**Isaiah**

*The Devastation of Sin*

*Isaiah 1*

Background

* Isaiah means “The Lord is salvation,” and is similar to the names of Joshua, Elisha, and Jesus.
  + Jewish tradition teaches that Isaiah’s father (Amoz) was the brother of King Amaziah (Uzziah’s father) which would have made Isaiah King Uzziah’s cousin.
  + Jewish tradition says that Isaiah lived into the reign of Manasseh under whom he suffered a horrible matrydom for resisting the king’s doings, being placed in the hollowed trunk of a tree and then “sawn asunder.”
    - 10 ¶ And the LORD spake by his servants the prophets, saying, 11 Because Manasseh king of Judah hath done these abominations, *and* hath done wickedly above all that the Amorites did, which *were* before him, and hath made Judah also to sin with his idols: 12 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel, Behold, I *am* bringing *such* evil upon Jerusalem and Judah, that whosoever heareth of it, both his ears shall tingle. (2 Kings 21:10-12)
    - They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Heb 11:37)
* Isaiah is quoted over 65 times in the NT, far more than any other OT prophet, and mentioned by name over 20 times.
  + Winston Churchill was once asked to give the qualifications a person needed in order to succeed in politics, and he replied: “It is the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year and to have the ability afterwards to explain why it didn’t happen.
  + Not so with God’s prophecies!!
* The book was written between 760 – 700 BC
* Isaiah was a contemporary of Hosea and Micah.
* I believe in the literal fulfillment of God’s promises to the nation of Israel.
  + But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine. (Isaiah 43:1)
  + Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of *my* hands; thy walls *are* continually before me. (Isaiah 49:16)
  + 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* whereto I sent it. 12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap *their* hands. (Isaiah 55:10-12)
* Prophesied in the days of the following kings of Judah: Uzziah (52 years), Jotham (16 years), Ahaz (16 years), and Hezekiah (29 years). Isaiah’s prophetic ministry likely spanned 90 years.
  + Appears Isaiah’s ministry was at the end of Uzziah’s reign.
    - In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. (Isaiah 6:1)
  + The reign of Uzziah coincided with the reign of Jeroboam II (41 years) and was a time of great prosperity for Israel and religious idolatry.
  + Uzziah – started well, but ended with offering incense in the Holy Place. Judged with leprosy.
  + Jotham – was noted for his loyalty to the Lord, though local sacrifices were still permitted.
  + Ahaz – the worst of the lot. All sorts of problems.
  + Hezekiah – the best of the lot, so more attention seems to be given to these latter two kings.
* Isaiah prophesied before the destruction of the Northern Kingdom and through the siege on Judah by Assyria (Sennacherib). Note, Sennacherib does capture 46 cities of Judah.
* Outline
  + Chapters 1-39 (Assyrian Period)
    - Prophecies concerning Judah and Jerusalem (1-12)
    - Prophecies concerning the nations (13-27)
    - The source of true deliverance (28-35)
    - Hezekiah’s troubles with the threat of Assyria and Babylon (36-39)
  + Chapters 40-66 (Babylonian Period)
    - The one true God versus idols (40-48)
    - Salvation through the suffering servant (49-53)
    - The future glory for God’s people (54-66)
  + Chapters 1-39 Condemnation. Chapters 40-66 Comfort
* Reasons to Study Isaiah
  + It will increase our faith in Jesus as the Messiah as you read of the prophecies that have been fulfilled.
  + It will strengthens our confidence in God who is ultimately in control of all things and will bring His purposes to pass.
  + It will bring increased love for our Savior as we see the blessings of obedience and His great love and longsuffering.
  + It gives us greater understanding as to how God ruled nations in the past and how He might exercise that authority today.

Chapter provides the basic theme of the entire book:

* The sinfulness of Judah and Jerusalem (v 3-8)
* The tender appeals of the Lord (v 16-19)
* The certainty of the coming judgment (v 24, 25, 29-31)
* Salvation through the Messiah to come (v 26, 27)

The Heartache of the Father (v 2-4)

* Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. (Romans 1:21)
* Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD. (1 Samuel 2:17) – sons of Eli (Hophni and Phinehas)
* Remember this, *that* the enemy hath reproached, O LORD, and *that* the foolish people have blasphemed thy name. (Psalms 74:18)
* Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: (Psalms 107:11)
* They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. (Proverbs 1:30)
* Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 5:24)

The Infectious Spread of Sin (v 5-8)

God’s Great Mercy and Love ( v 9)