

The Coming and Going of Isaiah

Chapter 2

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #62



Objective: To introduce the life and ministry of the prophet Isaiah.



*I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?"
And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

—Isaiah 6:8

The book of Isaiah is the longest prophetic book in the Bible and is quoted more in the New Testament and gives more prophecies of the coming Messiah than any other prophet. Isaiah ministered to several kings and may have been distantly related to some of the kings. He lived during the time when Assyria, which had already taken Israel's northern ten tribes, was the ruling world power. He prophesied of the capture and return of the southern kingdom by Babylon.

Isaiah was a great preacher who ministered for nearly 60 years. He gives us one of the greatest examples in the Bible of the foretelling ministry of a prophet. He predicted that God's people would be led into captivity and that while they were in Babylon, Persia would conquer Babylon and a Persian king named Cyrus would free the captives to return to their land and rebuild the temple. His prophecy was fulfilled exactly as he had said.

The 66 chapters of Isaiah are divided into two main sections: the first 39 warn of judgment, and the last 27 bring a message of healing and comfort—just as the Bible itself is divided into 39 books of the Old Testament and 27 books of the New Testament. Like the Bible as a whole, the two sections of Isaiah make us aware of our need for a Savior and then introduce us to the Savior who would come. Chapters 49-57 tell of the coming Messiah as Savior and 58-66 foretell the second coming when Christ comes as King. Some of the favorite chapters are 5, 6, 11, 40, 53, 55, and 61.

1. True or false? Isaiah is one of the least important prophets of the Old Testament.
2. True or false? Isaiah frequently prophesied about the coming of Jesus.
3. True or false? Assyria was the worst enemy Israel had, as well as an enemy of the southern kingdom.
4. True or false? All of Isaiah's prophecies have already happened and are not relevant to us anymore.



Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. What message did God tell Isaiah to give King Hezekiah when the king was worried about an Assyrian attack?
- Surrender.
 - Make a treaty with the Assyrians.
 - Ask the Egyptians to help fight the Assyrians.
 - “God will take care of you and defeat the Assyrians Himself.”
6. How long did Isaiah prophesy?
- About 60 years
 - Ten years
 - Ten months
 - Only during the Assyrian invasion
7. Which Persian king’s name was prophesied by Isaiah long before that king came to power?
- Ezra
 - Cyrus
 - Nebuchadnezzar
 - Daniel
8. Why is the book of Isaiah sometimes called “a little Bible”? (*choose all that apply*)
- It has 66 chapters, and the Bible has 66 books.
 - The first part points out our need for a Savior, and the second part foretells the good news of salvation through Christ.
 - It is smaller and inferior to the other books of the Bible.
 - Isaiah wrote on smaller scrolls than the other prophets did.
 - It foretells the second coming of Jesus at the end of the age.

9. What experience was a turning point in Isaiah's life?
 - a. He witnessed the death of King Uzziah.
 - b. He was taken captive by Babylon.
 - c. He saw God sitting in His temple.
 - d. He got a job in the king's palace.

10. What was Isaiah's response when he saw God?
 - a. He saw his sinfulness and answered God's call.
 - b. He ran because he was afraid.
 - c. He refused to go on God's mission.
 - d. He agreed to prophesy only if God made Judah believe his prophecies.

11. What did God want most from Isaiah?
 - a. Fruitfulness
 - b. Faithfulness
 - c. A military victory
 - d. A martyr's death

12. What does Isaiah's life demonstrate for us? (*choose all that apply*)
 - a. Humble confession
 - b. Obedience to God
 - c. Commitment to the calling of God
 - d. A successful lifestyle



Has God called you? Have you confessed your sins? Think of a time when your work has seemed fruitless. In what ways does Isaiah's character and ministry encourage you? What would God say to you about your responsibility of obedience and faithfulness?



Thank God that He has revealed to us the truth about our sin and the Savior He sent us. Ask Him to help you be faithful to His will. If you are willing, tell Him you will be obedient and faithfully serve Him wherever He sends you.



Going Deeper

1. Do the first eight verses of the sixth chapter of Isaiah describe his conversion or his call to be a prophet? _____

2. Why do so very many spiritual leaders like Isaiah have deep, supernatural spiritual experiences? _____

3. How does the way the book of Isaiah is organized parallel the way the books of the Bible are organized? _____

4. Why is Isaiah considered by many to be the “Prince of the Prophets”? _____

5. Give at least four ways Isaiah exceeds all of the other prophets who wrote books of prophecy. _____

6. What is the difference between a major and a minor prophet? _____

7. Describe the impact that Isaiah had on both Hebrew and ancient history. _____
