

Isaiah

Breakdown

- The book of Isaiah takes its name from its writer, the prophet Isaiah. Even Isaiah's name is prophetic since it means "The Lord is salvation".
- Isaiah was born around 750 B.C., and he prophesied from 739–681 B.C. under the reign of four different kings of Judah (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah).
- According to Jewish tradition, Isaiah was "sawed in half" (Hebrews 11:37) during the reign of the evil King Manasseh. For that reason, he is often represented in art holding a saw.

Main Points

- Isaiah lived at the time of a turning point in the history of God's chosen people. Israel had been turning their backs on God for centuries. Isaiah foretold some pretty harsh things for Israel, but he also proclaimed good news that God would deliver His people, establish His kingdom, renew all creation, and restore His people to Himself. Through Isaiah we see that God is very great, and yet His mercy is just as great.
- This redemption would be accomplished through a servant, who would suffer in the place of sinners that they might be forgiven and restored to God. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has begun to fulfill the promises of Isaiah, and we await the day when He returns to gather the redeemed to worship God in a new creation forever.

Did you know?

- Apparently, Isaiah was a priest as well as a prophet since his calling from God took place in the temple in an area reserved for priests. How did God call Isaiah?
- Isaiah describes the early days of Lucifer before he fell, and he even reveals the cause of his fall. Why did Satan fall?
- God instructed Isaiah to remove his clothes and shoes and to walk naked for 3 years as a sign to the people. What did this sign represent?
- Isaiah records one of the most remarkable and precise prophecies about an individual. Isaiah spoke of this foreign king and his decree 150 years before his birth. Who was he?
- One of the most famous verses in the Bible was written by Isaiah. What does Isaiah say will happen to anyone who waits and trusts on the Lord?
- Almost one third of the book of Isaiah contains prophecies about Jesus: His birth, His ministry, His death, and His return. What does Isaiah say about each of these?

Further Thought

- Isaiah believed Israel had an appearance of righteousness that wasn't real. He challenged them to obey God with all of their hearts, not just on the outside. What does that tell us?
- Isaiah talks a lot about fear throughout the book. He tells us that faith in God conquers fear of all else. How can we apply that truth in our daily lives?
- Isaiah prophesied about the suffering Jesus would endure as our substitute. That suffering brings healing for us. What can we do to receive the healing Jesus provided?
- Isaiah teaches us that worship and right living are inseparable. How can we live that way?