

Bible Studies on

Isaiah

The LORD Saves

7 studies

Study 1: Rebellion OR Repent (Isaiah 1-2:4)

Study 2: Is God with Us? (Isaiah 7)

**Study 3: Should we rely on the Nations OR the Lord?
(Isaiah 17)**

Study 4: A Radical Shift (Isaiah 27)

**Study 5: A Message of Hope for a Demoralised People
(Isaiah 40)**

Study 6: Come! (Isaiah 55)

Study 7: The New Creation (Isaiah 66)

Anthony Elyard

Welcome to the Book of Isaiah and to these seven studies.

Context

God created the world and it was good. Humanity was the pinnacle of creation, but they sinned, and were thrown out of God's presence, from the Garden of Eden. But God promised Abraham that his descendants would be blessed and all the world would be blessed through him. God's people became the people of Israel but they were enslaved in Egypt. But God rescued them and gave them the law to live by and a land to live in. Once settled in the land, God raised up David to be king. David and Solomon's reigns were blessed by God but both kings were sinful.

As punishment for their sin, after Solomon dies, Israel is torn in two (922 BC):

- Israel, the northern kingdom, is made up of ten tribes (capital: Samaria)
- Judah, the southern kingdom, is made up of two tribes (capital: Jerusalem)

Israel, from the start, sets up idols to be worshipped to stop the people going to the temple in Jerusalem to worship. Each king of Israel is evil and does not follow God's ways. God's sends prophets to Israel to call them back to Him, but they are ignored. Finally, in 722 BC, God sends Assyria to punish Israel and Israel as a country is destroyed.

Judah, continues to be led by kings who are descendants of David. Some of these kings like Hezekiah and Josiah are godly and follow the Lord. Many do not. God's sends prophets to Judah to call them back to Him. Sometimes they are obeyed but mostly they are ignored. Finally, in 586 BC, God sends the Babylonians to punish Judah and the people of Judah are carried off into exile.

But there is hope, a remnant survives. In 2 Samuel 7, God promises David that His throne will be eternal. These promises will be fulfilled when the Messiah, Jesus, comes. Jesus will deal with the issue that has troubled both Israel and Judah, in fact what has troubled all humanity: sin. By dying on the cross and rising again, the problem of sin is dealt with. God's people can then come back into His presence.

What is the book of Isaiah about?

The book of Isaiah covers history from before the fall of Israel, the northern kingdom, to the end of time, the New Creation. Isaiah is about obeying God's word. Will God's people rely on Him or something else? God is faithful to His promises and wants His people to be with Him. So a great summary of the book is:

"God will rescue and renew a faithful, obedient people for Himself, out of the ashes of Judah's failure and exile, through the coming of His Servant King (the Messiah)." – David Jackman

What can be confusing in studying the book of Isaiah is that it covers such a long time frame, after all it is a book of prophecy! Some of the book occurs in real time, in Isaiah's day, but much of the book is prophecy of the future. Isaiah covers:

- The northern kingdom, Israel, will be conquered by Assyria and destroyed because of their persistent sin and rebellion
- Because of their repentance, the southern kingdom, Judah, will be saved from the Assyrians
- The warning that this repentance will not last and that Judah will be carried off into exile in Babylon

- However the exile will not be forever and God’s people will eventually return to the Promised Land
- But even after exile and return, the people still rebel against God
- How will God solve the problem of sin and rebellion for good?
 - Through the coming of the Suffering Servant, the Messiah
- What does the coming of the Messiah lead to?
 - The New Creation where there will be no more sin, death, or suffering
 - God’s people will be in God’s direct presence again, just like in the Garden of Eden, but this time it will be a Garden City, the New Jerusalem

Historical Structure

It is important to know where you are as you read through Isaiah. The following table should help give the time period and historical setting for each section of Isaiah:

Section of book	Key date	Key historical crisis	Bible references to key historical crisis	Choice created by key historical crisis
Chapters 1-12	734 BC	Alliance of Ephraim* and Syria against Judah**	Isaiah 7 2 Kings 16	Ask Assyria for help OR Rely on the Lord?
Chapters 13-27	713-711 BC	Philistine revolt against Assyria, backed by Egypt	Isaiah 20	Join the nations OR Rely on the Lord?
Chapters 28-35	~ 704 BC	Judah’s revolt against Assyria led by Hezekiah and aided by Egypt	Isaiah 31:1 2 Kings 18:7-8	Rely of Egypt for help OR Rely on the Lord?
Chapters 36-37 (Historical pivot, pointing back)	701 BC	Assyrian siege of Jerusalem (Zion)	Isaiah 36-39 2 Kings 18:13-19:37	Give in to Assyria OR Rely on the Lord?
Chapters 38-39 (Historical pivot, pointing forward)	587 BC	Babylonian exile foreshadowed by the arrival of Babylonian envoys	2 Kings 20:1-19 2 Kings 25	Make alliance with Babylon OR Rely on the Lord?
Chapters 40 - 51:11	537 BC	Persian king Cyrus conquers Babylon and issues a decree for Judah to return home	Isaiah 45:1-4 Ezra 1:1-4	Stay in exile (with Babylonian idols) OR Return home to the Lord?
51:12 - Chapter 55	517-516 BC	Initial return of Israelites from Babylon to Jerusalem (Zion)	Isaiah 52:7-12 Ezra 1:5-11	Wake up and receive God’s salvation!
Chapters 56-66	516 BC	Rebuilding of the temple in Jerusalem (Zion)	Isaiah 64:11-12 Ezra Ch 3, 5:1-2, Ch 6	Back to the old days OR live in the light of the final glory?

Source: www.lionelwindsor.net

* Ephraim is another name for the northern kingdom of Israel, because it was the major tribe

** Judah is the southern kingdom of Israel

Note: The events of Isaiah’s life are also played out in 2 Kings 15-20.

To further help follow where Isaiah is in history two appendices are provided:

- **Appendix A** gives a timeline of biblical history.
- **Appendix B** has a similar timeline to Appendix A but focuses on the specifics of the book of Isaiah. Note that the difference between the period in which Isaiah prophesies (his life time) and the period in which he prophesies is about (hundreds of years).

Why is the book of Isaiah important for us today?

One of the most important roles the book of Isaiah serves is as a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament. This book details three facets of the Messiah: His role as King, as Servant, and as the Anointed Conqueror. Isaiah's name means "The Lord saves" and that is what He does!

Isaiah is central to the Christian faith. It is worth your time to grasp its message. Isaiah's turn of phrase and metaphors make his book a really interesting read. So get into it – take the time to read one of the greatest pieces of literature ever. Read it slowly.

It would be difficult to overstate the importance of the book of Isaiah on the formation of Christian doctrine. Isaiah is the book second-most often quoted by New Testament authors (only the Psalms are quoted more often), but I wouldn't be surprised if Isaiah surpassed the Psalms in the sheer number of off-hand allusions (see **Appendix C** for a list of all quotes).

Just think: Without Isaiah, we wouldn't have Immanuel, a voice crying in the wilderness, the sting of death, the root of Jesse, proclamation of good news to the poor, a bruised reed he will not break, light for the Gentiles, every knee shall bow, how beautiful are the feet that bring good news, go out from their midst, a house of prayer, or the earth is my footstool.

Without Isaiah, we wouldn't have a breastplate of righteousness, helmet of salvation, new heavens and new earth, he gave himself for our sins, by his wounds you are healed, the suffering servant, a ransom for many, the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world, the many will be made righteous, unquenchable fire, being taught of God, blessings of David, a remnant shall be saved, found by those who didn't seek me, a spirit of stupor, the wisdom of the wise, eye has not seen, ear has not heard, speak in strange tongues, the breath of his mouth, feeble hands and weak knees, feet swift to shed blood, clay in the hands of a potter, lest tomorrow we die, the acceptable time, the day of salvation, God supplies rain and seed, a precious cornerstone, owning a vineyard and expecting it bear fruit, you are my witnesses, I am the first and the last, the skies roll up like a scroll, robe stained in blood, no hunger or thirst, wipe away every tear, the children God has given me, or behold your God!

Source: <https://www.knowableword.com/2020/10/09/isaiah-judgment-and-deliverance/>

The plan for these studies

The following table gives you a quick overview of the seven studies and how they fit together. Two other passages have been added to show the flow of the book:

Study	Passage	Summary
1	Isaiah 1	The blessing of obeying God's word and the judgement of not obeying God's word
2	Isaiah 7	Ahaz – an example of someone who doesn't follow God's word
3	Isaiah 17	The judgement of not obeying God's word, but in His mercy, God will save a remnant
4	Isaiah 27	Judgement will lead to Salvation
	Isaiah 36-37 (not a study)	Hezekiah – an example of someone who does follow God's word
5	Isaiah 40	Hope for those who follow God's word
	Isaiah 53 (not a study)	The Suffering Servant enables a people that can respond to God's word
6	Isaiah 55	We are called to obey God's word
7	Isaiah 66	The blessing of obeying God's word and the judgement of not obeying God's word

Here is a quick introduction to the book of Isaiah, it is worth watching the Bible Project's video (it is in two parts: Isaiah 1-39 and Isaiah 40-66 – the second just follows the first):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0A6Uchb1F8&ab_channel=BibleProject

Recommended Commentaries and other Appendices

Four good **commentaries** on Isaiah are:

- The message of Isaiah by Barry Webb
- Isaiah – Surprising Salvation by Kirk Patston
- The Book of Isaiah and God's Kingdom – A thematic-theological approach by Andrew T. Abernathy
- Isaiah – God Saves Sinners by Raymond C. Ortlund Jr

Three other **appendices** have been added to help your understanding of the book of Isaiah:

- **Appendix D** shows a one page diagram of an overview of the book of Isaiah for the more visual learners.
- **Appendix E** shows a helpful structure of Isaiah that Kirk Patston has developed. This structure helps show how the themes of Isaiah progress throughout the book.
- **Appendix F** shows a map of Israel prior to the split into the nations of Israel and Judah, the way things were.

Study 1 – Isaiah 1:1-2:4 “Rebellion OR Repent!”

Here we are at the beginning of the book of Isaiah and God is not happy. After saving His people from slavery in Egypt, giving them the law to live by and a land to live in, God’s people have chosen to rebel against Him, to worship idols, complete meaningless religious rituals, and to not care for the vulnerable. As a result they will be punished with an invasion by Assyria.

But this is not the whole story. God has been patient, waiting for Israel to repent for hundreds of years. He desires mercy and He will bring His people back to Him through the Suffering Servant, the Messiah. And through the Messiah, the whole world will be blessed.

Key verse:

Is 1:18 “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord.

“Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;

though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good things of the land;

1. As we start this series, what thoughts, questions or comments do you have about the book of Isaiah?

Structure of Isaiah 1:

- Israel’s rebellion (1:2-4) – key words: forsaken, rebelled, sinned, ‘not like animals’
 - Israel’s present devastation (1:5-9)
 - Condemnation of Israel (1:10-15) – key words: rulers, murderers
 - Call to repentance (1:16-20)
 - Condemnation of Israel (1:21-23) – key words: rulers, murderers
 - Israel’s present devastation to be reversed (1:24-27)
- Israel’s rebellion: guilty parties will be punished (1:28-31) – key words: forsaken, rebels, sinners, ‘like trees for burning’

Chapter 1 introduces three major tensions in the book:

- The Tension of Kingdom: Exile and Exaltation
 - How does the looming danger of Assyria harmonise with God’s promises to Abraham and David of a great nation, peace, and a kingdom?
- The Tension of Presence: Holiness, Sin, Judgement, and Transformation
 - Israel has repeatedly violated God’s holiness, and they are now going to meet Him in Isaiah’s vision
- The Tension of Time: Present and Eschatological (End Times)
 - How can God work through the current situation to fulfil the future?

The rest of the book will continue to expand on these tensions.

A summary of the chapter is:

- Three views of God's uncomprehending people (1:2-26)
 - The tragedy of their humiliation – sinful nation (1:2-9)
 - The hypocrisy of their worship (1:10-20)
 - The corruption of their character (1:21-26)
- The alternatives confronting God's people (1:27-31)

Read Isaiah 1:1-2:4

2. What do we learn from 1:1?

Kings of Judah	Year of Reign
Uzziah (Azariah)	767 - 740 BC
Jotham	750 – 735 BC
Ahaz	735 – 715 BC
Hezekiah	715 – 686 BC

But their Ultimate King is God!

3. How are the people of Judah and the nation of Judah described in 1:2-9?

Israel is not looking like God's people are supposed to.

4. In 1:4 we see what God looks like. What title does Isaiah use for God? Why that choice?

God has disciplined Israel (with Assyria) – but still their hearts are hard. Israel has been dealt a terrible blow but there are still survivors. Can anything be done to make things right?

5. Maybe not? What is God saying in verses 11-15?

6. Maybe yes. What hope is there in verses 16-20?

7. From 1:24-31, what is going to happen?

8. And what will happen in 2:1-4?

9. How will this transformation take place?

10. When thinking about chapter 1, what is true religion? How can it be shown?

Summary

In this chapter we have seen that the rebellious people of God will be punished. But this punishment will lead to restoration and hope.

Jesus teaches us in John 13:35 that real faith in God is shown by our behaviour, through surrender to God and obedience to Him manifested in how we treat one another. Love is the key!

Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow ... but the cost is God's Son.

Study 2 – Isaiah 7 “Is God with Us?”

1. Do you trust God in all circumstances? What about when you are afraid?

For this chapter it is helpful to understand some geographical terms. See the table and map below:

Country	Other Names	Capital	King	Comments
Assyria		Nineveh	Tiglath-Pileser	Super power of that time
Syria	Aram	Damascus	Rezin	
Israel	Samaria or Ephraim	Samaria	Pekah	Northern Kingdom (ten tribes)
Judah		Jerusalem	Ahaz	Southern Kingdom (two tribes)



It's 734 BC. Assyria is the world's super power. They want to take over the countries around them. Syria (a different country) and Israel (the northern kingdom) want Judah (the southern kingdom) to join them in an alliance to oppose Assyria. Who will King Ahaz of Judah put his trust in? Syria and Israel? Assyria? The Holy One of Israel? Isn't the Lord their King?

Key verse:

Is 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

To understand the passage it may be helpful to see the wider structure of chapters 7 and 8.

Structure of Isaiah 7-8:

- Introduction: plot of Syria and Samaria against Judah (7:1-2) – key word: fear
 - Prediction of the failure of invasion that presently threatens (7:3-9) - key words: water, fearing Rezin
 - Child Immanuel: sign of Syria-Samaria failure (7:10-16)
 - Coming of the greater invasion: Assyria (7:17-25)
 - Child Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz: sign of Syria-Samaria failure (8:1-4)
 - Prediction of the success of future invasion from Assyria (8:5-10) - key words: water, fearing Rezin
- Conclusion: don't fear what these people fear; instead fear Yahweh (8:11-18) – key word: fear

There are two key themes in Isaiah 6: The Lord's supreme, universal sovereignty (6:1-3); and the necessity of wholehearted reliance upon the Lord. We'll see in chapter 7 how both these themes are expanded on.

Read Isaiah 7

2. What are Ahaz's two fears?

9. But there is more to this prophecy than just the next 150 years. God will save Judah, but He also has a bigger salvation plan in mind. Ultimately, who is the child of Isaiah 7:14? How can we have confidence that 'God is with us'?

10. Who do you trust?

Summary

King Ahaz has a difficult choice, but he chooses using human wisdom, focusing on the might of Assyria. But God says you can trust His word. He can do anything, including destroying an invading army.

But this is just a foretaste of the bigger picture. The real enemy of humanity is sin and death and the ultimate solution to these problems is Jesus. Jesus will save those who accept Him and judge those who do not. But His desire is for people to come to Him. So Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of what Isaiah promises here.

So God really is with us. He is with us so much that He came to earth as a man. What's more He suffered and died as a man. But He rose again. Ultimately 'God with us' means being with Him in heaven forever.

Study 3 – Isaiah 17 “Should we rely on the nations OR The Lord?”

Judah is surrounded by enemies in every direction.



Chapters 14 to 16 have focused on the judgement of Philistia to the west of Judah, Moab to her east, and now Damascus the capital of Syria, to her north (see the map above). The following two chapters will focus on judgement on Egypt to the south. Wherever, Judah looks, to the west, east, north or south, she sees only nations whose glory is fleeting and whose fate is sealed. There is no where she can look for her own security but to the Lord.

Here we are in the same situation as chapter 7, with an anti-Assyrian pact between Syria and Israel. Syria and Israel want Judah to join them against Assyria.

Note: Ephraim = Israel (the northern kingdom).

5. What does God say about Assyria?

6. But it looks like Assyria is just representative of anyone who makes war on God's people (vv12-13). What happens to them?

7. Is there any hope?

Read Isaiah 19:23-25

8. What ultimately happens to Assyria and why?

9. What do these passages have to do with us?

10. Where do you place your trust when things are looking bad?

11. What steps can we take to remember the God of our salvation?

Summary

Refusal to depend on God is foolishness which will result in destruction. Nevertheless God is in control of the nations and will not permit them to obliterate His people. Despite all the raging of the nations, He is their Master. Even when God uses judgement, His ultimate desire is always mercy and forgiveness.

Read 1 Peter 3-12 to see how God is in control not the worldly powerful.

Study 4 – Isaiah 27 “A Radical Shift”

This chapter finishes the section that started from chapter 13. It’s the climax, where all the enemies of God get summed up in one frightening image.

Can God defeat Israel’s enemies? Yes. And so much more than that. Isaiah is presenting a glorious future. God has a plan which embraces all nations, and Israel is destined to play a central role in that plan. But before it can fulfil its calling it must be cleansed.

Key verse:

Is 27:6 In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit.

Read Isaiah 27

The vineyard of Jacob is going to be so fruitful that it will fill “the world with fruit”. What accounts for this radical shift? This is what this study is about.

1. What is Leviathan? (verse 1)

There are two songs about the Vineyard (Israel) in Isaiah. The first is in chapter 5 and the second in chapter 27. These songs have a number of contrasts:

Chapter 5	Chapter 27
Bad fruit (v2, 4)	Good Fruit (v6)
No rain (v6)	Rain (v3)
Abandoned (wall removed) – (v5)	Guarded (v3)
Thorns and briars (v6)	No thorns and briars (v4)
Trampled/Overrun (v5)	Spreads out (v6)

2. Why the difference between the two songs?

3. What is verse 6 saying?

But in Isaiah's day, Israel (represented, after the fall of the northern kingdom in 722 BC, by Judah and Jerusalem) was very far removed from the ideal situation envisaged in verses 1-5. She is in the midst of a cleansing process.

4. What can we say about the Lord's judgement in verses 7 to 9?

5. Why did this have to happen? (verse 11)

6. What are the two images to express the final destiny of God's people in verses 12 to 13?

God's people will be set free by God's grace and will respond with renewed obedience to the covenant. Jesus achieves this by dying on the cross and rising again and Isaiah predicts this hundreds of years before it happens.

7. Is it possible that in our suffering God has a cleansing process as the goal? Discuss.

8. How would you answer people who charge God with passivity and disinterest in not immediately curtailing the wicked activities of Satan?

Summary

God sums up all the enemies of God in Leviathan. Like God can easily defeat the enemies of Judah, He can also defeat all of His enemies.

He does this through the Son of God, Jesus, through His death and resurrection.

So now the message of Jesus should be proclaimed to the world so that many will enjoy the kingdom of heaven, a glorious future.

Study 5 – Isaiah 40 “A Message of Hope for a Demoralised People”

In chapter 36 and 37, we see that when Jerusalem is surrounded by Assyrians, Hezekiah begs God to deliver them and he does. 185,000 Assyrian soldiers die in one night and the siege is lifted (2 Kings 19:35)!

In chapter 39, Isaiah warns Hezekiah that a time will come when Judah will be carried off into exile to Babylon. In 586 BC, they were. During the exile, God’s people were disillusioned. Why did this happen? Where is God? In response, God will comfort His people. This is the focus of Isaiah 40.

Key verse:

Is 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

1. Do you ever get despondent? If so, what causes this to happen?

Read Isaiah 40

All the major themes which the following chapters will develop so powerfully get their first exploratory treatment here. Things like: comfort (v1), atonement (v2), the way of the Lord (v3), the glory of the Lord (v5), the power of the word of God (v8), the city of God (v9), and the might and tenderness of the saviour of God’s people (vv10-11). It leaves us full of expectation that a whole new movement in God’s dealings with His people is about to unfold.

2. What do we learn about the people in verse 1 and 2?

3. What is the explanation for the forgiveness?

4. How does God give concrete expression to their forgiveness?

5. What do we learn about God's word from verses 6 to 8?

6. What is the response to this good news?

7. What three things does God bring in verses 10 to 11?

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the gospel of Isaiah 40.

8. Can God really keep His promises (verses 12-26)?

9. Yet doubt creeps in. Can we really believe God still cares for us (verses 27-31)?

10. What gives us hope?

11. How can God's promise energise us to live above despondency in the right?

Summary

So Isaiah says wait. Waiting is an important part of faith. Waiting is what faith does before God's answer shows up.

Jesus is the hope and Jesus is coming (relative to the exiles). Jesus has come (relative to us)! Whatever our life is like now, have hope that you will be comforted:

- Now in your struggles through the support and love of Jesus
- In the future in heaven, when there are no more struggles, in Jesus' direct presence.

Study 6 – Isaiah 55 “Come”

Isaiah 54:11-17 talks about the whole universe being renewed. At its centre is God and then His City and His People. In this city is where God’s people, the servants of the Lord, will find their final resting place.

1. Who is it who brings about the renewal of the universe? What are they called in chapters 52 and 53?

New Testament Quote	Isaiah Reference
Matthew 8:17 “He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases”	Isaiah 53:4
Luke 22:37 “And he was numbered with the transgressors”	Isaiah 53:12
John 12:38 “Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed”	Isaiah 53:1
Acts 8:32-33 “He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.”	Isaiah 53:7-8
Romans 10:16 “Lord, who has believed our message?”	Isaiah 53:1
1 Peter 2:22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth”	Isaiah 53:9
1 Peter 2:24 “He himself bore our sins”	Isaiah 53:5

This Servant of the Lord:

- Is sinless
- Is treated as a sinner
- Takes our sins on Himself
- By dying in our place

The Servant of the Lord is of course Jesus Christ, the Messiah.

Back to Isaiah 54, and the announcement in chapter 54 that all is forgiven now turns to the experience of that forgiveness in chapter 55.

Key verse:

Is 55:1 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”

The structure of chapters 55 and 56 help see that the central point of these passages is the promise of future blessing.

Structure

- Invitation to people to come and eat (55:1-3a) – key words: come, all, every, eating, wine
 - Promise to people: Yahweh will make a covenant with them (55:3b-5) – key words: covenant, eternal, foreign
 - Call to righteousness (55:6-9)
 - Promise of future blessing (55:10-13)
 - Call to righteousness (56:1-2)
 - Promise to foreigners and eunuchs who keep Yahweh’s covenant (56:3-8) – key words: covenant, eternal, foreign
- Invitation to animals to come and eat (56:9-12) – key words: come, all, every, eating, wine

Read Isaiah 55

2. In Isaiah 55:1-2, what is the invitation to come to?

3. What is the everlasting covenant and what is its sign? (verses 3 to 5)

The Persians under Cyrus the Great conquer Babylonia and Cyrus proclaims that the Israelites in exile can return to their homeland. This restoration is a foreshadowing of God's plans for humanity through the servant of the Lord, Jesus.

9. How do you think this passage links in with Jesus?

10. Read Luke 14:15-24. Is this the same story? Why or why not.

11. Isaiah 55:3 is quoted in Acts 13:34. What do you think this verse is saying?

12. How does Isaiah sum up what heaven will be like in chapter 55?

Summary

Jesus' heart desires to be merciful. He has done all that is needed to restore our relationship with God. So He asks us to 'Come'. Come to Him!

10. How is this goal to be achieved?

11. But for the Jews, what is completely unexpected in verse 20 to 21?

12. How do you respond to God's amazing covenant promise?

Summary

God is the Creator and therefore ruler of His world. The book of Isaiah moves from the heavens and the earth (1:2) to the new heavens and the new earth (66:22). The key to this restoration is God's perfect Suffering Servant, our Lord Jesus Christ.

But the book also ends with a warning again of judgement (Mark 9:48 quotes Isaiah 66:24 to describe hell). The choice is ours – blessings or cursing; new creation or judgement. The distinguishing characteristic of each group is how they respond to God's word. God has done everything needed for us to be blessed.

What does Isaiah say to God's people?

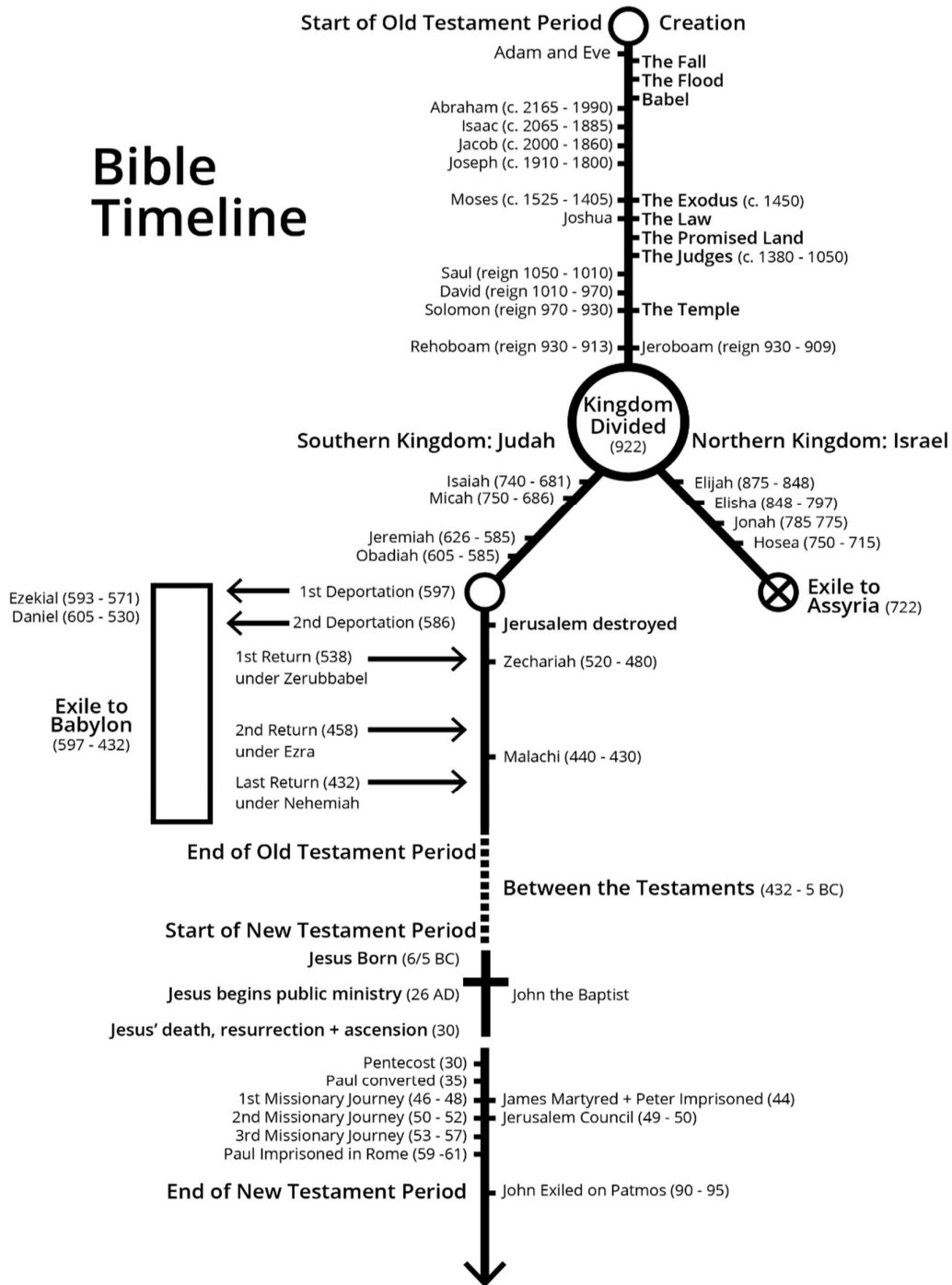
Repent.

Don't turn away from God.

There is hope and comfort because Jesus is the Saviour of the World!

Appendix A – The Bible Timeline

Bible Timeline

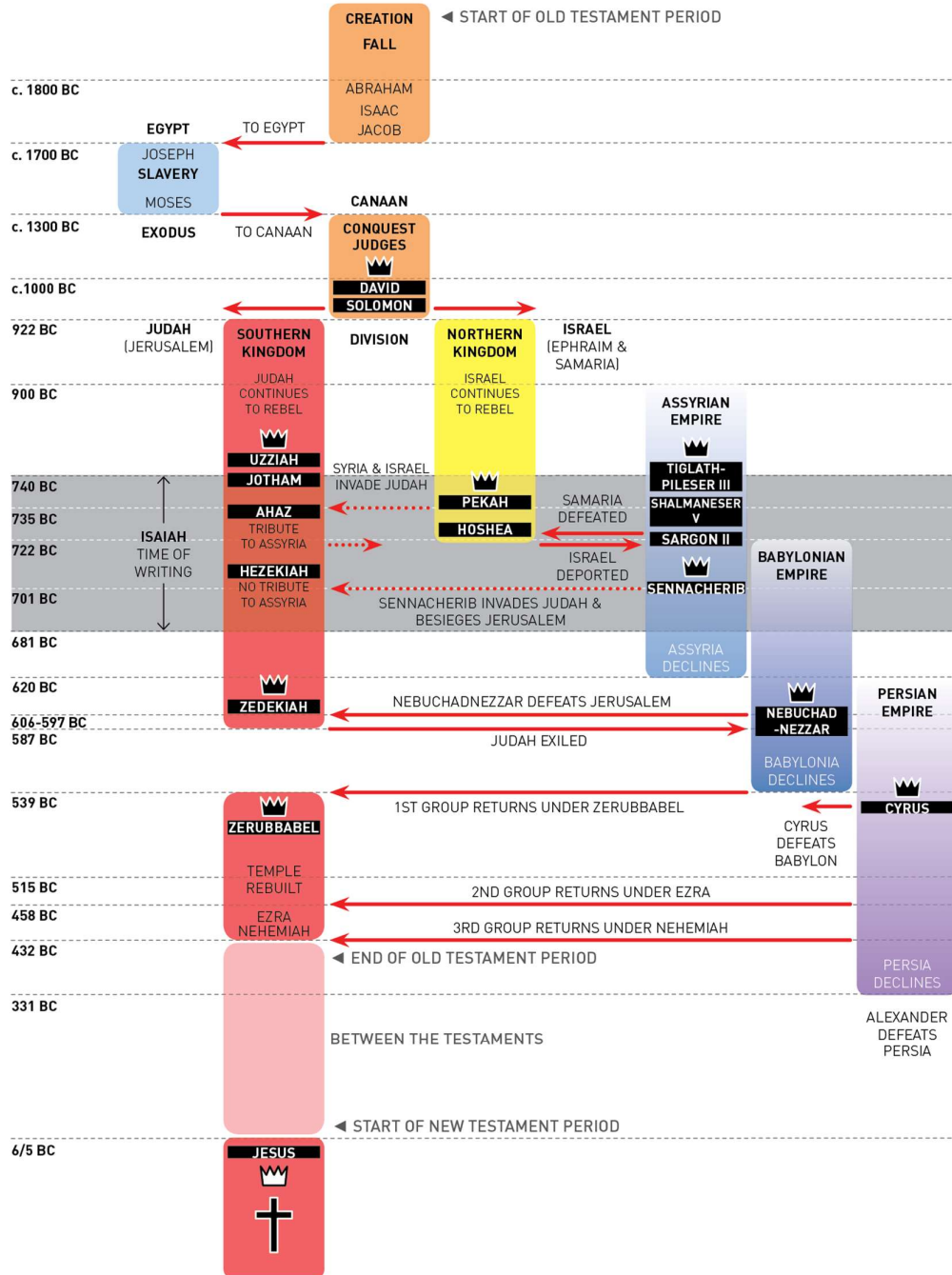


Source: *Creation to New Creation* (Moore College Correspondence Course)

Appendix B – Bible Timeline – focusing on Isaiah

ISAIAH TIMELINE

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Source: Lionel Windsor & Mark Barry – visualunit.me. With permission.

Appendix C – Isaiah Quotes in the New Testament

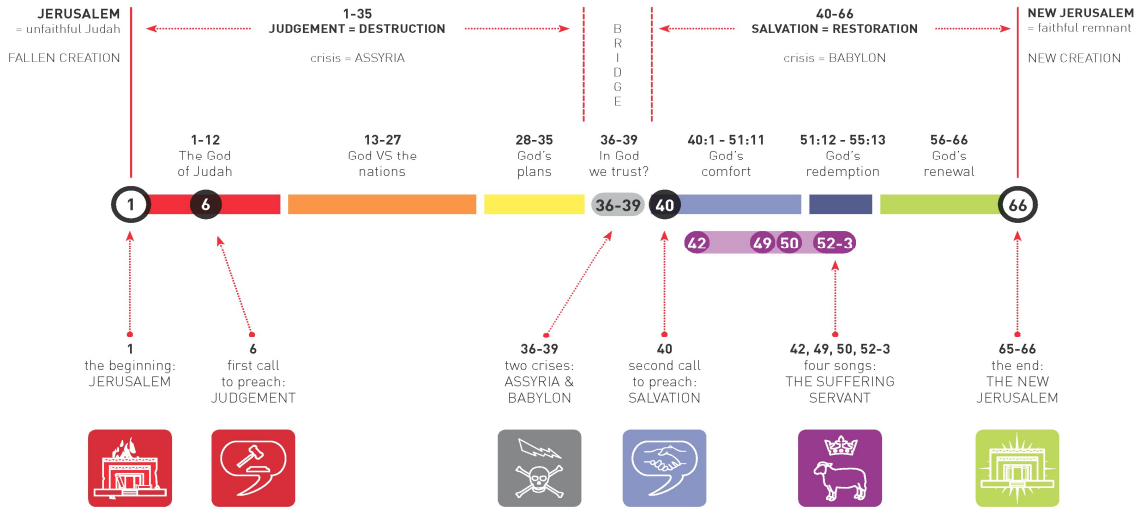
Book	Reference	Topic and Isaiah Verse
Matthew	1:23	Virgin with child (Is 7:14)
	3:3	Voice in wilderness (Is 40:3)
	4:15	A light in darkness (Is 9:1)
	8:17	Carried our diseases (Is 53:4)
	12:18	Behold My Servant (Is 42:1)
	12:21	Hope for Gentiles (Is 42:4)
	13:14	Closed eyes and ears (Is 6:9)
	15:7	They worship in vain (Is 29:13)
	21:13	A house of prayer (Is 56:7)
	Mark	1:2
4:12		Closed eyes and ears (Is 6:9)
7:6		They worship in vain (Is 29:13)
9:48		Fire is not quenched (Is 66:24)
11:17		A house of prayer (Is 56:7)
15:28		Numbered with transgressors (Is 53:12)
Luke	2:32	Light to the Gentiles (Is 42:6; 49:6)
	3:4	Voice in wilderness (Is 40:3)
	4:17	He anointed me to preach (Is 61:1)
	8:10	Closed eyes and ears (Is 6:9)
	19:46	A house of prayer (Is 56:7)
	22:37	Numbered with transgressors (Is 53:12)
John	1:23	Voice in wilderness (Is 40:3)
	6:45	All be taught of God (Is 54:13)
	12:38	Who has believed our report? (Is 53:1)
	12:39	Closed eyes and ears (Is 6:9)
Acts	7:48	Heaven is my throne (Is 66:1)
	8:32	A lamb to the slaughter (Is 53:7)
	13:34	The blessings of David (Is 55:3)
	13:47	Light to the Gentiles (Is 42:6; 49:6)
	28:25	Closed eyes and ears (Is 6:9)
Romans	2:24	Blasphemy among Gentiles (Is 52:5)
	3:15-17	Feet swift to shed blood (Is 59:7-8)
	9:19-21	Remnant shall be saved (Is 10:22)
	9:27	As Sodom and Gomorrah (Is 1:9)
	9:33	Stone of stumbling (Is 8:14)
Book	Reference	Topic and Isaiah Verse
Romans	9:33, 10:11	Believers not disappointed (Is 28:16)

	10:15	How beautiful the feet (Is 52:7)
	10:16	Who has believed our report? (Is 53:1)
	10:20	Found by those who sought me not (Is 65:1)
	10:21	Disobedient and obstinate people (Is 65:2)
	11:8	A spirit of stupor (Is 29:10)
	11:26	Deliverer from Zion (Is 59:20)
	11:26	When I forgive their sins (Is 27:9)
	11:34	The mind of the Lord (Is 40:13)
	14:11	Every knee shall bow (Is 45:23)
	15:12	Hope for Gentiles (Is 42:4)
	15:12	The Root of Jesse (Is 11:10)
	15:21	They shall understand (Is 52:15)
1 Corinthians	1:19	The wisdom of the wise (Is 29:14)
	2:9	Eye has not seen (Is 64:4)
	14:21	Speak in strange tongues (Is 28:11)
	15:32	Tomorrow we may die (Is 22:13)
	15:54	Death swallow up (Is 25:8)
2 Corinthians	6:2	Acceptable time, day of salvation (Is 49:8)
	6:17	Come out from among them (Is 52:11)
Galatians	4:27	Rejoice barren woman (Is 54:1)
Ephesians	6:14-17	Belt, breastplate, helmet (Is 11:5, 59:17)
Hebrews	2:13	The children God has given me (Is 8:17-18)
1 Peter	1:25	God's word abides forever (Is 40:6)
	2:6	Precious corner stone (Is 28:16)
	2:8	Stone of stumbling (Is 8:14)
	2:22	He committed no sin (Is 53:9)
	2:24	By His stripes you were healed (Is 53:5)
	3:14	Do not be in fear (Is 8:12)
Revelation	3:7	The key of David (Is 22:22)

Appendix D – Isaiah Overview

ISAIAH OVERVIEW

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Appendix E – Isaiah Structure

Kirk Patston has developed a helpful structure of Isaiah. This structure helps show how the themes of Isaiah progress throughout the book.

A. Isaiah 1-12 Transforming Zion

The city of Jerusalem has been ruined through incompetent leadership, hypocrisy and injustice, and will face God's anger in the form of the Assyrian army. However, the city of Jerusalem has a glorious future which will be achieved by a God-like king.

B. Isaiah 13-27 Transforming the nations

The nations, including Israel and Judah, defy God through pride and self-reliance and will face God's anger. However, a day is coming when even the nations can be included in the city of God.

C. Isaiah 28-35 Should we trust Egypt?

The city of Jerusalem is tempted to trust Egypt for help in the face of Assyrian attack. But they should trust the Lord.

D. Isaiah 36-39 Trust and Zion

The city of Jerusalem is attacked by Assyrians, but the king of Jerusalem trusts the Lord and the city is saved. The king of Jerusalem is attacked by illness, but he calls out to God and is saved. When the Babylonians visit him, he trusts in them and in his own riches, not in the Lord.

C'. Isaiah 40-48 The trusting, servant nation?

The people of Jerusalem are going to be saved from the Babylonians and the Lord urges them to trust that He is working for them, through Cyrus. They seem to find it easier to trust in Babylon and its gods. Babylon will face God's anger in the form of the Medo-Persian army. The self-reliant people of Jerusalem will miss out on the peace God is offering.

B'. Isaiah 49:1-56:8 Serving Zion and the nations

The people of Jerusalem are going to be saved from sin and they are urged to trust a Suffering Servant. The people are surprised that it is an apparent weak one, not a self-reliant one, who saves. The house of the Lord becomes available to all the nations.

A'. Isaiah 56:9-66:24 Transforming the world

Even after the exile the city of Jerusalem suffers under incompetent leadership, hypocrisy and injustice. However, the city of Jerusalem has a glorious future which will be achieved by a God-like warrior.

Source: Kirk Patson in *'Isaiah – Surprising Salvation'* p 10.

