

# An Outline of the Prophecy of Isaiah

## I) **PART ONE: THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD: CONFLICT AND VICTORY (1 - 39)**

### A) **Discourses and Prophecies Centering in Jerusalem and Judah (1 -12)**

- 1) *Isaiah's personal introduction to his book (1)*
  - a) The sin-sick and rebellious nation (1-9)
  - b) Corruption hiding behind hypocritical worship (10-15)
  - c) God's call to reformation of life (16-20)
  - d) The lament over Jerusalem (21-23)
  - e) Redemption through purging (24-31)
- 2) *Jerusalem: the ideal and the real (2)*
  - a) Jerusalem the ideal (1-4)
  - b) Corruption: The people have forsaken Jehovah (5-11)
  - c) Judgment: A day of Jehovah (12-22)
- 3) *Political and social confusion (3-4)*
  - a) The wages of sin! (3:1-12)
  - b) Judgment of the rulers (3:13-15)
  - c) Indictment of vain and worldly women (3:16-26)
  - d) Jerusalem the redeemed (4:1)
  - e) The branch of Jehovah (4:2)
  - f) The escaped of Israel—the remnant (4:3-4)
  - g) Protection and guidance for the New Zion (4:5-6)
- 4) *The vineyard and its fruits (5)*
  - a) The song of the Beloved and his vineyard (1-7)
  - b) Woe to greedy land-barons (8-10)
  - c) Woe to heavy drinkers (11-17)
  - d) Woe to them who are enslaved to sin (18-19)

- e) Woe to those who confuse moral distinctions (20)
  - f) Woe to the self-deceived (21)
  - g) Woe to the perverters of justice (22-23)
  - h) Terrifying judgment (24-30)
- 5) *The vision and call of Isaiah (6)*
    - a) Isaiah's vision of the land (1-5)
    - b) The consecration of the prophet (6-7)
    - c) The prophet's commission from Jehovah (8-13)
  - 6) *The Syro-Ephraimitic uprising (7)*
    - a) The Syria-Israel confederacy (1-2)
    - b) Confrontation between belief and unbelief (3-9)
    - c) The sign of Immanuel (10-17)
    - d) The devastation from Assyria (18-25)
  - 7) *Assyria: the overwhelming flood (8)*
    - a) The sign: Maher-shalal-hash-baz (1-4)
    - b) The overwhelming flood: Assyria (5-8)
    - c) Only Jehovah shall be your fear (9-15)
    - d) Bind up the testimony (16-18)
    - e) To the law and the testimony (19-22)
  - 8) *The dawning light (9)*
    - a) Light shines in darkness (1-3)
    - b) The basis of this joy (4-7)
    - c) The arrogance of Ephraim (8-12)
    - d) Israel to be cut off, head and tail (13-17)
    - e) The devouring fire: wickedness and civil war (18-21)
  - 9) *The use and doom of Assyria (10)*
    - a) Visitation and desolation (1-4)
    - b) Assyria: Jehovah's rod (5-11)

- c) The Assyrian's boast and Jehovah's response (12-19)
  - d) A remnant shall return (Shear-jashub) (20-23)
  - e) Be not afraid! Though on his way, the Assyrian shall be brought low (24-34)
- 10) *The King, His subjects, and the remnant* (11)
- a) The Shoot of Jesse (1-5)
  - b) The character of the citizens (6-10)
  - c) The remnant (11-16)
- 11) *Rejoicing and thanksgiving of the remnant* (12)
- B) Oracles of Judgment Against Individual Nations (13-23)**
- 1) *The oracle against Babylon* (13)
- a) The call to arms (1-5)
  - b) The terror of the day of Jehovah (6-16)
  - c) The completeness of the destruction (17-22)
- 2) *A taunting song over the fall of the tyrant* (14:1-27); *the burden of Philistia* (14:28-32)
- a) Compassion on Jacob (1-2)
  - b) The taunting song against Babylon (3-11)
  - c) The fall of the mighty (12-20)
  - d) It is the vengeance of Jehovah (21-27)
  - e) The oracle against Philistia (28-32)
- 3) *The burden of Moab—1* (15)
- a) Crying, weeping, and trembling over desolation (1-4)
  - b) The prophet's lament (5-9)
- 4) *The burden of Moab—2* (16)
- a) Moab's hope (1-5)
  - b) Moab's rejection of this hope (6-12)
  - c) The fixed time of the visitation on Moab (13-14)
- 5) *The burden of Damascus* (17)
- a) The judgment against Damascus (1-3)
  - b) The leanness of Jacob (4-11)
  - c) The destruction of the invader (12-14)
- 6) *Ethiopia* (18)
- a) The ambassadors and the prophet's word to them (1-3)
  - b) Jehovah is in control (4-6)
  - c) Ethiopia's homage to the Lord (7)
- 7) *An oracle concerning Egypt* (19)
- a) Threats (1-4)
  - b) Natural and economic disaster (5-10)
  - c) Foolish counsel (11-15)
  - d) No spirit—only fear and terror (16-17)
  - e) Promises (18-25)
    - 1) The transition from threats to promises (18)
    - 2) Jehovah to be known to Egypt (19-22)
    - 3) Universal worship of Jehovah (23-25)
- 8) *Egypt and Ethiopia: the trust that failed* (20)
- 9) *Babylon, Dumah, and Arabia* (21)
- a) Babylon, the wilderness of the sea (1-10)
    - 1) The hard vision (1-5)
    - 2) The watchman and his mission (6-10)
  - b) The burden of Edom (11-12)
  - c) The burden upon Arabia (13-17)
- 10) *The valley of vision: Jerusalem* (22)
- a) Rebuke of the people's spirit of frivolity (1-14)
  - b) The failure of the stewards (15-25)
- 11) *The burden of Tyre* (23)
- a) The judgment of Tyre and the effect of her fall (1-7)
  - b) Jehovah, the executioner of the judgment (8-12)
  - c) The fate of Phoenicia: Though cast down, Tyre's prosperity shall be restored (13-18)

**c) World Judgment and Deliverance of God's People (24-27)**

- 1) *A world judgment (24)*
  - a) Desolation of the earth and the world city (1-13)
  - b) Premature rejoicing and more judgments (14-23)
- 2) *Hymns of thanksgiving for the divine mercy (25)*
  - a) A hymn of thanksgiving for victory over the terrible ones (1-5)
  - b) Jehovah's feast for the nations (6-8)
  - c) The joy of those who wait and the destruction of the proud (9-12)
- 3) *Glory to God for His righteous deeds! (26)*
  - a) Praise for the strong city (1-6)
  - b) The effects of Jehovah's judgments (7-10)
  - c) The Lord Jehovah versus "other lords" (11-15)
  - d) From failure to victory (16-19)
  - e) Wait for Jehovah (20-21)
- 4) *The overthrow of world power and ingathering of Israel (27)*
  - a) The new vineyard (1-6)
  - b) Expiation and desolation (7-11)
  - c) The ingathering of the outcasts (12-13)

**D) Jerusalem-Zion: Warnings and Promises (28-35)**

- 1) *Drunkards—and the Stone in Zion (28)*
  - a) Woe to the drunkards of Ephraim (1-6)
  - b) Woe to the drunken rulers in Judah (7-13)
  - c) The rulers' covenant with death and Jehovah's foundation stone in Zion (14-22)
  - d) A parable from agriculture (23-29)
- 2) *Woe to Ariel—and to those who hide their counsel from God (29)*
  - a) Woe to Ariel (1-14)

- b) Woe to those who hide their plans from God (15-24)

- 3) *Woe to the pro-Egyptian policy (30)*
  - a) Any alliance with Egypt is bound to fail (1-17)
  - b) Prosperity through God's grace (Messianic) (18-26)
  - c) Jehovah's vengeance on Assyria (27-33)
- 4) *Woe to them that go down to Egypt (31)*
  - a) God is also wise (1-3)
  - b) God's providence: fierce yet compassionate (4-5)
  - c) Call to repentance (6-7)
  - d) Destruction of Assyria (8-9)
- 5) *The new order; warning, judgment, and blessedness (32)*
  - a) The new order (1-8)
    - 1) The righteous King and spiritual illumination (1-4)
    - 2) Moral distinctions are now clear (5-8)
  - b) Warning, judgment, and blessedness (9-20)
    - 1) Warning to careless women (9-12)
    - 2) The judgment to come (13-15)
    - 3) Rest and quietness at last (16-20)
- 6) *The defeat of Assyria and victory of Jerusalem (33)*
  - a) Woe to the destroyer (1-6)
  - b) The broken covenant and the devouring fire (7-16)
  - c) The glory of Israel's King and Jerusalem-Zion (17-24)
- 7) *Judgments of the nations and Edom (34)*
  - a) Judgment of the nations (1-4)
  - b) Judgment against Edom—a sacrifice (5-7)
  - c) The judgment: total desolation (8-15)
  - d) The certainty of the devastation (16-17)

8) *The way of holiness* (35)

- a) The New Song (1-4)
- b) Cause for the rejoicing (5-7)
- c) The highway (8-10)

E) **Historical Link (36-39)**

1) *The threat to Jerusalem* (36)

- a) The emissaries sent by Sennacherib (1-3)
- b) Rabshakeh's defiant speech (4-10)
- c) The Jews' request (11-12)
- d) Rabshakeh's second speech (13-20)
- e) The report to Hezekiah (21-22)

2) *Victory through faith* (37)

- a) Desperation, and an appeal to Isaiah (1-7)
- b) Sennacherib's renewed effort to persuade Hezekiah (8-13)
- c) Hezekiah's prayer before Jehovah (14-20)
- d) Jehovah's response—and answer to Sennacherib (21-29)
- e) A message of assurance to Hezekiah (30-35)
- f) It is done (36-38)

3) *Hezekiah's sickness and recovery* (38)

- a) Hezekiah's sickness and prayer (1-8)
- b) Hezekiah's psalm of lamentation and thanksgiving (9-20)
- c) Hezekiah's healing (21-22)

4) *Not Assyria, but Babylon* (39)

- a) Prophet versus king (1-4)
- b) The word of doom (5-8)

II) **PART TWO: HOPE FOR TROUBLOUS TIMES (40-66)**

A) **Introduction (40)**

1) *A prologue* (1-11)

- a) Comfort: pardon through grace (1-2)
- b) Make preparation (3-5)

c) The enduring word (6-8)

d) Declare the tidings (9-11)

2) *The incomparable greatness of Jehovah* (12-31)

- a) Jehovah and creation (12-14)
- b) Jehovah and the nations (15-17)
- c) Jehovah and the idols (18-21)
- d) Jehovah and the princes of the earth (22-25)
- e) Jehovah and the glorious assurance (26-31)

B) **The contest between Jehovah and the Idols (41-48)**

1) *Jehovah's confrontation with the idols* (41)

- a) Jehovah addresses the nations (1-7)
- b) Jehovah addresses Israel: What He will do (8-20)
- c) Jehovah challenges the idols: What can you do? (21-29)

2) *Jehovah's Servant and Israel's punishment* (42)

- a) Jehovah's Servant (1-9)
- b) A new song of praise to Jehovah (10-17)
- c) Israel, Jehovah's blind and deaf servant, to be punished (18-25)

3) *"Ye are my witnesses ... Besides Me there is no Saviour"* (43)

- a) A renewed promise to Israel of deliverance and protection (1-7)
- b) A fresh challenge to Israel and the nations (8-13)
- c) Jehovah's power to remove obstacles in redeeming his people (14-21)

d) Israel's indifference—Jehovah's grace (22-28)

4) *The folly of idolatry* (44)

- a) Israel's blessings in spite of the curse (1-5)
- b) Israel's King—the only God (6-8)

- c) The shame and folly of idolatry (9-20)
- d) Pardon and praise (21-23)
- e) Cyrus the deliverer is named (24-28)
- 5) *“Unto Me every knee shall bow”* (45)
  - a) Jehovah addresses Cyrus: his mission (1-7)
  - b) Heaven’s cooperation invoked (8)
  - c) Jehovah’s response to Israel’s complaint (9-13)
  - d) The effect of Israel’s redemption upon the Gentiles (14-17)
  - e) Jehovah’s purpose in creation (18-29)
- 6) *Jehovah and the gods of Babylon* (46)
  - a) The shame of Babylon’s gods (1-2)
  - b) The glory of Israel’s God (3-11)
  - c) Salvation is drawing near (12-13)
- 7) *Jehovah’s judgment pronounced on Babylon* (47)
  - a) The humiliation of Babylon (1-7)
  - b) Babylon’s blasphemous claims and their consequences (8-11)
  - c) The failure of Babylon’s occult arts (12-15)
- 8) *Assurance of deliverance* (48)
  - a) Rebuke of Israel’s hypocrisy and stubbornness (1-11)
  - b) Jehovah’s faithfulness (12-16)
  - c) What might have been and what will be (17-22)
- c) **The Servant and the Glory of Zion (49-57)**
  - 1) *The Servant and despondent Zion* (49)
    - a) Endowments for his work (1-4)
    - b) The enlarged mission (5-7)
    - c) Salvation and succor (8-13)
    - d) Zion’s complaint and amazement (14-21)
    - e) Jehovah’s assurance to Zion (22-26)
  - 2) *The Servant as a suffering prophet—a soliloquy* (50)
    - a) Rebuke to the exiles for thinking themselves rejected (1-3)
    - b) The Servant’s soliloquy (4-9)
    - c) Light for believers, sorrow for unbelievers (10-11)
  - 3) *Encouragement for Prostrate Zion—1* (51)
    - a) Hearken! An exhortation to the faithful (1-8)
    - b) An appeal to Jehovah and his reply (9-16)
    - c) Jerusalem, Awake! Standup! —Her tragic plight (17-20)
    - d) Jehovah’s gracious promise (21-23)
  - 4) *Encouragement for prostrate Zion—2* (52:1-12)
    - a) Awake, Jerusalem! Put on your beautiful garments (1-6)
    - b) The herald of good news, and an exhortation (7-12)
  - 5) *Victory through vicarious suffering* (52:13-53:12)
    - a) Exaltation of the Servant (52:13-15)
    - b) Acquaintance with grief (53:1-3)
    - c) Ill treatment: the Servant’s vicarious suffering (53:4-6)
    - d) Total submission of the Servant (53:7-9)
    - e) Victory and reward (53:10-12)
  - 6) *The future splendor of Zion* (54)
    - a) The joy and enlargement of Zion (1-8)
    - b) “As the waters of Noah” (9-10)
    - c) Jerusalem’s glory and permanence in the Messianic age (11-17)
  - 7) *The great invitation: free mercy for all* (55)
    - a) Come and partake without price (1-5)
    - b) “Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found” (6-13)

- 8) *Consolation for the rejected: a rebuke of the blind watchman* (56)
- a) Consolation for foreigners and eunuchs (1-8)
  - b) A rebuke of the blind watchmen (9-12)
- 9) *A rebuke of the wickedness of Isaiah's day* (57)
- a) "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (1-2)
  - b) Idolatry and faithlessness severely rebuked (3-13)
  - c) The condescending love of God (14-21)
- D) National sins, redemption by Jehovah, and future glory (58-66)**
- 1) *Right and wrong observances of fasts and Sabbaths* (58)
- a) Cry out! Spare not! (1-2)
  - b) Hypocritical formalism versus true fasting (3-12)
  - c) Proper observance of the Sabbath (13-14)
- 2) *Sin: The wall of separation* (59)
- a) Jehovah's change against the people (1-8)
  - b) The prophet's reply: A confession of wickedness (9-15a)
  - c) Jehovah's response: Vengeance and deliverance (15b-21)
- 3) *Glorious Zion—1* (60)
- a) Made glorious through the light of Jehovah's presence (1-3)
  - b) Made glorious through the return of her children (4-9)
  - c) Made glorious through offerings (10-14)
  - d) Made glorious through her eternal excellency (15-18)
  - e) Made glorious through Jehovah's everlasting light (19-22)
- 4) *Glorious Zion—2* (61)
- a) The herald of good tidings (1-3)
  - b) The mission and blessing of the redeemed (4-9)
  - c) Zion's burst of praise (10-11)
- 5) *Salvation is drawing near* (62)
- a) The new name and glory of Zion (1-5)
  - b) Jehovah's protection and provision for Zion (6-9)
  - c) Salvation of the Daughter of Zion (10-12)
- 6) *Vengeance, mercy, and a prayer* (63)
- a) Jehovah's vengeance on His enemies (1-6)
  - b) Jehovah's enduring love for His people (7-9)
  - c) The people's response: Rebellion (10-14)
  - d) An impassioned prayer for mercy and help (15-19)
- 7) *A fervent prayer* (64)
- a) Prayer for Jehovah's presence and action (1-7)
  - b) A renewed cry for mercy (8-12)
- 8) *Jehovah's response to the prayer* (65)
- a) Destruction of the apostates: a just recompense (1-7)
  - b) Salvation of a remnant—destruction of the faithless (8-12)
  - c) Blessings and judgment (13-16)
  - d) The new heavens and the new earth (17-25)
- 9) *Jehovah's judgments—Zion's rejoicing* (66)
- a) Jehovah's greatness and the abomination of idolatry (1-6)
  - b) Blessings in the New Zion (7-14)
  - c) Indignation against the idolaters (15-17)
  - d) Jehovah's glory proclaimed to the world and the response (18-24)