

March 17, 2024 Isaiah Prophecy Introduction

Isaiah lived about 750 BC. He would have been very aware of the history of the Jewish people leading up to that time as illustrated by names and places he mentions. For instance Moses 1500 BC, David 1,000 BC, followed by David's son Solomon and the temple construction. Therefore Isaiah writings were impacted by those events.

By 722 BC, during Isaiah's lifetime, the Assyrians captured and enslaved the northern kingdom of Israel. They were called the lost ten tribes of Israel and as I understand are never specifically identified again. Only the Southern kingdom division of Judah and Benjamin with the remnants of Levites assigned to them are later identified illustrated by Jesus from the tribe of Judah and Paul from the tribe of Benjamin. The Southern Kingdom was in turn later conquered during the Babylonian destruction of the Solomon temple and its people enslaved by 586 BC. Next came the Persian - Cyrus the Great who allowed some Jews to return to their homeland, followed in 332 by the conquest of the Greek, Alexander the Great, then later the Maccabees Revolt and then Rome starting in 64 BC culminating with the destruction of the second temple in 70 AD.

You have studied some of world history since that time in school including our own culture and society, and along the way we have talked some about prophecy at the end of our present church age. The church age is defined as the years from the time of Jesus' birth until His return with all of those years of internal challenges of which we are still involved. The church ages is also the period of the formation of the New Testament Church and it's multifaceted development. Which is also still going on!

Isaiah's writing is influenced by all of those things before his lifetime in 750 BC, extending into the future with the birth of Jesus, the establishment of the church of the New Testament to our present time and the soon to come rapture, followed by 7 years of tribulation and chaos on earth to Revelation 16:16 with the events surrounding Armageddon. Revelation chapter 20 then tells of the 1,000 years on earth with satan confined and in the end of the same chapter satan is released and the record of his final

2. demise. Chapter 21 briefly describes the reformation of earth, and the celestial city of the New Jerusalem.

Many of those outcomes I believe, may be found prophesied in Isaiah's book and are revealed to him by divine inspiration who faithfully recorded them for our encouragement and enlightenment for righteous and victorious, joyous earthly living.

Commentaries generally dutifully and diligently apply Isaiah's prophecies to their impact on the Hebrew nation, and God's intent for them to be witness to the gentile nations. There is lots and lots of history available and carefully outlined in Bible commentaries about Israel from 1000 BC to 70 AD. Much less is available to us from the church age of the New Testament during which time it appeared the Jews would simply be assimilated into all other cultures where they were scattered. But not so! as evidenced by the Jewish nation of Israel, as prophesied, becoming a nation again which was fulfilled in May 1948 and remains so today/ The Isaiah prophecies include the trauma of the Jews right up to the New Heaven and earth.

One last introductory note: Prophecies may have both short-term and long-term applications. Prophecies may have historical as well as future fulfillment. And every prophecy has principles of "application and revelation for their current readers." Today we will dwell totally with the last category – in other words we will look at prophecies that though may not have been directed to us, are certainly applicable for our understanding of the world in which we live. And by gaining understanding, to gain knowledge for appropriate response in daily living. We start in chapter 1 to show why the book of Isaiah was necessary: **Isaiah 1:13-17; 23-25** *Bring no more futile sacrifices; Incense is an abomination to Me. The New Moons, the Sabbaths, and the calling of assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and the sacred meeting. 14 Your New Moons and your appointed feasts My soul hates; They are a trouble to Me, I am weary of bearing them. 15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide My eyes from you; Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear. Your hands are full of blood. 16 "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean; Put away the evil of your doings from*

*3. before My eyes. Cease to do evil, 17 Learn to do good; Seek justice, Rebuke the oppressor; Defend the fatherless, Plead for the widow. ---23-25 Your princes are rebellious, And companions of thieves; Everyone loves bribes, And follows after rewards. They do not defend the fatherless, Nor does the cause of the widow come before them. 24 Therefore the Lord says, The LORD of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel, “Ah, I will rid Myself of My adversaries, And take vengeance on My enemies. 25 I will turn My hand against you, And thoroughly purge away your dross, And take away all your alloy.*

The prophetic lesson is – the veneration of tradition over sincerity of the heart and reverence for the Lord (quoting Colossians 3:2), the practice of form over substance in worship to God was a purpose why Isaiah was prompted to prophesy, in other words putting it bluntly “The prophetic lesson is for his readers to shape up for the Lord or be summarily destroyed by the Lord.” And another warning for us: **Isaiah 5:22-25** *Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, Woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe, And take away justice from the righteous man! 24 Therefore, as the fire devours the stubble, And the flame consumes the chaff, So their root will be as rottenness, And their blossom will ascend like dust; Because they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts, And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. 25 Therefore the anger of the LORD is aroused against His people; He has stretched out His hand against them And stricken them, And the hills trembled. Their carcasses were as refuse in the midst of the streets. For all this His anger is not turned away, But His hand is stretched out still.*

Next are verses of God speaking to Isaiah and his response - and God’s response to Isaiah’s response. Look at this prophecy for application for us as a mandate for every God fearing individual who walks the earth: God asking Isaiah in **Isaiah 6: 8-9: 8** *Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?”* Isaiah’s response: *Then I said, “Here am I! Send me.”* God responded: **9** *And He said, “Go, and tell this people: ‘Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but*

4. *do not perceive.*’ Isaiah was told what Jesus and all the New Testament Church Age Christians are told-- “everyone has a part of ministry!” And as Ray Vander Lann said in Sunday school this morning: “People need what you have been given to introduce them to Jesus.” You may consider that a personal prophecy concerning you once you accept Jesus as Lord of life.

Moving on in **Isaiah 6:10** God presents what at first may seem like a mystery:

*10 “Make the heart of this people dull, And their ears heavy, And shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, And hear with their ears, And understand with their heart, And return and be healed.”* Remember God has the history of mankind on earth for some 4,000 years by the time of Isaiah plus God’s understanding of the future. God understood the people’s carelessness with HIS revelation for the application in their lives. Because of it that carelessness, the people brought God’s wrath on themselves. That is the exact same message that Paul taught some 800 years later in **Colossians 3:6** *Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience,*

Today I am asking you to look around this earth and see if you agree with me that we are living in a time of prophetic fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecies as translated from The **Message Isaiah 6:10** *He said, “Go and tell this people: “‘Listen hard, but you aren’t going to get it; look hard, but you won’t catch on.’ Make these people blockheads, with fingers in their ears and blindfolds on their eyes, So they won’t see a thing, won’t hear a word, So they won’t have a clue about what’s going on and, yes, so they won’t turn around and be made whole.”*

Our worlds population has had way over 2,000 years since Isaiah to repent and return to God and be made whole since Jesus made it possible for them to do so. If you believe the Bible, if you have made the choice to be a Christian, if you are alive and breathing, then be aware, be encouraged, be challenged to seek God and live for His glory and praise. We continue the same prophetic message for our ears again in: **Isaiah 6:11-12** *Then I said, “Lord, how long?” And He answered: “Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, The houses are without a man, The land is utterly desolate,*

5. **12** *The LORD has removed men far away, And the forsaken places are many in the midst of the land.* That may also possibly be a brief prophetic description of the 7 years of tribulation following the rapture and what most of the book of Revelation goes into morbid detail to describe.

Next is perhaps the most well-known prophecy of Isaiah prophesying the birth of Jesus over 700 years after Isaiah lived: **Isaiah 9:6** *For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.* Partly in that and partly thousands of years for the very next verse to find a fulfillment: in **Isaiah 9:7** *Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.* History has no record of such a fulfillment – so it is either referring to the millennial period after the rapture and the tribulation OR it may be describing the rule of the New Heaven and New Earth. Either way, the same message of a coming time of *judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever* --is confirmed and assured as Isaiah wrote.

Chapter 11 is another millennial prophecy if I interpret correctly. I draw your attention to the familiar **Isaiah 11:6-9** *“The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. 7 The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 The nursing child shall play by the cobra’s hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper’s den. 9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.* These are shared to increase your assurance in all of the word of God for your well-being and eternal heavenly reward as a committed, practicing Christian. Just one more from Isaiah for today, excerpts from **Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5, 19, 23** *Behold, the Lord makes the earth empty*

*6. and makes it waste. Distorts its surface And scatters abroad its inhabitants. 3. The land shall be entirely emptied and utterly plundered. For the Lord has spoken this word. 5 The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, Because they have transgressed the laws, Changed the ordinance, Broken the everlasting covenant. 19 The earth is violent broken, The earth is split open, The earth is shaken exceedingly. 23 Then the moon will be disgraced And the sun ashamed/ For the Lord of hosts will reign On Mount Zion and in Jerusalem And before his elders, gloriously.*

Prophecy teaches the carelessness and inattentiveness of the human population has and will eventuate in their death and eternal penalty and total refurbishing of earth without oceans.

But a remnant will heed with results in **Isaiah 57:13B** *But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land, And shall inherit My holy mountain.*

**Isaiah 1:13-17; 23-25**

**Isaiah 5:22-25**

**Isaiah 6: 8-9**

**Isaiah 6:10**

**Colossians 3:6**

**Message Isaiah 6:10**

**Isaiah 6:11-12**

**Isaiah 9:6**

**Isaiah 9:7**

**Isaiah 11:6-9**

**Isaiah 24:1, 3, 5, 19, 23**

**Isaiah 57:13B**