



Major Prophets

A Brief Word on The Major Prophets



Brief Recap

- The Law
 - Historical Books
 - Poetic Books
 - The Prophets
- Genesis—Deuteronomy
Joshua—Esther
Job—Song of Solomon
Isaiah--Malachi



The Prophets

- Major and Minor.
 - ✓ Major Prophets:
 1. Isaiah
 2. Jeremiah
 3. (Lamentations)
 4. Ezekiel
 5. Daniel



Prophetical Books

✓ The Minor (The Book of the 12)

1. Hosea
2. Joel
3. Amos
4. Obadiah
5. Jonah
6. Micah
7. Nahum
8. Habakkuk
9. Zephaniah
10. Haggai
11. Zechariah
12. Malachi



The Prophet

- What is a prophet?
- (Nabi) means an authorized spokesman.
- One who speaks *for* God (350x).
- Entails Two Primary things:
 1. Broad sense—Forthtelling
 2. Narrow—Foretelling
- Also functioned as watchmen over the people of Israel (Ezek. 3:17)



The Prophet (cont)

- Different backgrounds.
- Not something they chose themselves but God called them to it (Ex. 4:10-12, Jer. 1:4-6, Am. 7:14-15).
- There were non-writing prophets as well.
 - a. Gad, Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, JtB.



Test of Prophets

- Two Tests to Discern Truth Prophets.
 - 1) Everything they speak must be consistent with Scripture (Deut. 13:1-5 cf. Ex. 20:3).
 - 2) Must ALWAYS come true (Deut. 18:21-22).



The Messiah in the Prophets

- The prophets did not understand completely the two major roles of the coming Messiah.
- 1 Peter 1:10-12
- The Christ as a suffering servant (Is. 53).
- Christ as the reigning King supreme (Is. 11)
- What of Scripture verses like (Is. 9:6)
- Isaiah is a VERY important prophet...
- Next week we will see why.



Isaiah

(Ch. 1-2)

“Man must learn that his deliverance cannot come from himself.”

-Edward J. Young.



What was the significance of his appearance upon the scene of history?

- *“The answer is that Isaiah exercised his prophetic ministry at a time of **unique significance**, a time in which it was of utmost importance to realize that **salvation could not be obtained by reliance upon man but only from God Himself**. For Israel it was the central or pivotal point of history between Moses and Christ. The old world was passing and an entirely new order of things was beginning to make its appearance. Where would Israel stand in that new world? Would she be the true theocracy, the light to lighten the Gentiles, or would she fall into the shadow by turning for help to the nations which were about her??”* (Edward J. Young: Isaiah)



Introduction Isaiah

- Title: Isaiah
 1. “Yahweh is Salvation”
 2. “Yahweh will Save”
- Focus: Judah and Jerusalem
- Dates: By Kings
 1. Uzziah (Azariah) 790-739
 2. Jotham 750-731
 3. Ahaz 735-715
 4. Hezekiah 715-686



Isaiah

- Author: Isaiah.
- Some scholars theorize there were other writers who wrote portions of Isaiah after the fact (***a priori***—44:28& 45:1) BUT there is unified testimony from the ancient world for single authorship.
 1. The NT refers to his writings as written by him (Mat. 3:3; 4:14-16; 8:17; 12:17-21; 13:14-15; 15:7-9; Mark 7:6-7; Luke 3:4-6; 4:17-19; John 1:23; 12:37-41; Acts 8:27-35; 28:25-27; Rom. 9:27-29; 10:16, 20-21; 15:12)
 2. Sirach (48:24-25), and Josephus (11.5-6) attest.
 3. DSS bear witness.
 4. Style of writing consistent



Isaiah

- Quoted over 65x in the NT
- Came from some rank—access to King.
- Jewish tradition → Nephew of Amaziah/ Cuz Uzziah.
- Married with children (7:3; 8:3)
- Ministered in and around Jerusalem.
- Tradition states died under Manasseh (Hb. 11:37)



To The Text...but first!

- ...turn to Luke 4:17-21
- Compare this with the quoted verse (Is. 61:1-2)
- “Through a literary device called “prophetic foreshortening,” Isaiah predicted future events without delineating exact sequences of the events or time intervals separating them (MSB: Isaiah).”



Chapter 1

- Summary of the Entire Book.
- v. 2-9: Law and Court Room Scene
- v. 10-15: Guilty
- v. 16-19: Need of Repentance
- v. 20: If Not...
- v. 21-31: Deaf Ears.



Chapter 1

- Read
- Opens in verse 2 with alliteration.
- “Listen O heavens, and hear O Earth.”
- *“Shim’u shamayim, ha-zini eretz?”*



Chapter 2

- 1—Introduction
- Ch. 2 the prophetic message begins.
- Speaks of the future messianic age.
- Beginning in 1st advent of Christ (Acts 2:17; Heb. 1:2; Jas. 5:3; 1 Pet. 1:5, 20; 2 Peter 3:3 and 1 John 2:18) and Culminating in His second.



Isaiah

(Ch. 2-6)

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Brief Review

- Some scholars mistakenly believe that parts of the book of Isaiah were written “*a priori*”, what does this mean?
- How do we know that Isaiah was written by Isaiah?
- Tradition says who killed him and how?
- What is “*Prophetic Foreshortening*?”
- What is the BIG lesson of Chapter 1?




Rules of Interpretation

- Golden Rule of Interpretation:
 - ❖ When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense....
 - ❖ ..take every word at its ordinary, literal, usual meaning unless context clearly indicates otherwise.
 - ❖ These are to be studied in light of related passages and the fundamental truths of Scripture



Some Keys

- Key words to help determine time of events
 1. “In the Last days.”
 2. “In that day.”
 3. “Day of..” –fill in the blank— (reckoning, vengeance etc).
 4. Look for tenses, “You have” vs. “You will” (2)



Chapter Overview

- Ch. 3: The decimation of Judah and Jerusalem in detail—Judah's women are denounced.
- Ch. 4: Is future day of the Lord (v. 2-6).
- Ch. 5: Parable of the Vineyard, Woes!



Chapter 6!

- What do we see in the text that might hint of a time change?
- Compare 1:1 with 6:1
- Turn to John 12:38-41 compare with 6:1.
- Apostle John says that Isaiah is seeing the glory of Christ in this chapter.



Seraphim of Chapter 6

- Seraphim:
 1. Mentioned only here in the Bible.
 2. Seraph means “burn”
 3. They have hands, feet, faces, and speak and understand morality. Therefore...
 4. Real, spiritual beings.
 5. Waiting upon the Lord as His attendants
- What is their perpetual cry?



Holiness of God

- Qadosh signifies the entirety of the divine perfection which separates God from His creation. It has 2 primary qualities:
 - 1) One of separateness.
 - ✓ “God is different than His creation. He exists in absolute independence of it.
 - ✓ He is the LORD and not a man.
 - ✓ “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts” Is. 55:9



Holiness of God

- 2 Primary Qualities of Holiness.
 1. *Seperateness/Otherness* (Ps. 50:21-23).
 2. *Ethical Purity*
 - ✓ “The LORD is righteous, He loves righteousness.” (Ps. 11:7)
 - ✓ The LORD is righteous in all His ways.
 - ✓ Clean, pure, perfect, blameless, upright, good...



Holiness of God

- In our society we have various ways of emphasizing things.
- Underline the words.
- We can **bold them** so they stand out.
- Capitalize them—SO WE SEE IT!
- In Scripture emphasis is seen in repetition.
- Jesus used it, “Truly, truly” or “verily, verily”
- Here we have the Trihagion.
- Holy, Holy, Holy!



Isaiah

(Ch. 6 cont)

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Brief Review


- Who does the apostle John (12:38-41) say Isaiah is referring to in chapter 6?
- Saraphim (glowing one/burning one)
- Serpent. (different word than Gen. 3)
- Holiness (6:3).



The Effect of God's Holiness

❖ *Hence that dread and amazement with which, as Scripture uniformly relates, holy men were struck and overwhelmed whenever they beheld the presence of God...Men are never duly touched and impressed with a conviction of their insignificance until they have contrasted themselves with the majesty of God.*

❖ John Calvin



Chapter 6 continued

- Picking it up in verse 3.
- v. 3b cf Psalm 19.
- v. 4
- Why does Isaiah react the way he does?
- What is the setting (6:1-6)?



Chapter 6:7

- What do we do with this verse?
- Read Heb. 9:22
- How does this jive with Heb. 10:4??
- Did the sacrifices of the Old Testament take away the sins of the sinner?
- Read Lev 5:11.
- (While this verse makes an accommodation for the poorest of the poor, Scripture has ALWAYS been clear that THE sacrifice HAD to be one of blood/death.)



OT Sacrifices

- The sacrifices of the Old Testament were symbolic of the work that was to be done by Jesus Christ on the Cross. They were symbols, copies and shadows of the One and ONLY Sacrifice that could take away the sins of the world—Jesus Christ the Righteous.
- Let's read Heb. 9:8-10:14; 11:29; Rom. 3:24-26
- In the same way we look back on the gracious cross for forgiveness, they looked ahead.



Isaiah

(Ch. 7-12)

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Brief Review

- Etymology: Derivation of a word; the study of historical linguistic change, esp. as manifested in individual words.
- Entomology: Branch of zoology dealing with insect.
- Entomologist-insectum-killlem: One who slays insect (see Gerry Darmetko).



Chapter 7 and 8

- Near and Far Fulfillment—or just Christ?
- “Virgin” (Heb. ‘*almah*) refers generally to a “young women,” it actually refers specifically to a “maiden”—that is, usually to a young women who is unmarried and sexually chaste, and thus has virginity as one of her characteristics (Gen. 24:16, 43; Ex. 2:8).
- ‘*Almah* is never used in Scripture for a married women (Luther).
- In fact in all 7 OT usages of this word, there is no time that its usage clearly indicates anything other than a virgin. (Is The Virgin Birth in the OT—Fienberg on Machen”



Virgin in Chapter 7

- Why all the fuss??
- There is a Hebrew word that explicitly means virgin (Bethulah)*.
- But it CAN mean a married women (Joel 1:8).
- CONTEXT* (the miraculous) clearly indicates that this women is a virgin.
- Plus, Septuagint (LXX) uses the Greek word parthenos, which explicitly means virgin.
- Matt. 1:20-25 Settles the dispute! (cf Luke 1:27-34).



Interpretation

- The New is in the Old *concealed*
- The Old is in the New *revealed*.
- Matthew 1:20-23
- Progressive Revelation



Chapter 9-12

- 9: Birth and Reign of the Prince of Peace
- 10: Assyria as God's instrument of Judgment.
- 11: Messiah and Coming Kingdom.
- 12: Praise and thanks to God.



Next Week

- Ch. 13-39