

THE VOICE OF THE LORD



PART 3 THE MAJOR PROPHETS

INTRODUCTION



The Major Prophets - Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel are classified according to the length of their books (scrolls); not because they were of greater importance than the twelve Minor Prophets.

All true prophets were God's spokesmen, His messengers speaking out *The Voice of the Lord (texts in red italics)* to both the Chosen People and the Gentile nations. Isaiah, like Ezekiel and Zechariah, was also a Priest; with the function of mediating between God and Man. The section on each prophet is a complete Bible study on its own. Before studying the Prophets it is advisable first to read the Preface in Part 1.

Only a brief outline of *The Voice of the Lord* can be conveyed.

ISAIAH

Isaiah had a long prophetic ministry (740 - 681) to the kings of Judah through the reigns of Uzziah (Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh. Isaiah was a contemporary of the minor prophets Amos, Hosea and Micah.

The Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard. Isaiah 30: 30

The holy God of Israel, through Isaiah, warned His rebellious people of Judah and the city of Jerusalem to stop sinning, seek justice and to do right and not offer meaningless sacrifices. Isaiah prophesied their destruction, if in their blindness and pride, they continued to rebel by worshipping idols, trusting in riches and disobeying God's commandments. The people had sinned in forsaking the Lord for they had failed to understand and listen to Him.

Read Isaiah 1: 1 - 20

Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth! For the Lord has spoken:

I have nourished and brought up sons and have made them great and exalted, but they have rebelled against Me and broken away from Me. Isaiah 1: 2

Learn to do right! Seek justice, relieve the oppressed. Defend the fatherless, plead for the widow. Isaiah 1: 17

Isaiah prophesied that Jerusalem would not fall to the Assyrians but eventually the city would surrender to the Babylonians and the people would go into exile. He prophesied the Babylonian exile 150 years before the event. Isaiah also prophesied against the surrounding nations, their judgement and the ultimate downfall of both Assyria and Babylon because of their wickedness. Despite the severity of Israel's punishment, Isaiah added the promise of hope that in a time to come Jerusalem would be called -

The City of Righteousness, the Faithful City. Isaiah 1: 26b

THE MOUNTAIN OF THE LORD

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house (Temple) shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills, and all nations shall flow to it. Isaiah 2: 2

Many consider the last days began with the coming of Christ and will last until His second coming. Then, *in that day*, only the Lord will be exalted, for the proud will be humbled and the worship of idols no more.

THE BRANCH OF THE LORD

Read Isaiah 4: 2 - 6

This oracle of redemption and restoration may be Messianic referring to the sprout or shoot to come from the Stem of Jesse, (King David's father).

THE SONG OF THE VINEYARD

Read Isaiah 5: 1 - 7, 8 - 25

The vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel.

Isaiah 5: 7a

The elders and princes of Israel have ruined the Lord's vineyard.

When I looked for it to bring forth grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? Isaiah 5: 4b

God's Love Song about Israel is followed by 6 Woes and 3 Judgements:

* (4th) *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.* Isaiah 5: 20a

* (5th) *Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes.* Isaiah 5: 21a

What are the nation's other sins and the reasons for the Call of Isaiah to be a prophet of the Lord?



THE CALL OF ISAIAH

Read Isaiah Chapter 6

In the year that King Uzziah died (740 BC), Isaiah saw the Lord, enthroned in His majesty and holiness. In the glorious Shekinah divine presence of the Holy One, even the prophet's guilt needed the cleansing of atonement before he heard *The Voice of the Lord*, saying:

Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?

Isaiah 6: 8a

What a message Isaiah had to give the Jewish people! He prophesied a long history of destruction and eventual exile but with the ultimate comforting hope of a tree stump remaining to sprout again.

The holy seed, the elect remnant is the stump of Israel.

Isaiah 6: 13b

Read Isaiah 7: 1 - 16

As the Lord's Mouthpiece, Isaiah gave Judah's King Ahaz the sign of Emmanuel as an assurance that invasion by the Northern Kingdom would not take place. Isaiah prophesied the word of the Lord concerning the Messianic hope. Isaiah's second wife and the birth of another son born to a young (virgin) maintained the Messianic promise that a Prince of Peace would one day be born.

Behold, a virgin shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (God with us). Isaiah 7: 14

Read Isaiah 8: 1 - 18

Isaiah's visions concerned not only the births but also the names of his two sons. Their names given by the Lord Almighty were for signs and symbols in Israel. The Hebrew name of Isaiah's first son, Shear-ja-shub meant - *A Remnant will return* (Isaiah 7: 3), (10: 21, 22).

The meaning of his second son - *Quick to the plunder* (Isaiah 8: 3) foretold the Assyrian capture and plunder of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (Samaria / Ephraim). At that time Israel with Aram (Syria) were enemies of Judah.

God's Messianic word pronounced -

He shall be a sanctuary to those who trust in Him; but He shall be a Stone of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 8: 14, (28: 16)

Isaiah's word from the Lord foretold events concerning the Davidic kingdom to be filled in the near and distant future. A Remnant would return despite the destruction and quick plunder of the land.

Read Isaiah 9: 1 - 7, 11: 1 - 10, 12: 1 - 6

Through the prophet, the Lord declared with increasing emphasis, His plans for restored mankind redeemed through the prophesied coming of the Messiah and His continuing purposes for Israel by preserving a faithful Remnant. There would be *Songs of Rejoicing* for Zion's deliverance.

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given and the government shall be upon His shoulder.

His name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9: 6

The promised Messiah is the Stump of Israel, the Shoot or Branch of Jesse (David's father).

ORACLES AGAINST THE NATIONS

BABYLON

Read Isaiah 13: 19 - 22, 14: 12 - 15

Behold, I will stir up the Medes against them.

Isaiah 13: 17a

The first prophecy or oracle to be lifted up that Isaiah saw was against Babylon, the capital city of both Assyria and Babylonia. Divine judgement was pronounced against Babylon, because of the Assyrian conquest of Samaria (Northern Kingdom) and later when Judah and Jerusalem (Southern Kingdom) were captured by the Babylonians under King Nebuchadnezzar. God had used the fearsome Assyrians and the Babylonians respectively to punish Samaria and Judah for their disobedience. The fall of Babylon is likened to the fall of Satan from heaven.

Read Isaiah 21: 1 - 10

In his vision, Isaiah saw the fall of Babylon and the destruction of her gods. The pride, arrogance and cruelty of both the Assyrian and Babylonian empires led in turn to their conquest.

Isaiah's body trembled and was racked with pain at the horror and devastation he heard in the revelation of this oracle.

Babylon has fallen, has fallen! And all the graven images of her gods lie shattered on the ground.

Isaiah 21: 9b

Nebuchadnezzar's beautiful capital city of Babylon with its Hanging Gardens, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, was conquered by Cyrus, the Persian.

The site of Babylon would become desolate and never inhabited again.

Assyria

Woe to the Assyrian, the rod of My anger, the staff in whose hand My indignation and fury (against Israel's disobedience)!

Isaiah 10: 5

Read Isaiah 10: 24, 25, 14: 24 - 27

Therefore thus says the Lord, the Lord of hosts, O My people who dwell in Zion, do not be afraid of the Assyrian, who smites you with a rod and lifts up his staff against you, as (the king of) Egypt did.

For yet a little while and My indignation against you shall be accomplished, and My anger shall be directed to destruction (of the Assyrian).

Isaiah 10: 24, 25

The following oracles (Isaiah 14: 29 - 23: 18) were all prophecies against the surrounding nations, all hostile to Israel and not to be spared destruction, because of the Lord's mercy and faithfulness to His Chosen People. The oracles included Philistia, Moab, Damascus of Aram, Cush, Egypt, Edom, Arabia, and Tyre

EGYPT



Read Isaiah 19: 1 - 10

I will stir up Egyptians against Egyptians, and they will fight everyone against his brother and everyone against his neighbour, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.

Isaiah 19: 2

Read Isaiah 19: 18 - 25

Isaiah prophesied severe judgement against Egypt. In his vision there is a saving day to come when Egypt will acknowledge the Lord. Then there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria with *The Voice of the Lord* promising blessing and unity with Israel.

Blessed be Egypt, My people and Assyria the work of My hands and Israel My heritage.

Isaiah 19: 25

At the Lord's bidding, Isaiah was to walk around for 3 years stripped and barefoot as a sign that the peoples of Egypt and Cush would be taken into exile, leaving the Jews that had fled there for protection without hope.

JERUSALEM ORACLE

Read Isaiah 22: 1 - 5, 12 - 14

Isaiah wept bitterly at the vision of the destruction of his people; the king with the army and leaders captured as they fled from Jerusalem. Unlike the prophet, the people did not weep and wail but responded with these words:

Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!

Isaiah 22: 13b

Surely this unatoned sin shall not be purged from you until you are punished - and the punishment shall be death, says the Lord God of hosts.

Isaiah 22: 14

Read Isaiah 22: 15 - 25

Isaiah was instructed by the Lord to go to Shebna, the King's treasurer (probably not an Israelite) busy building himself a tomb like that of the kings of Judah - with these words of condemnation:

I will roll you up in a bundle and toss you like a ball into a large country; there you will die.

Isaiah 22: 18a

Shebna's office instead was to be given to God's servant, Eliakim. He was to hold the key of the house of David driven as a peg in a firm place to carry the weight of its responsibility on his shoulder - until the time of the coming judgement.

In that day, says the Lord of hosts, the nail that was fastened into the sure place shall give way and fall and the burden that was upon it shall be cut off.

Isaiah 22: 25



Read Isaiah 23: 8, 9, 15 - 17

TYRE

Philistia, the land of the Philistines, and the Pheonician cities of Tyre and Sidon (modern Lebanon) on the Mediterranean coast were especially vulnerable to attack by a succession of Assyrian kings being on the trade route between Egypt and Mesopotamia. Tyre was forgotten for 70 years, the same time as Babylon when destroyed by the Assyrian King Sennacherib in 689 B.C.

The mainland part of the city of Tyre was also captured by Nebuchadnezzar in 572 B.C. but the island fortress of Tyre was not destroyed until captured by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C.

Who has purposed this against Tyre?

Isaiah 23: 8a

The Lord of hosts has purposed it to defile the pride of all glory.

Isaiah 23: 9a

Read Isaiah 24: 1 - 6

THE EARTH'S DEVASTATION

At the end of the age, the Lord will finalise His universal judgement of the earth's sinful inhabitants. The Godly Remnant will proclaim the Lord's majesty and sing:

'Glory to the Righteous One.'

The treacherous betray godly souls in these times and Isaiah cries;

'Emaciated I pine away, I pine away. Woe is me!'

Isaiah 24: 16

In judgement, both the hosts in heaven and the kings on earth will be punished.

In that day on Mt. Zion and in Jerusalem, the Lord Almighty will reign in His majestic glory to be exalted and praised for His blessings of deliverance.

He will swallow up death in victory. And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; and the reproach of His people He will take away from off all the earth; for the Lord has spoken it.

Isaiah 25: 8

Unlike Zion, Moab will be cast down and the pride of Moab brought low, as all the enemies of the Lord recorded in the Oracles against the nations.

SONGS OF PRAISE

Read Isaiah 26: 1 - 19, 27: 2 - 6

In that day, there will be songs of praise and trust in the Lord sung in the land of Judah, the people acknowledging their failure to communicate God's salvation to the world. (26: 18b)

In the second Vineyard Song, the Lord continues to watch over Israel and in a Messianic time to come, He will be the peoples' refuge. After the judgement of exile, their sin will be forgiven and they will return to worship the Lord on Mount Zion.

Jacob shall take root; Israel shall blossom and fill the whole world with fruit.

Isaiah 27: 6

THE SIX WOES

* Woe to Ephraim

Read Isaiah 28: 1 - 4

God's judgement rebuked the N. kingdom for its pride in their beautiful capital city of Samaria. The people of Ephraim would be captured by the king of Assyria for Israel had scoffed and failed to listen to *The Voice of the Lord*.

In a time to come justice and righteousness would prevail for the Remnant of His people.

Behold, I am laying in Zion for a foundation a Stone, a precious Cornerstone; he who believes in that Stone will not be ashamed.

Isaiah 28: 16 (Psalm 118:22, Acts 4:11, 1Peter 2:6-8)

* Woe to Jerusalem (Ariel - David's city)

Read Isaiah 29: 1 - 4

The word from the Lord declared that the city would soon be destroyed and the people exiled.

The message revealed that Israel's enemies would in turn be punished and completely devastated.

The people failed to believe Isaiah's vision, being like a sealed scroll in their national blindness.

This people draw near Me with their lips but remove their hearts and minds far from Me, and their fear and reverence for Me are a commandment of men that is learned by repetition without any thought as to the meaning.

Isaiah 29: 13

Read Isaiah 29: 15 - 24

* Woe to those who hide their plans from the Lord

Isaiah 29: 15b

Isaiah relates another word of hope and restoration:

In a time to come, the deaf will hear the words of the scroll and the blind will see, for the humble and needy will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel and the unrighteous will be no more.

Then, the house of Jacob will revere God's Holy name and Children of Israel will walk in His ways.

* Woe to the Obstinate Nation (Israel)

Read Isaiah 30: 1 - 5

Woe to the rebellious children who carry out a plan but not Mine.

Isaiah 30: 1a

Both kingdoms made useless plans with Egypt for help against the Assyrian enemy rather than trusting and listening to the Lord and the message of His prophets.

Zion's guilt would be like a bulging wall that would suddenly collapse as in the coming judgement, although the Lord in His loving kindness longed to be gracious.



In returning to Me you shall be saved; in quietness and trusting confidence shall be your strength. But you would not.

Isaiah 30: 15

When the Lord hears the sound of the cry of His people, Isaiah again gave the promise of the Lord's deliverance at the sound of their cry unto Him. (30: 19)

After the judgement of Israel, the Lord will bless His people and destroy their enemies.

At the voice of the Lord the Assyrian will be stricken with dismay, when He smites them with his rod.

Isaiah 30: 31

* Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help

Isaiah 31: 1a

Even King Hezekiah of Judah made an alliance with Egypt.
Yet again, the theme of Woe changes to a future time of restoration.

Behold, a King will reign in righteousness.

Isaiah 32: 1

The complacent women of Jerusalem will soon face a time trembling until the people see, listen and understand when the Spirit is poured out from on high. (32: 9 - 17)

* *Woe to you, O destroyer. (Assyria?)*

Isaiah 33: 1

Read Isaiah 33: 1 - 6, 14 - 24

At the noise of the tumult caused by Your voice, the peoples flee; at the lifting up of Yourself, nations are scattered.

Isaiah 33: 3

A time of righteousness and blessings will come when the Messianic kingdom is established.

Your eyes will see the King in His beauty.

Isaiah 33: 17

JUDGEMENT OF THE NATIONS

Read Isaiah 34: 1 - 5

The 6 Woes are concluded by Isaiah's eschatological prophetic word concerning the calamitous judgement of the nations. God's anger is against the world's armies.

Then the sky will be rolled up like a scroll and even the stars will fall from the heavens.
As prophesied, Edom will be destroyed forever as can be read in the *Scroll of the Lord*.



Read Isaiah 35: 1 - 10

Isaiah foretells the Lord's restoration and vindication of His faithful people. Gladness will replace sadness; and sorrow and sighing will be no more.

A highway will be built, the Way of Holiness, where the redeemed will walk and the ransomed return in everlasting joy.

KING HEZEKIAH



In the early years of Hezekiah's reign the defeat by the Assyrian King Sennacherib of the Northern Kingdom took place in 722 - 721 B.C. Unlike Hoshea, the last king to rule Israel, Hezekiah, King of Judah, trusted God and did right in the eyes of the Lord.

The temple was repaired and when purified, the sacrifices were restored and the Passover celebrated as in the days of Solomon.

Hezekiah even broke in pieces the bronze snake (the pole God commanded Moses to make) because the people had burnt incense to it in worship.

It was called Nehushtan and had become an idol, an unclean thing.

(2 Kings 18: 4)

JERUSALEM BESIEGED

Read Isaiah Chapters 36, 37

The Southern Kingdom of Judah was also attacked by the Assyrians. After capturing its fortified towns even Jerusalem was threatened and besieged by Sennacherib's army.

King Hezekiah wearing sackcloth sought and prayed to the Lord. The palace officials and leaders of the priesthood also wore sackcloth when sent to enquire of the Lord.

Through Isaiah, God answered the king's prayer for the deliverance of the city.

Do not be afraid because of the words which you have heard, with which the servants of the king of Assyria have reviled and blasphemed Me.

Isaiah 37: 6

GOD ANSWERS HEZEKIAH'S PRAYER

When Sennacherib later sent messengers to Hezekiah, the king entered the Temple to pray again for the deliverance of Jerusalem, spreading the enemy letter before the Lord.

O Lord our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the Lord, even You only.

Isaiah 37: 20

The king's prayer was answered for Hezekiah trusted the Lord and because Sennacherib's words were a gross insult to the living God.

Thus says the Lord concerning the King of Assyria:

He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow here or come before it with shield or cast up a siege mound against it.

I will defend this city to save it, for My own sake and for the sake of My servant David.

Isaiah 37: 33, 35

Jerusalem was saved miraculously, probably by plague, causing King Sennacherib to suspend the siege. On his return to Nineveh, the Assyrian capital, he was murdered in the temple of his god by two of his sons.

HEZEKIAH'S ILLNESS

Isaiah 38: 1 - 8

King Hezekiah became critically ill and when death was imminent, God answered his prayer through the prophet Isaiah and his life was extended by 15 years. Perhaps he pleaded for his life because the king had no heir at that time. Again, through Isaiah, *The Voice of the Lord* gave Hezekiah a miraculous sign that he would recover - the shadow on the stairway (sundial) of Ahaz went back ten steps!

Verses 9 - 22 give Hezekiah's own account of his illness and plea for his life.

GIFTS FROM BABYLON

Read Isaiah 39: 1 - 8

The King of Babylon, having heard of Hezekiah's illness, sent him gifts by the hand of envoys.

Afterwards, Isaiah questioned Hezekiah for he had unwisely shown the envoys all his treasures.

Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord of hosts:

Behold the days are coming when all that is in your house, and that which your predecessors have stored up till this day, shall be carried to Babylon. Nothing shall be left, says the Lord.

Isaiah 39: 5, 6

KING MANASSEH

During the additional years given to Hezekiah, his son, Manasseh, was born.

King Manasseh did great evil in the eyes of the Lord. His reign was the longest of any of the kings of Judah or Israel and he shed much innocent blood. He led Judah astray causing the people to sin even more than the idolatrous Amorites. His wickedness was so great that the Lord brought the Assyrian army against him and he was taken prisoner to Babylon. Bound in bronze shackles, Manasseh humbled himself before the Lord and was therefore able to return to Jerusalem.

According to tradition, Isaiah was killed during the wicked reign of King Manasseh.

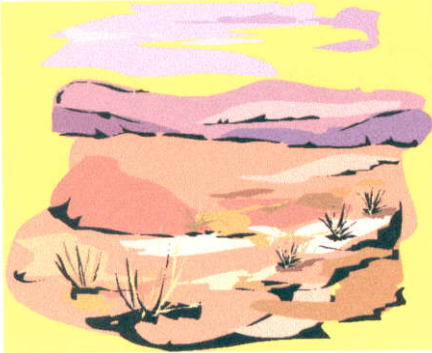
THE VOICE OF THE LORD

The compassionate *Voice of the Lord* continued through the Book of Isaiah as if the Babylonian exile was over!

'COMFORT, COMFORT My people,' says your God.

'Speak tenderly to the heart of Jerusalem, and cry to her that her time of service and warfare are ended, her iniquity is pardoned for she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.'

Isaiah 40: 1, 2



*A voice says, 'Cry!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?'
The voice answered,*

'Proclaim: - All flesh is as frail as grass like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely all the people are like grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of the LORD will stand forever.'

Isaiah 40: 6 - 8

KING CYRUS OF PERSIA 559 - 530 B.C.

Read Isaiah Chapter 41

God's servant from the North, Cyrus, was divinely anointed by God to deliver the Jews.

(Isaiah 41: 2a)

It was Cyrus who captured Babylon and made the decree which allowed the Jewish exiles to return to Jerusalem. God's wrath would be taken away from Israel and fall instead on all her enemies.

I have raised up one from the north and he comes; from the rising of the sun he calls upon My name. His victories have been granted to him by Me.

Isaiah 41: 25a

It was the Lord who foretold this good news of their deliverance by His herald - Isaiah.

I (the Lord) first gave to Zion the announcement, Behold, (the Jews will be restored to their own land, and the man Cyrus shall be raised up who will deliver them)!

And to Jerusalem I gave a herald (Isaiah) bringing the good news.

Isaiah 41: 27

THE LORD'S SERVANT - THE MESSIAH

* Read Isaiah 42: 1 - 4 (1st Servant Song)

The Four Servant Songs describe the ministry of the promised Messiah.

Behold My Servant Whom I uphold, My elect in Whom My soul delights!

I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice and truth to the nations.

Isaiah 42: 1



ISRAEL'S ONLY SAVIOUR

Read Isaiah 43: 1 - 14

I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. Isaiah 43: 3a
I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no Saviour. Isaiah 43: 11
I, even I, am He Who blots out and cancels your transgressions, for My own sake, and I will not remember your sins. Isaiah 43: 25
Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and His Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God. Isaiah 44: 6

Many texts in Isaiah convey God's Messianic message of salvation, of hope and victory. God gave His own name, SAVIOUR, in the N.T. to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. Through Isaiah, the Lord declared His holiness to unfaithful Israel and again foretold the good news of the Jews' deliverance by Cyrus that ended the Babylonian 70 year exile.

Cyrus, He is My shepherd (ruler), and he shall fulfil all My purpose - even saying of Jerusalem, She shall again be built, and of the temple, Your foundation shall again be laid. Isaiah 44: 28
I, the Lord, speak the truth; I declare things that are right. Isaiah 45: 19b
Look to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! Isaiah 45: 22
I am God, and there is no one else. I am God, and there is none like Me. Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, I will do all My pleasure and purpose. Isaiah 46: 9b, 10
Our Redeemer - the Lord of hosts is His name - the Holy One of Israel. Isaiah 47: 4
Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called Ones: I am He; I am the First, I also am the Last. Isaiah 48: 12

* Read Isaiah 49: 1 - 18 (2nd Servant Song)

And now, says the Lord - Who formed me from the womb to be His servant to bring Jacob back to Him and that Israel might be gathered to Him. Isaiah 49: 5a
Thus says the Lord, In an acceptable and favourable time I have heard and answered you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you; and I will preserve you and give you for a covenant to the people, to raise up and establish the land (from its present state of ruin) and cause them to inherit the desolate wastes. Isaiah 49: 8a
Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yes, they may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have indelibly imprinted (tattooed) you on the palm of each of My hands. Isaiah 49: 15,16a

* Read Isaiah 50: 4 - 9 (3rd Servant Song)

I gave My back to the smiters and My cheeks to those who plucked off the hair; I hid not My face from shame and spitting. Isaiah 50: 6
Listen to Me (the Lord), O My people, and give ear to me, O My nation; for a divine law will go forth from Me, and I will establish My justice for a light to the peoples. Isaiah 51: 4
My justice shall be forever and My salvation to all generations. Isaiah 51: 8b

* Read Isaiah 52: 13 - 53: 12 (4th Servant Song) - longest and most quoted in the N.T.

God's Servant was sent for –

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53: 6 A.V.
My righteous One, My Servant, shall justify many and make many righteous, for He shall bear their iniquities and their guilt. Isaiah 53: 11b

Israel's disobedience was in marked contrast to His suffering Servant's obedience.

ISRAEL'S FUTURE GLORY

No weapon formed against you shall prosper and every tongue that shall rise against you in judgment you shall show to be in the wrong. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord; this is the vindication which they obtain from Me, says the Lord. Isaiah 54: 17

Read Isaiah 55:1 - 13

The Lord invites the exiles to come, to listen, to seek and call upon Him. God's Messianic blessing to the nations is the everlasting covenant of salvation and kindness promised to King David's line.

My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord. Isaiah 55: 8

So shall My word be that goes forth out of My Mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it. Isaiah 55: 11

Read Isaiah 56: 1 - 8

Isaiah conveys God's Messianic message of Salvation to the Gentiles; eunuchs who keep the Sabbath holy and all foreigners joined to the Lord are not excluded.

My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples. Isaiah 56: 7b

Read Isaiah 57: 15 - 21

I dwell in high and holy place, but with him also who is of a humble spirit and to revive the heart of the penitent (bruised with sorrow for sin). Isaiah 57: 15b

THE TRUE FAST

Read Isaiah 58: 6 - 14

Is not this the Fast that I have chosen:

** To loose the bonds of wickedness -*

** To let the oppressed go free -*

** To divide your bread with the hungry -*

** To bring the homeless poor into your house -*

** When you see the naked, that you cover him -*

** That you hide not yourself from the needs of your own flesh and blood?* Isaiah 58: 6, 7

Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry, and He will say, here I am.

Isaiah 58: 9a

He shall come as a Redeemer to Zion and to those in Jacob (Israel) who turn from transgression, says the Lord.

Isaiah 59: 20

This is My covenant with them, says the Lord: My Spirit Who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouths of your children's children forever.

Isaiah 59: 21

RETURN OF GLORY TO ISRAEL

Read Isaiah Chapter 60:

The Light of the Lord's glory in His redemption will be revealed. Devastation will be no more and with the dawn of peace, Jerusalem will be enriched by the wealth of the nations coming to Zion.

You shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

Isaiah 60: 16b

Violence shall no more be heard in your land, nor destruction within your borders, but you shall call your walls Salvation and your gates Praise.

Isaiah 60: 18

The nation that will not serve you shall perish; yes, those nations shall utterly be laid waste.

Isaiah 60: 12

Israel is the only land the Sovereign Lord has promised to keep as a nation before Him forever.

THE MESSIAH'S MINISTRY AND THE DAY OF THE LORD'S FAVOUR

Read Isaiah 61: 1 - 3

THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound.

To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord (the year of His favour) and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.

Isaiah 61: 1, 2

The Voice of Jesus spoke these same words of Himself (Luke 4: 16 - 21) when handed the Scroll of Isaiah to read in the synagogue at Nazareth. Jesus omitted the day of vengeance of our God.

Instead of shame, your people shall possess double; everlasting joy shall be theirs.

I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and violence.

I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Isaiah 61: 7, 8

This is a Covenant of Peace (Isaiah 54: 10) and the only peace that can come to the Middle East.

The nations shall see your righteousness ascribed to you, and all kings shall behold your salvation and glory; and you shall be called by a new name which the mouth of the Lord shall name.

Isaiah 62: 2

Say to the Daughter of Zion, Behold, your salvation comes (in the person of the Lord);

Behold His reward is with Him and His work and recompense before Him.

Isaiah 62: 11

THE DAY OF THE LORD'S JUDGEMENT AND REDEMPTION

Read Isaiah 63: 1 - 6

The Day of the Lord (the second coming of Christ as described), would be a time of judgement on God's enemies - symbolised by Edom.

I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold; therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury it upheld me.

Isaiah 63: 5 A.V.

Read Isaiah 63: 7 - 64: 12

In Isaiah's prayer for Israel there is praise for the Lord's gracious kindness, love and mercy as Saviour, despite the grievous ways of His people throughout their history, causing God to become their enemy and Jerusalem a desolation.

O Lord, - - - Return to bless us for Your servants' sake, the tribes of Your heritage.

Isaiah 63: 17b

The closing chapters of the Book of Isaiah describe God's judgement of the nations and His Day of Vengeance and Redemption. God answered Isaiah's prayer concerning both the seeking Remnant and those who forsake. Rebuke follows rebuke for the sins of rebellion and idolatry.

When I called, you did not answer; when I spoke, you did not listen or obey.

But you did what was evil in My eyes, and you chose that in which I did not delight.

Isaiah 65: 12b, 66: 4b

The sins of disobedience bring the judgements of disaster, drought, disease and defeat in war. Obedience and trust in the Lord bring peace, prosperity and the blessings of everlasting joy to His humble and contrite people.

Thus says the Lord God:

Behold, My servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry;

behold, My servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty;

behold, My servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame.

Behold, My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry out for pain and sorrow of heart and shall wail and howl for anguish, vexation and breaking of spirit.

Isaiah 65: 13, 14

CREATION OF A NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH

Read Isaiah 65: 17 - 25

Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth.

The former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.

Isaiah 65: 17

It shall be that before they call I will answer; and while they are yet speaking I will hear.

Isaiah 65: 24

CONCLUSION



Read Isaiah 66: 1 - 9

In the concluding chapter of this great Book of Isaiah, the glory of the holiness of the Lord is revealed in His creation of the new heavens and the new earth.

Thus says the Lord: Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool.

Isaiah 66: 1a

The Voice of the Lord conveys many promises of hope and blessings to the contrite in heart.

This is the man to whom I will look: he who is humble and who trembles at My word and reveres My commands.

Isaiah 66: 2b

By contrast there is His wrath of vengeance on His enemies.

Great is *The Voice of the Lord* and amazing His promises:

Who has heard of such a thing?

Who has seen such things?

Shall a land be born in one day?

Or shall a nation be brought forth in a moment?

Isaiah 66: 8

These amazing prophetic words were fulfilled in 1948 when the state of Israel was declared after nearly 2000 years of Jewish exile.

For a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.

Psalms 90: 4

REJOICING AND JUDGEMENT

Read Isaiah 66: 10 - 24

Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with joy with her, all you who mourn over her.

Isaiah 66: 10

For thus says the Lord:

Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river.

Isaiah 66: 12a

*The time is coming when I will gather all nations and tongues,
and they will come and see My glory.*

Isaiah 66: 18b

Jerusalem will become the righteous City of the Lord to which all nations will come to worship Him.

And it shall be that from one new Moon to another New Moon and from one Sabbath to another Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before Me, says the Lord.

Isaiah 66: 23

The last verse of the book of Isaiah speaks of the end of those who have rebelled against the Lord.

A century and a half after Isaiah's words were written, there came the dreadful predicted siege of Jerusalem 588 - 586 B.C. by Nebuchadnezzar, followed by the Jewish exile to Babylon.

THE OTHER MAJOR PROPHETS

*[JEREMIAH](#)

*[EZEKIEL](#)

*[DANIEL](#)



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