Lesson 13: Isaiah
Read: Isaiah 42, 44, 49, 52, 53, 55, 62, 65

In this lesson we look at the divinely inspired prophecies of Isaiah made during his ministry 40 years. In chapters 1–35 Isaiah spoke to a nation awaiting God's judgment, which would come in 722 (during Isaiah's ministry) for the northern kingdom and in 586 (100 years after Isaiah's time) for the southern kingdom. He assured both kingdoms that, though judgment would surely come, God would deliver the faithful “remnant” of his people.

In 36–39 Isaiah cited the contemporary example of King Hezekiah, who trusted God and saw his kingdom miraculously delivered from Assyria in 701. Isaiah's special name for God was "the Holy One of Israel" (25 occurrences), found only 6 times elsewhere.

In 40–66 Isaiah shifted his focus to speaking words of comfort and hope to the Jews who would be exiled to Babylon. He predicted their return from exile and revealed more fully the coming Messiah, whom he now presented as God's chosen “Servant.”

Isaiah gave an unpopular message: "Do not trust in any alliances with other countries, trust only in God's power." While the two southern tribes of Judah were heading for judgment due to the corruption of her society, political life and religious life, she would not be wiped out. In his mercy God promised that one day, from Judah, a Savior for the whole world would arise. He is Isaiah's "Servant of the Lord," and Isaiah has four extended poems or psalms about him: 42:1-7; 49:1-7; 50:4-11; 52:13-53.12. We finish this segment thus with hope and a message of salvation from the follies of sins practiced by Judah.

The specific occasion of a few parts of Isaiah are clear, for example chapter 7 was prompted by the Syrian-Israelite coalition against Judah (734-732 b.c.), and chapters 36-39 were prompted by Sennacherib's invasion of Judah (701 b.c.). The last event that maybe dated in Isaiah's lifetime is the murder of Sennacherib (681 b.c.). By this time Isaiah was an old man, for he had been commissioned around 740 b.c., the year of King Uzziah's death. Isaiah did not tell what prompted his compilation of the entire book.

How might Isaiah 53 help you to understand the Messiah?

Big Ideas in ISAIAH

Earthly alliances disappoint, but trusting God brings salvation.

Because God is holy and loving, he must punish the rebellious; but he will eventually redeem those who repent.

God is the ultimate King who is just and righteous.

God promises to send the Messiah, who will bring justice and salvation to all who believe.
Practical Lessons from the Book

--The book stresses the omniscience of God, God knows and sees beyond the realm of human knowledge.

--When we forsake our covenant relationship with God we have committed a terrible evil, but we can return with a repentant heart to God.

--The foolishness of idolatry is exposed.

--Genuine repentance requires ceasing from evil and returning in faith to God. Either one without the other is incomplete.

--Sin, in any form, extracts a high price. It ruins internally, externally and (most importantly) eternally.

--God’s righteous cause will triumph over evil.

--The only hope for the world is the Messiah and the covenant sealed with His blood.

--We must have a faithful attitude in all circumstances in order to please God.
Outline - Isaiah

I Prophecies of Condemnation (1:1–35:10)
   a. Against Judah (1:1-12:6)
   b. Against other nations (13:1-23:18)

II Hezekiah’s Life (36:1–39:8)
   a. Deliverance from Assyria (36:1-37:38)
   b. Deliverance from Sickness (38:1-22)
   c. Sin (39:1-8)

III Prophecies of Comfort (40:1–66:24)
   a. Israel’s Deliverance (40:1-48:22)
   b. Israel’s Deliverer (49:1-57:21)

Key Verses

Isaiah 1:18-20 (ESV)
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.”

Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)
6 For to us a child is born,
   to us a son is given;
   and the government shall be
   upon his shoulder,
   and his name shall be called
   Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God
   Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 53:6 (ESV)
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.

List Your Favorite Verse/s
For chapters 40 to 66
Israel's Deliverance
Isaiah 40:1-48:22

Isaiah 42 Servant of The Lord
1 put My spirit on him  
2 he shall not shout out  
3 bruised reed he will not break  
4 establish justice & hope  
5-8 Lord has called us to righteousness  
We are light for Gentile  
10 We sing to Lord a new song  
16 Lord makes rough places smooth for blind  
Lord will not forsake them

Isaiah 44
1 Jacob chosen  
3-4 Lord will pour water on a thirsty land  
5 Lord belongs to the land  
6-8 Who is like the Lord proclaimed/foretold long ago

21-23 Lord has made you  
- you are a servant  
- return to the Lord  
- Lord has redeemed you

24-28 Lord says –  
- Jerusalem shall be inhabited  
- The shall rebuild  
- Lord will restore them  
- Cyrus shall command let it be rebuilt

Unobedient People Lost
Isaiah 42 Not Servant of The Lord
17 those who trust in idols turned back  
seen many things, but pay no attention  
20 Ears are open, but do not listen  
24 Lord handed Israel over to plunderers

Isaiah 44
9 All who make idols are nothing  
10-13 Who shapes a god and cast an idol  
14-20 cut down a tree the rain nourished  
burns part for warmth and baking  
another part he fashions into an idol  
then  
Prays to it and says "Save Me"

Isaiah 49
1-4 Before I was born, called to be Lord's servant  
5-7 Bring Israel back  
Light to the Gentiles  
Salvation shall reach ends of earth  
8-26 Restoration  
I will answer you and help you though you are  
rusted and laid waste  
I will beckon nations to lift up my banner and  
they will bring your sons in their arms  
& your daughters on their hips

Isaiah 52:1-12
Awake up it is time to know the name of the Lord  
in that day they shall know that it is I who speak; here am I."

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Suffering Servant
1 Who has believed what they heard from us?  
And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?  
2 he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,  
and no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He was despised and rejected by men;  
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;  
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his stripes 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.

7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,  
yet he opened not his mouth;  
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,  
and like a sheep that before its shearer is silent,  
so he opened not his mouth.

8 Stricken for the transgression of my people?  
And they made his grave with the wicked  
and with a rich man in his death,  
although he had done no violence,  
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

55:1-13 Coma all you who are thirsty