

# Intro to **ISAIAH**

**Author:** Isaiah is the author of this book and was the primary prophet to the nation of Judah during the reign of King Hezekiah. Isaiah was born into an influential, upper class family, rubbed shoulders with royalty, and gave advice concerning the foreign affairs of the nation. Even though he was scoffed at, Isaiah warned the nation of Judah and its leaders against making foreign alliances and urged them to trust the Lord. Isaiah has often been called “the evangelical prophet,” because he says so much about the redemptive work of the Messiah. More about the person and the work of Christ is found more here than any other book of the Old Testament. After living most of his life in Jerusalem, tradition says that Isaiah was martyred during the reign of Manasseh by being sawed in two inside a hollow log.

**Political Climate during the writing of Isaiah:** During this time, the nation of Judah was seemingly about to follow the example of apostasy of the ten northern tribes of Israel. Israel was captured by Assyria in 722 B.C. King Ahaz looked foolishly to Assyria for protection, even though Isaiah had told him that the Northern Kingdom would shortly fall to the hands of the Assyrians. Hezekiah, Ahaz’s God-fearing son, instituted spiritual reforms but sought the help of Egypt in foreign affairs. Egypt fell before Sennacherib of Assyria, and only through divine intervention was Judah saved from the same fate. During the reign of Manasseh, idolatry was reinstated, and Isaiah warned the people of the inevitable captivity of the Babylonians.

## **The Commission of Isaiah:**

Isaiah 6 is one of the most descriptive and powerful passages of scripture describing the throne room of the living God. It is very similar to the presentation of the throne room description in the book of Revelation. In it, Isaiah describes his encounter with God, and the call of God to Isaiah to go to the people and proclaim God’s prophecy.

## **Theme of the Book:**

Isaiah states his theme in the very first chapter of the book—repentance. The book serves as a call to the nation of Judah to repent and come back to God. Along this idea of repentance, the book of Isaiah can be looked at from the following perspective and outline:

### **I. The Call to Repentance**

What we find in the book of Isaiah are familiar passages of scripture that have been quoted and memorized for ages. Chapter one holds one of these verses in relation to Judah’s sin and the call for them to repent. Verse 18 says, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow. Though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.” He then gives a clear word on the heels of his red/white metaphor: “If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the best of the land. But if you resist and rebel, then you will be devoured by the sword. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it. The latter is a warning of the impending takeover by the Babylonians. This prophecy is repeated throughout the book and the call to repentance is repeated, as well.

### **II. The Agent of Repentance**

One of the revelations of the book of Isaiah are the prophecies of the coming Messiah as the agent through whom redemption will be attained. The first of many of these Messianic prophecies is found in Isaiah 7:14:

*“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign.  
The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son,  
and will call Him Immanuel, that is ‘God With Us’”*

Another famous Messianic prophecy is found in Isaiah 9:2ff:

*“The people walking in darkness have seen a great light. On those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned...For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given. And the government shall be on His shoulders. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end.”*

And yet another in Isaiah 11:

*“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him...”*

Other famous Messianic prophecies can be found in Isaiah 53:

<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Fulfillment</u>
Isa. 53:3: He will be despised and rejected by men	Mark 9:12, Luke 17:25, John 1:10, I Peter 2:4
Isa. 53:4: He will bear our sins	Matthew 8:16-17
Isa. 53:4: He will be smitten by God	Gal. 3:13, Matt. 27:38-44, Luke 23:35
Isa. 53:5: He will be punished for our sins	Rom 4:25
Isa. 53:7: He will be silent before his accusers	Matt. 26:62-63, 27:12-14, Mark 14:60-61, John 19:9
Isa 53:9: He will die with the wicked	Matt. 27:38, Mark 15:27-28, Luke 23:32-33
Isa. 53:9: He will be buried with the rich	Matt. 27:57-60, Mark 15: 43-46, Luke 23:50-53
Isa. 53:9: He will live a sinless life	I Peter 2:22

### III. The Benefits of Repentance

#### A. Spiritual

- Isaiah 41: 10: “Do not fear for I am with you...”
- Isaiah 40:31: “They that wait upon the Lord...”

#### B. Tangible

- Isaiah 61: The year of the Lord’s favor...
- Isaiah 24:21: The deliverance of the Lord...

#### C. Eternal

That being, that the Messiah would usher in a new kingdom.

- Isaiah 2: The mountain of the Lord...
- Isaiah 24:23: The new reign of the King

### IV. Praise and Thanksgiving

- Isaiah 25: 1-9
- Isaiah 12: 1—6