



Studies in the Book of

Isaiah

Historical Outline of Book of Isaiah

I. ASSYRIAN PERIOD - CONFLICT & VICTORY (1-39)

- A. Prophecies Concerning Judah and Jerusalem (1-12)
- B. Prophecies Concerning the Nations (13-27)
- C. The Source of True Deliverance (28-35)
- D. Historical Interlude (36-39)

II. BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED TIMES (40-66)

- A. The One True God Versus Idols (40-48)
- B. Salvation through the Suffering Servant (49-53)
- C. The Future Glory for God's People (54-66)

ISAIAH

I. Discourses and Prophecies centering in Jerusalem and Judaea, (Chs. 1-12).

A. Judah's social sins, (Chs. 1-5).

B. The Prophet's inaugural vision and commission (ca. 740), (Ch. 6).

C. Judah's political entanglements – Isaiah as statesman, (Chs. 7-12).

1. Immanuel – history and prediction intermingled, (7:1-10:4).

2. Assyria – the rod of Jehovah's anger, (10:5-34).

3. The Messianic age, (Chs. 11-12).

II. Prophetic discourses directed against Foreign Nations, (Chs.13-23).

A. Downfall of Babylon, heir of the Assyrians, (13:1-14:27).

B. A series of short prophecies against the Nations, (14:28-21:17).

(Nations included Philistia, Moab, Damascus, Israel, Assyria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Babylon, Edom, Arabia, Jerusalem and Tyre)

III. World Judgment and the salvation of Jehovah's people (Chs. 24-27).

- A. Imminence of a general world judgment, (Ch. 24).
- B. Hymns of thanksgiving for the divine mercy, (25:1-26:19).
- C. Salvation of the people of Jehovah – Israel's chastisements are salutary, (26:20-27:13).

IV. Prophetic discourses on relation of Judah with Egypt & Assyria; Edom; and a promise of Israel's ransom (Deals with the reign of Hezekiah as Chs. 7-12 deals with that of Ahaz), (Chs. 28-35).

- A. A series of six woes, (Chs. 28-33).
- B. Contrast between the destiny of Edom and of Israel, (Chs. 34, 35).

V. Historical section: (Connecting chapters between Part One & Two) Isaiah's activity during reign of Hezekiah, (Chs. 36-39).

- A. Sennacherib's double attempt to obtain possession of Jerusalem, and the city's deliverance, (Chs. 36-37).
- B. Hezekiah's sickness and recovery, (Ch. 38).
- C. Embassy of Merodach-baladan to King Hezekiah & Isaiah's rebuke from Jehovah, (Ch. 39). (Judah's captivity will be by Babylon, not Assyria. The Assyrian threat is now at an end.)

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A. Sennacherib's double attempt to obtain possession of Jerusalem, and the city's deliverance, (Chs. 36-37).

1. Sennacherib's invasion of Judah and capture of fortified cities, (36:1).
2. Rabshakah sent by Sennacherib from Lachish against Jerusalem, (36:2-37:7).
 - a. Rabshakah's defiant threat, (36:2-20).
 - b. The speech reported to Hezekiah, (36:21-22).
 - c. Hezekiah's fear and Jehovah's reply to him, (37:1-7).
3. Messengers from Sennacherib at Libnah demanding surrender of Jerusalem, (37:8-38).
 - a. The insulting letter, (vv. 8-13).
 - b. Effect on Hezekiah, and his prayer, (vv. 14-20).
 - c. Isaiah to Hezekiah, and Jehovah's reply, (vv. 21-35).
 - d. Destruction of Sennacherib's army, (vv. 36-38).

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B. Hezekiah's sickness and recovery, (Ch. 38).

1. Hezekiah's sickness with the promise and sign of recovery, (vv. 1-8).
2. Hezekiah's song of grief and thanksgiving, (vv. 9-20).
3. Means of recovery, (vv. 21-22).

C. Embassy of Merodach-baladan to the king, and Isaiah's rebuke from Jehovah, (Ch. 39). (Judah's captivity will be by Babylon, not Assyria. The Assyrian threat is now at an end.)

Questions

1. What two chapters in Bible books of History give parallel information to that found in Isaiah 38 and 39? _____

2. Isaiah told Hezekiah, “Thus says the _____: ‘Set your house in _____, for you shall _____ and not _____.’”

3. In praying to God, what did Hezekiah ask God to remember about him? _____

4. What was God’s answer to the prayer of Hezekiah? _____

5. What was the sign given by God to assure Hezekiah that his life would in fact be lengthened? _____

6. Summarize the thoughts written by Hezekiah (as recorded in Isaiah 38:10-20) when he was sick and then recovered from his sickness. _____

7. What part did the lump of figs applied to the boil of Hezekiah play in his recovery? _____

8. Upon the recovery of Hezekiah, what king sent a letter and a present to him? _____

9. What did Hezekiah show the representatives of this king? _____

10. What was God's response to this action of Hezekiah? _____

Thought Question: How do you reconcile the fact that God is always true to His word, yet He said Hezekiah would die and not live, but then extended his life?

Next Class

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ISAIA

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40:1 – 43:28