

Isaiah

“He will lift up a standard for the nations...he will set a sign among the peoples.”

Book of the King 1-39					Book of the Servant 40-55				Book of the Anointed Conqueror 56-66		
Preface: Diagnosis and Prognosis	The Triumph of Grace	The Universal Kingdom	The Lord of History	Bridge: Hezekiah's Fateful Choice	The Consolation of the world	The Redemption of Israel	The Great Deliverance	The Greater Deliverance	Ideal & Actual: Needs and Sins of the Lord's People	The Coming of the Anointed Conqueror	Prayer and Response: New Heaven and New Earth
1-5	6-12	13-27	28-37	38-39	40:1-42:17	42:18-44:23	44:24-48:22	49:1-55:13	56:1-59:13	59:14-63:6	63:7-66:24
In the role of covenant lawsuit prophet, Isaiah provides a diagnosis and prognosis of Judah's spiritual condition that will end with an oracle of six woes.	Isaiah's vision of God serves as a prelude. The section begins with the faithless son of David Ahaz, then looks ahead to a true Son of David who will overcome sin and oppression by God's grace.	These three cycles of five oracles concerning the nations show that the king of Zion will rescue and reign not only over a remnant from Israel but over a people from every nation.	Isaiah denounces those who put faith in earthly kingdoms ending with Hezekiah who shows himself to be a repentant and faithful son of David in contrast to Ahaz.	This story bridges the 1 st two books. Hezekiah may be a more faithful Son of David, but he still fails future generations, raising the question, "What son of David can truly save."	Isaiah first consoles Zion, beginning with three voices of consolation, then a recognition of God as Creator and world ruler and ending with three images of consolation. Isaiah then consoles Gentiles with the 1 st of 4 servant songs.	Beginning with a description of Israel as a blind and deaf servant (referring back to 6:9-10), Isaiah foretells both release from bondage and forgiveness of sin. These two needs are further developed in the next two sections.	The 1 st servant song occurred at the end of the 1 st section. Isaiah now speaks of the servant Cyrus, who will deliver Israel from exile but cannot save Israel from its own sin. This servant foreshadows another who can save from sin.	Isaiah prophesies deliverance from sin in 3 more servant songs. The first 2 are followed by comment on Zion. The 3 rd doesn't comment on Zion, possibly recognizing the entire Book of the Conqueror as the final comment.	After deliverance from exile and sin, God's people are called to "Preserve justice, and do righteousness (56:1)", while awaiting final fulfillment of salvation. The Sabbath becomes a symbolic test that reveals the failure of God's saved people to experience rest because of ongoing sin and outward opposition.	After an initial preface (59:14-20), Isaiah provides 4 songs of an anointed one. As with the 4 servant songs, the first 3 songs are followed by commentary. The comments refer to a glorious Zion and inclusion of people from all nations. The last section of the book may serve as commentary for the 4th song.	Salvific prophecies through Isaiah give the impression salvation has been fully accomplished only for us to later realize that a future element of salvation is yet unrealized. This section begins with the prayers of a people waiting in faith and ends with the promise of a new heaven and new earth preceded by a final reckoning.

The titles and divisions are from Alec Motyer's *The Prophecy of Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996). One change concerns chapters 38-39 which bridge the first two books. Motyer recognizes those bridging chapters as the beginning of the second book, rather than the ending of the first book. The notes are from Michael Brent with influence from Motyer (Nov. 1, 2021).