

DESCRIPTION OF THE BOOKS

ISAIAH:

Isaiah prophesied from 745-695 B.C. His message was directed mainly to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. The message that he proclaimed was: the sinful state of the nation, God's sure punishment (unless they repented) and the remnant that God would allow to remain. He has been called the "MESSIANIC" prophet for the large amount of material that he prophesied concerning the Messiah.

JEREMIAH:

Jeremiah prophesied from 626-586 B.C. His message was to the nation of Judah just previous to the Fall of Judah and their captivity. The message was pronouncement of their sin and punishment and declaration of a future hope.

LAMENTATIONS:

Jeremiah wrote the book of Lamentations. This is his "lament" or grief over the destruction of Jerusalem and the people being taken away as slaves.

EZEKIEL:

Ezekeil prophesied to the nation of Judah while they were in Captivity in Babylon. The dates of his ministry would have been from 592-570 B.C. His message was about the fall of Jerusalem, its' restoration and glorious future.

DANIEL:

Daniel prophesied from 606-534 B.C. His book gives an account of his life in Babylon and then under Persian rule. His prophecies speak of four great Kingdoms of man and then God's Everlasting Kingdom.

COMMENTARY

ISAIAH

BACKGROUND OF THE BOOK:

Isaiah lived while the Assyrian Empire was at its zenith. He saw the nation of Israel (the northern Kingdom) completely destroyed and the people scattered.

Isaiah's prophecies are some of the most clear proof of the inspiration of Scripture. His prophecies regarding the Messiah and also concerning Cyrus of Persia (whom he names over 100 years before Cyrus was even born!) prove that no mere man could have such a detailed account of future events.

Chapter 1:

Isaiah begins by recounting God's frustration with His people. The Jews had allowed sin to take control of their lives and are being punished because of it. Their only consolation is that God has not completely destroyed them. The attitude of the people is detestable to God; who no longer finds pleasure in their feasts and sacrifices (because of their hypocritical lives). The Jews are challenged to go back to righteous living and then they could find forgiveness; otherwise they are bound for destruction.

God finally speaks of a coming day when the city of Jerusalem will be restored.

Chapter 2:

Isaiah saw the restoration of "Jerusalem". People would come from all nations (true of Pentecost and the early church) seeking the Lord and be taught the ways of the Lord. The Kingdom that the Lord shall establish will be one of peace.

Yet, at this time, God's people are neglecting their relationship with Him and are living lives of sin. Because of this God is going to thoroughly thrash them.

Chapter 3:

God is going to remove the prominent and capable men from among the people of Judah. The people would have no capable leadership from among their own people because of their sinfulness. God will hold the leadership accountable for their failure in guiding the people.

The women of Judah had become vain. Because of their concern with wealth and provocative dress, God is going to punish them by taking away all of their finery and their beauty.

Chapter 4:

The punishment of the women will extend even beyond their own appearance. The men that they sought to impress will be removed and a shortage will result. Women would reach a point where they would do almost anything just to be able to marry a man.

In the midst of this picture of desolation comes the promise that God was going to send a Messiah and the land would be restored. Then forgiveness would become available to God's people and He will protect them.

Chapter 5:

Isaiah now speaks of God planting a vineyard (Judah) and how God cared for it and did everything possible to make it fruitful. Instead, the

vineyard had turned out "bad" fruit (sin). God is now going to destroy His people because they have failed to appreciate His love and care and have not obeyed.

Isaiah then relates the coming of unproductive fields and the punishment of the nation because of their sin. Man would be humbled and God would be exalted. Those who are presently enjoying their lives of selfish indulgence will be destroyed. God is going to allow enemy nations to come and destroy His people.

Chapter 6:

Isaiah now tells of his vision of heaven and the presence of God. God was on the throne and He was surrounded by heavenly creatures (with 6 wings) who were praising God with thunderous voices.

Isaiah quickly understands how sinful man is in comparison and how wretched his home nation is. One of the seraphs came and cleansed Isaiah. Isaiah then heard God ask who He could send to His people. Isaiah volunteered and God gave him the message.

The message was: the people shall not comprehend or accept the message of God (for they are not willing). This will last until everything, but a remnant, is destroyed.

Chapter 7:

The northern Kingdom of Israel threatened to conquer Judah. The Lord told Isaiah to go to the King of Judah and give him the assurance that he would not be defeated. Instead, within 65 years Israel would be destroyed. When King Ahaz was told to ask for a sign from God, he refused and was rebuked by God for his disobedience. God promised that a virgin (young woman) would conceive and give birth to a son (This is one of the Messianic prophecies that Jesus fulfilled). In a literal sense it also happened in the days of Ahaz (a young woman gave birth to a son) and before he reached the age of accountability the nation of Israel and Egypt will have been overcome. Judah would also be punished by the Kingdom of Babylon (not even a power at this time in history!) and the land would become desolate.

Chapter 8:

Isaiah is told to name his son: "quick to the plunder". Before that boy could speak the nation of Israel would be destroyed by the nation of Assyria. Assyria would also be allowed to come in a take control of Judah (although Jerusalem would never be defeated by the Assyrians).

Isaiah is told to speak the words of God and not fear men. God is the only one to fear and dread. He also is told of the coming Messiah that many of the Jews would reject (to their loss and destruction).

Others were looking for hope from mediums and spiritists. The message that they received was different from the one that Isaiah received from God. Isaiah was instructed to listen to God's message.

Chapter 9:

God promises to allow the Messiah to dwell in the northern region of Israel (up by Galilee of the Gentiles) and He will be a light showing them the way to God (Another Messianic prophecy that Jesus fulfilled). A familiar description of Jesus and His rule is then given (vs. 6,7).

Israel is again informed of their coming destruction at the hands of the foreign nations that God would allow to attack and destroy Israel. In spite of His deliverance of them in the past, they have not returned to serve Him so He will allow Assyria to destroy them. The devastation of the land will be great, but the punishment will be allowed to go on.

Chapter 10:

God warns those who take advantage of others, that their day of judgement and punishment is coming.

God is going to use the nation of Assyria as His instrument of punishment. Since Assyria will not recognize and serve God, they too, shall be punished, once He finishes with Israel and Judah.

Assyria will have a proud and self-confident attitude because of their accomplishments. Because of Assyria's vain boasting, God will then punish and destroy them and their land.

God then looks that the remnant of His people will then come to trust in Him. He promises them that those who now overcome them, will also be punished and struck down.

STUDY GUIDE

ISAIAH 1

1. To what does God compare Israel? (vs. 2,3)
2. What does God no longer take pleasure in? (vs. 11-14)
3. What were they told to do? (vs. 16-17)
4. What does God say is possible with their sin? (vs. 18)
5. What would happen if they obeyed? If they rebelled? (vs. 19,20)

ISAIAH 2

1. What would people come and say? (vs. 3)
2. What will people do with their weapons? (vs. 4)
3. What will happen to men and idols? (vs. 17,18)
4. What are we to stop trusting in? (vs. 22)

ISAIAH 3

1. What is the Lord going to take from Judah? (vs. 1-3)
2. What did Judah do? (vs. 8,9)
3. Who is the Lord going to judge? (vs. 14)
4. Who were haughty? (vs. 16)

ISAIAH 4

1. What will be beautiful and glorious? (vs. 2)
2. What will the Lord wash? (vs. 4)

ISAIAH 5

1. What had been done for the vineyard? (vs. 1-2)
2. What would be done to the vineyard? (vs. 5,6)
3. What would happen to the people? (vs. 13)

ISAIAH 6

1. What did seraphs do? (vs. 3)
2. What was Isaiah's response? (vs. 5)
3. What question did God ask? (vs. 8)

ISAIAH 7

1. Who was going to take Jerusalem? (vs. 1)
2. What was the sign that would be given? (vs. 14)

ISAIAH 8

1. What would happen to Samaria? (vs. 4)
2. Who is to be feared? (vs. 13)
3. What would the Lord be for the Jews? (vs. 14)

ISAIAH 9

1. What have people seen? (vs. 2)
2. What is said of the child? (vs. 6,7)
3. What had the people of Israel not done? (vs. 13)

ISAIAH 10

1. What were people doing? (vs 1,2)
2. What would God let the Assyrians do? (vs. 6)
3. Who would the Lord punish after Israel and Judah? (vs. 12)
4. What does God say about the remnant? (vs. 20)