

## Isaiah

(3/9/09)

### Part 1: Denunciation (1:1–39:8; “Isaiah for Jerusalem?”)

- Superscription (1:1)
- The Condemnation of Judah (1:2–5:30)
  - God’s indictment (1:2–23)
    - Wickedness of Judah (1:2–20)
    - The degenerate city (1:21–23)
  - God’s promise of restoration after judgment (1:24–31)
  - Contrasts between Future and Present Israel (2:1–22; cf. 2 Nephi 12)
    - Mountain of the Lord’s House (2:1–4)
    - The Day of the Lord: Judgment to come against Jacob (Israel) (2:5–22)
  - Judgments against Judah (3:1–4:1; cf. 2 Nephi 13:1–14:1)
    - Judgments against the Leaders of Judah (3:1–15)
    - Judgments against the Daughters of Zion (3:16–4:1)
  - Hope for Restoration: The Remnant and Jerusalem Will Be Restored (4:2–6; cf. 2 Nephi 14)
  - The Parable of the Vineyard (5:1–30; cf. 2 Nephi 15)
    - Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard (5:1–7)
    - Woes and Judgments: Social Injustice Denounced (5:8–24)
    - Judgment Unabated: Invasion Threatened (5:25–30)
- The Commission of Isaiah (6:1–13 call narrative; cf. 2 Nephi 16)
- Poems regarding the Davidic Promise (7:1–12:6; prophecies occasioned by geopolitical threats against Judah; cf. 2 Nephi 17–22)
  - Signs of the “War Memoirs” (Syrian-Ephramite War of 734–32 B.C.; 7:1–8:22)
    - Sign of Shearjeshub (17:1–9): A remnant will return!
    - Sign of Immanuel (7:10–25): “God with us!”
      - Assyrian Invasion/Future Desolation (7:16–25)
    - Sign of Maher-shalal-hash-baz (8:1–4): “Destruction is imminent!” (or “speed to the spoil,” “hasten to the prey”)
    - Trust in the Lord and not in Human Alliances (8:5–15)
    - Isaiah rejected (8:16–22)
  - Promise of the Prince of Peace (9:1–7)
  - Anger of the Lord against Israel (9:8–10:4)
    - Syria and Philistia shall rise against Israel (9:8–12)
    - idolatry, failing to turn to the Lord (9:13–17)
    - hatred of his brother (Ephraim and Manasseh turning against Judah, 9:18–21)
    - social injustice: oppression of the poor and powerless (10:1–4)
  - Retribution on Assyria and return of Israel (10:5–34)
    - Judah’s Enemy is the Lord’s Instrument: “Assyria, the rod of my anger (10:5–11)
    - In the end Assyria, too, will be judged (10:12–19)
    - Israel, destroyed by Assyria, will return (10:20–23)
    - The Lord will chasten Judah but then destroy Assyria (10:24–34)
  - The Lord Will Redeem His People (Isaiah 11:1–12:6)

- The Rod of the Stem of Jesse (11:1–5)
  - Conditions during the Millennium under Messiah’s rule (11:6–10)
  - The Gathering of All Israel (11:11–16)
    - reconciliation of Ephraim (Israel) and Judah (11:13–16)
  - A Hymn of Praise (12:1–6): God Is Israel’s Salvation
- Denunciations Against Other Nations (13:1–23:18)
  - Against Babylon (13:1–14:23; cf. 2 Nephi 13–14)
    - Proclamation against Babylon (13:1–22)
    - Restoration of Judah (14:1–2)
    - Downfall of the King of Babylon (14:3–23)
  - Against Assyria (14:24–27)
  - Against Philistia (14:28–31)
  - ***The Lord will establish Zion*** (14:32)
  - Against Moab (15:1–16:14)
  - Against Damascus (Aram) and her Ally, Israel (17:1–14)
  - Against Ethiopia (18:1–7)
  - Against Egypt (19:1–20:6)
    - Oracle concerning Egypt (19:1–17)
    - Egypt, Assyria, and Israel blessed (19:18–25)
    - Isaiah dramatizes the conquest of Ethiopia and Egypt (20:1–6)
  - Against Babylon (21:1–10)
  - Against Edom (21:11–12)
  - Against Arabia (21:13–17)
  - Against Jerusalem (22:1–25)
    - A Warning of destruction of Jerusalem (22:1–14)
    - Denunciation of self-seeking officials (22:15–25)
  - Against Tyre (23:1–18)
- The Future Tribulation and Kingdom: Isaiah’s Apocalypse (24:1–27:13)
  - Impending Judgment upon the Earth (24:1–23)
  - Deliverance and Blessing (25:1–12)
    - Psalm of Praise: YHWH saves the weak from the mighty (25:1–5)
    - God’s banquet (25:6–10a)
    - Moab a type of defeated enemies (25:10b–12)
  - Judah’s Song of Victory (26:1–21)
  - Israel’s Redemption (27:1–13)
- Woes and Blessings (28:1–35:10)
  - Woe on Ephraim: Judgment on Corrupt Rulers, Priests, and Prophets (28:1–29)
  - Woe on Judah (29:1–30:26)
    - The siege of Jerusalem 29:1–24
    - The futility of reliance upon Egypt (30:1–7)
    - A rebellious people (30:8–17)
    - Nevertheless an oracle of promise (30:18–26)
  - Judgment on Assyria (30:27–33)
  - More Warnings and Promises to Judah (31:1–32:20)
    - Alliance with Egypt is still futile (31:1–9)
    - The Kingdom of Righteousness and Justice (32:1–8)

- Women of Jerusalem Warned (32:9–15)
  - The Peace of God’s Reign (32:16–20)
- Assyria and Her Destruction (33:1–24)
- Armageddon: Judgment against All Nations (34:1–17)
- The Redeemed Return to Zion (35:1–10)
- Historical Appendix: Denunciation of Sennacherib (36:1–39:8)
  - Sennacherib invades Judah (36:1–22; cf. 2 Kings 18:18–37)
  - Hezekiah consults Isaiah (37:1–7; cf. 2 Kings 19:1–7)
  - Sennacherib’s threat (37:8–35; cf. 2 Kings 19:8–13)
  - Hezekiah’s prayer (37:14–20; cf. 2 Kings 19:14–19)
  - Isaiah’s prophecies against Sennacherib (37:21–35; cf. 2 Kings 19:20–34)
    - poetic oracle (37:22b–28; cf. 2 Kings 19:21b–28)
    - prose oracle (37:29–35; cf. 2 Kings 19:29–34)
  - Sennacherib’s defeat and death (37:36–38; cf. 2 Kings 19:35–37)
  - The Triumph over Assyria (37:36–38)
  - Hezekiah’s illness and recovery (38:1–22; cf. 2 Kings 20:1–11)
    - *Psalms of Hezekiah* (38:9–20; not in 2 Kings)
  - His foolishness before the Babylonians (39:1–8; cf. 2 Kings 20:12–19)

**Part 2: Consolation (40:1–55:13; “Isaiah for the Exile?”)**

- Comforting Israel (40:1–42:25)
  - God comforts his people and releases them from captivity (40:1–11)
  - His relation to creation (40:12–31)
  - God, not idols, will help Israel —*or*— God’s Trial of the Nations (41:1–29)
  - *Servant Song 1*: The Servant of the LORD, a light to the nations (42:1–9)
  - A Hymn of Praise (42:10–17)
  - Israel Blind and Deaf (42:18–25)
- Restoring Israel (43:1–45:25)
  - Charge: Israel Rejected Her Only Savior (43:1–25)
    - A Israel’s future gathering (43:1–7)
      - Self-declaration of divine titles (43:3)
    - B Trial before the nations (43:8–13)
      - Self-declaration of divine titles (43:11)
    - A’ Israel’s future Blessings (43:14–21)
      - Self-declaration of divine titles (43:15)
    - B’ Trial before Israel (43:22–28)
      - Self-declaration of divine titles (43:25)
  - The Blessing of Israel’s Redeemer versus the Vanity of Idolatry (44:1–28)
    - A The Lord will bless Israel (44:1–5)
    - B None besides Israel’s Redeemer (44:6–8)
    - C Futility of idol worship (44:9–20)
    - B’ The Lord has/will redeem Israel (44:21–23)
      - A’ The Lord will bless Israel (Jerusalem shall be inhabited, 44:24–28)
  - Cyrus God’s Anointed (lit., “Messiah,” 45:1–4)
  - YHWH, Creator and Savior (45:5–19)
  - Idols Cannot Save (45:20–25)
- Babylon to be Judged (46:1–47:15)

- False Gods of Babylon (46:1–13)
- The Humiliation of Babylon (47:1–15)
- God Loves Israel Despite Her Unworthiness (48:1–11)
  - Israel Broke the Covenant (48:1–11)
  - Israel Will Not Be Cast off for the Lord’s “Name’s Sake” (48:9–11)
- God Proclaims the Redemption of Israel (48:12–22; cf. 1 Nephi 20)
  - Israel’s God Can Save His People (48:12–17)
  - God Will Save Repentant Israel as He Did in the Past (48:18–22)
- The Salvation of God’s Servant (49:1–57:21)
  - The Servant Commissioned (49:1–26; cf. 1 Nephi 21)
    - *Servant Song 2*: The Suffering Servant of the Lord (49:1–7)
    - The Servant Will Gather Jacob (49:8–12)
    - The Song of Israel’s Redeemer (49:13–21)
    - The Gentiles Will Aid the Gathering of Israel (49:22–23)
    - The Lord Will Deliver His People with Power (49:24–26)
  - An Impenitent Nation and a Willing Servant (50:1–11; cf. 2 Nephi 7)
    - The Covenant: God’s Faithfulness to Israel (50:1–3)
    - *Servant Song 3* (50:4–9)
      - The Servant’s worthiness (50:4–5)
      - The Servant’s suffering (50:6)
      - The Servant’s vindication (50:7–9)
    - The Lord’s Light or Our Own (50:10–11)
      - Trust in the Lord even in darkness (50:10)
      - Those who are their own light will suffer (50:11)
  - God Is Able to Save Those Who Come to Him (51:1–52:12; 2 Nephi 8)
    - Salvation Is near (51:1–8)
      - The Comforting of Zion (51:1–3)
      - Deliverance Is Coming (51:4–6)
      - Do Not Fear or Be Dismayed (51:7–8)
    - Interlude (Apostrophe): a Fervent Call for God’s Intervention (51:9–11)
      - The Arm of the Lord Is Strong (51:9–10)
      - The Ransomed Shall Return (51:11)
    - God Comforts His People (51:12–16)
    - Appeal to Jerusalem (51:17–23)
    - Let Zion Rejoice (52:1–12)
  - *Servant Song 4*: The Suffering and Triumph of the Servant (52:13–53:12)
  - The Song of Salvation (54:1–17)
    - Future Glory of Zion: “Enlarge thy tent, strengthen thy stakes” (54:1–3)
    - The Holy One of Israel, Redeemer and Husband (54:4–10)
    - New Jerusalem shall be established in beauty (54:11–17; cf. Revelation 21)
  - Invitation for the Thirsty and Hungry (55:1–13)

**Part 3: Admonitions to Restored Judah and Future Israel (56:1–66:24; “Isaiah for the Last Days?”)**

- Millennial blessings extended to Gentiles (56:1–8)
- Rebuke to the Wicked (56:9–57:21)
  - Against corrupt rulers (56:9–12)

- Against idolatrous religious practices (57:1–13)
- Comfort for the Contrite (57:14–21)
- The Contrast Between Right and Wrong Worship (58:1–14)
  - True Fasting (58:1–12)
  - True Sabbath Observance (58:13–14)
- Injustice and Oppression to Be Punished (59:1–21)
  - Description of Israel’s Sins (59:1–8)
  - Confession of Israel’s Sins (59:9–15)
  - Blotting out of Israel’s Sins (59:16–21)
- Ingathering of the Dispersed (60:1–18)
- God the Glory of Zion (60:19–22; cf. Revelation 21–22)
- The Good Tidings of Deliverance (61:1–11)
  - The Mission of the Anointed Servant (61:1–3; Cf. Luke 4:19–20)
  - A Renewed Kingdom of Priests (61:4–9)
  - Rejoicing in the Lord and Righteousness (61:10–11)
- Final Judgments and Blessings (62:1–66:24)
  - The Restoration of Israel (62:1–12)
  - Vengeance on Edom, Representing the World (63:1–6)
    - ***The Divine Victor in Red Robes*** (63:2–4; Revelation 14:19–20; D&C 76:107)
  - God’s Mercy Remembered (63:1–14)
  - A Prayer for Penitence (63:15–64:12)
  - God’s Judgment Righteous (65:1–16)
  - Epilogue Roughly Paralleling Chapters 1–2
    - A New Heaven and a New Earth (65:17–25; cf. Revelation 21)
    - The Rebuke of Hypocrisy (66:1–4)
    - The Rebirth of Israel (66:5–13)
    - The Wicked Destroyed by Fire (66:14–17)
    - The Lord Will Gather All Nations to Worship Him (66:18–23)
    - The Wicked’s Fate a Warning (66:24)

