

***Cover to Cover: From Genesis to Maps***  
**Sermon # 23 – “Isaiah”**  
**November 25, 2007**

The Book of Isaiah introduces a new section of the Old Testament—the Prophets.

Why is Isaiah placed first in this section?

- He is not the first prophet in history.
- He is not the first chronologically among the writing prophets.
- More than likely, he was placed first because of his sheer volume. His writings are the longest prophetic writings in terms of material.
- He perhaps also is placed first because of his influence and impact. Isaiah was regarded as “the prince of the prophets.” His writings are not only the lengthiest among the prophetic books, but also the most beautiful, the most memorable, the most Christ-exalting, and the most often quoted in the New Testament.

**Isaiah the Man**

- His name means “salvation of Jehovah”. He was a family man (married, two children). He was a man of stature and influence (politically as well as spiritually). He enjoyed access to the king.
- He loved his country and he loved God. He was a true patriot—one who was concerned about the moral condition of his country.

**Isaiah’s Times**

- He lived in 8<sup>th</sup> Century Judah. He began his ministry in approximately 740 BC. His ministry lasted for at least 50 years, on into the next century. His ministry touched on the reigns of 4 kings (1:1) (Perhaps also a 5<sup>th</sup>, Manasseh)
- Isaiah had witnessed the fall of Israel (the Northern Kingdom) to Assyria in 721 BC. He knew that his homeland of Judah (the Southern Kingdom) was in danger of collapsing as well. (Ultimately, they would fall to Babylon in 586 BC). Isaiah saw it coming far in advance. So he began to speak out and confront his countrymen with a message from God.
- Chapter 1 is not really chronologically first in order. It’s an introduction to the book and a summary of Isaiah’s message.
- Chapter 6 is the beginning of Isaiah’s ministry, his call to be a prophet of God.

## Isaiah's Message

Isaiah describes a nation in rebellion against God. 1:2-4, 10, 21-23; 3:12; 5:11-12; 8:19; 29:13; 31:1, 3a.

Isaiah was a man who believed in the basics. He called the people back to the basics. 1:16-18—"God's 3 R's"—righteousness, repentance & redemption.

### *An Outline of Isaiah – "The Bible in Miniature"*

Chapters 1-39            Theme: Judgment

Purpose: To warn the nation of their impending doom/ captivity

Prophetic Function: "Forthtelling" (Preaching). Offering insight into the Will of God

Chapters 40-66        Theme: Grace/ Forgiveness/ Redemption

Purpose: To offer encouragement and hope by pointing to a future restoration

Prophetic Function: Foretelling (Predicting). Offering foresight into the Plan of God

Chapters 40-66 point not only to Israel's return from Babylonian Captivity but also to the coming of the Messiah. (Not just his first coming, but his second coming as well.)

### *The Heart of Isaiah's Prophecy: Christ*

His Name 7:10-16

His Advent 40:3-5

His Titles 9:1-7

His Mission 61:1-3

His Relationship to Israel  
11:1-9, 4:2-6

His Role as Suffering Servant  
50:6-9a, 52:13-53:12

His Love for us 40:11

His Remembrance of us 49:15-16

His Victory over Death 25:8, 26:19

His Ultimate Victory 63:1

His Kingdom Consummated 65:17-25

The response God desires—64:6, 66:1-2

The hope/ comfort we receive from Him—40:28-31, 41:10