



Christ in Isaiah: There are nine distinct prophecies in the book of Isaiah that foretell the nature and person of the Messiah. The first four are found in the first section of Isaiah (chapters 1-39), and these primarily focus on the deity and glory of the coming Messiah. The last five are found in the second portion of Isaiah (chapters 40-66), and

are often referred to as the “Servant Songs.” These prophecies depict the Messiah as the perfect servant of God, and they also show how God’s servant would be rejected and killed. In His death, however, redemption would be offered (Isa. 53). The final prophecy depicts the glorious results of the Messiah’s victory, and the liberation He offers. In this week’s reading, we will come across three of these prophecies:

The Virgin Birth Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14-15

The Great Light: Isaiah 9:1-7

The Branch from the Stem of Jesse: Isaiah 11:1-10

For questions and extra study this week, we are going to focus on the names and descriptions given to the Messiah in Isaiah’s first two prophecies. Read these passages again and consider the titles given to the Messiah. What do these titles teach us about Jesus, His life, and His work? Can you find passages in the New Testament that follow-up on these themes? Write out what you find and learn on a separate sheet of paper.

- Immanuel (Isa. 7:14) *Bonus question—what does the name “Immanuel” mean
- Wonderful Counselor
- Mighty God (Isa. 9:6)
- Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6)
- Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6)

Woe to the Wicked

In Isaiah 5, there are six “woes” pronounced upon the wicked. Isaiah describes the evil behavior of the people, and pronounces the Lord’s judgment on such. A brief inspection shows that our culture isn’t vastly different than Isaiah’s. We would do well to heed these warnings, and ensure our lives aren’t full of any of these “woes”.

Woe to those....

- ...who join house to house: *a depiction of greed and materialism*
- ...who run after strong drink: *self indulgence and riotous living*
- ...draw iniquity with cords of falsehood...: *revel in sin and doubt God’s wrath*
- ...who call evil good...: *denial of God’s Word and creation of a perverted “morality”*
- ...who are wise in their own eyes: *self reliance and arrogance*
- ...who are heroes at drinking wine...: *proud of sin and a link to social injustice.*

“That You May Grow Thereby...”

A weekly Bible reading plan



Isaiah 1-14

Woe to the Wicked

Overview

For the next few weeks, our reading plan is going to take us through the book of Isaiah. Isaiah begins a new section of the Old Testament—the books of prophecy. The prophets served as the spokesmen of God to the kings and people of Judah and Israel. They taught God’s law, urged the people to return to obedience when they had gone astray, and forewarned of God’s judgment should the people continue in sin. Most of their work was focused on warning the people and reminding them of God’s Law. Interspersed throughout their messages though are prophecies that foretold future events. They prophesied about the judgment of various nations, including Judah and Israel. They prophesied about Judah’s return from captivity. Most importantly, from time to time they prophesied about the Messiah and His kingdom. Nowhere is this more true than the book of Isaiah. Throughout Isaiah, we find more messianic prophecies than in any other prophetic book. Thus, in this book we find a great picture of Christ that will enhance our understanding of who Jesus is and what He has truly done! Many other lessons can be learned in this book as we read prophecies concerning the church, warnings against sin, and the hope of redemption found only in God and His plan!

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: Isaiah 1-3
- Tuesday: Isaiah 4-6
- Wednesday: Isaiah 7-9
- Thursday: Isaiah 10-12
- Friday: Isaiah 13-14

The Miniature Bible

Some have called Isaiah a miniature Bible. As there are 66 books in the Bible, there are 66 chapters in Isaiah. The first 39 chapters are similar to the 39 books of the Old Testament, in that we find more of the warnings and judgments in this section of the book. The final 27 chapters are similar to the 27 books of the New Testament, as they tend to focus more on the deliverance God promises, and the scheme of redemption that would play out through the Messiah and His kingdom!

Isaiah the Prophet

- **Family:** Isaiah is recorded as the “son of Amoz.” His wife is simply referred to as “the prophetess,” and he had two sons named Shear-Jashub and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz
- **Historical Setting:** Isaiah served as a prophet from ~740 B.C. to ~680 B.C. Isaiah served during the reigns of four of Judah’s kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.
- **Other Prophets:** Jonah, Amos, Hosea, and likely Joel had served as prophets shortly before Isaiah. Micah was a contemporary of Isaiah. Micah focused primarily on the outlying regions of Judah, while Isaiah stayed primarily in Jerusalem.



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