

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. <u>BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED</u> <u>TIMES</u> (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: PART 2

"The theme of the whole (part two) is the comforting announcement of the approaching deliverance, and its attendant summons to repentance. For the deliverance itself was for the Israel which remained true to the confession of Jehovah in the midst of affliction and while redemption was delayed, and not for the rebellious, who denied Jehovah in word and deed, and thus placed themselves on the level of the heathen." — Delitzsch, Isaiah, Vol. II., p. 128.

- I. Jehovah and the Idols A Contrast. Deliverance from captivity and restoration of the Exiles, (Chs. 40-48).
- II. The Mission of the Servant of Jehovah Contrast between His present suffering and future glory, (Chs. 49-57).
- III. Future Glory of the People of God and the Doom of Apostates (a contrast between the faithful and the hypocrites in Israel). (Chs. 58-66).

- I. Jehovah and the Idols A Contrast. Deliverance from captivity and restoration of the Exiles, (Chs. 40-48).
 - A. Comfort The basis of comfort: Israel's incomparable God, (Ch. 40).
 - B. Jehovah's power to predict, proof of His sole deity, (Ch. 41). (This chapter is a challenge to the idols of the nations to predict the future)
 - C. Jehovah's constant care for Israel A "Servant" besides Cyrus, (42:1-43:13).
 - D. Israel's deliverance and restoration to be an act of Jehovah's mercy, (43:14-45:25).
 - E. The impending doom and overthrow of Babylon, (Chs. 46-47).
 - F. Jehovah's past manifestations a guarantee of speedy deliverance and restoration (a summary of Chs. 40-47), (Ch. 48).
 - 1. Jehovah's unique power to predict. Idols have no power (vv. 1-11).
 - 2. Jehovah's Servant will perform His will on Babylon, (vv. 12-16).
 - 3. Chastisements were disciplinary. The final promise of deliverance, (vv. 17-22).

- I. Jehovah and the Idols A Contrast. Deliverance from captivity and restoration of the Exiles, (Chs. 40-48).
- II. The Mission of the Servant of Jehovah Contrast between His present suffering and future glory, (Chs. 49-57).

"The Hebrew word for servant means a person at the disposal of another – to carry out his will, to do his work, represent his interests. It was thus applied to the representatives of a king or the worshippers of a god." – George Adam Smith, The Book of Isaiah, Vol. II., p. 272.

- II. The Mission of the Servant of Jehovah Contrast between His present suffering and future glory, (Chs. 49-57).
 - A. The Servant of Jehovah and Jehovah's readiness to aid, (49:1-50:3).
 - 1. The Servant's mission and spiritual success, (49:1-13).
 - a. Failure of Israel, (vv. 1-4).
 - b. The Servant raised for a greater mission: Jews and Gentiles given to Him, saved through Him, (vv. 5-7).
 - c. The Servant a covenant a personal bond between Jehovah and His people, (vv. 8-13).
 - 2. Despondent Zion and Jehovah's comfort to her, (49:14-50:3).
 - a. The despondent condition of Zion, (49:14-21).
 - b. Zion encouraged by rich promises from Jehovah, (49:22-26).
 - c. Rebuke of exiles for thinking they were wholly rejected, (50:1-3).
 - B. The Servant of Jehovah His present distress and- steadfastness in contrast to Israel and Israel's future deliverance, (50:4-52:12).

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 - A. The Servant of Jehovah and Jehovah's readiness to aid, (49:1-50:3).
 - B. The Servant of Jehovah His present distress and- steadfastness in contrast to Israel and Israel's future deliverance, (50:4-52:12).
 - 1. The Servant and the weak believers, a soliloquy, (50:4-11).
 - a. The humiliation of the Servant, (vv. 4-9).
 - b. Exhortation to weak believers generally, (vv. 10-11).
 - 2. Jehovah's call to "hearken," address to faithful Israel, (51:1-8).
 - a. Barren Zion shall bear, (vv. 1-3).
 - b. Heaven shall vanish, but God's word endures, (vv. 4-6).
 - c. The reviling of nations shall cease, but God's righteousness shall continue, (vv. 7-8).
 - 3. The Prophet's call to "awaken," (51:9-52:6).
 - a. An appeal from the Prophet to Jehovah to arouse Himself, (51:9-11); and Jehovah's reply to His captive people, (51:12-16).
 - b. An address of the Prophet to Jerusalem, (51:17-23).

Questions

1. What can we learn from the repeated statements about both Isaiah and the Servant chosen by God be "called" and "formed" from the womb?	
2. Besides raising up and restoring Israel, what else did the Lord give His Servant to accomplish?	
3. Who is the ultimate fulfillment of that Servant of the Lord?	
4. "Can a forget her on the son of her	
yet I will not	you."
5. What oath did the Lord God make to the nations and how was it fulfilled?	

Questions

6. At the beginning of Isaiah 50, God anticipates and answers a charge from Israel regarding the reason for their suffering? What was Israel's charge and God's answer?
7. At the end of the chapter, what does God tell those who fear Him and will obey the voice of his Servant to do?
8. Give examples from Isaiah 51 of how God assures His people that He would bring salvation and righteousness?
9. Who is likened to an antelope in a net?

Thought Question: In looking overall through this section of Isaiah, what parallel works do you see the Lord calling Cyrus (the "servant" of the near term) ant the Messiah (the ultimate "Servant" of the Lord) to do? Can you see a similarity between the physical work of Cyrus and the spiritual work of the Messiah? Explain

Next Class

Studies in the Book of

52:1 - 53:12