

# *Isaiah*



## *The Messianic Prophet*

*A Self-Study Guide*

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*Author:*

Isaiah son of Amoz is often thought of as the greatest of the writing prophets. His name means "The Lord saves." He was a contemporary of Amos, Hosea, and Micah, beginning his ministry in 740 BC, the year King Uzziah died (6:1). According to an unsubstantiated Jewish tradition (*The Ascension of Isaiah*), he was sawed in half during the reign of Manasseh (Hebrews 11:37). Isaiah was married and had at least two sons, Shear-Jashub (7:3) and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (8:3). He probably spent most of his life in Jerusalem, enjoying his greatest influence under King Hezekiah.

Many scholars today challenge the claim that Isaiah wrote the entire book that bears his name. Yet his name is the only named attached to it. Scholars suggest a "Deutero-Isaiah" wrote chapters 40-66 after the Babylonian captivity. They argue that 1-39 has an Assyrian background, while 40-66 is set against a Babylonian background. But Babylon is mentioned more than twice as often in 1-39 as in 40-66. The only shift is one of perspective from present time to future time.

The strongest argument for the unity of Isaiah is the expression "the Holy One of Israel," a title for God that occurs 12 times in 1-39 and 14 times in 40-66. Outside of Isaiah it appears in the OT only 6 times. Altogether, there are at least 25 Hebrews words or forms found in Isaiah that occur in no other prophetic writing. Isaiah's use of fire as a figure of judgment and his mention of the highway to Jerusalem are themes that recur throughout the book. The structure of Isaiah also argues for its unity. Chapters 36-39 constitute a historical interlude, which concludes chapters 1-35 and introduces chapters 40-66. The unity of Isaiah is supported by the book of Ecclesiasticus, the Septuagint, and the Talmud. The New Testament also claims that Isaiah wrote both sections. John 12:37-41 quotes from Isaiah 6:9,10 and 53:1 and attributes it all to Isaiah. In Romans 9:27 and 10:16-21, Paul quotes from Isaiah 10, 53, and 65 and gives the credit to Isaiah. The same is true of Matthew 3:3 and 12:17-21, Luke 3:4-6, and Acts 8:28. The view of Isaiah being written by more than one author is based on the mere assumption that divine prophecy is impossible, rejecting the predictive claims of the book.

*Historical Context:*

Isaiah's long ministry ranged from about 740 to 680 BC (1:1). Isaiah wrote during the stormy period marking the expansion of the Assyrian empire and the decline of Israel. Under King Tiglath-Pileser III (745-727 BC) the Assyrians swept westward into Aram and Canaan. About 733 BC the kings of Aram and Israel tried to pressure Ahaz king of Judah into joining a coalition against Assyria. Ahaz chose instead to ask Tiglath-Pileser for help, a decision condemned by Isaiah. Assyria did assist Judah and conquered the northern kingdom in 722-721 BC. This made Judah even more vulnerable, and in 701 BC King Sennacherib of Assyria threatened Jerusalem itself. The godly King Hezekiah prayed earnestly and Isaiah predicted that God would force the Assyrians to withdraw from the city.

The mid-700's BC were a very prosperous era for both the nations of Israel and Judah. We get a feel for the luxury the people lived in from the prophets Amos and Hosea who concluded their prophecies just before Isaiah begins his. This prosperity caused the people to forget God and rejoice in their idols whom they gave credit for the affluence. As a result, God would use Assyria as the "rod of His anger" (10:5-6) to punish his people. Israel would fall to Assyria in 721 BC and Judah would barely escape as God spared the city of Jerusalem in answer to the righteousness of Hezekiah.

Nevertheless Isaiah warned Judah that her sin would bring captivity at the hands of Babylon, even though Babylon had not yet risen to power. Isaiah goes on to predict the restoration of the people from captivity. God would redeem his people from Babylon just as he rescued them from Egypt. Isaiah predicts the rise of Cyrus the Persian, who would unite the Medes and Persians and conquer Babylon in 539 BC. The decree of Cyrus would allow the Jews to return home, a deliverance that prefigured the greater salvation from sin through Christ.

*Key Dates in World History:*

<u>Assyrian Kings</u>		<u>Babylonian Kings</u>		<u>Persian Kings</u>	
Tiglath-pileser III	745-727	Nabopolassar	625-606	Cyrus	539-530
Shalmaneser V	727-722	Nebuchadnezzar	606-562	Cambyses	530-522
Sargon II	721-705	Amel-Marduk	562-560	Darius I	522-486
Sennacherib	704-681	( <i>Evil-Merodach</i> )		Xerxes	486-464
Esarhaddon	681-669	Neriglissar	560-556	Artaxerxes	464-423
Ashur-banipal	669-633	Labashi-Marduk	556	Darius II	423-404
Ashur-etil-ilani	633-622	Nabonidus	556-539	Artaxerxes II	404-359
Sin-shur-ishkun	621-612	<i>Installed son, Belshazzar</i>		Artaxerxes III	359-338
Ashur-uballit	612-608	<i>as regent, spending 10</i>		Arses	338-335
<i>Fall of Nineveh</i>	612	<i>years in Teima</i>	550	Darius III	335-331
<i>Fall of Haran</i>	610	<i>Fall of Babylon</i>	539		
<i>Fall of Carchemish</i>	605				

*Key To Our Study:*

The basic theme of the book is found in Isaiah's name: "Salvation Is of the Lord." The word salvation appears 26 times in Isaiah but only 7 times in all the other prophets combined. We will try to find this theme throughout the book.

Isaiah offers many prophecies concerning future events, from the events of the captivity to the last days. As we study Isaiah, look for these prophecies and be sure to note them. This booklet will provide space for you to write down those prophecies for discussion in class. Be sure to explain the fulfillment of each prophecy. Some prophecies will be easier than others to explain. Many of Isaiah's prophecies are quoted by New Testament writers to show their fulfillment. The fulfillment of other prophecies will have to be deduced through proper exegesis of the text and proper understanding of the work of the Messiah.

This study will have a Messianic emphasis. As you read the prophecies of Isaiah, look carefully for declarations of what the Messiah would accomplish and descriptions of what Israel will become under the Messiah. At the top of each study section there is space for you to write down the main theme of the section. Then answer the questions, also writing down things you find important and any questions you have from the text.

*Outlining the Book:*

Below is a partial outline of the book of Isaiah. Skim through Isaiah's prophecy, looking at key thoughts and headers in your Bible. Then fill in the rest of the outline.

Prophecies of Condemnation (1:1-35:10)

- 1:1-12:6 Prophecies of condemnation against \_\_\_\_\_
- 13:1-23:18 Prophecies of condemnation against \_\_\_\_\_
- 24:1-27:13 Prophecies that will take place " \_\_\_\_\_ "   
 (*look for 3 repeated words*)
- 28:1-33:24 Six \_\_\_\_\_ pronounced
- 34:1-35:10 "It is the day of the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_" (34:8)

Historical Narrative (36:1-39:8)

- 36:1-22 The nation of \_\_\_\_\_ attacks Judah and Jerusalem
- 37:1-38 \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord attacks Sennacherib
- 38:1-22 The prayer of king \_\_\_\_\_

39:1-8 Exile of Judah to \_\_\_\_\_ predicted

Prophecies of Comfort (40:1-66:24)

40:1-48:22 Prophecies of Israel's deliverance (key theme: *redemption*)

49:1-57:21 Prophecy of Israel's Deliverer (key theme: *Redeemer*)

58:1-66:24 Prophecies of Israel's glorious future

**Chapter 1 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**1:1-31 In the space below, write down those things you find important and interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

In many ways, the first chapter is the theme for the whole book of Isaiah. Be sure to notice not only the condemnations, but also the promises of comfort and deliverance here.

Verses 1-4:

Verses 5-9:

Verses 10-15:

1. What are the problems with Israel's worship?
2. What important lessons do we learn for ourselves today from Isaiah's condemnations?

Verses 16-23:

3. Why does God call the city a "harlot?"

Verses 24-31:

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

Hailey points out that the next section aptly portrays “three Jerusalems”: Jerusalem the ideal (2:1-4); Jerusalem the real (2:5--4:1); and Jerusalem the redeemed (4:2-6).

**2:1-4 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

2. When were the “latter” or “last” days? (Compare Daniel 10:14; Acts 2:17; Hebrews 1:1-2) What time period do the “last days” define?

**MORE INFORMATION:**

Warren Wiersbe in The Bible Exposition Commentary states, “These promises must not be ‘spiritualized’ and applied to the church, for they describe a literal kingdom of righteousness and peace. The Jewish temple will be rebuilt, and the Word of God will go forth from Jerusalem to govern the nations of the world.”

3. What arguments can be made against Wiersbe’s interpretation of the “last days” and “the mountain of the house of the Lord?” (Consider the context through chapter 4; are there clues as to how to interpret these passages?)
4. Define “mountain of the Lord’s house.” How is the word “mountain” used in prophecy?
5. The phrase, “*For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem*” is not specifically spoken of as fulfilled in the New Testament. What New Testament passages, though, indicate this phrase was fulfilled?
6. Explain how in the kingdom of the Messiah nations will beat their swords into plowshares and not learn war anymore? Has this been fulfilled?

**2:5-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

7. Describe the condition of the nation's wealth. Does the nation sound prosperous or destitute?

8. Three times in this text Isaiah declares "in that day." What "day" is Isaiah specifically speaking about?

**LIFE APPLICATION:** Read Hebrews 12:25-29 and compare the above text to what is in store for us. How does the Hebrew writer say this should change us?

**Chapter 3 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**3:1-15 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What is meant in **verse 12**, "children are their oppressors, and women rule over them?"

2. List the reasons given why "the Lord will enter into judgment" against Jerusalem and Judah:

**3:16--4:1 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

3. List the other reasons given as to why judgment will come against Jerusalem and Judah:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Explain what will happen to the women of Zion and to the wealth of Judah.

**Chapter 4 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**4:2-6 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Most modern commentators argue *against* this section of text being Messianic. It is argued, because of the phrase "fruit of the land," that this is simply speaking about God's physical blessings after the exile.
  - a. Do you believe this text is Messianic? Why or why not?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Are there other passages that describe the Messiah as "the branch?" If so, where?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What does verse 5 recall into the minds of Jewish readers? What is the point of the imagery, in light of the context?

**5:1-7 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Explain the parable of the vineyard.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Compare this parable to the parable Jesus told in Luke 20:9-19 (cf. Luke 13:6-8). How similar are the messages?

**5:8-30 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be sure to write down any questions you have concerning the text. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

3. Describe the woes and condemnations given in each of the following sections:  
5:8-10

5:11-12

5:18-19

- What picture is being given when the Lord says they *"draw iniquity with cords of vanity/falsehood?"*

5:20



5:21

5:22-23

4. What reasons are given for judgment in verses 13-16?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. What reasons are given for judgment in verses 24-25?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. What is being described in verses 26-30?

**Chapter 6 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**6:1-13 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Explain Isaiah's response as he sees the glory of the Lord in verse 5. What do we learn from this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What gave Isaiah the strength and boldness to say, "Here am I! Send me?" What application can we make to us?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How long was Isaiah to continue preaching? Is there an application for us in this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Where are verses 9-10 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?

**Chapter 7 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**7:1-9 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Check **2 Kings 16** to discover what Ahaz did when he was attacked by Israel and Syria:

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

It was only going to be 12 or 13 more years before Assyria would destroy Israel (Ephraim) in 722/721 BC. This has caused some people problems, as verse 8 says it would be 65 more years. However, Assyrian kings Esarhaddon and Ashurbanipal continued to import foreigners from other conquered nations until 670/669 BC (read Ezra 4:2,10). When these foreigners were brought in and intermarried with the remnant left, Ephraim came to an end.

**7:10-25 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

2. In the first eleven verses of this chapter God was obviously trying to encourage Ahaz to put his trust in Him and not in any foreign power to save. Knowing what Ahaz would do (**2 Kings 16**), what attitude is he displaying when he refuses to ask for a sign?

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

It is interesting that since Ahaz wanted to rely on the king of Assyria, God decided to give him the king of Assyria and more. Yes Assyria would deliver them from Israel and Syria, but would then devastate Judah saving only Jerusalem from destruction.

3. Describe what God's people were to look for in the person of the Messiah, the characteristics of the Messianic kingdom, and the condition of the surrounding nations/enemies (be sure to compare to Matthew 1:22-23).

**Chapter 8 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**8:1-4 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What is the main point of the prophecy?

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

Concerning this text, Homer Hailey states: "At some time during the reign of Pekah, Tiglath-pileser carried the people of northern Israel into captivity (2 Kings 15:29). After dispensing with Pekah, the Assyrian monarch besieged Damascus, taking it in 732 B.C. and carrying away large quantities of booty. Truly, when this prophecy was uttered, 'the spoil was speeding, the prey hastening,' for the booty of Israel and Syria was soon to be carried away to Assyria. Thus, just as Jehovah had given Ahaz personal assurance that Assyria would be upon Israel and Syria within a short time (ch.7), so He also gave the people a sign to the same effect--Maher-shalal-hash-baz."

**8:5-10 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

2. What imagery is used to depict the judgment against Judah?

**8:11-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

3. Explain how this passage was fulfilled in Isaiah's day and is fulfilled in the New Testament by considering Matthew 21:41-44, 1 Peter 2:6-8, and Romans 9:32-33.
4. Isaiah 8:18 is partially quoted by the writer of Hebrews in Hebrews 2:13. Can you find the connection as to why the writer of Hebrews would quote this part of Isaiah for his argument?

**Chapter 9 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**9:1-7 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What had happened to the land of Zebulun and Naphtali to cause the gloom and distress the prophet refers

to?

2. What do we learn about the Messiah and his kingdom in this text?

**9:8-21 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

3. What do the people of Israel think they will be able to do? What is the main point of the prophecy?

**Chapter 10 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**10:1-19 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-4: Woe to \_\_\_\_\_

1. List the sins described by Isaiah:
2. What did Israel depend upon for protection?

Verses 5-11: Woe to \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way had God used Assyria? What can we learn from this about how God works in the affairs of men?

Verses 12-19:

4. Isaiah uses parables to explain the error of Assyria. What is the condemnation against Assyria? What can we learn from this about how God works in the affairs of men?

**10:20-34 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

5. Where are verses 22-23 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

The word "return" in verse 21 also has the connotation of "repent," so in the name Shear-jashub not only a physical return is prophesied but also a spiritual one. (*New International Commentary on the Old Testament*)

6. Explain the various events that will take place in the future, according to the prophecy.

**Chapter 11 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**11:1-10 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Notice carefully verse 10. This verse is quoted in Romans 15:12. By examining these two verses together you will be able to discover *when* the "wolf dwells with the lamb."
2. Now that you know when the "wolf dwells with the lamb," what does this phrase and the other figures of verses 6-9 mean? (Hint: Look at the contrasting characteristics in the animals.)

**11:11-16 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

3. What is being depicted in verses 15-16 and how does this apply to Israel's condition?

**Chapter 12 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**12:1-6 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What is the point of the song? What is the song looking forward to?

**Chapter 13 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**13:1-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** *It is important to pay careful attention to the various pictures God uses to describe the fall of Babylon. These same figures will be used repeatedly in reference to other judgments in the Bible.*

Verses 1-8:

1. Who is this prophecy against? Who was the world power at the time of this prophecy? How long would it be till this prophecy would be fulfilled?

Verses 9-16:

2. Carefully notice verses 9, 10, and 13. What are these images depicting? Are these end of the world images?

Verses 17-22:

3. Who is the prophesied destroyer?

**Fulfillment of the Prophecy:** In Josh McDowell's book [Evidence That Demands A Verdict](#), he records how these prophecies were fulfilled:

1. By the time of Christ the ancient city was nothing but a desert. At 100 A.D. it was said to be nothing but "mounds and legions of mounds."
2. Because of the meandering of the Euphrates River more than a third of the city is under water today making the area unsuitable for feeding flocks.
3. Because of superstition, the Arabs they will not spend the night there.

**Chapter 14 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**14:1-23 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-11:

1. Who is the object of the prophecy?

Verses 12-23:

2. Who is Lucifer? What does the name Lucifer mean?

**14:24-27 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

3. Who is the object of the prophecy?

**14:28-32 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

4. Who is the object of the prophecy?

**Chapters 15-16 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**15:1-16:14 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Who is the object of the prophecy?

**Chapter 17 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**17:1-14 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-3: Judgment against \_\_\_\_\_

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

Hailey states, "Location on caravan routes from north to south and east to west put Damascus in conflict with competing powers, especially Israel and Judah. The conflict between Syria and Israel intensified during the reigns of Omri and Ahab. The strong enmity which developed between Damascus and Assyria eventually led to the downfall of Damascus and the Syrian power." Then concerning **verse 1** he says, "The prophet is not saying the buildings of the city will be destroyed, though some may have been; he is saying that Damascus will never again be the city of importance that she once was; her glory will be as a ruinous heap."

Verses 4-11: Judgment against \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe what Isaiah says it will be like "on that day":

Verses 12-14: Judgment against \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 18 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**18:1-7 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

**HELPFUL HINTS:**

"Buzzing wings" may refer to the many kinds of flying insects in the land of Ethiopia. The setting of the chapter is the eminent invasion of the Assyrians on Judah and then a march toward Ethiopia. Verse 2b probably refers to the prophet sending Ethiopian ambassadors back to their home, comforting them that the Lord will deliver. **Verses 5-6** refer to the defeat of the Assyrian army, probably in the days of Hezekiah when 185,000 were killed by an angel of the Lord in one night. **Verse 7** may refer to a gift of thanks sent back to Jerusalem.

**Chapter 19 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**19:1-15 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Who is the object of the prophecy?
2. What is meant by the phrase, "The Lord rides on a swift cloud?" Compare Psalm 104:3; Joel 2:2; Zephaniah 1:15; Ezekiel 30:3.



3. Understanding the Egypt relied on the Nile for their existence, what does the figures of **verses 5-9** indicate?

**19:16-25 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

4. What five things will happen “on that day” in this text?

**Chapter 20 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**20:1-10 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Who is the object of the prophecy?

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

In Jeremiah 51:13 Babylon is referred to as dwelling on many waters. In Revelation 17:15, John’s prophecy interprets the “many waters” upon which Babylon sits as “peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”

**Chapter 21 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**21:1-16 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-10:

1. Who is the object of the prophecy?
2. Where do we see the imagery of verse 9 in the New Testament?

Verses 11-12:

3. Who is the object of the prophecy?
4. Specifically what is meant by, “The morning comes and also the night?”

Verses 13-17:

5. Who is the object of the prophecy?

**Chapter 22 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**22:1-14 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** *(Notice that after pronouncing doom on a number of foreign nations, God suddenly turns His burden against Jerusalem. Thus in effect saying that if Jerusalem will behave like the foreign nations, God will also treat them as such.)*

1. Who is the object of the prophecy?

**22:15-25 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** *(Compare 36:3 & 37:2 and you will see that Shebna was a scribe and Eliakim was over the house of Hezekiah.)*

2. List at least two sins of Shebna: *(Shebna may have also represented the attitudes and sins of the people.)*
3. Who is Eliakim like in the New Testament?

**Chapter 23 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**23:1-18 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Who is the object of the prophecy?

**Chapter 24 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**24:1-13** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. *(This is a great chapter dealing with a judgment that was to come on the whole earth. Indeed, from the time of this prophecy until Christ, every nation of the world was judged and the lives of the inhabitants of the earth turned upside down.)*

**24:14-23** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. *(Notice that the remnant that are left from the judgment enjoy a temporary time of rejoicing [v.14-16a]. But then wickedness again abounds in the earth [v.16b-20], and God must again judge [v.21-23].)*

**Chapter 25 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**25:1-12** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. *(There are four hymns sung in chapters 25-26. The first three are in this chapter.)*  
Verses 1-5 (Hymn of thanksgiving for victory):

Verses 6-8 (Song of Jehovah's feast for the nations):

1. Where is verse 8 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?

Verses 9-12 (Song of joy for those who wait on the Lord):

2. What day are the people looking for?

**Chapter 26 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**26:1-21 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** *(The strong city is not referring to any particular city such as Jerusalem, but is instead speaks of the victory of the righteous over the wicked--referred to here as the "lofty city.")*

Verses 1-6:

Verses 7-10:

Verses 11-15:

Verses 16-19:

Verses 20-21:

**Chapter 27 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**27:1-13 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verse 1: "On that day"

1. Who does Leviathan represent in this text?

Verses 2-11: "On that day"

2. Explain the song of the vineyard.

Verse 12: "On that day"

Verse 13: "On that day"

**Introduction:** “Delitzsch calls chapters 28-35 “The Book of Woes”; Leupold calls them “The Book of Zion.” Both are appropriate. The section contains a series of prophetic discourses dealing especially with Judah’s relationship to the heathen nations Egypt and Assyria, and its own sins and weaknesses (chs. 28-33). In these chapters the prophet pronounces six woes against the sins of drunken rulers in Samaria and Jerusalem, against the errors of Judah, and against an unnamed destroyer, probably Sennacherib of Assyria. In the midst of chaos God points to the stone in Zion as a place of refuge and foundation on which to build. The section closes with a prophecy against Edom, symbol of the world (ch. 34), and a promise of Zion’s future glory (ch. 35). Interspersed throughout these chapters of woes and doom, promises of glorious days to come flash brilliantly.” (*Homer Hailey, A Commentary on Isaiah, page 225*)

**28:1-29** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-4:

Verses 5-8:

Verses 9-10: (*Understand these words as coming from the drunken priests and prophets. What is their complaint?*)

Verses 11-13: (*How will the Lord speak to them with “stammering lips and another tongue?” Do you see people today with the attitude these people displayed in verses 10, 13?*)

1. Where is verse 11 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?

Verses 14-15:

Verses 16-22:

1. Where is this passage quoted in the New Testament and what is the meaning of the text?
2. What picture of judgment is being given by the figure in verse 20?

Verses 23-29:

**Chapter 29 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**29:1-24 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-8:

1. Who is Ariel? Why is the name Ariel used?

Verses 9-16:

2. What is the meaning of the sealed document that no one can read?
3. Where is verse 13 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?
4. Where is verse 14 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?
5. The words of this text in verses 9-16 could have easily been written yesterday. How was the people's reaction to God's word similar to today?

Verses 17-24:

**Chapter 30 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**30:1-33 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** (Verse 4 refers to the ambassadors of Israel meeting at Egyptian cities to ask for Egypt's help.)

Verses 1-11:

1. What is Isaiah prophesying will take place?

Verses 12-17:

Verses 18-26: (In verse 20 NRSV translates "Teacher" instead of teachers. "Teacher" would refer to God while "teachers" would refer to the prophets.)

Verses 27-33: (In verse 33 "Topheth" was the place in the Valley of Hinnom that was used for the sacrifice of children. God is now preparing Topheth to use in destroying the nation under consideration in this text.)

**Chapter 31 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**31:1-9 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. In verse 4, who is represented in the following figures:
  - The lion:
  
  - The prey:
  
  - The shepherds:

**Chapter 32 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**32:1-20 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-8: Write down all you see that the kingdom will be like-

Verses 9-20:

1. What did it mean to the Jews when Isaiah spoke of "the Spirit from heaven is poured out on us?" (vs 15)

**Chapter 33 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**33:1-9 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (This text is still talking about the Assyrian invasion.)**

**33:10-24 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. (Note: In verse 12, the ASV translates "peoples" instead of "people," and therefore is referring to the Gentiles of Assyria. Verse 11, therefore, is God talking to Assyria.)**

1. Write down the various images God uses to depict judgment:

**Chapter 34 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**34:1-17 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-4:

1. Write down the images used to depict judgment. Is this prophecy about the end of the world?

Verses 5-17: *(Notice some of the prophecies of Edom, the fulfillment of which can still be seen today.)*

2. Write down the images used to depict judgment. Is this prophecy about the end of the world?

**Chapter 35 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**35:1-10 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** *(Notice how this chapter is in contrast to the previous chapter that spoke of the desolation of Edom. When does this chapter see its fulfillment?)*

1. Find where verse 3 is quoted in the New Testament and explain its meaning.
2. Write down the characteristics of the Messianic kingdom:

**Chapter 36 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**36:1-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Explain the insults of Rabshakeh given toward Hezekiah in verses 4-12.



2. Explain Rabshakeh's words to the people of Jerusalem in verses 13-20.

**Chapter 37 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**37:1-38 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-7:

1. What is Isaiah's message to Hezekiah?

Verses 8-13:

2. What is the Assyrian king's message to Hezekiah?

Verses 14-20:

3. Explain Hezekiah's prayer:

Verses 21-38: (*Note that verses 30-32 are a sign to Hezekiah.*)

4. Explain God's answer to Hezekiah's prayer.

**Chapter 38 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**38:1-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-8:

1. What would be the signs to show Hezekiah that 15 years had been added to his life?

2. Write down the lessons you learn from Hezekiah's prayer and God's response:

Verses 9-22:

3. Explain Hezekiah's poem.

**Chapter 39 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**39:1-8 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What was so wrong about Hezekiah showing the king of Babylon all that was in his house? How has the United States made the same mistake today?
2. Verse 7 should give you a glimpse into what Nebuchadnezzar did when he took captives in the Babylonian invasions of 606, 597, and 586.
3. What do you think about Hezekiah's response in verse 8?

**Chapter 40 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

1. Why is chapter 40 a key division in the book? Also, go to the introductory material in this study guide and note the key themes in chapters 40-66.

**40:1-31 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

*Verses 1-11: (These verses serve as prologue for the rest of the book. Comfort is spoken to the people who will soon find themselves in Babylonian captivity.)*

1. Where are verses 3-4 quoted in the New Testament and who was the prophecy predicting?
2. Where is verse 6 quoted in the New Testament and what was the prophecy predicting?
3. Where are verses 7-8 quoted in the New Testament and what was the prophecy predicting?

Verses 12-17:

4. Where is verse 13 quoted in the New Testament and how is the quotation explained?

Verses 18-31:

5. What is the point of this section of text? What does this have to do with giving comfort to the exiled?

**Chapter 41 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**41:1-29 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-7:

*(Note: (1) "Let us come near together for judgment" in verse 1 is God's challenge to the nations who trust in idols to enter into a court case with Him. Once both sides have presented their cases, let there be a judgment. God speaks first. (2) The "one from the east" most likely refers to Cyrus who is later named in 44:28.)*

1. What is the point of the imagery in this text?

Verses 8-20:

2. What is being prophesied in the imagery found in this text?

*Verses 21-29: (Note: In verse 3 Cyrus was referred to as the man from the east. Now he is spoken of as from the north. After he became king of Persia, he conquered Media to the north and then Babylon. So he is spoken of as both from the east and the north.)*

3. What is the message found in this text?

**Chapter 42 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**42:1-25 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-9:

1. Where is verse 1 quoted in the New Testament and who is prophecy predicting?

Verses 10-17:

2. What does it mean to "sing a new song?" What is the message of the song?

Verses 18-25: *(Since chapter 40 we have been introduced to three “servants” of Jehovah: Cyrus, the Messiah, and Israel. In this text the servant refers to Israel.)*

**Chapter 43 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**43:1-28 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-7:

Verses 8-13:

Verses 14-21

Verses 22-28: *(Note: In verse 27, “your first father sinned” may refer to Jacob who received the birthright by an unloving bargain and the blessing by deceit.)*

1. What is the condemnation given against Israel?

**Chapter 44 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**44:1-28 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-5:

1. What did it mean to the Israelites when God said he would pour out his spirit (verse 3)?

Verses 6-8:

Verses 9-20:

1. How is idolatry in America like the idolatry described in these verses? Consider, for example, the worship of possessions or recreation:

Verses 21-28:

2. Who does Isaiah prophesy will be the shepherd of God's people?
3. What will be built by this prophesied shepherd?

**Chapter 45 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**45:1-25 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-7:

1. What else will the prophesied shepherd do?
2. What is meant in 45:5, "I have named you though you have not known me."

Verses 8-13:

Verses 14-19:

Verses 20-25:

3. What sin is identified among the survivors of the nations?
4. Where is verse 23 quoted in the New Testament and how is the prophecy fulfilled?

**Chapter 46 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**46:1-13 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. What is the main message of this section of the prophecy?

**Chapter 47 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**47:1-15 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-11: *(Notice especially verse 2. What was God picturing that was going to happen to the Babylonians?)*

Verses 12-15:

**Chapter 48 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**48:1-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-11: *(This chapter concludes the section that began with chapter 40 which has dealt with the Lord's condemnation of the heathen gods, as well as His plan concerning Cyrus and the fall of Babylon. In this chapter, Hailey states that Isaiah "projected himself into the time of the Babylonian captivity; from that vantage point he looked back at the cause of the captivity, and forward to the deliverance by Cyrus as being at hand.")*

1. What lesson can we learn from the fact that Israel "made mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth or in righteousness?"
2. Why did God "declare the former things from the beginning?"

Verses 12-22:

**Chapter 49 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**49:1-26 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.** *(This section speaks of the Servant (Messiah) who would be the ultimate salvation of Israel.)*

1. Who are the "coastlands" and the "peoples from afar" in verse 1?
2. Why is the Servant disappointed in verse 4?

3. In looking at verse 6, compare Acts 13:47 and note how Paul used this text:

4. Where is verse 8 quoted in the New Testament, and how does Paul use it?

**Chapter 50 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**50:1-11 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-3:

1. What is meant by “where is your mother’s certificate of divorce with which I sent her away?” (50:1)
2. What is the message of these verses?

Verses 4-11:

3. Explain verses 10-11.

**Chapter 51 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**51:1-23 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-8:

1. When the Lord says, “Look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the hole of the pit from which you were dug,” who or what is He referring to?
2. Why were they to look to the rock from which they were hewn? (Note that the NRSV translates verse 2, “Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many.”)

Verses 9-16:

Verses 17-23:

**Chapter 52 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**52:1-15 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-12:

(\*Note: Verse 3 seems to carry the idea that since Babylon had taken Judah captive for nothing, God therefore did not owe the Babylonians anything when He would bring them back out of captivity. Judah had sinned against God, not against Babylon.)

1. Explain how verse 1 could be fulfilled, in light of the history of the city of Jerusalem?
2. Where is verse 5 quoted in the New Testament and how is the prophecy fulfilled?
3. In context, what are the "good tidings" referring to in verse 7. How does Paul use this same text in Romans 10?

Verses 13-15:

4. Where is verse 15 quoted in the New Testament and how is the prophecy fulfilled?

**Chapter 53 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**53:1-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-3: (*Would anyone have expected a Messiah like this?*)

1. Where is verse 1 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?
2. How would the Messiah be a "root out of dry ground?"

Verses 4-6:

3. Where are verses 5-6 quoted in the New Testament and how was the prophecy fulfilled?
4. Explain the meaning of Isaiah's words, "the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."



Verses 7-9:

4. Who was reading this passage in the New Testament and required explanation?
5. How was verse 9 fulfilled?

Verses 10-12:

6. What exactly is verse 10 teaching concerning the work of the Messiah?

**Chapter 54 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**54:1-10 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-10:

1. In verse 1, who is the "desolate" and who is the "married woman?" How does the desolate end up having more children than the married woman? Compare Galatians 4:27.
2. Who is God making a covenant with in verses 9-10 promising to never rebuke or be angry with again?

Verses 11-17: *(Notice in verse 15 that the Lord would never again assemble the nations against His people. After this, any who assembled against God's people would be without the Lord's sanction.)*

**Chapter 55 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**55:1-13 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-5:

1. In what way do we "spend money for that which is not bread?"
2. How would verse 5 be fulfilled?

Verses 6-13:

3. Make an application from verse 6:
4. Verses 8-9 are usually quoted without reference for the context. What exactly did God mean by telling Israel that "My thoughts are not your thoughts...?"

**Chapter 56 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**56:1-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-8:

1. Where is verse 7 quoted in the New Testament and explain its meaning.

Verses 9-12: *(The watchmen refer to the false prophets of Israel and Judah. Identify their sins.)*

**Chapter 57 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**57:1-13 Find the main point of this text:** *(Notice that verses 1-2 speaks of the condition of the righteous in contrast with the wicked described in verses 3-13.)*

1. Describe the sins of the people.

**57:14-21 Find the main point of this text:** *(The phrase in verse 14, "Heap it up" is translated by the NRSV as, "Build up, build up," thus calling a highway to be built by which God's people could return to Him.)*

2. Who will God dwell with?

**Chapter 58 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**58:1-9a In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-9a:

1. What is the problem that Isaiah addresses concerning the people? What applications can we make from this?

Verses 9b-14:

2. What must the people do for God to answer them? (58:9b-10a)
3. What will happen if they perform these changes? (58:10b-14)

**Chapter 59 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**59:1-21 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-8:

1. What do we learn from verses 1-2?
2. Describe the sins of the people:
3. Where is verse 7 quoted in the New Testament and what is the point of the quotation?

Verses 9-15a:

3. What is the point of this discourse?

Verses 15b-21:

4. Where do we read a similar command of verse 17 in the New Testament? What does this mean?
5. Where is verse 20 quoted in the New Testament and how does the writer say the prophecy was fulfilled?
6. Explain verse 21. What did this mean to the people of Israel?

**Chapter 60 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**60:1-22 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-9:

Verses 10-18:

1. Looking at verse 11, where do we read similar language in the New Testament? What is the meaning of the imagery?

Verses 19-22:

2. How would you describe the fulfillment of this text?

**Chapter 61 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**61:1-11 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

1. Who proclaimed these words fulfilled? In what New Testament passage do we find its fulfillment? What is the meaning of the prophecy?
2. What else was also coming with the proclamation of "the year of the Lord's favor?"
3. Describe the characteristics of the Messianic kingdom:

**Chapter 62 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**62:1-12 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-9:

Verses 10-12:

1. According to verses 10-12, what will the citizens of the Lord's kingdom be doing?

**Chapter 63 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**63:1-19** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. *(Understand Edom in this text as not only referring to the physical nation, but the symbol of all opposition to the Lord and His kingdom. Compare Revelation 19 for a similar picture.)*

Verses 1-6:

Verses 7-14:

1. What did the usage of the Holy Spirit throughout these verses mean to the Israelites?

Verses 15-19:

**Chapter 64 Theme:**

**ISAIAH**

**64:1-12** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class. *(This is a prayer offered by Isaiah on behalf of the people. Notice the main points of the three movements of the prayer and any key verses that you see.)*

1-5:

1. What does verse 3 seem to be a reminder of for the Israelites?

6-7:

2. What is being described concerning the people?

8-12:

3. What do God's people recognize at last, according to verse 8?

**65:1-25 In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.**

Verses 1-7: *(To get an idea of the kind of idolatry practiced in Jerusalem, see Ezekiel 8)*

1. Where is verse 1 quoted in the New Testament and how is the prophecy fulfilled?

Verses 8-12:

2. What is the "valley of Achor?" Do you remember your Old Testament history?
3. Notice in the margin of your Bible the meaning of "Gad" and "Meni." These were their gods. Do they sound familiar to "gods" of today?

Verses 13-16:

**REVEALING THOUGHT:**

\*\*Notice in this text that God will call His servants by another name. We already noticed in 62:2 that God will call His servants by a "new name." Remember that "name" implies a description or character. Some think this new name is the name "Christian." However, as in 62:4 and also in this context, it may be that God's people are simply known by a different character than they were during their time of sin in the Old Testament.

Verses 17-25: *(Many of the things spoken of in this paragraph are contrasts to what had happened to Israel in the past because of their sins. You will see some of this contrast by reading the curses on Israel pronounced in Deuteronomy 28.)*

4. What are the "new heavens and new earth" that Lord would create?
5. How is the prophecy fulfilled that the wolf and the lamb shall feed together?

**66:1-24** In the space below, write down those things you find important or interesting. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Verses 1-6: *(What are some of the things in this text that show how different the messiah's kingdom will be in comparison to the physical kingdom of Israel?)*

Verses 7-14:

1. Who is giving birth and what is being born in this symbolism?

Verses 15-17:

2. What is the meaning of "the Lord will come in fire?"

Verses 18-24:

3. In the new kingdom, what does the prophet say will be the main work of the God's servants?
4. What contrast do you see between spiritual Israel and physical Israel?
5. Where is verse 24 referred to in the New Testament and what did it mean in that context?