

Bible Study Notes and Questions on the Book of Isaiah

Introduction: Isaiah, son of Amoz, a great writing prophet, has written this important book that heads up “The Prophets” section of the Bible. The name, Isaiah, means “*The Lord saves*”; “*Salvation of the LORD*”; “*God saves*”; “*Salvation of Jehovah*”. He was a contemporary of the prophets Amos, Hosea and Micah.

The view from some theologians is that Isaiah’s ministry started in 740 B.C, the year king Uzziah died. However this writer takes the view that Isaiah had already begun his ministry during the reign of Uzziah, king of Judah, having had a revelation of God. Isaiah may have gone to the temple to seek the Lord in what he must do after king Uzziah had died. Whilst in the temple, Isaiah had a revelation from God regarding his ministry to bring God’s word to his people, Israel, (**Isaiah 6:1-13**) which he did through the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (**Isaiah 1:1**).

Bear in mind Judah was the southern kingdom of Israel with the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. The northern kingdom of Israel had the other ten tribes. The northern kingdom of Israel was completely taken over by the kingdom of Assyria in about 722 B.C. Many of the Jews were forced into exile. Assyria had been successful in taking over much of Judah but because of King Hezekiah’s faithfulness to the Lord the attempt to take over Jerusalem failed in about 701BC.

Although not recorded as fact, Jewish tradition has said that Isaiah was sawn in half during the reign of king Manasseh, son of Hezekiah, king of Judah in about 681 B.C (compare **Hebrews 11:37**).

Isaiah had a wife who was a prophetess that gave birth to two sons, namely Maher-shalal-hash-baz (**Isaiah 8:3-4**) meaning, “*haste the booty, speed the spoil*”, the other being Shear-jashub (**Isaiah 7:3**) meaning, “*a remnant will return*”. Both names were prophetic showing the destruction of Jerusalem being looted by her enemies but then showing a future for Israel in a remnant that will return.

There is a possible reason why Isaiah was so influential in the court of the kings of Judah. Amoz, Isaiah’s father has been known by tradition to be the brother of king Amaziah of Judah. One commentary has taken the view that Amoz was the brother of King Uzziah. Therefore Isaiah would have been related to the royal family being a cousin or nephew of Uzziah, king of Judah, son of Amaziah. He may well have known a great deal of his uncle/cousin’s life in what he had done as the king of Judah. Isaiah was given credit in scripture for writing about Uzziah’s reign (**2Chronicles 26:22**). His influence seemed to be well known in the time of Hezekiah, king of Judah: (a) during his illness (**2Kings 20:1-11; Isaiah 38:1-22**) (b) the visit of the ambassadors of princes from Babylon (**2Kings 20:12-19; 2Chronicles 32:31; Isaiah 39:1-8**) and (c) in the deliverance from impending defeat by Sennacherib, king of Assyria (**2Kings 19:20-36; 2Chronicles 32:20-22; Isaiah 37:21-37**). Isaiah had written about the acts of Hezekiah (**2Chronicles 32:32**).

It is the author’s view that in understanding prophecy a literal interpretation where possible helps to know what God is saying. It is for this reason the author believes the prophecies in Isaiah apply literally to the nation of Israel and not to the Church of Jesus of Christ. As a result it seems clear that some of the prophecies are yet to be fulfilled for Israel as a nation. The author believes that God will raise up Israel to bless the whole earth during a millennium (1000 years) to come (**Revelation 20:1-6**) when Jesus Christ will have returned to rule from Jerusalem in a visible Messianic millennial kingdom on this present earth. The author is aware that not all Christians hold to this view of prophecy. Space does not permit looking at the other views held such as a-millennialism, post-millennialism, pan-millennialism and different views within pre-millennialism. A love for the word of God will encourage bible study on prophecy and to look at the various views.

Whatever your view of bible prophecy is, may the Lord reveal Himself to you in persevering in the study of this precious book of Isaiah.

Suggested ways of attempting the Bible studies

The intention of these Bible study notes with questions was not to give a lengthy exposition and interpretation of this book, but to provoke everyone interested to read the scriptures and to attempt to think about the text. Time spent with others in a small group up to about ten to fifteen people who are willing to study the scriptures is of immense value where there is time to ask questions and to give views on a particular text. Such Bible studies should be interactive i.e. dialogue between everyone present.

It is advisable where possible to have someone leading the Bible study who can facilitate in guiding the study possibly giving a short introduction up to fifteen minutes and adding questions to stimulate discussion where necessary. If no one is able to lead in the group that meets, it is suggested that you read together the portion of scripture to study. Then give a short time of about ten minutes before each person shares what the scriptures are really saying. Try to avoid just giving opinions but to attempt to see what the Lord is revealing to you as a group during the Bible study. Perhaps a bit of time should be allowed to give a concluding summary which helps to finish the study.

It is hoped that for those of you that have this resource material you will be blessed and encouraged to pursue your own private study of this prophecy. For this reason, the miscellaneous questions have been put together to encourage more in-depth study of this book.

Starting the Bible study with prayer and worship can be of benefit in leading to a stimulating time of study of the scriptures together. An exhaustive concordance and any other relevant resources can be of value in contributing to the study.

Section One: Chapters 1-6

Chapter 1: God rebuked Judah for rebellion against him yet he has shown his mercy in pleading with his people to repent.

Chapter 2: Jerusalem will be established on the highest mountain in the world during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ on earth (**2:1-5**). God will bring judgment particularly on proud men (**2:6-21**).

Chapter 3: The judgment that has to come on Jerusalem and Judah to be utterly ruined.

Chapter 4: There will be the future glory of God that will be seen visibly over Jerusalem during the Messianic millennial kingdom on earth.

Chapter 5: The song of the vineyard which represented the house of Israel. Israel was unfaithful to God; hence the bad grapes produced in the vineyard.

Chapter 6: Isaiah's vision of God leading to his commission to bring God's word to His people in Judah.

Questions

Q.1) Show the evidence that we have of when Isaiah wrote this book. See **1:1** and also **2Chronicles 26:22 & 32:22**.

Q.2) Show the sin of Judah in **1:13-15**.

Q.3) Show how God was merciful in not destroying Israel completely. See **1:9; 1:15-20**.

Q.4) What was known of Jerusalem in **1:21-27**?

Q.5) What will happen to those who reject God? How does God bring judgment?

See **1:20, 24-25; 3:1-26; 5:25-30**.

Q.6) Are there any prophetic words written in this section of the book which are still to be fulfilled? Read **1:25-31; 2:1-5; 2:10-22; 4:1-6**.

Q.7) What lessons that can be learnt from the song of the vineyard? It is helpful to compare this passage with that of the wicked husbandman/farmers (**Mark 12:1-9**) and the barren fig tree (**Luke 13:6-9**). See also **John 15:1-8**.

Q.8) Write down the six woes in **5:8-24**. Show how Judah and Jerusalem had sinned greatly against God.

Q.9) Read carefully through **chapters 2-5**. What is meant by the day of the Lord from the evidence in the text? See **2:11-12, 17, 20; 3:7, 18; 4:1-2; 5:30**.

Section Two: Chapters 7-12

Chapters 7&8

7:1-16: Isaiah gave two prophecies to Ahaz, king of Judah. 1) Syria and Ephraim (Northern Kingdom of Israel) will not defeat Ahaz. 2) A sign from the Lord of a son called Immanuel (meaning "God with us") believed to be the Messiah to come. See **Matthew 1:21-23**.

7:17-25: Assyria will invade much of Judah and the people will be poor.

8:1-10: Assyria will defeat Syria and Israel (Northern Kingdom of Israel) and pass into Judah but not to take over completely being eventually defeated having to withdraw from Jerusalem.

8:11-22: Isaiah was told personally to keep God's word and to fear the Lord and for his disciples to hold firmly to God's word (**8:16**). There is a warning not to reject God and walk in darkness (**8:14, 19-22**).

Chapters 9&10

9:1-7: Light will shine on Israel when the future ruler, Jesus Christ, will reign on earth in his millennial kingdom.

9:8-10:4: Warnings of judgment from God upon the northern kingdom of Israel because of great wickedness where there was arrogance (**9:10**), rebellion (**9:10**), injustice (**10:1**) and oppression (**10:2**). Notice what was written four times: "*For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand (is) stretched out still*" (**9:12, 17, 21; 10:4** and see also **5:25**).

10:5-34: God had allowed Assyria to take over the northern kingdom of Israel (ten tribes of Israel) and to invade much of Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel (two tribes of Israel being Judah and Benjamin). Assyria was judged as seen in the destruction of much of the Assyrian army led by Sennacherib, the Assyrian ruler who was forced to withdraw from being able to take Jerusalem (**2Kings 19:35-36; 2Chronicles 32:21-22; Isaiah 37:36-37**). God will always have a remnant that will be faithful in serving Him alone (**10:20-22**).

Chapters 11&12

11:1-16: A descendant of Jesse, father of David, king of Israel, will rule the world. He is Jesus Christ who will return to rule in a future millennial Messianic kingdom when Israel shall be one reunited kingdom. The remnant of God's people, Israel, will return and the believing Gentiles will recognise Jesus Christ as the Messiah and ruler of the world.

12:1-6: The Lord will be worshipped being the salvation of His people. His greatness will be known amongst His people Israel and what He has done will be known worldwide.

Questions

Q.1) What were the two prophecies Isaiah gave to Ahaz, king of Judah?

See **7:1-9; 10-17** and also **Matthew 1:21-23**.

Q.2) Why did Ahaz fail to respond in faith to the prophecies of Isaiah? See **7:4-9, 10-13**.

Q.3) What judgments will come upon Ahaz because of his rejection of God? See **7:18-25**.

Q.4) How did the Lord use the king of Assyria to bring Judgment on his people Israel (northern kingdom) in **8:1-10**. See also **2Kings 17:1-18**.

Q.5) What is the meaning of the names of Isaiah's two sons and why are they prophetic?

See **7:3; 8:1-4, 18**.

Q.6) What were the instructions the Lord gave to Isaiah in no uncertain terms in **8:11-22**?

Q.7) What happened to the people of God who refused to obey the word of God in **8:11-22**?

Q.8) What prophecies still remain unfulfilled in this section of the book?

See **9:1-7; 11:1-16; 12:1-6**.

Q.9) Show the warnings of judgment on the northern kingdom of Israel because of having sinned against God in **9:8-10:4**. How had they sinned against God?

Q.10) What was Assyria allowed to do against God's people Israel (northern kingdom of Israel) and those of Judah (southern kingdom of Israel). See **10:5-34**. Show what eventually happened to Assyria. Read also **2Kings 19:35-36; 2Chronicles 32:21-22; Isaiah 37:36-37**.

Q.11) Read carefully **chapters 11&12**. Is it true to say that Isaiah has foretold a coming ruler to reign over Israel during the millennium (1000 years)? What is known about this Messianic millennial kingdom to come from these two chapters? Read also **Isaiah 34:1-10; 63:1-9**.

Section Three: Chapters 13-23

Isaiah has been given prophecies for Gentile nations which are listed below.

1) Babylon: A superpower that this author and many other Christians believe will temporarily rule the world in a one world system still to come. See **13:1-5, 14-18, 19-22; 14:4-23; 21:1-10**. Read also **Revelation 17:1-18; 18:1-24**.

2) Assyria: **14:24-28; 19:23; 20:1-6**.

3) Philistia: **14:28-31**. See also **2Kings 18:8; Jeremiah 47:1-7**.

4) Moab: **15:1-9; 16:1-14**. See also **Jeremiah 48:1-47**.

5) Syria: **17:1-3**. It is possible that Damascus will be destroyed at some point still in the future. See also **Jeremiah 49:23-33**.

6) Israel: **17:3-11**. Northern kingdom (Ephraim). **22:1-25**: Mainly for Jerusalem.

14:1-3, 32; 18:7: Israel restored as seen in the millennial kingdom.

7) Land beyond Ethiopia? **18:1-6**. Nations outside send messengers to Israel?

8) Egypt: **19:1-25; 20:4-6**. See also **Jeremiah 45:1-26**.

9) Edom: **21:11-12**. Notice Dumah meaning "silence". See also **Jeremiah 49:7-22; Ezekiel 35:1-15; Obadiah 1-21**.

10) Arabia: **21:13-17**.

11) Persians/Medes? **13:2-5, 17-18**. They fought Babylon to destroy the ancient kingdom.

12) Tyre **23:1-18**. See also **Ezekiel 26:1-21; 27:1-36; 28:1-19**. Tyre was a very wealthy trading centre.

13) Many nations that came against Israel, **17:12-14**. See also **Psalms 2:1-12; 83:1-18**.

14) The World: **13:6-13**. Nations will serve Israel, **14:2**.

It is the author's view that in **Isaiah 14:12-15**, Lucifer (meaning "*Light-bringer*") refers to Satan that fell from heaven because of pride. In **Ezekiel 28:12-19** Lucifer was the anointed cherub. Other Christians see this passage referring to the fall of the king of Babylon.

Questions

Q.1) Show the sins of Babylon against God and how did God bring judgment on Babylon? Read **13:1-22 & 14:1-23**.

Q.2) Who is Isaiah referring to in **14:12-15** that has fallen from heaven? It is helpful to use the King James Version or New King James Version of the Bible. See also **Ezekiel 28:1-19 & Luke 10:18**.

Q.3) Read carefully again **13:1-22 & 14:1-23** and consider if there is any future fulfilment of these prophecies.

Q.4) How does God deal with Assyria and Philistia (Palestina)? See **14:24-32**.

Q.5) How had Moab sinned against God and what judgments did God bring on Moab? See **15:1-9 & 16:1-14**.

Q.6) Read **Chapters 17, 18, 19** and show what is known of Damascus, **17:1-3**; Ephraim (northern kingdom of Israel), **17:3-11**; many nations, **17:12-14**; unnamed lands beyond Ethiopia, **18:1-7** and Egypt, **19:1-25**.

Q.7) What is known of Assyria in **20:1-6**? Why did the Lord tell Isaiah to walk barefooted in **20:2-3**?

Q.8) What can we learn from Isaiah's personal experience of hearing God's message in **21:1-10**?

Q.9) What is understood of God's message to Edom (**21:11-12**), Arabia (**21:13-17**) and Jerusalem (**22:1-14**)?

Q.10) Why was Shebna removed from his offices as treasurer and Eliakim put in his place? See **22:15-25**.

Q.11) What is known of Tyre and what changes came about regarding the city? See **23:1-18**. It is helpful to read Ezekiel's prophecies regarding Tyre in **26:1-21; 27:1-36** and **28:1-19**.

Section Four: Chapters 24-27

The following chapters show much prophecy still to be fulfilled in the future. God will bring judgments on the entire world (**24:1-6; 26:9, 21; 27:1**) to punish the inhabitants of the earth because they have disobeyed God's laws having committed great wickedness (**24:2-5**). The earth will be utterly ruined (**24:1, 4, 19-20**).

Section Four continued

However there is still hope, for God will restore Israel after a time of corrective judgment. The Lord will reign in Jerusalem (**24:23; 25:1-9; 26:1-9, 12-13, 15-20; 27:6, 9, 12-13**). All idolatry will cease and sin will be taken away from Israel (**27:9**). The end of this present world will come when the heavens and the earth will burn up and a new heaven and a new earth will be established (**2Peter 3:10-13 & Revelation 21:1**).

Questions

- Q.1)** Show the judgments God will bring on the whole earth in **24:1-23**.
- Q.2)** Read again **chapter 24**. Show how the inhabitants of the earth sinned greatly against God.
- Q.3)** Look carefully again at **chapter 24**. Is it true to say the present world will come to an end? See also **51:6; 65:17; 66:22; 2Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5**.
- Q.4)** Read carefully **25:1-12**. In what ways are we shown: (a) The Lord as the deliverer of His people and (b) The Lord bringing judgment (**25:1-12**).
- Q.5)** Read **24:10-12; 25:2; 26:5-6**. Does “the city” refer to any specific place or to any place that is in opposition to God? See also **Revelation 16:17-21; 18:1-24**.
- Q.6)** What is understood by the “strong city” in **26:1-4**?
- Q.7)** Is there evidence of the Old Testament teaching about the resurrection of Jesus Christ in **25:8 & 26:19**. See also **Job 19:25-27 & Daniel 12:1-3**.
- Q.8)** What can we learn from the attitude of heart in **26:3-4, 8-9, 13, 19**?
- Q.9)** Show the evidence of judgment on those who reject God in **26:10-21**.
- Q.10)** Read carefully **26:16-21**. Is this a prophecy of Israel going through a time of trouble? Compare **Jeremiah 30:4-11**.
- Q.11)** What does leviathan and the dragon represent in **27:1**? See also **Genesis 3:1; Job 41:1-34; Psalm 74:14; 104:26** for leviathan and compare with **Psalm 74:13; 91:13 & Revelation 12:1-17; 13:1-18; 16:13; 20:1-3** for the dragon.
- Q.12)** What does **27:1-13** teach about the future of God’s Israel? Show the evidence of deliverance and discipline that God will give to Israel.

Section Five: Chapters 28-35

There are further judgments of God shown upon Israel but the restoration of Israel to come which is still to be fulfilled.

There are six woes that God has brought against Israel (**28:1; 29:1, 15; 30:1; 33:1**). Judgment will come on the northern kingdom of Israel (Ephraim **26:1-13**) and particularly on Jerusalem. However within all these **chapters 28-33** there will be the glorious hope of restoration of Israel when the Lord Jesus Christ will reign in righteousness from Jerusalem in the millennium.

The remaining **chapters 34 & 35** show God’s vengeance on the world to judge all nations (**34:1-2, 8**) and to restore Israel to be a blessed nation as seen in the millennium (**35:1-10**).

Questions

- Q.1)** What are the six woes against Israel in **28:1; 29:1, 15; 30:1; 31:1; 33:1**? In each woe how had Israel sinned and what judgments were brought by the Lord. It is helpful to read **28:1-13; 29:1-16; 30:1-17; 31:1-3; 33:1**.
- Q.2)** Read carefully through **chapters 28-33**. Can you see that the Lord will restore Israel especially Jerusalem and what will Israel be like in the millennial period after Jesus Christ has returned? See **28:16-17; 29:17-24; 30:18-26; 31:4-9; 32:1, 16-20; 33:5-6, 20-22**.
- Q.3)** What is understood by “a covenant with death, and with hell” (**28:15**)? See **28:14-21**. Other versions of the Bible use for hell the words “hades”, “sheol” or “grave”.
- Q.4)** Show the significance of the foundation stone in **28:16-17** and who this stone represents. See also **Psalm 118:22-23; Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17-18; Acts 4:11; Ephesians 2:20; 1Peter 2:6-8**.
- Q.5)** Show the meaning of the illustration of the ploughman/husbandman/farmer ploughing in his field in **28:23-29**.
- Q.6)** Read carefully **29:9-16**. How does it teach us the meaning of spiritual blindness?

Questions continued

- Q.7)** Show the folly of Israel seeking help from Egypt. See **30:1-8, 16-17; 31:1-3**.
- Q.8)** Read carefully **30:8-17** and show how the children of Israel rebelled against God.
- Q.9)** What can we learn from God's rebellious people Israel in the way they reacted to true prophets of God? See **30:9-11** and **1Kings 18:17-18; 22:7-28; 2Chronicles 18:6-27; 24:17-22; 36:14-16**.
- Q.10)** Describe the anger of the Lord in **30:27-33** and show what happens when God was angry in this passage.
- Q.11)** What are the Lord's dealings with Egypt in **31:1-3** and for Jerusalem in **31:4-5**?
- Q.12)** Is it true to say that we are given some insight into life in Isaiah's day in **31:6-9**?
- Q.13)** What is the warning given to careless women in **32:9-14**?
- Q.14)** Read carefully **32:15-20** and show what happens when the Spirit is poured out.
- Q.15)** Who can live in the presence of the Lord in view of **33:14-16**?
- See also **Psalms 15:1-5; 24:3-6**.
- Q.16)** In **chapter 34** what judgments from God will fall on the nations? Why was Edom mentioned specifically in **34:5-7**? It is helpful to consider **Psalms 137:7; Jeremiah 49:7-22; Lamentations 4:21-22; Ezekiel 35:1-15; 36:5; Obadiah 1-21**.
- Q.17)** What does Isaiah reveal to be Israel's future in **35:1-10** which many Christians including this author believe to be during the millennial period.

Section Six: Chapters 36-39

36:1-37:38: The historical events have shown the deliverance of Hezekiah, king of Judah, from Sennacherib, king of Assyria, in about 701 BC when the Lord intervened to put to death 185000 Assyrians (**37:36; 2Kings 19:35; 2Chronicles 32:21**) which led to Sennacherib withdrawing from Jerusalem. Isaiah had been instrumental in prophesying such a deliverance of Jerusalem from Sennacherib (**37:6-7, 21-35; 2Kings 19:6-7, 20-34**).

38:1-39:8: Isaiah had given a word from the Lord at the time Hezekiah was critically ill (**38:1-8; 21-22; 2Kings 20:1-11; 2Chronicles 32:24-26**). Within this chapter there is a song written by Hezekiah (**38:9-20**). In **39:1-8** Isaiah gave another word to Hezekiah to rebuke him for his foolishness in allowing ambassadors from Babylon, sent by Merodach-baladan, son of Baladan, king of Babylon, to see all his treasures (**2Kings 20:12-19; 2Chronicles 32:31**).

Questions

- Q.1)** How did the Rabshakeh (Assyrian chief captain, envoy, chief cup bearer, field commander) attempt to destroy the confidence of the people of Jerusalem in the Lord God of Israel? Read **36:1-22**. Read also **2Kings 18:19-35 & 2Chronicles 32:9-20**.
- Q.2)** Show clearly why the Rabshakeh's argument had proved invalid. Read again **36:4-20** and see also **37:18-20, 23-29; 2Kings 18:19-35; 2Chronicles 32:9-19**.
- Q.3)** How did Hezekiah respond to Rabshakeh's message in **36:4-20** and the letter in **37:10-13**? Read carefully **36:21; 37:1-7, 14-20; 2Kings 18:36; 19:1-7, 14-19; 2Chronicles 32:20**.
- Q.4)** What gave Hezekiah and Isaiah confidence that Sennacherib, king of Assyria, had insulted the living God? See **37:6-7, 16-20, 22-35; 2Kings 19:6-7, 20-34**.
- Q.5)** What can we learn about the importance of prayer in **37:1, 15-20; 38:2-8**.
- Q.6)** Read carefully **37:15-20**. What did Hezekiah reveal of who God is in his prayer that gave him such confidence in God? Read **2Kings 19:15-19**.
- Q.7)** What can be known of the sovereignty of God in the prophecy given to Hezekiah, king of Judah, in **37:21-35**. Read **2Kings 19:20-34**.
- Q.8)** Show how God intervened to remove Sennacherib and his army from Judah? See **37:36-38; 2Kings 19:35-37; 2Chronicles 32:21**.
- Q.9)** Read carefully **38:1-22**. What lessons can we learn spiritually from Hezekiah being critically ill at the time of the Assyrian invasion of Judah? Consider **James 5:16** with **38:5; Psalm 103:12; 119:67, 71, 75**; with **38:15-16; Micah 7:19** with **38:16-17; Psalm 13:6** with **38:18-19**.
- Q.10)** Read the writing of the song of Hezekiah in **38:9-20**. Show how Hezekiah expresses what he is going through (i) in **38:10-15** when he knows he is going to die and (ii) in **38:16-19** when he knows deliverance from death to live another 15 years.

Questions continued

Q.11) Show the sign God gave to Hezekiah and in what way was it miraculous?

See **38:1-8** and **2Kings 20:1-11**.

Q.12) Show how Hezekiah sinned when he received a visit from the ambassadors from Babylon? See **39:1-8**; **2Kings 20:12-19**; **2Chronicles 32:27-31**.

Q.13) Make a list of the prophecies of Isaiah in **chapters 36-39** and show which ones were fulfilled in these chapters.

Section Seven: Chapters 40-48

There is much encouragement from these chapters that foretell the return of the Jewish people from Babylon in about 538BC and the future of Israel as a nation where some of the prophecies are yet to be fulfilled.

God has revealed much of who He is as the Creator, **40:26, 28; 41:20; 42:5; 43:1, 7, 15; 45:7-8, 12, 18; 48:7**; the Redeemer, **41:4; 43:14; 44:6, 22-24; 47:4; 48:17, 20**; the only God, the God who has said "I am the Lord" and "I am God" and "The Holy One of Israel," **40:25; 41:14, 16, 20; 43:3, 14-15; 45:11; 47:4; 48:17**. Much of the text has been written in the first person (I, me my).

Israel has been shown as the Lord's servant, **41:8; 42:1, 19; 43:10; 44:1-2, 21, 26; 48:20**. We are shown the fall of Babylon because of pride in believing she was invincible and untouchable, **47:1-15**. The futility of idolatry has been shown in some detail, **40:18-20; 41:21-24, 29; 42:8, 17-19; 43:10-13; 44:8-20; 45:16, 20-21; 46:1-2, 5-8; 47:8, 10; 48:5**. One specific historical fact foretold was Cyrus, king of Persia, who would let the Jewish people return to their land and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem in about 538BC, **44:28**.

Questions

Q.1) What comfort was shown to God's people Israel in **40:1-11**? Who are the voices in **verses 3, 6, 9**. See also **Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4-6; John 1:23; 1Peter 1:23-25**.

Q.2) Show the evidence of Israel being restored as a nation not just after returning from exile in about 538BC but in the future. See **40:5, 10-11; 41:17-20; 43:5-6**.

Q.3) Show the greatness of God revealed in **40:12-31**.

Q.4) What can be understood of Abraham's relationship with God in **41:8**?

See also **2Chronicles 20:7 & James 2:23**.

Q.5) Show the dealings of God with the nations in **41:1-7, 21-29** particularly regarding the making of idols.

Q.6) What promises has God made with Israel in **41:8-20**?

Q.7) Read carefully **42:1-13**. In the NKJV (New King James Version of the Bible) who is referred to as the Lord's servant and my elect one and what has God called him to do on earth? See also **Matthew 12:17-21; Luke 4:18-19; Isaiah 61:1-3; Acts 26:18**.

Q.8) Show the prophecies for the nations in **42:6-16** and how God reveals Himself?

Q.9) What does **42:17-25** reveal of the state of God's people Israel?

Q.10) What blessings will come upon Israel in **43:1-21** and what is the relationship between God and his people Israel?

Q.11) What do we know of who God is in **43:10-15**?

Q.12) Show how Israel had been unfaithful to the Lord in **43:22-28**.

Q.13) Show the evidence of Israel being restored after the exile to Babylon and even in the future. See **44:1-8, 21-28**.

Q.14) Show the futility of idolatry from the details given in **44:9-20** and how it affects the mind of the worshipper. See also **40:18-20; 41:21-24, 29; 42:8, 17-19; 43:10-13; 45:16, 20-21; 46:1-2, 5-8; 47:8, 10; 48:5**.

Q.15) What was known about Cyrus king of Persia and what God has done for him and through him? See **44:28-45:1-8; 45:13; 48:14-15; Ezra 1:1-11; 2Chronicles 36:22-23**.

Q.16) Read carefully **45:9-13**. Is it true to say that God has addressed those who object to His ways and purposes?

Q.17) What is understood about the prophecy to Israel and the nations in **45:14-25**? Is there evidence of the prophecy yet to be fulfilled?

Questions continued

Q.18) How did God reveal himself to his people Israel compared to the gods of Babylon in **46:1-7**?

Q.19) Show how God pleaded with his people Israel to accept him as the only God and the God of their salvation. See **46:8-13**.

Q.20) What sins had brought the downfall of Babylon and how did God judge her? See **47:11-15** and **Zechariah 1:15**.

Q.21) What can we learn from God's attitude to all forms of occult practices such as astrology, stargazing, fortune-telling, witchcraft and crystal-gazing in view of what is written in **47:11-15**. It is helpful to read **Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 19:26; Deuteronomy 18:10; 2Kings 17:17; 21:16; 2Chronicles 33:6; Isaiah 8:19-20; Galatians 5:20**.

Q.22) In what ways has God rebuked his people Israel for their unbelief in **48:1-8**?

Q.23) What conditions has God laid down before Israel can receive his blessings in **48:16-22**? Show how this true in our lives.

Q.24) How did God show His love for his people Israel in **48:9-15**?

Section Eight: Chapters 49-57

There is further evidence of Israel being restored as a nation from utter ruin to cities being fully inhabited, **49:16-26**. The Lord will be known to his people Israel as their salvation and righteousness (**51:1-16**).

Jerusalem will know that change from being drunk with God's wrath to being gloriously redeemed to being a clean habitation, **51:17-52:12**.

The Lord will keep his covenant with his people Israel, **51:17-52:12**. There is the invitation to come to the Lord to know his covenant, his word and abundant provision, **55:1-13**. God will gather the Jews and Gentiles to serve Him, **56:1-8**.

There is the exposure of evil leaders, **56:9-12**, of Israel and the futility of idolatry, **57:1-13**. However there is healing to those who are humble in seeking the Lord, **57:14-19**. God will judge the wicked who will not find rest, **49:17, 19, 25-26; 50:11; 51:8; 54:15; 57:20-21**.

Isaiah spoke prophetically of Jesus Christ identifying with Israel and the Gentiles, **49:1-13**, and as the suffering servant, **50:6-9; 52:13-53:12**, who always did his Father's will, **50:4-5** and **John 6:38**.

Questions

Q.1) Is there evidence that **49:1-13** applies to the Lord Jesus Christ identifying with Israel and for the Gentiles that believe in him? See also **Luke 2:29-32; Matthew 1:20-23; Acts 13:46-47**.

Q.2) Show that the Lord has intended to restore Israel as a nation in **49:14-26**.

Q.3) What way will the Lord deal with the enemies of Israel in **49:17, 19, 25-26**?

Q.4) How will the Lord use the Gentiles to help the Jews to return to their land? See **49:22-23**.

Q.5) Show how God had brought judgment on Israel in Isaiah's time.

Read again **49:17-21, 24-26**. See also **50:1-3**.

Q.6) What is known of God's servant in **50:4-11**? It is helpful to make a list of the characteristics of this servant. See also **Matthew 26:67; Mark 15:17-20; Luke 18:31-33; Luke 23:11; John 12:49**.

Q.7) What assurances will be known to God's people Israel in **51:1-16**?

Q.8) Show the condition of Jerusalem when God's wrath came upon the city before the exile of the children of Israel. See **51:17-20; 52:4-5**.

Q.9) Show the restored state of Jerusalem in **51:21-23; 52:1-12**.

Q.10) What is known of Jesus Christ as the suffering servant in **52:13-53:1-12**: (i) In being rejected of men, (ii) In the way He suffered, (iii) In His exaltation.

Q.11) Show from **53:1-12** that Isaiah had written prophetically 700 years before an eyewitness account of Jesus Christ the suffering servant. See also **John 12:37-41**.

Q.12) Read carefully **54:1-10** and show that the Lord will keep His covenant of peace (**54:10**) with Israel. What is the relationship between the Lord and Israel?

Q.13) Show that Israel will be established being protected by the Lord. See **54:11-17**.

Q.14) What will change in the lives of those who turn from their sins to trust God? See **55:1-7** and also **Matthew 28:18-20; John 6:37, 50-58**.

Questions continued

Q.15) Read again **55:1-7**. Is there evidence that these verses do apply to backsliders particularly to the Lord calling Israel back to himself?

See also **Luke 15:11-24; Revelation 3:14-22**.

Q.16) What can we learn from **55:8-13** about (i) the contrast between man and God (**55:8-9**), (ii) the word of God (**55:10-11**), (iii) the future for all who trust in the Lord (**55:12-13**).

Q.17) What did the Lord promise to the Gentiles who were willing to serve Him? See **56:1-8**.

Q.18) What was known of the character of unworthy leaders from what is written in **56:9-12** and what changes were made against them?

Q.19) Show the picture of a community where God has been rejected for idolatry. See **57:1-13**.

Q.20) What is the evidence for God healing His people Israel to know His peace?

See **57:14-19**.

Q.21) What is known of the wicked in view of what is written in **49:17, 19, 25-26; 50:11; 51:8, 23; 54:15** and **57:20-21**?

Section Nine: Chapters 58-66

58:1-14: God's people Israel were rebuked for not seeking God's chosen fast and right use of the Sabbath.

59:1-15: There is the present wrongdoing of Israel in Isaiah's time shown in detail.

59:16-60:22: God will redeem Israel to know his glory and to be served and honoured by the Gentiles.

61:1-11: Israel will become a very fruitful nation knowing the righteousness and salvation of God.

62:1-12: Jerusalem will be a place of praise to the Lord where the righteousness and salvation of God will be clearly known.

63:1-14: God has shown his judgment and mercy to Israel.

63:15-64:12: There is a prayer showing sorrow for sin recognising the desolate state of Israel and pleading God's presence to return.

65:1-16: God has continued to rebuke Israel for great wickedness but there is a faithful remnant.

65:17-25; 66:22: There will be a new heaven and a new earth created.

66:1-13: There will be blessing and comfort in Jerusalem.

66:14-18, 24: God's indignation on those who have rejected him.

66:19-21, 23: When the Lord reigns there will be continuous worship to the Lord for ever from all nations.

Questions

Q.1) Show that God's people had not fasted according to God's will. See **58:1-5**.

Q.2) What do the following verses in **58:6-12** show of God's chosen fast? Is there value for us to fast? See also **Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29**.

Q.3) How were God's people to keep the Sabbath and what blessings followed? See **58:13-14** and **Exodus 20:8-11; Deuteronomy 5:12-15**. What should be our attitude to the Sabbath?

Q.4) Make a list of the sins of God's people Israel in **59:2-8** and make a list of the sins confessed in **59:9-15a**. Notice how these verses are written in the first person plural (we, us).

Q.5) Is it true to say that unanswered prayer can be as a result of sin against God? See **59:1-12** and also **Psalms 66:18; Jeremiah 11:14; James 4:1-4**.

Q.6) Show what will happen when the Lord comes to turn away all transgressions (offences) from Zion (Israel). See **59:15b-21** and **Romans 11:25-27**.

Q.7) Show the evidence in **60:1-22** that the glory of God will be present in Jerusalem and over Israel as a nation in the millennium. See also **4:1-6; 62:1-7**.

Q.8) What will be the attitude of the Gentiles towards Israel knowing the glory of God is over that nation? Read carefully again **60:1-22**.

Q.9) What is the good news revealed in **61:1-3**? Why did Jesus Christ only read this text as far as "*the acceptable year of the LORD*" (**61:2**) in **Luke 4:18-19**?

Q.10) What will happen to Israel when the nation is restored from utter ruin to its millennial state? See **61:4-11**.

Questions continued

- Q.11)** Show the assurance of the city of Jerusalem knowing the salvation of God. See **62:1-12**.
- Q.12)** Is there evidence from this passage in **63:1-6** that Jesus Christ is revealed coming back to earth in Judgment? See also **Joel 3:9-17; Revelation 19:11-21**.
- Q.13)** Show God's compassion for Israel in **63:7-14**.
- Q.14)** Read carefully **63:15-19; 64:1-12**. The text shows a prayer to the Lord. Consider the content of this prayer in its application to God's people Israel, and to us today.
- Q.15)** Show how God's people Israel rebelled against him? See **65:1-8, 11-12**.
- Q.16)** How did God bring judgment on his people Israel? See **65:12-15**.
- Q.17)** What are the blessings for the faithful servants of God from amongst the children of Israel? See **65:8-10, 13-16**
- Q.18)** Read carefully **65:17-25**. Show the evidence of the text revealing the future for Jerusalem in the coming Millennium. See also **11:6-9**.
- Q.19)** Read carefully **66:1-4**. Show the distinction between true worshippers of God and those who were false worshippers.
- Q.20)** What is known of the relationship between Jerusalem and the Lord in **66:5-14**?
- Q.21)** How did God show indignation on those who rejected Him? See **66:14-17**.
- Q.22)** Show the role of believing Gentiles in relation to Jerusalem in the millennium. See **66:18-21**.
- Q.23)** What is known about the new heaven and the new earth in **66:22-24**. See also **65:17; 2Peter 3:10-13; Revelation 21:1-27; 22:1-5**.

Miscellaneous Questions

- Q.1)** Show the evidence of Isaiah being written by one author Isaiah, son of Amoz. In attempting this question consider the following new testament references quoted or cited from the book of Isaiah such as **Matthew 1:21-23; 12:17-21; Mark 1:3-5; Luke 3:4-6; John 12:37-41**.
- Q.2)** What is known of the character of Isaiah from the information given in this book. It is helpful to read **6:1-13; 7:3; 8:1-4, 11-20; 38:1-22; 39:1-8; 2Chronicles 26:22; 32:32**.
- Q.3)** What does the book of Isaiah reveal of the attributes of God? Some examples of God's attributes are shown to be creator, redeemer, salvation, righteousness, the only God, the Holy One of Israel.
- Q.4)** What messianic figure did Isaiah portray from the prophecies in the following passages to read? Can you show whether they refer to his first coming of the Messiah or his second coming in the future? Read **7:14; 9:1-7; 11:1-16; 32:1-8; 33:17-24; 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12; 59:20-21; 61:1-3; 63:1-6**.
- Q.5)** Read carefully through the book of Isaiah. Can you see prophecies that are still to be fulfilled? Does Isaiah reveal from these prophecies that there is a future for Israel as a nation? See **2:1-11; 4:2-6; 9:6-7; 11:1-16; 12:1-6; 13:5-22; 14:1-3; 43:1-28; 49:14-26; 52:1-12; 54:1-17; 55:12-13; 62:1-12**.
- Q.6)** What did Isaiah teach about the remnant of Israel? It is helpful to read **1:9; 6:9-13; 10:20-22; 46:3-4**.
- Q.7)** Show what is known of Babylon that is regarded as a picture of the world being in opposition to God. See **13:1-21; 14:4-23; 47:1-15**. See also **Jeremiah 50:1-46; 51:1-64; Revelation 17:1-18; 18:1-24**. Did Isaiah see a future destruction of Babylon still to take place?
- Q.8)** Study the verses in Isaiah that are recurrent references to "*day of the Jehovah (Lord)*". What did Isaiah mean by the day of the Lord? See **2:11-12, 17, 20; 3:7, 18; 4:1-2; 5:30; 7:18, 20-21, 23; 10:20, 27; 11:10-11; 12:1, 4; 13:6, 9, 13; 14:3; 17:4, 7, 9; 19:16, 18-19, 21, 23-24; 20:6; 22:12, 20, 25; 23:15; 24:21; 25:9; 26:1; 27:1-2, 12-13**.
- Q.9)** Find the references Isaiah gives to the word "*salvation*" using a concordance (about 28 references in total). What does this book teach on salvation? See **12:2-3; 25:9; 26:1; 45:17; 46:13; 51:5-8; 62:1, 11**.
- Q.10)** Find the references Isaiah gives to the word "*righteousness*" using a concordance (about 51 references in total) What does this book teach on righteousness? See **1:21, 26-27; 11:4-5; 26:9-10; 32:16-17; 45:8, 13, 19; 46:12-13; 51:1-8; 59:16-17; 61:3, 10-11; 62:1-2**.

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The list of resources available will be helpful in finding out more about the book of Isaiah. Please note that the author does not necessarily agree with the views held by the writers of the following reading material.

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