

Isaiah

The Lord Is Salvation

Getting Started

Isaiah 1:1-3

Lesson One

Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex Curriculum

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Getting Started

The book of Isaiah is the first book of prophecy listed in the Old Testament. It is also the longest book of prophecy. In this book, Isaiah talks about judgment on the people of Israel. But, even with the terrible things that he said were going to happen to Israel, he also promises hope and a blessing on God's people in the future.

This prophecy was written about 740 years before Jesus was born.* That means that it is about 2,750 years old. However, much of what we read there can be applied to our world today. As we go through the book, we will see not only things that happened in the past, but learn things about how we should be living in our day.

The prophecy carries the name of the prophet Isaiah. His name means "The Lord Is Salvation." We have made that the subtitle of our study. Many assume from what is said in this book that Isaiah was probably of royal blood. In other words, he was related to the king some way. The first thirty-nine chapters of the book were written by Isaiah, or were his words recorded by someone else while he lived. Some think that the last twenty-six chapters were not written by Isaiah himself, but were written by someone who greatly admired Isaiah and wanted to continue his prophesy; possibly by someone who was a disciple of Isaiah or had been personally taught and trained by one of Isaiah's disciples. There are several reasons to think this, one is that chapters 40-66 seem to have been written about 150 years after the first 39 chapters.

What does that say about how the Bible comes to us. Actually, it says only that through the years, writings have been divided or combined to give us a clearer way of knowing what God said. For instance, First and Second Samuel were once only one book.

The most important thing to understand is that God inspired these books. They are the work of His Holy Spirit speaking through human writers. We have God's Word, but, humans put the words together, and since the second part of Isaiah is so much like the first part, and carries the words and ideas of Isaiah, it was seen as a good thing to group them together.

Our goal in this series of lessons is to learn as much as possible about what God is saying to us through the prophet Isaiah. Let's look at the first few verses. Read Isaiah 1:1-3

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This is the record of a vision. In the second chapter, the first verse, the author calls it a “word.” What we can assume from that is that Isaiah received a picture (vision) of the future and he understood it in human terms. He could put it into words. Isaiah was the son of Amoz. It is very hard to connect this man Amoz to any other Biblical characters, so we must assume that who he was is unimportant. We do know that Isaiah had two sons: Shear-jashub, (She-ar-ja’-shub) whose name means “a remnant shall return,” is mentioned in chapter seven, verse three. Maher-shalal-hash-baz (May-or-shal-al-hash’-baaz), whose name means that God will quickly judge Judah’s enemies, is mentioned in chapter eight, verse three.

Isaiah ministered in the southern kingdom of Israel called Judah. He prophesied during the reigns of four kings. King Uzziah’s (U-zI’-uh) reign began in about 783 BC or BCE, and King Hezekiah’s (Hez-i-kI’-ya) reign ended in about 687 BC.

Isaiah begins with a call to hear God. Then he reveals God’s sadness at the fact that Israel, who God had brought out of Egypt and given a homeland, has now turned their backs on God. God said that even animals know their owners and recognize their owners as those who lead them. Think of the sheep who cannot care for itself, or a donkey as is named here. They need to be fed, cared for and given shelter from the cold. When the master calls, they respond.

But, God says, Israel isn’t as smart or as loyal as animals. They don’t know what is good for them. They ignore all the good that God could bring to them. They could enjoy peace and not have to fear the great Assyrian army that was growing and gaining strength just to their north.

In our next lesson we will read what Isaiah heard from God about what was going to happen because of what Israel had done and how they live.

For us today, we should see this as a lesson about God’s watching us like a sheep-herder watches his sheep. And, we should see in these verses that God warns us through those who pay attention to Him and His Words.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

Scripture Memory: “Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the Lord speaks.”
Isaiah 1:2

Lesson Goal: To introduce the students to the prophecy of Isaiah and encourage them to expect God to be speaking to them.

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Student Worksheet

As the teacher goes through the lesson, look for answers to these:

1. How long before Jesus was born did Isaiah write?
2. What does the name Isaiah mean?
3. How long after the first 39 chapters were written do some say the final 26 were written?
4. What was Isaiah's father's name?
5. Why was God sad about how Israel had treated Him?
6. How does God warn us?

Scripture Memory: "Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth; For the Lord speaks."

Isaiah 1:2

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.