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A Scenic Overlook

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Isaiah

Introduction

It has been said that the book of Isaiah is a bible within the Bible. This great literary and prophetic work contains 66 chapters like unto the 66 books of the Bible. The first 39 chapters speak of God's law and justice. The last 27 chapters provide a message of hope and comfort. The first 39 chapters parallel the 39 Old Testament books in recounting key events in the history of Israel. The last 27 chapters are filled with Messianic truth like unto the teaching of the New Testament.

Isaiah has been called the "prince of the prophets." His mastery of the Hebrew language and writing style cause his message to stand out among the prophets. Isaiah is one of the four major prophets. The term, *major*, is used more in the sense of the length of Isaiah's writing rather than in relation to the power of his message. Isaiah presents the two parallel truths relative to God's nature and vital for our understanding today: (1) God is holy and (2) God is gracious. A balanced understanding of these two truths is important for our daily walk with God.

Historical Background (see other side)

We need to be reminded again of the chronological order of the prophets as opposed to the sequential order in which the prophets appear in the Bible. The prophetic writings are linked to the time of the Divided Kingdom. The prophets' messages and ministries correspond to the latter part of 1 Kings, 2 Kings and Chronicles.

General Outline

- I. Prophetic (1-36)—Condemnation/Assyria
- II. Historic (37-39)—Confiscation/Assyria & Babylon
 - A. Backward Look/Assyria (36-37)
 - B. Forward Look/Babylon (38-39)
- III. Messianic (40-66)—Consolation
 - A. The Deliverance (40-48)
 - B. The Deliverer (49-57)
 - C. The Delivered (58-66)

Prophetic Parallels

Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23
Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:12-16
Isaiah 9:6	Luke 2:11; Ephesians 2:14-16
Isaiah 11:1	Luke 3:23, 32
Isaiah 40:3-5	Matthew 3:1-3
Isaiah 53:3	John 1:1; Luke 23:18
Isaiah 53:4-5	Romans 5:6, 8
Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12-14; John 1:29; 1 Peter 1:18-19

My Favorite Passages

1. **Isaiah 1:18-19**—God invites us to come to Him for cleansing. *Just as I Am*
2. **Isaiah 6:1-8**—God is holy. The closer we get to Him, the closer this truth becomes. *Holy, Holy, Holy*
3. **Isaiah 7:14**—Jesus is the Promised Messiah.
4. **Isaiah 9:6**—Jesus is the (child) substitute and the (son) sacrifice for our sins.
5. **Isaiah 26:3**—Peace in life has much to do with perspective.
6. **Isaiah 40:8**—God's Word is timeless in context and truth in all of its contents.
7. **Isaiah 40:28-31**—Waiting on God replaces our weakness with His strength.
8. **Isaiah 41:10**—God is my sufficiency.
9. **Isaiah 48:22**—Life without God equals life without peace.
10. **Isaiah 53:1-12**—*Jesus paid it all; all to Him I owe. Sin had left a crimson stain; He washed it white as snow.*
11. **Isaiah 55:6-9**—God is gracious and God is great.
12. **Isaiah 66:22-23**—*We Shall Behold Him*

