

Books of The Bible

Observations in The Prophecy of Isaiah

Introduction

While the understanding of the flow of the chapters can be puzzling, yet the core message of the book is an encouragement to be retrospective, introspective and prospective. The people of Israel were to consider the spiritual condition they were presently in (Ch. 1:2-6) and how they had been blessed by God and yet had failed so badly. They were to understand God was not a small localized parochial God but the God of eternity, truth and justice. While His hand has been heavy on them due to their sins, yet when there is repentance He will bless them.

It was written during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Ch. 1:1). How long Isaiah ministered during the reign of Uzziah is an unknown, as is also the duration of his ministry under Hezekiah. We do know Uzziah reigned for 52 years (2 Chron. 26:3), Ahaz for 16 years (2 Chron. 28:2-3), and Jotham for 16 years (2 Chron. 27:9), it is evident he did not prophesy through their entire reigns, and Hezekiah for 29 years (2 Kgs. 18:1-3). Since the total of the years being reigned is 113 years, he could not have prophesied through the duration of the reigns of the four kings. However, he definitely prophesied throughout the entire reigns of Jotham and Ahaz. It was some time after the death of Uzziah that God called him to His service (Ch. 6:8).

Major Truth Emphasized

- 1) Judgment must begin at the house of God, His righteousness demands it. The reason the children of Israel were to slay the enemies of the land was, among other matters, to cause them to know that if they did the same things they also would perish.
- 2) To reveal that salvation, national (Isa. 25:9); and spiritual (Isa. 12:2) is of the Lord. To call God's people to repentance and announce the coming of Christ.

Persistent Themes

The "Everlastings" in Isaiah.

- a) Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6)
- b) Covenant (Isa. 24:5)
- c) Strength (Isa. 26:4)
- d) Burnings (Isa. 33:14)
- e) Joy (Isa. 35:10; 51:11)
- f) Everlasting God (Isa. 40:28)
- g) Salvation (Isa. 45:17)
- h) Kindness (Isa. 54:8)
- i) Covenant (Isa. 55:3)
- j) Sign (Isa. 55:13)
- k) Everlasting Name (Isa. 56:5)
- l) Light (Isa. 60:19)

Repeated Words and Concepts

- 1) Everlasting - 12 references see above
- 2) Spread - 10 references (Isa. 1:15; 14:11; 19:8; 25:7, 11; 33:23; 37:14; 42:5; 58:5; 65:2)
- 3) Garments - 8 references (Isa. 9:5; 52:1; 59:6, 17; 61:10; 63:1, 2 3)
- 4) Joy - 28 references in 24 verses
- 5) That Day - 45 references (Isa. 2:11 is the first and Isa. 52:6 is the last)
- 6) The Day - 22 references in 21 verses (beginning in Isa. 2:12, and ending in Isa. 65:5)
- 7) Arm of - 3 references (Isa. 51:9; 53:1; 62:8)

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- 8) Arm - 15 references (starting in Isa. 9:20 and the last is Isa. 63:12 described as His own arm (Isa. 9:20); His holy arm (Isa. 52:10); arm of the Lord (Isa. 51:9); His arm brought salvation (Isa. 59:16); Arm of His strength (Isa. 62:8); glorious arm (Isa. 63:12).
- 9) Light - 31 references in 22 verses (beginning with Isa. 2:5 and ending with Isa. 60:20)
- 10) Walls - occurs in 9 verses (Isa. 22:5, 11; 25:12; 26:1; 49:16; 56:5; 60:10, 18; 62:6)
- 11) Feet - occurs in 16 verses (the first is Isa. 3:16 and the last is Isa. 60:14)

Glorious truth presented

That which is seen throughout is the manifestation of God.

- a) His plaintive cry (Isa. 1:2-9; 18)
- b) The littleness of the nations before Him (Isa. 40:15)
- c) He is without equal (Isa. 46:5)
- d) The greatness of His Redeemer (Isa. 41:14)
- e) His compassionate care (Isa. 46:4; 66:13)
- f) The fulness of His blessings on Jerusalem and Judah (Isa. 62:4; 11, 12)

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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