch. 12 a pinnacle)
- C.) Chapters 13-27: The Day of the Lord upon all the earth — for the unrighteous and the remnant (ch. 24-27 a pinnacle)
- D.) Chapters 28-35: The Day of the Lord upon Israel — for refusal/readiness to listen and learn (ch. 35 the salvation)
- E.) Chapters 36-39: The Day of the Lord in shadow/type - nations, kings, gods, pride all destroyed; trusting remnant saved.

2. Isaiah 40-66 — Yahweh has a Servant ("the Servant's Song"/courtroom scene)

- A.) Chapters 40-44: Behold your God oh Israel, there is no other
- B.) Chapters 45-48: Behold the only God you nations, there is no other
- C.) Chapters 49-55: Yahweh's new exodus people comforted (ch. 54-55 the crown of the song)
- D.) Chapters 56-62: Yahweh's new exodus people learn righteousness and vindicated
- E.) Chapters 63-66: Yahweh's final wrath on sin and salvation of His own (65:17ff point into eternity).

Theme Texts

Chapter 6

Read **6:1**.²

Read **6:3**.

Read **6:5**.

Read **6:13**.

² What's interesting here is that the next six chapters in Isaiah describe a future human King over Israel who will bring salvation, peace, and an eternal kingdom to Israel. This King will, of course, be the final descendant of David.

7:10-17

Read **7:13-17**.

Read **7:6**

Prophecy: "What is this passage in Isaiah 7 most famous for? (Matthew 1)

Read **8:3-4**

Old Testament prophecy usually has what we call "near and far" fulfillment.³

- First Horizon: immediate fulfillment
- Second Horizon: a later, greater fulfillment
- Summary of the example here:
 - A typological prophecy of salvation that Christ will bring to both Jew and Gentile.
 - It's first about Yahweh's preservation of Judah, and
 - Then that serves as a type of what Yahweh will do through Christ in the future.

24:1-5

**Chapters 13-35: "the Day of the Lord."*

Read **24:1, 3, 4, 5**

Chapter 36-39

³ At least one reason for this is to verify that a prophet is a legitimate prophet. If we was given a word from Yahweh about the distant future (like Isaiah is here), there needed to be a way to discern if it really was a word from Yahweh. Deuteronomy 18 says that the simple test for a prophet is to wait and see if his word comes to pass. Well, if he predicts the distant future his word is really unfalsifiable. So to validate that future prophecy, an immediate lesser fulfillment would occur.

Read **37:35**.⁴

Read **39:5-7**.

40:1-2

44:28

Read **44:28**.

49:1-7

Read **49:5**.

52:13-53:12

Read **53:3-6**.

Read **53:10-12**.

61:1-3

Conclusion

⁴ In many ways, Isaiah 36:14 is the defining question of the whole book.

Application

We need a vision of God like Isaiah had.

All right living begins with right thinking about God.