

SURVEY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT: ISAIAH

The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. (Isaiah 1:1)

The Man Isaiah

Name: *The name 'Isaiah' means 'the LORD is salvation'*

Audience: *Jerusalem (Judah)*

Family: *His father is Amoz. It is believed that he is a member of the royal family. We know from 8:3 and 7:3 that Isaiah has a wife and 2 sons.*

Times: *Ministered during the reign of Uzziah, Jotham, and Hezekiah. This is estimated to be about 65 years. During this period of time, Israel went into exile and the Assyrians were the main world power. Towards the end of this period, the Babylonians started to replace the Assyrians as the dominant world force.*

Peer: *Micah*

The Book Isaiah

Chapter 1-39 The Judgment of God

 Prophecies concerning Judah (1-12)

 Prophecies concerning the nations (13-27)

 Warnings and promises (28-35)

 Concerning Hezekiah (36-39)

Chapter 40-66 The Comfort of God

 The true God (40-48)

 The Suffering Saviour (49-57)

 The Glorious Church (58-66)

The Message Of Isaiah

WHO WILL YOU TRUST?

*Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, and rely on horses, who trust in chariots because they are many, and in horsemen because they are very strong, but who do not look to the Holy One of Israel, nor seek the LORD! (31:1) **The question here is, "will you trust Egypt?" Maybe some will trust Assyria while others will trust Babylon. The temptation is there for Judah to put their trust in the superpower of the day.***

*Their land is also full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made. (2:8) **Some are more religious, and so they don't trust the superpowers, but in gods!***

*You numbered the houses of Jerusalem, and the houses you broke down to fortify the wall. You also made a reservoir between the two walls for the water of the old pool. But you did not look to its Maker, nor did you have respect for Him who fashioned it long ago. (22:10-11) **"Oh, we don't trust others and we don't trust gods," says some. We trust ourselves. We rely on our own wisdom and strength!***

Isaiah 40 – Trust GOD! *That's the call of Isaiah the prophet. Isaiah 40 shows us what a great God He is, that He alone is God, and how trustworthy is He!*

Exactly who? *Isaiah doesn't stop at the call to trust God. He points us to a Person in whom we should put our entire trust. Who is He?*

The two parts: *The 66 chapters of Isaiah can be divided into two parts – the 1st 39 chapters and the last 27 chapters. It has often been pointed out that this division reflects the division of the Bible itself. Assuming that to be so, we zero in on the last 27 chapters and we ask, where's the centre/heart?*

The heart: *The heart is found in chapters 49-57, which we know speaks of the suffering Messiah! And the heart of the heart is found in Isaiah 53:4-6!*

*Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.
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.*

We are to put our trust in the suffering Saviour who was bruised for us! We are to put our entire trust in Jesus! What happens to the one who refused? Hear it:

"There is no peace," says the LORD, "for the wicked." (Isaiah 48:22)

"There is no peace," says my God, "for the wicked." (Isaiah 57:21)