

# Books of The Bible

## A Renewed Look at Isaiah - Part 3

### Introduction

One of the intriguing truths of the Scriptures is the incomprehensibility of them. They are from God of whom Job asked the rhetorical question, “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? (Job 11:7). The answer is “No!” Job puts it another way, “There is no searching of His understanding” (Isa. 40:28). God is beyond our comprehension and the scriptures He has given are beyond human comprehension in their depths of truths. Unless the gracious Spirit of the living God reveals truths to us, the individual will never see them on their own much less comprehend them. Those who study the scriptures would bear witness to the reality that an individual may do an in-depth study of a book or even a verse, and then come back some time later and it is as if they never read it before.

We have already put three articles concerning Isaiah on the web. It is my hope that these new thoughts and meditations will be a blessing to the reader.

It is the only book in the Old Testament, of which I am aware, that begins with God giving a scathing evaluation of the spiritual condition of His people. Furthermore, the book ends with God prophesying of His judgment on those who have transgressed against Him (Isa. 66:24). Thus the book begins and ends with judgment, but the contrast is the judgment at the beginning is on Israel because of their sins, and at the end it is on those of the nations who fail to bow to God.

Isaiah is a book of contrasts. (*These are broad contrasts*)

- a) In the first chapters God, through Isaiah, pronounces woes on the nation (ch. 5:8, 11, 18, 20, 21, 22) but in chapter 6, Isaiah sees himself in the reality of God and confesses, “Woe is me!” (ch. 6:5).
- b) Between Israel’s sinfulness (ch. 1:2-5:30) and God’s Holiness (ch. 6:1-3).
- c) Between God’s judgment on Israel (ch. 1:2-12:6) and His judgment on the nations (ch. 13:1-24:12).
- d) Between God’s superiority in contrast to the nations. God is superior in His being against their nothingness, strength or ability, in contrast to their weakness.
- e) His knowledge in contrast to their ignorance (ch. 40:12-31).

What is the thought flow and the ultimate goal of the book?

- a) To my mind, the thought flow of the book has several avenues:
  - i) The superiority of God beyond all other gods.
  - ii) No matter how determined man is, nor how disobedient and defiant Israel is, God will fulfill His purposes for the glorification of God. As Ephesians puts it, “For the praise of His glory” (Isa. 66:23, Eph. 1:12, 14).

### Isaiah

In the study of Isaiah, as in the other Old Testament books of history, we learn of the situations Israel was brought into or went into. As a nation they had known a number of dangers, alliances, and multiple enemies who they went to war with. As a people, they were brought into captivity. These sorrows came upon them when they rejected God as King. God then gave them one of their own to be king and finally they ended under the servitude of foreign kings. The final humiliation was when the temple was destroyed and they were brought into captivity.

- a) Despite the callings of God they would not hear. No matter how severe the affliction they would not repent until God declares in no uncertain terms their dreadful condition (ch. 1-5). No other book begins with such a denouncement. With solemnity we read:

“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and

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more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and purifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city” (Isa. 1:2-8).

He will later inform them that the offering of their incense is an abomination (Isa. 1:13).

- b) This can all be applied to ourselves. We reject Christ as King, then we, man, rule our own lives. Soon we come under the power of the kings of the earth, lust, covetousness which we are enticed by, we then bow in servitude to them. Then before we realize it, we are held captive by them and finally brought into a state of desolation. The very ones whom we ought to fight against we then foolishly use them as allies to overcome the flesh. There can be no curtailing of the flesh while we capitulate to it.

#### The Manifestation of God

When one considers the scriptures it is impossible to read them without thinking about Divine persons. In every book there are teachings about God, the Son, the Holy Spirit, and an aspect of salvation. Therefore, what does Isaiah inform us about God, Christ, the Holy Spirit and salvation?

- a) Isaiah brings God to our attention by:
  - i) Speaking about His tenderheartedness. Surely that cannot be missed when after reading their sinfulness He says, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool” (Isa. 1:18).
  - ii) Letting Isaiah see Him on the Throne of glory and hear the expressions of the celestial beings, “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim's: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke” (Isa. 6:1-4).
  - iii) His universal international sovereignty over the nations such as Babylon (ch. 13:1-22); Moab (ch. 15:1-9); Damascus (ch. 17:1-14); all nations (ch. 18:3); Egypt (ch. 19:1-25); Tyre (ch. 23:1-18).
  - iv) His unfailing purposes (chs. 40-66).

#### The Manifestation of Christ

From eternity past it was the desire of God to display the riches of His mercy and grace by providing a way of reconciliation to fallen man. He could have made man as a robot who would never sin but instead, He made man in the likeness of Himself, an individual who had freedom of decision making and responsible for his own decisions. God knew man would not only sin but in the process of time become more and more defiant of God and His rulership. Through the centuries, God in grace gave prophecies to Satan, Eve and Israel concerning the coming Saviour and Redeemer-Reconciler. Isaiah is one of the great evangelistic books of the Old Testament, if not the greatest. In it we learn of the Coming One, God's Servant laying down the righteous foundation before God, as God's answer to the rebellion and failures of men. Some of the greatest prophecies concerning the Messiah are presented in Isaiah. See the previous Surveys.

#### Salvation in Isaiah

Isaiah writes about salvation in a number of ways, such as:

- a) “Wells of salvation” (ch. 12:3)
- b) The joy of salvation (ch. 25:9)

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- c) Walls of salvation (ch. 26:1)
- d) “Everlasting salvation” (ch. 45:17)
- e) “Day of salvation” (ch. 49:8)
- f) Feet of the proclaimers of salvation (ch. 52:7)
- g) The spread of salvation (ch. 52:10)
- h) “The arm of salvation” (ch. 59:16)
- i) “Helmet of salvation” (ch. 59:17)
- j) “Garments of salvation” (ch. 61:10)
- k) Light of salvation (ch. 62:1).

#### The Seven “Everlastings”

- 1) Strength (ch. 26:4)
- 2) Judgments (ch. 33:14)
- 3) Joy (ch. 35:10)
- 4) Salvation (ch. 45:17)
- 5) Kindness (ch. 54:8)
- 6) Covenant (ch. 55:3)
- 7) Light (ch. 60:19)

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**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.  
John 16:13**

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