

Book 23: Isaiah **“The Fifth Gospel”**

- Isaiah is the first of the *prophetic* books.
- A *prophecy* is a message from God.
- A *prophet*, then, is one who speaks for God or on God’s behalf, who speaks to others in His name.

- The ministry of the prophets was a mix of *proclamation* and *prediction*.
- They usually spoke **to a present situation**, but then spoke **about future events** as a part of their divinely inspired message.

- This predictive element has become the main focus of the study of Bible prophecy.
- For example, Isaiah contains more references to the coming Savior than any other Old Testament book.

- The Old Testament has over 300 prophecies about the first coming of Christ, and Isaiah contributes many of them.
- The odds that even 10 of them could be fulfilled by one person is a statistical marvel.
- The odds against even 10 detailed predictions being fulfilled by one person are astronomical.

- In many cases these predictions involve details that could never be falsified in their fulfillment.
- We’ll look at just a few of these in this brief study.

- After living most of his life in Jerusalem, tradition says that Isaiah was martyred during the reign of Manasseh (696-642 B.C.).
- He was reportedly sawn in two inside a hollow log.
 - Hebrews 11:37 may refer to him.

Isaiah: A Few Facts

- Isaiah is a picture of the Bible in miniature form. It contains 66 chapters and is divided into two main sections of 39 and 27 chapters each.
- Compare this with the 66 books of the Bible: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament.

- Isaiah's name in Hebrew means "salvation of Yahweh" and he speaks of salvation repeatedly in his book.
- Isaiah uses a special name for God: **The Holy One of Israel.**
 - This book uses that title 25 times, while it only appears 5 more times anywhere else in the Bible.
- One of Isaiah's sons has the longest name in the Bible: **Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz**, meaning "quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil."
- Isaiah is the Old Testament prophet that is quoted the most in the New Testament.
- The New Testament mentions his name some 21 times.
- New Testament authors quote or point to Isaiah 53, a chapter about Jesus, about 85 times.
- Isaiah uses the phrases "the Day of the Lord" or "in that day" a total of 49 times put together.
- These phrases speak of a time in which God is at work and prophecy is being fulfilled.
- They often speak of a future period of catastrophic judgment.

Isaiah: What Others Say

Isaiah is thought to have been the son of a prince of Judah. He certainly did not feel uncomfortable in the presence of kings, and the richness of his vocabulary suggests that he was a man of culture and education.

– Tim LaHaye, *Prophecy Study Bible*

Of all the Old Testament prophets Isaiah is the most comprehensive in range. No prophet is more fully occupied with the redemptive work of Christ. In no other place, in the Scriptures written under the law, is there so clear a view of grace.

– C.I. Scofield, *Scofield Study Bible*

Isaiah: Key Passages

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| • Christ's Birth | 7:14, 9:6-7 |
| • Christ's Ministry | 9:1-2, 42:1-7, 61:1-3 |
| • Christ's Death | 52:13 – 53:12 |
| • His Future Reign in the Coming Kingdom Age | 2:1-4, 11:1-10, 65:17-25 |