

2019 Through the Bible Reading: *Bible Study Support*

The Book of Isaiah	
Background (Who, what, why, when)	<p>Isaiah was a Hebrew prophet who was believed to have lived about 700 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. Born in Jerusalem, he was said to have found his calling as a prophet when he saw a vision in the year of King Uzziah's death. Isaiah prophesized about the coming of the Messiah Jesus Christ.</p> <p>In the Hebrew Bible the book of Isaiah initiates a division called the Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel-major in length). Thus Isaiah occupies pride of place among the Major Prophets. This is fitting since he is sometimes referred to as the prince of the prophets. 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 b.c., the year King Uzziah died (Isaiah 6:1). He probably spent most of his life in Jerusalem, enjoying his greatest influence under King Hezekiah (see Isaiah 37:1-2). Isaiah is also credited with writing a history of the reign of King Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:22). Many scholars today support the claim that Isaiah wrote the entire book that bears his name (see Isaiah 1:1, 2:1, 13:1). The strongest argument for the unity of Isaiah is the expression "the Holy One of Israel," a title for God that occurs twelve times in chapters 1-39 and fourteen times in chapters 40-66. Outside Isaiah it appears in the Old Testament only six times.</p> <p>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 b.c.) the Assyrians swept westward into Aram (Syria) and Canaan. About 733 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. This made Judah even more vulnerable, and in 701 King Sennacherib of Assyria threatened Jerusalem itself (see Isaiah 36). The godly King Hezekiah prayed earnestly, and Isaiah predicted that God would force the Assyrians to withdraw from the city (chapter 37). Nevertheless Isaiah warned Judah that her sin would bring captivity at the hands of Babylon. The visit of the Babylonian king's envoys to Hezekiah set the stage for this prediction (see chapter 39). Although the fall of Jerusalem would not take place until 586 b.c., Isaiah assumes the destruction of Judah and proceeds 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. The decree of Cyrus would allow the Jews to return home in 538/537, a deliverance that prefigured the greater salvation from sin through Christ. Isaiah is a book that unveils the full dimensions of God's judgment and salvation. God is "the Holy One of Israel" (see 1:4; 6:1) who must punish his rebellious people but will afterward redeem them. Throughout the book, God's judgment is referred to as "fire" (see verses 1:31; 30:33). He is the "Sovereign Lord" (see verse 25:8), far above all nations and rulers (40:15-24). Yet God will have compassion on his people and will rescue them from both political and spiritual oppression. Their restoration is like a new exodus (see 43:2, 16-19; 52:10-12) as God redeems them. The Lord's kingdom on earth, with its righteous Ruler and His righteous subjects, is the goal toward which the book of Isaiah steadily moves. The restored earth and the restored people will then conform to the divine ideal, and all will</p>

	result in the praise and glory of the Holy One of Israel for what he has accomplished.
Interesting Facts in Isaiah	Isaiah is organized like the Bible, the first 39 Chapters are similar to the 39 Old Testament books while the last 27 Chapters deliver the same message as the New Testament books. Isaiah has many, many, prophecies in it that came true in the New Testament, came true in history, and are still coming true today. Isaiah contains five main themes the glory/greatness of God, the sin of all the people of the earth and judgement laid against them, Israel being scattered and reformed, the first and second coming of Christ, the Great Tribulation and the Glorious Millennium. The book of Isaiah spans the time of four Kings rule over Israel: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah. Isaiah was the only one to predict the virgin birth of Christ, as well as his dual nature being both man and God. Also predicts the suffering of the Messiah. Jesus reads out of the book of Isaiah to proclaim the Day of the Lord is now at hand. He brings the message to both Judah and Israel of condemnation as well as a message of hope and salvation through the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Jesus quote's from Isaiah, the book is known to be the third most book to be quoted from by Jesus.
Reasonable Defense for the faith in Isaiah	A recurrent theme in Isaiah is a call for justice and righteousness. Justice (also judgment in the AKJV) refers to a rule of law or retributive justice, whereas righteousness refers to being personally upright and mindful of the poor, ensuring distributive justice. The Hebrew words "justice" - and "righteousness"- often appear together in Isaiah (see 1:27, 5:7, 5:16, 9:7, 16:5, 28:17, 32:1, 32:16, 33:5, 56:1, 58:2, 59:9, 59:14), expressing both forms of justice necessary for a good society. The word "justice" appears in Isaiah more than any other book of the Bible! Isaiah also introduces the term "Day of the Lord" a time for judgment, punishment, retribution, and vengeance for the sins of mankind (2:12, 13:6, 13:9, 34:8). This theme persists throughout the prophets in the Old Testament, such as Jeremiah 46:10, Ezekiel 13:5, Joel 1:15, Amos 5:18, Zephaniah 1:7, and Zechariah 14:1. The expression carries over to the New Testament (Acts 2:20, First Thessalonians 5:2, Second Peter 10) and appears to be related to the Parousia, the second coming of the Lord. The Book contains two of the most famous prophecies in Hebrew Scripture, that of the Virgin birth of the Messiah (7:14) and the Servant who suffered and died for our sins (Isaiah 52:13-53:12), identified in the New Testament with Jesus Christ (Luke 24:26, 24:46).
Memory Verses	<i>"Then 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!'"</i> Isaiah 6:8 (NKJV)
Practical Application to memory verse	As we read this scripture, the kingdom mindset of Christ was Here I am Send me. As we grow in this next year, The pursuit of God's heart, our attitude should be; "Here I am, send me." As Christ came to serve and lay his life down, we should also be willing to do the same. The Great Commission is developing disciple to be sent out for the advancement of the Gospel.
Life Application from Biblical Themes in Isaiah	The biblical theme of this book is justice and how God was going to redeem humanity through the promised Messiah. Israel was following their hearts and not pursuing God's will for their lives, due to their disobedience hearts. So God uses the prophet to speak to His people. The book has 66 Chapters and our broken down as the following: the first 39 chapters refer to the Old Testament and what they were dealing with at that time rebellion, disobedience, idolatry, and exile, and Isaiah was communicating justice. The last 27 chapters deal with the ultimate Kingsman Redeemer, Who will pay for all sin in the world and gives us a birds-eye view to what to expect in the future, referring to the apocalypse and second coming of Christ.