

**People of the Promise:  
Isaiah: Evangelist of the OT  
Isaiah**

## **Introduction**

Isaiah—Salvation of Yahweh; the name looks like the Hebrew verb to save with the shortened form of Yahweh on the end. Yashangya. Similar to Joshua's name (Greek form, Jesus), only the shortened form of Yahweh is at the front of the word.

The prophet Isaiah started his ministry "in the year the King Uzziah died," served through the reigns of Jotham (good king, 16 years), Ahaz (bad king, 16 years), and Hezekiah (good king, 29 years). Historical tradition says that he was martyred by Hezekiah's son, the wicked king Manasseh—sawn in two (Hebrews 11).

Earlier, Elijah and Elisha had served in the Northern Kingdom under idolatrous kings. During Isaiah's lifetime Assyria conquered the north (722 B.C.) and took Israel captive. It was God's judgment on their perpetual idolatry. The Southern Kingdom lasted over a century longer, taken into Babylonian captivity in three successive waves between 605 and 585 B.C. Also God's judgment on idolatry. Jeremiah would be ministering during that critical time.

So Isaiah prophesies at a time of clear and present danger to a nation heading toward disaster, but not there yet.

From the Isaiah series of 2016:

It was now a country sliding into the very crimes against humanity that doomed the civilization before, still blessed, still wealthy, but with festering corruption and hence a growing uneasiness that disaster lurked on the horizon, powerful nearby nations, super powers of the ancient world, threatening not just their sovereignty, but their very survival.

. . . .

Into the middle of such a people at such a time appeared a man, possibly of royal blood, but more importantly chosen by God to bring a message of warning and hope to a nation sliding toward the brink of doom. His name means "the salvation of Yahweh," standing mid-way between the great prophet-leader Moses and the promised Messiah Jesus Christ, he was the greatest of the OT prophets and the evangelist of the OT, his prophetic addresses start with Jerusalem and then radiating to the entire earth. He speaks not just of sin and judgment but of a coming Savior and universal King that will not only restore the fortunes of Israel beyond anything they enjoyed before, but will draw to Himself

all the nations of the world to be rescued from the plague of their souls and the doom of the race.

The Man and His Message

## **The Man (Isaiah 6)**

### **Sanctified (Isaiah 6:1-7)**

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple.

<sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

<sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" <sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup> And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

<sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup> And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for."

*Before we can ever minister to other people we have to see God for who He really is and see ourselves for who we really are.*

### **Sent (Isaiah 6:8-10)**

<sup>8</sup> And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." <sup>9</sup> And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' <sup>10</sup> Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

To wicked king Ahaz (Isaiah 7)—"Don't fear the invader, trust Yahweh."

To righteous king Hezekiah (Isaiah 36-39)—"Yahweh will deliver you—from the Assyrians and from terminal illness."

### His Message

Alec Motyer: Messianic portrait of  
The King (1-37)

The Servant (38-55)

The Anointed Conqueror (56-66)

1. A Sinful People (Isaiah 1)
2. A Holy Judge (Isaiah 2-3)

3. A Coming Messiah (Isaiah 4)
4. A Sovereign Lord (Isaiah 40-45)
5. A Mighty Savior (Isaiah 40-45)
6. A Certain Hope (Isaiah 60-66)
7. A Worldwide Invitation (Isaiah 55)

## **1. A Sinful People (Isaiah 1)**

Isaiah 1:4-6

- <sup>4</sup> Ah, sinful nation,  
a people laden with iniquity,  
offspring of evildoers,  
children who deal corruptly!  
They have forsaken the LORD,  
they have despised the Holy One of Israel,  
they are utterly estranged.
- <sup>5</sup> Why will you still be struck down?  
Why will you continue to rebel?  
The whole head is sick,  
and the whole heart faint.
- <sup>6</sup> From the sole of the foot even to the head,  
there is no soundness in it,  
but bruises and sores  
and raw wounds;  
they are not pressed out or bound up  
or softened with oil.

## **2. A Holy Judge (Isaiah 2-3)**

Isaiah 2:10-12

- <sup>10</sup> Enter into the rock  
and hide in the dust  
from before the terror of the LORD,

and from the splendor of his majesty.  
**11** The haughty looks of man shall be brought low,  
and the lofty pride of men shall be humbled,  
and the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.  
**12** For the LORD of hosts has a day  
against all that is proud and lofty,  
against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;

### **3. A Coming Messiah (Isaiah 4)**

Isaiah 4:2-6

**2** In that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and honor of the survivors of Israel. **3** And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, everyone who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, **4** when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. **5** Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy. **6** There will be a booth for shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,

and his name shall be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace

there will be no end,

on the throne of David and over his kingdom,

to establish it and to uphold it

with justice and with righteousness

from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 11:1-5

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him,

the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the Spirit of counsel and might,

the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

<sup>3</sup> And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge the  
poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the  
earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of  
his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill  
the wicked.  
<sup>5</sup> Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

#### **4. A Sovereign Lord (Isaiah 40-45)**

Isaiah 40:12-15

<sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow  
of his hand  
and marked off the heavens with a span,  
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure  
and weighed the mountains in scales  
and the hills in a balance?  
<sup>13</sup> Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,  
or what man shows him his counsel?  
<sup>14</sup> Whom did he consult,  
and who made him understand?  
Who taught him the path of justice,  
and taught him knowledge,  
and showed him the way of understanding?  
<sup>15</sup> Behold, the nations are like a drop from a  
bucket,  
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;



behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.

## **5. A Mighty Savior (Isaiah 40-45, 53)**

Isaiah 45:22-25

<sup>22</sup> "Turn to me and be saved,  
all the ends of the earth!  
For I am God, and there is no other.

<sup>23</sup> By myself I have sworn;  
from my mouth has gone out  
in righteousness

a word that shall not return:  
'To me every knee shall bow,  
every tongue shall swear allegiance.'

<sup>24</sup> "Only in the LORD, it shall be said of me,  
are righteousness and strength;  
to him shall come and be ashamed  
all who were incensed against him.

<sup>25</sup> In the LORD all the offspring of Israel  
shall be justified and shall glory."

Isaiah 53:4-6

<sup>4</sup> Surely he has borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows;  
yet we esteemed him stricken,  
smitten by God, and afflicted.

<sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought  
us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed.

<sup>6</sup> All we like sheep have gone astray;

we have turned—every one—to his own way;  
and the LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

## **6. A Certain Hope (Isaiah 60-66)**

Isaiah 60:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon  
you.

<sup>2</sup> For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

Isaiah 61:1-3

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,  
because the LORD has anointed me  
to bring good news to the poor;  
he has sent me to bind up the  
brokenhearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and the opening of the prison to those who  
are bound;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup> to grant to those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a beautiful headdress instead  
of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the garment of praise instead of a faint

spirit;  
that they may be called oaks of  
righteousness,  
the planting of the LORD, that he may be  
glorified.

Isaiah 65:17-19

**17** "For behold, I create new heavens  
and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be  
remembered  
or come into mind.

**18** But be glad and rejoice forever  
in that which I create;  
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.

**19** I will rejoice in Jerusalem  
and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of  
weeping  
and the cry of distress.

## **7. A Worldwide Invitation (Isaiah 55)**

Isaiah 55:1, 6-7

**1** "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the  
waters; and he who has no money, come,  
buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.

**6** "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call  
upon him while he is near; **7** let the wicked  
forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his  
thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he

may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

## **Conclusion**

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2. Sent

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