

BOOK OF ISAIAH

Outline

Chapters 1-5

BACKGROUND: The Book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters and is said to be the entire Bible in MINIATURE (66 books in the Bible). Isaiah was a brilliant prophet to the Southern Kingdom, Judah. It is said his literary genius surpasses Shakespeare, Milton, and Homer. His prophecies dealing with the future were so specific/accurate (as if he were standing there), some scholars thought there were TWO Isaiahs. Prophesied to the Southern Kingdom, Judah, from the time the Northern Kingdom, Israel, fell to the Assyrians up to the time Assyria invaded Judah capturing many cities, carrying away 200,000 captives of the Southern Kingdom, but eventually being miraculously stopped before capturing Jerusalem itself. He spoke of God always maintaining a **REMNANT**. (God will ALWAYS have a voice in the Earth.) He is quoted in the **New Testament MORE THAN ANY OTHER PROPHET**. Isaiah seemed aflame with the message of his nation being the **MESSIANIC NATION** to the **WORLD**. Church history states that Isaiah stood against King Manasseh's idolatries and wickedness and, consequently, was fastened between two planks, "sawn asunder," in a most horrendous death. (Hebrews 11:37) Remember, Manasseh was the son of King Hezekiah. Isaiah had visited Hezekiah during his sickness and told King Hezekiah he would die. However, before Isaiah could leave the court, God spoke to Isaiah to return because God had heard the prayers and had seen the tears of King Hezekiah praying for God to save his life. God told Isaiah to tell King Hezekiah that he would live and be given a 15 year extension. **As a result, a MIRACULOUS SIGN that rivaled the answer to Joshua's prayer for the sun and moon to stand still in order to finish a battle, was given to Hezekiah:** The shadow on the sun dial would **RETURN BACKWARD TEN DEGREES!!!** (2 Kings 20:10) The evil Manasseh was born during the period King Hezekiah's life was extended. Manasseh full-well knew of how mightily God had used the Prophet Isaiah in his father's life, yet still murdered the aged Isaiah.

Isaiah was given the commission by God to preach to the nation's idolatry and wickedness, yet God told Isaiah that he would **not gain a single convert!** WHAT A DISAPPOINTING MINISTRY to be given, yet God rewarded his obedience with experiences in the Spirit that enabled him to receive prophetic revelation that was MIND BOGGLING--for example, **THE MESSIAH'S BIRTH TO A VIRGIN! THAT THIS MESSIAH WOULD BE GOD INCARNATE!**

IMPORTANT: It was the **Scrolls of the Book of Isaiah** that were found by Arab Bedouins searching for a lost goat near the Dead Sea in **1947**. (You just never know where searching for a lost animal will lead you! Saul went searching for his father's lost donkeys and **GOT ANOINTED THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL!!**)

The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls happened in the lifetime of some people here in this room. This is incredible and **NOT WITHOUT SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE!!!** God's Providence determined the timing of this **MONUMENTAL** find for a reason. God is **NOT** "hit-or-miss" in his dealings with humanity. The **DEAD SEA SCROLLS** at the cave of Qumran were **2000 YEARS OLD**. Prior to that time, the oldest Hebrew manuscript was from 900 A.D. The Dead Sea Scrolls **VALIDATED THE HEBREW TEXT FROM 900 A.D.!**

1. CHAPTER 1

Verse 4: Isaiah denounces the Southern Kingdom, Judah, as a sinful nation--laden with sin.

Verse 13: Judah is extremely sinful, YET STILL VERY RELIGIOUS! NOTE: GOD DOES NOT LIKE RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY WHEN THE PEOPLE'S DAILY LIVES ARE FULL OF EVIL. He tells them He doesn't want any more of their sacrifices--calls it an ABOMINATION.

REMEMBER Pastor's sermon about the confession of the mouth NOT matching up with the behavior? This is what Isaiah faced in his day--Mouth professing but not heart possessing.

Verse 15: The condemnation can be applied to the **USA**--our hands are full of blood of the deaths of unborn children.

Verse 17: God tells the people through Isaiah to SEEK JUDGMENT. Many today have misunderstood the New Testament scripture stating "Judge not, that ye be not judged." (Matthew 7:1). **QUESTION: CAN YOU EXPLAIN WHY THIS IS NOT A CONTRADICTION?**

Verse 18: A familiar scripture: God is pleading with His people to come REASON with him...though your sins be as **scarlet**, they shall be as white as snow, though they be **red** like crimson, they shall be as wool. NOTE: The use of the words "scarlet" and "red." They are associated with BLOOD and REDEMPTION: REMEMBER at the birth of Judah's twins by his daughter-in-law Tamar that we are introduced to the SCARLET THREAD indicating redemptive BIRTHRIGHT, then with Rahab in Jericho, the SCARLET ROPE saved the spies and her entire house. There was SCARLET interwoven in the colors of the Tabernacle. Jesus wore a SCARLET-PURPLE ROBE at His Crucifixion. The **RED** Sea was a picture of SALVATION--the RED BLOOD of the Covenant in Jesus Christ. "Without shedding of BLOOD, there is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22) **IMPORTANT QUESTION: WHY IS BLOOD REQUIRED TO REMIT SIN?** For answer see Leviticus 17:11 REMEMBER: When the FIRST MURDER occurred on Earth, (Cain killing his brother Abel) God said that Abel's BLOOD CRIED UP FROM THE GROUND TO HIM.

2. CHAPTER 2

Verse 2: Isaiah saw God's plan of salvation for ALL NATIONS. Uses the same terminology that Daniel gave about the Stone cut without hands that hit the statue of the world's kingdoms which would become a MOUNTAIN that would fill the WHOLE EARTH. (Daniel 2:33)

Verse 4: "beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks..." This has a two-fold meaning: The Sabbath rest we have in Christ--resting from our futile efforts to be righteous--and the ETERNAL AGE OF PEACE WITH GOD.

Verse 8: The people "worship the work of their own hands..." **QUESTION: WHAT IS A MODERN DAY ILLUSTRATION OF THIS?**

Verse 12: THE DAY OF THE LORD. This is an important phrase that is repeated. It is THE DAY God judges the Earth.

Verse 19: The people will "go into the holes of the rocks and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord..." Same terminology is found in the Book of Revelation.

3. CHAPTER 3

Verse 5: **An indicator of God's judgment**, not only is the sustenance of the nation being taken away as stated in v. 1, but the "child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient..." Note: Never before in the history of the US have we had the number of young people who have been involved with gangs or have adopted the "hoodlum, thug" culture.

Verse 14 & 26: JUDGMENT IS AHEAD. The mighty men of Judah WILL FALL in war. **ANOTHER INDICATOR OF JUDGMENT UPON A NATION: THAT NATION BEGINS LOSING WARS.**

4. CHAPTER 4

Verse 1-2 The population of men is diminished due to war, therefore 7 women seek a man for marriage. There is a future time of one called THE BRANCH, (Zechariah 6:12) who is Jesus. Isaiah 11:1 further amplifies who THE BRANCH is: the ROD out of the stem of Jesse--THE DAVIDIC LINEAGE OF THE ETERNAL KING and HIGH PRIEST. Remember, the ROD was significant in Moses' hand in the deliverance from Egyptian bondage and as the High Priest, Aaron's ROD budded, blossomed, and bore fruit when it was laid up with the other challengers in the Tabernacle, thereby validating Aaron's office of High Priest--the FRUITFUL High Priest.

Verse 4: God "washed away the filth" of Jerusalem by the SPIRIT OF JUDGMENT AND THE SPIRIT OF BURNING. He washes away OUR FILTH in the same manner. In our stead, the **Lord Jesus took God's Spirit of Judgment and of Burning upon Calvary's Cross. The Cross of Christ was the ultimate Altar of Burnt Offering from the Old Testament.** The scripture tells us our God is a consuming FIRE.

Verse 5: Isaiah alludes to God's original COVERING for them when they escaped Egyptian BONDAGE--cloud by day and flaming fire by night. THIS IS COVENANT COVERING. Though we can not see it with our physical eye, the Great God Jehovah is surely providing the cloud by day and the fire by night to those who are born again through the blood of Jesus Christ.

5. CHAPTER 5

Verse 1: Jerusalem had been God's Chosen, His VINEYARD.

Verse 2: Their purpose had been to be FRUITFUL, but they brought forth WILD GRAPES.

Verse 5: God will allow it to be TRODDEN DOWN. This sounds like Jesus' statements about the vineyard in Matthew 21:33-45. The New Testament states that following the rejection of Jesus Christ, Jerusalem and the nation will be TRODDEN DOWN of the GENTILES. (Luke 21:24)

Verse 7: AGAIN, God EXPECTED His people to JUDGE, but He is referring to RIGHTEOUS JUDGMENT (JUSTICE). NOTE: Our lesson is that God EXPECTS us to JUDGE those things that we allow to come into our lives. Take action on all that is unholy, fleshy, evil, sinful etc., or, as born-again believers, GOD WILL JUDGE IT PERSONALLY.

Verse 13: **QUESTION: WHY DO PEOPLE GO INTO CAPTIVITY (BONDAGE)?** It behooves us to find out what kind of knowledge God is talking about, lest we become captives. (Hosea 4:6: "destroyed for LACK of KNOWLEDGE.")

Verse 14: When we as a people or a nation begin to LOSE KNOWLEDGE, HELL BEGINS ENLARGING. This is "cause and effect."

Verse 20: Back in the days of Isaiah, God's chosen people were calling "evil good and good evil." Here is another indicator of going into captivity. **QUESTION: CAN YOU NAME SOMETHING TODAY IN OUR CULTURE THAT GOD'S WORD SAYS IS "EVIL," YET OUR WORLD IS CALLING IT "GOOD?"**

Verse 21-23: TIME TO BE VERY CONCERNED WHEN GOD SAYS "WOE." The corruption of a city or nation is characterized in v. 23 in which it is stated that "the system" JUSTIFIES THE WICKED FOR A REWARD.

**NEXT WEEK: IT'S AMAZING WHAT A GOOD
HOT MOUTH CLEANSING CAN DO FOR A
PERSON!**

See Chapter 6!