

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).

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40-55

Book of the Anointed Conqueror
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Book of the King 1-39

**Preface:
Diagnosis and Prognosis**

1-5

**The Triumph
of Grace**

6-12

**The Universal
Kingdom**

13-27

**The Lord
of History**

28-37

**Bridge:
Hezekiah's Fateful Choice**

38-39

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1-39

Preface: Diagnosis and Prognosis

1-5

Sin and Experience

1

Title (1)

The National Situation (2-9)

The Religious Situation (10-20)

The Social Situation (21-26)

Tensions Between Threat and Hope Resolved (27-31)

Sin and Election

2-4

Superscription (1)

The Ideal Jerusalem (2:2-4)

The Actual Jerusalem (2:5-4:1)

The Future Jerusalem (4:2-6)

Sin and Grace

5

The Vineyard: A Total Work; A Total Loss (1-7)

The ‘Stink-fruit’: The Crop Produced, The Harvest to Come (8-30)

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Book of the King

1-39

The Triumph of Grace

6-12

The King and His People

7-11

Prologue: Reconciliation and Commission

6

The death of the king (1a)

Responding to the divine holiness (1b-7)

Responding to the divine concern (8-10)

Responding to the divine purpose (11-13a)

The oak tree cut down and life remains (13b)

The Word to Judah

7:1-9:7(6)

The moment of decision (7:1-17)

The judgment (7:18-8:8)

The remnant (8:9-22)

The glorious Hope (9:1-7)

{8:23-9:6}

The Word to Israel

9:8(7)-11:16

The moment of decision (9:8-10:4)

The judgment (10:5-15)

The remnant (10:16-34)

The glorious hope (11:1-16)

Epilogue: Salvation, Joy and Proclamation

12

The prophet addresses an individual (1-2)

The prophet addresses the community (3-5)

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1-39

The Universal Kingdom

13-27

The First Cycle of Oracles
The Reality of the Lord’s Promises
13-20

The Second Cycle of Oracles
The World in Shadows
21-23

The Third Cycle
Two Cities in Contrast: Endurance through to Glory
24-27



1. Babylon (13:1–14:27)
 Political overthrow



1. The Desert by the Sea (Babylon) (21:1–10)
 Religious overthrow

1. The city of emptiness (24:1–20)
 Broken laws (5) Broken gates (12)



2. Philistia (14:28–32)
 A Davidic king will yet reign in Zion



2. Silence (Edom) (21:11–12)
 Indefinite continuance of things as they are

2. Zion’s King (24:21–23)
 ‘After many days’



3. Moab (15:1–16:14)
 Moab in need,
 but through pride refuses shelter in Zion



3. Evening (Arabia) (21:13–17)
 Desert tribes in need:
 no ultimate refuge in mutual security

3. The great banquet (25:1–12)
 All nations feasted in Zion save Moab,
 excluded by pride



4. Damascus/Ephraim (17:1–18:7)
 Strong cities forsaken (9);
 the forgotten rock (10)



4. The Valley of Vision (Jerusalem) (22:1–25)
 Strong cities forsaken (9);
 the forgotten rock (10); the city torn down (10)

4. The city of God (26:1–21)
 The strong city (1);
 the everlasting rock (4)



5. Egypt (19:1–20:6)
 Co-equal membership:
 Egypt, Assyria and Israel (19:24–25)



5. Tyre (23:1–18)
 Holiness to the Lord (23:18)

5. The final gathering (27:1-13)
 The harvest from Egypt and Assyria (27:12–13)

The Third Cycle: Two Cities in Contrast: Endurance through to Glory

Isaiah 24-27

A The Lord's harvest from a destroyed world (24:1–13)

Destruction (1–12)

Gleanings (13)

B The song of the world remnant (24:14–16a)

C The sinful world overthrown (24:16b–20)

D The waiting world (24:21–23)

E The song of the ruined city (25:1–5)

F MOUNT ZION (25:6–12)

E' The song of the strong city (26:1–6)

D' The waiting people of God (26:7–21)

C' Spiritual forces of evil overthrown (27:1)

B' The song of the remnant of the people (27:2–6)

A' The Lord's harvest from a destroyed people (27:7–13)

Destruction (7–11)

Gleanings (12–13)

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The Lord of History 28-37

Six Woes 28-35

The Rock of History 36-37

The One Foundation
28:1-29

A Problem Solved,
a Problem Stated
29:1-14

Spiritual
Transformation
29:15-24

Human Faithfulness
and God’s Faithfulness
30:1-33

Deliverance
and Renewal
31:1-32:20

Victory, Proclamation
and Pilgrimage
33:1-35:10

1st Assyrian Embassy
2nd Assyrian Embassy
Finale: Assyrian Defeat

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1-39

Bridge: Hezekiah's Fateful Choice

38-39

Hezekiah's Illness

38:1-8

Hezekiah's Psalm:

A meditation on death and life

38:9-20

Hezekiah's Healing

38:21-22

The Moment of Decision

39:1-8

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Book of the Servant 40-55

The Consolation of the world

40:1-42:17

The Redemption of Israel

42:18-44:23

The Great Deliverance

44:24-48:22

The Greater Deliverance

49:1-55:13

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The Consolation of the world 40:1-42:17

The Consolation of Zion 40:1-41:20

The Consolation of the Gentiles 41:21-42:17

Three Voices of
Consolation
40:1-11

The Incomparable
God of Israel:
The Creator
40:12-31

The Incomparable
God of Israel:
The World Ruler
41:1-7

Three Pictures of
Consolation
41:8-20

A court scene:
The idol-gods exposed;
the world's plight apparent
41:21-29

Remedy:
The servant as the answer
to the world's plight
42:1-9

The new song:
The world's joy in the
Lord's victory
42:10-17

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Servant Songs and Calls to Praise in the Book of the Servant

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40:1-42:17

The Redemption of Israel

42:18-44:23

The Great Deliverance

44:24-48:22

The Greater Deliverance

49:1-55:13

1st Servant Song

42:1-4 (5-9)

1st Call to Praise

42:10-13

2nd Call to Praise

44:23

3rd Call to Praise

45:8

2nd, 3rd, 4th Servant Song

49:1-6 (7-13)

50:4-9 (10-11)

52:13-53:12 (54:1-55:13)

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The Redemption of Israel 42:18-44:23

Release from Bondage 42:18-43:21

Forgiveness of Sins 43:22-44:23

Israel, the Blind
Servant
42:18-25

Disaster Reversed:
Israel Redeemed
43:1-7

The Certainty of
What the Lord has
Promised
43:8-13

Redemption from
Babylon: A New
Exodus
43:14-21

Sin Exposed
43:22-24

The Past Forgotten,
the Future Blessed
43:25-44:5

The Certainty of
the Lord's Promise
44:6-20

The Blessedness of
Israel in the
Redeeming Lord
44:21-23

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Release from Bondage 42:18-43:21				Forgiveness of Sins 43:22-44:23			
Isaiah, the Blind Servant 42:18-25	Disaster Reversed: Israel Redeemed 43:1-7	The Certainty of What the Lord has Promised 43:8-13	Redemption from Babylon: A New Exodus 43:14-21	Sin Exposed 43:22-24	The Past Forgotten, the Future Blessed 43:25-44:5	The Certainty of the Lord's Promise 44:6-20	The Blessed Redeeming 44:21-23
<p>... you deaf! ... and look, you blind, that you is blind but My servant, ... so deaf as My messenger ... send? ... who is so blind as he that is at ... with Me, ... so blind as the servant of ... D? ... have seen many things, but ... not observe them; ... your ears are open, but none LORD was pleased for His ... ssness' sake ... make the law great and this is a people plundered ... spoiled; ... of them are trapped in are hidden away in prisons; ... they have become a prey with ... deliver them, ... and a spoil, with none to say, ... them back!" ... among you will give ear to no will give heed and listen ... er? ... gave Jacob up for spoil, and ... plunderers? ... is it not the LORD, against ... ve have sinned, ... d in whose ways they were ... ng to walk, ... d whose law they did not e poured out on him the ... His anger ... d the fierceness of battle; ... d it set him afame all he did not recognize it; ... d it burned him, but he paid ... tion.</p>	<p>1 But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! 2 "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. 3 "For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. 4 "Since you are precious in My sight, Since you are honored and I love you, I will give other men in your place and other peoples in exchange for your life. 5 "Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, And gather you from the west. 6 "I will say to the north, 'Give them up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold them back.' Bring My sons from afar And My daughters from the ends of the earth, 7 Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made."</p>	<p>8 Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes, And the deaf, even though they have ears. 9 All the nations have gathered together So that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this And proclaim to us the former things? Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, Or let them hear and say, "It is true." 10 "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, So that you may know and believe Me And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. 11 "I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me. 12 "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange god among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God. 13 "Even from eternity I am He, And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"</p>	<p>14 Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "For your sake I have sent to Babylon, And will bring them all down as fugitives, Even the Chaldeans, into the ships in which they rejoice. 15 "I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King." 16 Thus says the LORD, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters, 17 Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, The army and the mighty man (They will lie down together and not rise again; They have been quenched and extinguished like a wick): 18 "Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past. 19 "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert. 20 "The beasts of the field will glorify Me, The jackals and the ostriches, Because I have given waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My chosen people. 21 "The people whom I formed for Myself Will declare My praise.</p>	<p>22 "Yet you have not called on Me, O Jacob; But you have become weary of Me, O Israel. 23 "You have not brought to Me the sheep of your burnt offerings, Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, Nor wearied you with incense. 24 "You have bought Me not sweet cane with money, Nor have you filled Me with the fat of your sacrifices; Rather you have burdened Me with your sins, You have wearied Me with your iniquities.</p>	<p>25 "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake, And I will not remember your sins. 26 "Put Me in remembrance, let us argue our case together; State your cause, that you may be proved right. 27 "Your first forefather sinned, And your spokesmen have transgressed against Me. 28 "So I will pollute the princes of the sanctuary, And I will consign Jacob to the ban and Israel to revilement. 1 "But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, And Israel, whom I have chosen: 2 Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you, "Do not fear, O Jacob My servant; And you Jeshurun whom I have chosen. 3 "For I will pour out water on the thirsty land And streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring And My blessing on your descendants; 4 And they will spring up among the grass Like poplars by streams of water.' 5 "This one will say, 'I am the LORD'S; And that one will call on the name of Jacob; And another will write on his hand, 'Belonging to the LORD,' And will name Israel's name with honor.</p>	<p>6 "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. 7 'Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place. 8 "Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.' " 9 Those who fashion a graven image are all of them futile, and their precious things are of no profit; even their own witnesses fail to see or know, so that they will be put to shame. 10 Who has fashioned a god or cast an idol to no profit? 11 Behold, all his companions will be put to shame, for the craftsmen themselves are mere men. Let them all assemble themselves, let them stand up, let them tremble, let them together be put to shame. 12 The man shapes iron into a cutting tool and does his work over the coals, fashioning it with hammers and working it with his strong arm. He also gets hungry and his strength fails; he drinks no water and becomes weary. 13 Another shapes wood, he extends a measuring line; he outlines it with red chalk. He works it with planes and outlines it with a compass, and makes it like the form of a man, like the beauty of man, so that it may sit in a house. 14 Surely he cuts cedars for himself, and takes a cypress or an oak and raises it for himself among the trees of the forest. He plants a fir, and the rain makes it grow. 15 Then it becomes something for a man to burn, so he takes one of them and warms himself; he also makes a fire to bake bread. He also makes a god and worships it; he makes it a graven image and falls down before it. 16 Half of it he burns in the fire; over this half he eats meat as he roasts a roast and is satisfied. He also warms himself and says, "Aha! I am warm, I have seen the fire." 17 But the rest of it he makes into a god, his graven image. He falls down before it and worships; he also prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god." 18 They do not know, nor do they understand, for He has smeared over their eyes so that they cannot see and their hearts so that they cannot comprehend. 19 No one recalls, nor is there knowledge or understanding to say, "I have burned half of it in the fire and also have baked bread over its coals. I roast meat and eat it. Then I make the rest of it into an abomination, I fall down before a block of wood!" 20 He feeds on ashes; a deceived heart has turned him aside. And he cannot deliver himself, nor say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"</p>	<p>21 "Remember the things, O Jacob, And Israel, for My servant; I have formed you are My servant. O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me. 22 "I have wiped out your transgressions like a cloud And your sins are a heavy mist. Return to Me, and I have redeemed you. 23 Shout for joy, O heavens, for the LORD has done it! Shout joyfully over the lower parts of the earth. Break forth in a shout of joy, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it; For the LORD has redeemed Jacob and in Israel has glorified His glory.</p>

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Book of the Servant 40-55

The Great Deliverance 44:24-48:22

Cyrus 44:24-45:8

Israel 45:9-46:13

Babylon 47:1-48:22

A The rebuilder of Zion (44:24–28)
B The irresistible conqueror (45:1–8)

A The Lord asserts his sovereignty over Israel (45:9–13)
B Israel still at the center of the Lord’s world-wide plans (45:14–25)
C The Lord asserts his care over Israel (46:1–13)

A Babylon conquered (47:1–15)
B The captives liberated (48:1–22)

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Book of the Servant
40-55

The Great Deliverance
44:24-48:22

The Task of Cyrus

44:24-45:8

Impermissible Questions:
The Sovereign Lord

45:9-13

A World Plan,
A Central People

45:14-25

Rebellious people:
the Inflexible Lord

46:1-13

The Triumph of Cyrus

47:1-48:22

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This chart is an alternative way from Motyer to structure the Great Deliverance.

The Three Waves of Exile and Return

Daniel and other men taken (605)

People taken (Ezekiel – 597)

People taken and temple destroyed – 586

Jews are removed from Judah under the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon.

70 years of exile (Jeremiah 29:10; 2 Chronicles 36:21)

People return and temple rebuilt – 515

People return (Ezra - 458)

Nehemiah and other men return (444)

Jews are returned to Judah beginning with the permission of Cyrus, king of Persia.

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Book of the Servant 40-55

The Greater Deliverance 49:1-55:13

The Second Servant Song 49:1-50:3

The Third Servant Song 50:4-52:12

The Fourth Servant Song 52:13-55:13

A The Servant's double task: Israel and the world (49:1–6)

B Comment: the task confirmed (49:7–13)

C Zion: despondent and unresponsive (49:14–50:3)

A The Servant: responsive, buoyant, obedient and suffering (50:4–9)

B Comment: obedient and self-willed (50:10–11)

C Zion: summoned to respond (51:1–52:12)

A The Servant: successful, sin-bearing and triumphant (52:13–53:12)

B Comment: Israel and the world (54:1-55:13)

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Book of the Servant 40-55

The Greater Deliverance 49:1-55:13

**The Servant's Double Task:
Israel and the World
49:1-6**

**Divine Confirmation:
the Servant's Success
49:7-13**

**The Many and the One:
Unresponsiveness & Response
49:14-50:11**

**Salvation in Prospect
and Reality
51:1-52:12**

**The Arm of the Lord:
The Triumph of the Servant
52:13-55:13**

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2nd Servant Song
Song 49:1-6

2nd Servant Song
Confirmation 49:7-13

3rd Servant Song
Song 50:4-9
Confirmation 50:10-11

4th Servant Song
Song 52:13-53:12
Confirmation 54:1-55:13

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Book of the Anointed Conqueror

56-66

**The Ideal and the Actual:
The Needs and the Sins of the Lord’s People**

56:1-59:13

The Coming of the Anointed Conqueror

59:14-63:6

**Prayer and Response:
Steps to the New Heaven and New Earth**

63:7-66:24

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56-66

The Ideal and the Actual: The Needs and the Sins of the Lord's People

56:1-59:13

World People, Sabbath People, Praying People

56:1-8

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Alec Motyer. *The Prophecy of Isaiah* (InterVarsity Press, 1996).

Isaiah

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

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Isaiah

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

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