

Isaiah Notes

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Introduction:

Isaiah means “Jehovah is salvation.”

- “Salvation” is used 26 times in Isaiah.

Isaiah is the first of the prophetic books.

- Prophets are those who speak for God. (Exod. 20:19)
- “For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Rev. 19:10)

Isaiah is the longest of the prophetic books.

The theme of Isaiah is: “The Holy One of Israel.”

- The phrase “the Holy One of Israel” is used 26 times in Isaiah (and only 6 times in the rest of the OT).

Date of Ministry: 740-681 BC (Contemporary with Amos, Hosea, and Micah)

- Isaiah parallels the historical account of 2 Chron. 26-32.
- Tradition, according to Justin Martyr, says Manasseh had Isaiah sawn in half. (Heb. 11:37)

Higher critics claim that not all of Isaiah was written by Isaiah. They claim that Isaiah 1-39 were written by one Isaiah and Isaiah 40-66 were written by another. But Isaiah is quoted 22 times in the NT; both parts of the book are quoted by Jesus (John 12:40) and both are attributed to Isaiah. (John 12:38-41, 47-51; see also Matt. 3:3; 12:17-21; Luke 3:4; and Rom. 10:16, 20-21.)

Chapter 1:

1:1 – “the vision...which he saw” – Prophets were often called seers because of the visions they received. (1 Sam. 9:9)

- “concerning Judah and Jerusalem” – This is written during a time when the Assyrians were taking Israel captive. God turns to warning Judah.
- “Uzziah” – A king that brought steadiness and prosperity to Judah. Uzziah’s godliness brought reform to Judah, but it was merely surface religion.

1:2 – “give ear, O earth” – The people wouldn’t listen, so Isaiah turns to the land.

- When God speaks, everything else should go quiet.
- “I have nourished and brought up children” – God relates to them as a Father.

1:3 – “ox knows its owner” – Even an ox or donkey would know where its food came from.

- God is saying that His people are worse than dumb animals.

1:4 – “turned away backward” – They have backslidden.

1:5 – “stricken again” – People in rebellion and sin bring painful consequences upon themselves.

- “head is sick...heart faints” – Wrong thinking leads to wrong living.

1:6 – “putrefying sores” – God is describing the body of a leper, as Uzziah contracted leprosy later in his life for attempting to be a priest.

- 1:8 – “a booth in a vineyard” – A temporary shelter in the field for the servants. This is what Judah has become.
- 1:11 – “the multitude of your sacrifices” – They have turned from God while remaining very religious. They assume that because they are religious they have a real relationship with God, but their hearts are far from Him. (Hosea 6:6)
- They are not relating to Him as Father. (v. 2)
 - It is not that God doesn’t want them to offer sacrifices; He commanded them to do just that. But He also wants their heart and their life changed too.
 - “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and contrite heart – These, O God, You will not despise.” (Ps. 51:17)
- 1:15 – “prayers, I will not hear” – “If I regard iniquity in my heart, God will not hear my prayers.” (Ps. 66:18)
- “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that is cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that is cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from you God.” (Isa. 59:1-2)
- 1:16 – “Wash yourselves” – We have to learn to do good, because we were born knowing to do wrong.
- 1:18 – “let us reason together” – God is willing to condescend to reason with His children.
- God is extending grace to a wicked people.
 - God is willing to prove Himself to us. (For example: His use of prophecy in Isa. 41:22-23.)
 - “reason” – This is a word from the judicial system meaning “to present a court case.”
 - God doesn’t call us to blind faith; He reasons with us.
 - “sins” – That which stands between us and God.
 - They have to acknowledge that they are sinners and consider how it would be possible for them to once again be “white as snow.”
 - “scarlet” – Lit. “double-dyed.”
 - “white as snow” – Repentance is a privilege.
- 1:19 – “willing and obedient” – God desires for us to be right and do right.
- 1:21 – “the faithful city has become a harlot” – They have turned from following the Lord in exchange for financial gain. Any idolatry is spiritual harlotry.
- A harlot is one who sells themselves for money.
 - “faithful” – One of the greatest helps to personal holiness is to remain busy about the work God has called us to.
 - God blesses us, so that we can bless others.
- 1:23 – “bribes” – They are doing everything for money.
- 1:25 – “purge away your dross” – God’s purpose in judgment is to purge, wash, and clean. (v. 16)
- 1:29 – “the terebinth trees” – Idolatrous worship.
- “gardens” – The groves of their high places.
- 1:30 – “be as a terebinth whose leaf fades” – You will become like your gods. (Ps. 115:8; 135:18)

Chapter 2:

2:2 – “in the latter days” – Fast-forward to the future. The Kingdom Age.

- God still has a plan for the nation of Israel. (Rom. 11)
- “the mountain” – Mountains usually refer to governments in the Bible.
 - Golgotha is the highest physical mountain in the region of Jerusalem.
 - Jerusalem will be split into thirds, mountains will be brought low and valleys will be raised up. The landscape is all going to change.

2:3 – “He will teach us His ways” – Why we gather together as a church.

- In the Kingdom Age, Jesus Himself will teach some of the Bible studies.
- “Zion” – Isaiah speaks of Zion more than any other prophet.

2:4 – “beat their swords into plowshares” – The peace of the Kingdom Age, established by the Prince of Peace Himself. (Ps. 2)

- Joel 3:10 speaks of the opposite of this; “beating plowshares into swords.” It will get worse before it gets better.
- There are enough resources on earth for each individual to be a millionaire, but greed and poor stewardship have made that impossible.
- “Neither shall they learn war anymore” – No more boot camp, no Paris Island, no Naval Academy, no West Point, etc.

2:5 – “come and let us walk in the light” – God’s invitation.

2:6 – “soothsayers” – They were forbidden in Israel.

- If you want answers regarding the future, read the Word. The future is not hidden.

2:7 – “full of silver and gold...full of horses” – Deuteronomy gave them instructions not to do these things.

- “silver and gold” – Financial gain drew them away from the Lord.
 - They traded away their relationship with the Lord for money.

2:10 – “the terror of the Lord” – The future judgment; near speaks of Assyria and Babylon, the far speaks of the time God’s wrath is poured out on the earth.

- OT prophecy often has a “near-far” element to it. The near speaks of an event to come in the prophet’s own time; the far often speaks of an event still to come.

2:16 – “Tarshish” – Possibly speaking of Britain.

2:19 – “into the caves” – They will be hiding from the wrath of the Lamb. (Rev. 6:16-17)

2:20 – “cast away his idols of silver” – It is easier to run without carrying idols.

- They won’t even be able to sell their gold.

2:21 – “He arises to shake the earth” – The earth will physically shake to and fro like a drunken man.

- Scientists say the earth wobbles every 7-10 years. One day the wobble is going to get really bad.

- 2:22 – “Sever yourselves from such a man” – Lit. “cease from man, or give up on man.”
- “Come out from among them and be separate.” (2 Cor. 6:17)
 - “such a man” – Those seeking after money (v. 7), eastern mysticism (v. 6), or worldly acceptance (v. 6).
 - “breath is in his nostrils” – Daniel says our every breath is in the hands of God. (Dan. 5:23)

Chapter 3:

- 3:1 – “stock and store” – Everything they sold their relationship with God for will be taken away.
- “supply of bread and...water” – The ecology is effected.
- 3:2 – “the diviner and the elder” – All their leaders.
- 3:4 – “children to be their princes” – Immaturity and incompetence in leadership.
- “Woe to you, O land, when your king is a child.” (Eccl. 10:16)
- 3:6 – “You have clothing; You be our ruler” – Anyone who even looks like a ruler, they will want to put into office.
- 3:7 – “he will protest” – Nobody will even want the power over this mess.
- 3:8 – “Judah is fallen” – Consummated almost 150 years later.
- “provoke the eyes of His glory” – They are mocking God and the things of God.
- 3:9 – “their countenances witnesses against them” – You can tell by looking at them.
- “They do not hide it” – They have become shameless regarding sin.
 - Those that are past shame are past grace, and then past hope.
- 3:10-11 – “righteous...wicked” – God will differentiate between the righteous and the wicked in judgment. (Gen. 18:23; 2 Pet. 2:9)
- “Whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.” (Gal. 6:7) This is a blessing to the righteous and a cursing to the wicked.
- 3:14 – “eaten up the vineyard” – They have done this to themselves.
- “plunder of the poor is in your houses” – They are getting rich on the backs of the people they are to be serving.
- 3:16 – “outstretched necks” – Like on the catwalk or the red carpet.
- “wanton” – Open sexuality.
- 3:17 – “scab” – Disease.
- 3:18 – “the finery” – All the things they use to draw attention to themselves to attract sexually.
- The NT teaches modesty in dress – 1 Pet. 3:3-4; 1 Tim. 2:9-10.
- 3:24 – “so it shall be” – Nebuchadnezzar will do these things to Jerusalem.
- “a stench” – Sin leaves a trail of death.

Chapter 4:

- 4:1 – “seven women shall take hold of one man” – There will be a shortage of able-bodied men.
- There is a shortage of men in our culture too; it is not a shortage of males, but of men.
 - This is also a glimpse of the last days when after the Battle of Armageddon there will be a shortage of male survivors.
- 4:2 – “the Branch of the Lord” – This is referring to the Messiah. (Jer. 33:15; Zech. 3:8)
- The judgments of Isaiah 2-3 are so heavy that even God pauses to look to the future blessings for a time.
 - “escaped” – If this is looking down to the end of the age, it speaks of those who survived the Battle of Armageddon. They will only come through as believers.
- 4:4 – “purged” – That is a purifying. (Zech. 13:1)
- 4:5 – “cloud and smoke” – As Israel was led through the wilderness by God’s presence. (Exod. 13:21)
- 4:6 – “a tabernacle” – Jesus Christ will sit in this tabernacle.

Chapter 5:

- 5:1 – “His vineyard” – Referring to the nation of Israel. (Ezek. 15 – written 100 years after Isaiah; see also Hosea 10; Matt. 20:1-16; 21:33-44)
- 5:2 – “bring forth good grapes” – The nation of Israel was to “bear fruits worthy of repentance.” (Matt. 3:8)
- “wild grapes” – Instead of good fruit.
- 5:4 – “What more could have been done” – God provides all that is necessary for the vineyard to produce good fruit.
- The vineyard has all the appearances of health and godliness, but it isn’t producing good fruit.
- 5:5 – “hedge” – That which protects the vineyard.
- 5:8 – “join house to house” – They are abandoning the ancient boundaries and sabbath year rules in an effort to attain more land and wealth. (Jer. 34; Micah 2:1-2)
- 5:10 – “one bath” – That is about 6 gallons.
- “ephah” – That is 1/10 of a homer.
- 5:11 – “intoxicating drink” – Drunkenness.
- 5:12 – “harp and the strings” – Music.
- This is the sex, drugs, and rock-n-roll lifestyle.
 - “Nor consider the operation of his hands” – There is no concern for the things of God.
- 5:13 – “multitude” – The crowds are not necessarily right. The majority doesn’t make it okay.
- 5:14 – “Sheol” – They are partying themselves straight into hell.
- Partying kept their minds off the life to come, but it comes anyway.

5:18 – “draw iniquity” – They are pushing sinful lifestyles and agendas.

- “vanity” – They are mocking God.

5:20 – “call evil good, and good evil” – They are confused in judgment. (Insanity!)

5:21 – “wise in their own eyes” – Pride.

- “Professing to be wise, they became fools.” (Rom. 1:22)

5:22 – “mighty at drinking” – Who can drink the most without puking?

5:23 – “justify the wicked for a bribe” – Injustice.

- Jorge Valdes in “Coming Clean” said at one time all the judges of a certain district in Florida were on the payroll of the Colombian drug cartel.

5:24 – “despised the word of the Holy One” – Their view of the Word of God; they don’t just neglect it, they despise it.

5:25 – “His people” – He hasn’t abandoned them.

5:26 – “the nations from afar” – God will use foreign nations to judge Israel.

- Habakkuk will really struggle with God’s plan to use Babylon to judge Israel.
- “Islam was a judgment on idolatry, whether pagan or Christian” – “The Pilgrim Church.” E.H. Broadbent; p. 72.

5:27 – “strap of their sandals” – God will even hold their shoes together.

5:29 – “carry it away” – There is no longevity and true prosperity in rebellion to God.

5:30 – “darkened” – Jerusalem will be burned.

Chapter 6:

6:1 – “King Uzziah” – (740 BC) A good king, Uzziah reigned for 52 years and brought political, military, and economic stability to Judah. (2 Chron. 26)

- Judah had become dependant on Uzziah. Sometimes God has to take our leaders away from us so we will turn to Him.
- “the Lord sitting on a throne” – God’s throne never changes or goes empty.

6:2 – “seraphim” – Plural. The Hebrew root means “to burn.”

- Seraphs (1 face, 6 wings) are different from cherubs (4 faces, 4 wings). (Rev. 4:6-9; Ezek. 1; Ezek. 10)

6:3 – “Holy” – Lit. “to be separate, different.”

- Jesus defines God’s holiness for us.

- 6:5 – “Woe is me” – Humility is the result of seeing God as He truly is.
- After all the woes on Judah in Isaiah 5, he is no longer able to compare himself to others.
 - “unclean lips” – “For out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.” (Matt. 12:34)
 - Isaiah has already delivered some messages from God to the nation. The message has been pure, but his lips haven’t been.
 - “my eyes have seen the King” – Not Uzziah, but God Almighty.
 - This vision leaves Isaiah with a deeper burden for God’s people. Now he can receive perspective and a real call from God.
- 6:7 – “Your iniquity is taken away” – God has spoken the same thing to those who have accepted Jesus Christ.
- God never reveals sin in us without also being willing to purify that sin from us.
- 6:8 – “I heard the voice of the Lord” – Isaiah can only hear the Lord truly after his own sins have been properly dealt with.
- “Us” – An OT reference to the trinity.
 - “Here am I! Send me.” – Isaiah volunteers simply as a result of hearing God’s Word.
 - Jesus has told us to “Go.” (Matt. 28:19)
- 6:9 – “tell this people” – Isaiah gets specific instructions after he had agreed to go for God.
- 6:9-10 – “but do not understand” – Quoted 6 times in the NT. (Matt. 13:14-15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:40; Acts 28:25-28; Rom. 11:7-10,25)
- Isaiah is going out of obedience, not because he expects to be successful.
 - Our ministries are judged on faithfulness, not fruitfulness.
- 6:13 – “a tenth” – A remnant.
- God will get His tithe.
 - “terebinth tree” – Trees that when cut off at the stump, will produce new sprouts from the old stump and eventually become a new tree.
 - The Gentiles were grafted into the old stump of Israel. (Rom. 11:16-24)

Chapter 7:

- 7:1 – “the days of Ahaz” – One of the worst kings of Judah. He even “burned his children in the fire.” (2 Kings 15-16; 2 Chron. 28)
- God is preparing to judge the northern nation of Israel, but at this time Israel looks very imposing to Judah.
- 7:2 – “house of David” – Judah.
- Ahaz was of the Davidic line.
 - “Ephraim” – Israel.
 - “the heart of his people were moved” – Ahaz had been defeated by Aram and Israel earlier. (2 Chron. 28:5-8)
- 7:3 – “Shear-Jashub” – means “a remnant shall return.”
- “the upper pool” – The Gihon Springs.
 - The lower pool was Siloam.
- 7:4 – “do not fear” – Both these kings will be dead in 2 years.

- 7:6 – “Let us go up” – Isaiah, the prophet, can even tell Ahaz what his enemies are planning against him. God knows.
- 7:7 – “thus says the Lord God” – Trust God’s Word over what we see with our eyes.
- 7:8 – “Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken” – Assyria will take Israel in less than 65 years. (By 670 BC, Assyria was re-settling Samaria.)
- Isaiah spoke the prophecy in the year 734 BC. Assyria defeated Syria in 732 BC and invaded Israel in 722 BC.
- 7:9 – “If you will not believe, surely you shall not be established” – Faith allows us to stand in the face of adversity without reacting to circumstances.
- 7:11 – “Ask a sign for yourself” – God gives Ahaz a blank check.
- Throughout Isaiah, God is using the countries of Syria, Assyria, Israel, and Judah as the backdrop to give us glimpses of a different kingdom and a different ruler. He is revealing the Messiah to His people.
- 7:12 – “I will not ask” – Historically, Ahaz is beginning to work for a political solution to this situation by making allegiance with Assyria. Therefore, he doesn’t really think he needs God’s help or a sign.
- A secret disaffection to God is often disguised with the specious colours of respect to Him; and those who are resolved that they will not trust God, yet pretend that they will not tempt Him.
 - “nor will I test the Lord” – This is false humility. God told him to ask.
 - God wants obedience more than false piety.
- 7:14 – “you” – Plural. This isn’t just for Ahaz.
- “virgin” – (Heb. “almah”) This word is used 7 times in the OT and never can it be proven to refer to a young woman who is not a virgin.
 - The Septuagint of Isa. 7:14 and the Greek for Matt. 1:23 specifically translate this as “an untouched virgin.”
 - This is “her seed” promised in Gen. 3:15.
 - “Immanuel” – Lit. “God with us.”
- 7:15 – “that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good” – “Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:40,52)
- 7:16 – “forsaken by both her kings” – In two years, Pekah and Rezin will both be dead. (732 BC)
- The near fulfillment of this prophecy deals with Isaiah’s son and the fact that Pekah and Rezin will both be removed by the time Shear-Jashub (v. 3) is recognized as an adult.
- 7:17 – “Assyria” – Syria is the dominate world power at the time.
- 7:18 – “fly” – Egypt was known for being numerous.
- “bee” – Assyria was known for being cruel.
- 7:20 – “razor” – To be shaved by a captor was to be humiliated.

7:22 – “Curds and honey” – The simplest form of food.
- Simple food is a result of the decimation of the land.

7:24 – “briers and thorns” – Israel will be left desolate.

Chapter 8:

8:1 – “Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz” – means “speed the spoil, hasten the booty.”
- This is looking to the Assyrians who will sack Syria and Israel.

8:2 – “Uriah the priest” – Here called a “faithful witness,” Uriah will later turn from God and build a pagan altar for the Temple in Jerusalem. (2 Kings 16:10-11)

8:3 – “the prophetess” – Isaiah’s wife.

8:4 – “Samaria will be taken” – Isaiah is prophesying the destruction of Israel to the north.
- Israel preferred Syria over Judah.

8:6 – “Shiloah” – Shiloah was a small stream outside of Jerusalem. This is possibly speaking of Jerusalem and Israel’s unwillingness to go to the Temple to worship God.
- Instead of coming to Judah to worship, Israel is coming to Judah to conquer.
- Israel prefers Syria to Judah.
- “softly” – They rejected the gentleness of God for the cruelty of the Assyrians.

8:7 – “the waters of the River” – Speaking of Assyria.
- Israel rejected the waters of Jerusalem and will be drowned in the waters of Assyria.

8:11 – “instructed me” – God is speaking directly to Isaiah.

8:12 – “conspiracy” – God’s ministers need not give into paranoia and grand conspiracy theories.
- “Nor be afraid” – God is telling Isaiah not to fear everything else everyone else is afraid of.

8:13 – “hallow” – Lit. “set apart.” We should treat God differently from everything else in this world.
- “Him” – God alone.

8:14 – “stone of stumbling” – Religious Jews will stumble over Jesus. (Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:8; see also Matt. 21:44)

8:17 – “wait on the Lord, who hides His face” – Even if you can’t sense or see God, keep waiting on, trusting in, and obeying God. (Job 23:8-12)

8:18 – “the children” – Shear-Jashub and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.

8:19 – “mediums and wizards” – New age, astrology, and the occult.
- Whenever there is political upheaval, the people have a tendency to turn to some fanatical leader allowing dynamic leaders great influence to deceive many at that time.
- “seek the dead on behalf of the living” – Why would you ask the dead about how to live? Why not ask a God who has conquered death about how to live?

8:20 – “To the Law and to the testimony” – If people aren’t turning to God’s Word for truth then they are already gone.

- They are to bind themselves to the Word of God.

8:21 – “curse their king and their God” – They are angry at God, even though they have never listened to Him.

- It is not God’s fault; they never listened to what He said.

Chapter 9:

9:1 – “land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali” – God’s punishments started slowly as Assyria came into Israel from the north.

- These tribes suffered greatly when Tiglath-Pileser III attacked in 734 BC and 732 BC. (2 Kings 15:29)

9:2 – “light has shined” – A prophecy of Jesus fulfilled in Matt. 4:15-16.

9:4 – “as in the days of Midian” – Before Israel had a king, God could raise up a simple man like Gideon and use him to save the nation. (Judges 7; see also Isa. 10:26)

9:6 – “a Child is born” – This is from our perspective.

- Prophecies regarding the Messiah being born in Israel. (Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2)
- “a Son is given” – This is from God’s perspective.
 - “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son.” (John 3:16)
- “Wonderful, Counselor” – Jesus is the best counselor.
- “Mighty God” – This Child will be Mighty God.

9:7 – “forever” – Speaking of God’s eternal kingdom.

- “zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this” – This program depends on God, not on us.

9:9 – “Ephraim...Samaria” – The northern nation of Israel.

9:10 – “rebuild” – They want to rebuild without repenting.

9:12 – “hand is stretched out still” – This speaks of the stubbornness of the people.

- This phrase is repeated in Isa. 5:25; 9:17, 21; 10:4.

9:15-17 – “the elder and honorable...fatherless and widows” – All walks of life will be judge in Israel.

9:17 – “young men” – Typically the pride of a nation.

9:18 – “as the fire” – God is picturing His judgment as a forest fire.

9:20-21 – “eat the flesh of his own arm” – This is either talking about civil war between Judah and Israel or about cannibalism.

Chapter 10:

10:1 – “decree unrighteous decrees” – Speaking of corruption in government.

10:2 – “rob the fatherless” – God’s law cared for the less fortunate. (James 1:27; Matt. 23:14)

10:5 – “the rod of My anger” – Assyria was to be the tool of the Lord.

- Isaiah is prophesying against the very people Judah is relying upon.
- Shalmaneser, king of Assyria, encouraged by his success against Israel “came up against all the fenced cities of Judah and took them, and laid siege to Jerusalem.” (2 Kings 18:13, 17)

10:6 – “an ungodly nation...the people of My wrath” – That is Judah.

10:7 – “he does not mean so” – Assyria intends to double-cross Judah.

- The heart of God’s judgments is to turn Judah to Himself, not to utterly spoil and destroy them. But Assyria intends to take what it can get from its advantage.

10:8 – “princes altogether kings” – The pride of Assyria. (v. 13)

10:9 – “like Damascus” – Assyria expects to take the next nation like they took the last one.

10:13 – “my...I” – 9 times.

- This is like Nebuchadnezzar in Dan. 4.

10:15 – “Shall the ax boast” – Tools are not to boast, they are merely instruments.

10:16 – “his fat ones” – The princes they boasted of in v. 8.

10:19 – “trees of his forest” – Speaking of the people of Assyria.

- In 2 Kings 19:35, one angel of the Lord killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night.

10:20 – “in that day” – Flash forward.

- “him who defeated them” – The near speaks of Sennacherib; the far speaks of Antichrist.

10:21 – “the remnant will return” – The name of Isaiah’s oldest son is Shear- Jashub.

10:25 – “the indignation” – Possibly a reference to the Tribulation.

10:26 – “Oreb” – From Judges 7:25.

10:27 – “his burden will be taken away” – God will break off the yoke of Assyria (as well as that of the Antichrist in the more distant future). (Rev. 19)

10:28-32 – “the hill of Jerusalem” – This is the path the Assyrians took through Judah as they came to take Jerusalem.

- “Michmash” – Sennacherib left his chariots in Michmash instead of trying to take them up over the mountains.
- “afraid” – Entire cities would commit suicide instead of allowing themselves to be tortured and killed by the Assyrians.

Chapter 11:

11:1 – “the stem of Jesse” – God had been talking about the great fall of the “tree of Assyria” in chapter 10.

- “a Branch” – The stump is Israel, the stem is Jesse, and Jesus is the Branch.
 - Jesus is also “the root” of the stump. (Isa. 11:10; Rev. 22:16)
- “grow out of his roots” – The nation is to be cut down in judgment, but the Messiah will grow out of what remains.

11:2 – “Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him” – Jesus functioned as a man under the Spirit’s anointing to do what He did. (Luke 3:22)

- The seven-fold Spirit...of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord. (Rev. 4:5)

11:3 – “not judge by the sight of His eyes” – “The Lord does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart.” (1 Sam. 16:7)

- With God, there is no jury, trial, injustice, or bribes.

11:4 – “the rod of His mouth” – The power in the voice of the Messiah; God’s word. (2 Thess. 2:8; Rev. 1:16; 19:20-21; Ps. 29:3-9)

11:6-9 – “dwell with the lamb” – A description of the Millennial Kingdom still to come to this earth.

- We have not yet seen what God created this earth to be. (Rom. 8:19-22)

11:8 – “in the viper’s den” – The curse is lifted.

11:9 – “the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord” – Habakkuk 2:14.

11:10 – “the Gentiles shall seek Him” – Speaking of the Church.

- All nations will have some come to God. (Rev. 1:7)

11:11 – “the second time” – The first return was from Babylon after the 70 years captivity; the second return is the modern reformation of the nation of Israel beginning in 1948.

- David Ben-Gurion named the land Israel instead of Palestine because of a prophecy in Ezekiel
- Prophecies regarding the regathering of the nation of Israel – Deut. 30:1-4; Jer. 16:14-15; Zech. 2; Matt. 24:31.

11:13 – “Ephraim shall not envy Judah” – There will be no divide between Israel and Judah when they are brought back.

- This was true of Israel in the return of 1948.

11:14 – “west” – The Gaza strip.

- “the East” – The West Bank area of Israel.

11:16 – “a highway” – The “highway of Holiness.” (Isa. 35:8)

Chapter 12:

12:2 – “He also has become my salvation” – (Heb. “yashua” – twice in this verse!) The Greek name Jesus is equivalent with the Hebrew name “Yashua.” (Exod. 15:2; Ps. 118:14)
- The nation of Israel will at some point recognize its Messiah. (Zech. 12:10)

12:4 – “Praise the Lord” – Israel will turn to the Lord as a result of the Great Tribulation.

12:6 – “in your midst” – God Himself will be in the midst of the nation.

Chapter 13:

Isaiah 13-23 contains 10 burdens on 9 nations and Jerusalem.

13:1 – “Babylon” – Near and far prophecies. (Rev. 18)

13:3 – “My sanctified ones” – Speaking of the Medes. (v. 17)

13:4 – “The Lord of hosts musters the army for battle” – As the nations come to fight against Israel in the Valley of Megiddo. (Rev. 16:12-16)

13:8 – “as a woman in childbirth” – Jesus spoke of the “beginning of sorrows.” (Matt. 24:8)

13:11 – “punish the world for its evil” – The purpose of the Tribulation.

- This is not to hurt the Church. (1 Thess. 5:9)
- At the tower of Babel, God confounded the languages to prevent the unification of the world in an effort to sustain itself without God. (Gen. 11) Since then, the world has been attempting to overcome the curse of Babel in an effort to restore a one-world economic, political, and religious system. Ultimately, Babylon will be destroyed in Rev. 17-18.

13:12 – “a mortal more rare than fine gold” – Jesus said “unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved.” (Matt. 24:22)

13:13 – “I will shake the heavens” – “The removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.” (Heb. 12:27)

13:17 – “the Medes” – The Assyrians were the world power at this time and Babylon was on the rise, but the Medes were an insignificant tribe at this time.

- The Medes and the Persians will take over from the Babylonians nearly 200 years later. (Dan. 5:31)

13:18 – “not spare children” – The Medes and Persians were vicious. (Ps. 137:8-9)

13:20 – “never be inhabited” – Speaking of a future destruction.

- Saddam Hussein was actively rebuilding the city of Babylon.

13:21 – “wild goats” – This term is connected with demons in Lev. 17:7 and 2 Chron. 11:15. In Rev. 18:2, fallen Babylon is describes as a home for demons and evil spirits.

Chapter 14:

In Isaiah 13, God predicted the fall of Babylon at the hands of the Medes. That is especially important for Judah who will be taken captive to Babylon for 70 years.

14:1 – “still choose Israel” – God has not cast off Israel forever. (Rom. 11)

- “settle them in their own land” – Ezekiel and Zechariah predict Israel returning to their land.

14:6 – “He who ruled the nations” – This hints at the Antichrist.

14:9 – “Hell” – Sheol.

- “excited about you” – Probably referring to the Antichrist.
- “thrones” – This refers to the powerful of this world who are now residing in hell.
 - There are no thrones in hell itself.

14:12 – “Lucifer” – The spiritual force behind the persecution of the Jews, especially in the Babylon of Rev. 17-18. (Ezek. 28:11-18)

- “son of the morning” – This title speaks of his attempt to be like Jesus. (Rev. 22:16)

14:13 – “I will” – (5 times) Self-will and pride were at the core of Satan’s fall.

- Self-improvement through religion is inspired by Satan.
 - Surrender to the will of God is the key to growing in relationship with God.

14:14 – “like the Most High” – It does not say that he wants to be greater than God. He just wants to be God as well serving as a co-regent with God.

14:16 – “Is this the man who made the earth tremble?” – The ugliness and smallness of Satan will be stunning when we finally see him fall.

- Satan is finite. He is a created being, but not even created in the image and likeness of God.

14:19 – “abominable branch” – He stands in contrast to the Branch, who is the root and offspring of Jesse. (Isa. 11:1,10)

14:24 – “as I have purposed, so it shall stand” – God’s purposes will stand.

14:29 – “Philistia” – The Philistines of Palestine in the Gaza Strip.

- They may think that these prophecies will get them free from the Assyrians, but within three years Assyria will take Philistine territory. (Isa. 16:14)

14:32 – “the Lord has founded Zion” – The answer to all these things is to trust in the Lord.

Chapter 15:

15:1 – “Ar” – The capital of Moab.

- “Moab” – Assyria will conquer Moab en route to battle Syria and Israel.

15:4 – “the armed soldiers of Moab will cry out” – There is so much destruction, even the men of the military are weeping.

15:5 – “cry out for Moab” – The destruction of Moab will be so brutal that even Isaiah will mourn for these perennial enemies of Israel.

- “flee to Zoar” – As Lot and his family did when God destroyed Sodom. (Gen. 19:22)

15:7 – “the abundance they have gained” – Moab was a rich agricultural territory, but in the end all they will have is what they can carry while they run away.

Chapter 16:

16:1 – “send the lamb” – At one point, Moab paid tribute to the kings of Judah. (2 Sam. 8:2; 2 Kings 3:4) God encourages them to reinstate that tribute to Judah in kindness to His outcasts who will flee to them.

- “Sela” – The rock-city of Petra.
 - The city was revealed to the western world by Johan Burkhart in 1812.

16:4 – “My outcasts” – Israel will flee to Petra at the mid-point of the Tribulation. (Matt. 24:16; Rev. 12:6)

16:5 – “the throne will be established” – Jesus’ earthly rule from Jerusalem.

16:8 – “her branches are stretched out” – Speaking of Assyria who will extend over the Euphrates to get to Moab.

16:10 – “In the vineyards there will be no singing” – Different regions each had their own songs which they sung while treading out the grapes of the harvest.

16:11 – “my heart shall resound like a harp” – Isaiah is quivering on the inside as he sees these prophecies regarding Moab.

- The Assyrians were known for their brutality. They would pull out tongues, gouge out eyes, impale people on sticks, set severed heads in large heaps around a captured city, and commit other atrocities.

16:12 – “the high place” – The place of idolatry.

- “to pray” – To their idols.

16:14 – “Within three years” – God times this prophecy regarding Moab.

- God is attempting to affirm His word to Judah by proving Himself in His word regarding Moab. If this happens to them as God says, so it will happen to Judah as God also said.
- Fulfilled prophecies should give us greater faith in the prophecies of God yet to be fulfilled.

Chapter 17:

17:1 – “Damascus” – The capital of Syria.

- Assyria captured Damascus in 732 BC.
- God is warning Israel, who has been in an alliance with Syria, that Syria will not be around to protect them from the Assyrians.

17:3 – “Ephraim” – Referring to the northern nation of Israel.

- Assyria took Israel in 722-721 BC.
- “as the glory of the children of Israel” – God’s glory departed from Israel in 1 Sam. 4:19-22.

17:4,7,9 – “In that day” – Likely looking to the distant Millennial Kingdom.

17:6 – “gleaning grapes will be left in it” – God instructed His people to leave a remnant of their harvests for the poor and needy of the land (Deut. 24). Now He is doing the same with the people who will be taken to Assyria.

- God will cause the Assyrians to bring a few of the religious Jews back into Israel to help them resettle the land in the fear of God. (2 Kings 17:24-41)

17:8 – “altars” – Ahaz has already built an Assyrian altar in the Temple. (2 Kings 16:10)

- They will realize the futility of worshipping idols.

17:10 – “not been mindful” – They forgot their God.

- “foreign seedlings” – Assyria will resettle the land.

17:12 – “many people” – Speaking of Syria and Israel, but this would also apply to Assyria.

17:13 – “nations will rush” – It appears that the nations are approaching Judah.

- This may be a distant prophecy regarding the nations surrounding Israel before the Battle of Armageddon. (Rev. 16)

17:14 – “trouble” – This may be speaking specifically of the destruction of the Assyrian army outside of Jerusalem in 2 Kings 19:35.

Chapter 18:

18:1 – “Ethiopia” – They (as also was Egypt – ch. 19) were trying to make alliances with Judah against Assyria.

- In 715 BC, a Cushite named Shabako gained control of Egypt and founded the 25th Dynasty.

18:2 – “reed” – God warned Israel that if they relied on Egypt that Egypt would be like a reed that would break and pierce the hand of the one who leaned on it.

18:5 – “before the harvest” – As Ethiopia anticipates some deliverance, God will preempt their plans with a great destruction.

18:6 – “birds of prey” – Possibly pointing to the carnage from the battles in Rev. 14:14-20; 19:17-21.

18:7 – “In that time” – Possibly referring to the Millennial Kingdom.

- “a present” – Some believe this is referring to the Ark of the Covenant, which some claim is hidden in Ethiopia and will eventually be given back to the Messiah.
- Other tradition says the High Priest Joshua sealed the Ark in a cave on Mount Pisgah. Others say the Ark was taken by the Romans and is now being held in the Vatican.

Chapter 19:

19:1 – “against Egypt” – Judah is attempting to make an alliance with Egypt, but Egypt is opposed to God and will be judged by God.

- “the Lord rides on a swift cloud” – Jesus said “hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Matt. 26:64)

- 19:2 – “Egyptians against Egyptians” – Civil war will be God’s judgment on the nation.
- 19:3 – “they will consult...mediums” – Some political powers of the modern day have been known to turn to wizards and white magic to gain insight and power.
- “idols” – When the Lord brought Israel out of Egypt, it is said, “Also on their gods the Lord had executed judgments.” (Num. 33:4)
- 19:4 – “cruel master” – Possibly speaking of the Antichrist. (Dan. 7; Rev. 13)
- 19:5 – “The waters” – The Nile River.
- “dried up” – or “dammed up.” Possibly speaking of the Aswan Dams. (The lower dam was built in 1905 and the upper dam was built in 1970.)
 - The Aswan Dam has created a saltwater inversion and over 1 million acres of farmland has been lost to saltwater. (Congressional report #S3448.)
 - This is a picture of the wisdom of man destroying itself.
 - Isaiah was written over 2,700 years ago.
- 19:7 – “Judah will be a terror to Egypt” – A prophecy yet to be fulfilled.
- 19:9 – “those who work in fine flax” – All that rely on the Nile for commerce and trade will suffer when the Nile dries up.
- 19:14 – “a perverse spirit in her midst” – God can stir whatever He chooses into a country to make it stagger like a drunken man.
- 19:16,18,19,23,24 – “In that day” – Looking to the future Millennial Kingdom.
- 19:17 – “Judah will be a terror to Egypt” – God will instill a fear of Judah into Egypt.
- This is still future. (Zech. 10-11; Malachi 3-4)
- 19:18 – “the language of Canaan” – They will be people of faith.
- “City of Destruction” – The Hebrew for “destruction” is very similar to “sun.” This may be a reference to Heliopolis turning to serve the Lord.
- 19:19 – “an altar” – Probably a memorial altar like Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh built near the Jordan in Josh. 22:10,26-27.
- “Egypt” – Modern Egypt is largely Muslim and very dangerous to the Christians and the Jews.
- 19:22 – “strike and heal” – God’s purpose in judging Egypt is to bring them to Himself.
- 19:23 – “a highway” – Also in Isa. 11:16; 35:8.
- “Assyria” – Modern-day Iraq.
- 19:24 – “Israel will be one of three with Egypt and Assyria” – All three nations will be serving the Lord together.
- 19:25 – “Egypt My people” – God is fully accepting Egypt as He would Israel.

Chapter 20:

20:1 – “the year” – Sargon II (721-705 BC) of Assyria took Ashdod in 711 BC.

- “Ashdod” – A Philistine city.
 - The Assyrians were making their way from the north down through Ashdod and on toward Egypt and Ethiopia.

20:2 – “naked” – A Hebrew idiom referring to the outer garment. Does this mean he was completely naked, or is he still wearing a loincloth?

- The loincloth was the garment of a slave.

20:4 – “naked” – A conquering army would march captives naked to embarrass them.

20:6 – “delivered from the king of Assyria” – Assyria took Egypt in 671 BC.

- Judah is not to trust in Egypt and Ethiopia.

Chapter 21:

21:1 – “Wilderness of the Sea” – Babylon.

21:2 – “Elam” – Persia.

- The Medes and Persians will take Babylon in 539BC, nearly 200 years after this prophecy was made. (Isa. 44-45)

21:3 – “a woman in labor” – A phrase used to speak of the last days. (Matt. 24:8)

- “I was distressed” – This vision makes Isaiah physically sick.
 - Daniel experienced similar effects from his visions. (Dan. 8:27; 10:16-17)

21:5 – “Eat and drink” – Belshazzar is partying while Babylon is captured. (Dan. 5)

- “Anoint the shield” – The leather shields had to be oiled to prevent cracking and breaking down.

21:6 – “watchmen” – Isaiah is the watchman waiting for the prophecies of God to be fulfilled.

21:8 – “lion” – An image referring to Babylon in Daniel. (Dan. 7:4)

21:9 – “Babylon is fallen, is fallen” – This phrase is used of Babylon in Rev. 14:8; 18:2.

21:10 – “threshing” – John the Baptist spoke of God threshing the grain. (Matt. 3:12)

21:11 – “Dumah” – Edom. (Isa. 34:5-15; Jer. 49:7-22; Ezek. 25:12-14; Amos 1:11-12)

21:12 – “morning comes” – Speaking of Assyria’s defeat.

- “also the night” – Speaking of the rise of Babylon.

21:13 – “Arabia” – Saudi Arabia. (Jer. 49:28-33)

- Saudi Arabia, along with Tarshish and the young lions, will protest the invasion of Israel by Russia, Turkey, and Iran. (Ezek. 38:13)

21:15 – “sword” – Looking to Assyria.

- 21:16 – “Within a year” – The time frame will validate Isaiah’s prophecies for his contemporaries.
- Sargon took Saudi Arabia in 716BC.

Chapter 22:

22:1 – “the Valley of Vision” – Jerusalem.

22:7 – “full of chariots” – Referring either to the Assyrian army surrounding Jerusalem or to the Babylonian army that would eventually overtake Jerusalem.

22:8 – “armor” – God told Hezekiah simply to trust Him, but Hezekiah is arming his people as well.

- “House of the Forest” – One of Solomon’s palaces.

22:10 – “the houses you broke down” – Hezekiah had the homes near the wall destroyed and the pieces of those homes used to fortify the wall.

22:11 – “a reservoir” – Hezekiah’s tunnel from the Gihon Springs to the Pool of Siloam travelled 1,177 feet through bedrock and brought water into the city.

- “But you did not look to its Maker” – They are trusting in their own ingenuity and ability rather than seeking God. They are looking to the natural and forsaking the spiritual.

22:13 – “tomorrow we die” – Jerusalem has lost hope despite God promising deliverance from the Assyrians.

22:15 – “Shebna” – He was Hezekiah’s scribe sent to communicate with Sennacherib. (Isa. 36:3)

- It seems Shebna is cutting a deal with Assyria to maintain a place of position in Jerusalem after it is taken by Assyria.
- Jeremiah had warned Baruch when faced with a similar decision, “do you seek great things for yourself? Do not seek them; for behold, I will bring adversity on all flesh.” (Jer. 45:5)

22:16 – “carves a tomb for himself” – God interrupts our plans for personal stability and long-term recognition.

- Shebna is worried about his legacy while his country is headed for destruction.

22:18 – “There you shall die” – Shebna will be buried in a foreign country, instead of in his custom made tomb.

22:20 – “Eliakim” – He is a faithful messenger.

22:22 – “open, and no one will shut” – Quoted by Jesus in Rev. 3:7.

- Eliakim, in contrast to Shebna, gives us some insight on the kind of person Jesus is looking for in the church of Philadelphia in Rev. 3:7-13.

22:23 – “peg” – Usually translated “tent peg.”

- “a peg in a secure place” – Eliakim is ultimately a picture of Jesus.
- God will make us strong and firm in our place from which others can measure and hang their lives off of.

Chapter 23:

23:1 – “Tyre” – The Phoenicians (with Sidon – v. 2). [Ezek. 26]

- The mainland city of Tyre was besieged by the Assyrians and withstood all their advances. They were then besieged by Nebuchadnezzar for 13 years before the city of Tyre on the mainland fell in 572BC. But while Babylon was besieging, Tyre subtly moved their entire city a 1/2-mile off shore to an island city of Tyre. Because of Tyre’s excellent naval resources, Nebuchadnezzar never took the island city of Tyre. In 332BC, Alexander the Great took all the ruins of the mainland city of Tyre and through it into the causeway between the island city of Tyre and the mainland forming a land-bridge over which his armies captured the island city of Tyre in less than 2 years.
- “ships of Tarshish” – The Phoenicians had a sailing fleet that went as far as southern Spain or Great Britain.

23:3 – “Shihor” – Referring to Egypt.

- Egypt will be plundered by Babylon in payment for failing to take Tyre.

23:5 – “They also will be in agony” – Egypt and Tyre mutually benefitted each other.

23:13 – “Assyria founded it” – Babylon built off the foundation of the Assyrian empire.

23:14 – “your strength is laid waste” – “Having food and clothing, therewith be content.” (1 Tim. 6:8)

23:15 – “seventy years” – Tyre will be held in check by Babylon, but won’t be taken completely until Greece and Alexander the Great come to power.

- Seventy years is also the time that Judah will be held captive in Babylon. (Jer. 25:11)

23:16 – “harlot” – Prostitutes would sit in the marketplaces and sing a song to lure customers.

- Tyre’s reprieve following Babylon’s failure is as deceptive as a harlot’s song.

Chapter 24:

24:1 – “the earth” – 16 times in this passage. The vision broadens out to the entire earth.

- “distorts its surface” – The KJV translates this “turned upside down.”

24:2 – “servant...master” – Everyone is going to be affected by this.

24:5 – “the everlasting covenant” – Possibly further back than the Mosaic, Abrahamic, and Noaic covenants.

24:6 – “burned” – Could this be nuclear? Or does this refer to 2 Pet. 3:10-13.

- “And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect’s sake those days will be shortened.” (Matt. 24:22)

24:7 – “new wine fails” – The party is coming to an end.

24:16 – “I am ruined” – Isaiah is seeing these tremendous visions, but still living in the context of Judah’s impending captivity.

24:17 – “the pit” – Revelation speaks of the Antichrist coming from the bottomless pit.

- “the snare” – Jesus spoke of a snare. (Luke 21:35)

24:18 – “foundations of the earth are shaken” – Only God really know what this means.

24:20 – “like a drunkard” – The earth now resembles the partying and intoxicated people.

- “totter like a hut” – Some scientists claim that the earth will go into a wobble and flip its polar axis.

24:21 – “exalted ones” – Spiritual authorities.

- “kings” – Physical authorities.

24:23 – “the moon will be disgraced” – “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light.” (Matt. 24:29)

- “His elders” – Possibly Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and the twelve disciples.

Chapter 25:

25:1 – “I will exalt You” – Isaiah, along with all of God’s people at this time, is praising God.

- “wonderful” – Lit. “fearful, awe-inspiring.”

25:4 – “a strength to the poor” – God is there to protect.

25:6 – “this mountain” – Jerusalem.

- “wines” – Jesus said “I will no longer drink of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God.” (Mark 14:25; see also Rev. 19:9)

25:7 – “the veil” – There is a veil covering the eyes of humanity so that they cannot see God. (2 Cor. 3:14; 4:4)

25:8 – “swallow up death forever” – Paul quotes this verse in 1 Cor. 15:54.

- “God will wipe away tears” – Rev. 21:4.
- “all faces” – Not one face will be missed.
- “For the Lord has spoken” – It is certain and eternal.
 - “For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” (Matt. 5:18)

25:9 – “We have waited for Him” – It is the cry of Israel in that day. (Isa. 26:8)

25:10 – “Moab shall be trampled” – Jesus will trample the masses who oppose Him in Revelation. (Rev. 14:20; 16:16; 19:15)

Chapter 26:

26:1 – “In that day” – This refers back to Isa. 25:9.

- “this song will be sung” – We will likely sing this song at the marriage supper of the Lamb. (Rev. 19:9)

26:3 – “perfect peace” – Lit. “shalom, shalom.” We have peace with God through faith in Jesus Christ. We also have the peace of God that we can experience presently.

- “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give unto you.” (John 14:27)
- “And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 4:7)
- “stayed” – Lit. “lean against, lay on, rest upon, to be supported or sustained.”
 - The Hebrew word is used of the offerer “leaning heavily upon” the sacrifices of Leviticus 1-4.
 - “Stayed” is equivalent to the NT term “faith.”

26:5 – “lofty city” – This is not referring to any one specific city.

26:9 – “I will seek You early” – This is probably a reflection of Isaiah’s heart.

26:10 – “grace be shown to the wicked” – The wicked sin against God despite an immeasurable amount of grace from God on a daily basis.

26:13 – “dominion over us” – Egypt, Babylon, Rome, Nazi Germany, and many others through the history of Israel.

26:16 – “poured out a prayer when Your chastening was upon them” – Desperate times produce desperate prayers.

26:18 – “wind” – Emptiness.

26:19 – “with my dead body” – Probably Jesus speaking.

- “they shall arise” – An OT reference to the resurrection. (Job 19; Dan. 12)

26:20 – “Until the indignation is past” – Possibly speaking of the rapture of the Church.

- “the indignation” – The Tribulation.

26:21 – “punish the inhabitants of the earth” – The purpose of the Tribulation.

- For believers, God has already punished our iniquity in Jesus on the cross.
- “disclose her blood” – Nothing will be hidden.

Chapter 27:

27:1 – “Leviathan” – This may be a reference to the Antichrist of Rev. 13.

27:2 – “vineyard” – A reference to Israel in the Kingdom Age.

- Contrast this with the description of the vineyard in Isa. 5:1-7.

27:5 – “make peace with Me” – The source of the blessing is their being made right with God Himself.

27:6 – “blossom and bud” – Israel is a huge exporter of flowers.

- “fill the face of the world with fruit” – Israel is the 3rd largest exporter of fruit in the world.
- Only 6 countries in the world produce enough food for their own country and more to export. (Canada, United States, Argentina, New Zealand, Australia, and Israel)

27:7 – “Has He struck Israel as He struck those” – God is not going to deal with Israel the same way He dealt with Assyria and Babylon.

27:9 – “images” – God is going to remove the idolatry of Israel.

27:11 – “set them on fire” – Jesus speaks of the branches that will be burnt with fire in John 15:6.

27:12 – “gathered one by one” – This is God’s harvest in the midst of the judgment of nations.

27:13 – “worship the Lord in the holy mount” – Israel will worship God after the Tribulation.

- “And so all Israel will be saved.” (Rom. 11:26)

Chapter 28:

28:1 – “Ephraim” – Israel is siding with Syria to guard themselves against Assyria.

- “verdant valleys” – The region around Samaria was a fertile agricultural area.

28:4 – “first fruit” – The first fruits belong to the Lord.

- Israel will be taken quickly.
- The judgment of the end times will come quickly too. (Luke 21:34-37)

28:7 – “they also” – God is now speaking to Judah.

- Judah was meant to learn from the destruction of Israel.
- “the priest and the prophet have erred” – The lives of the religious leaders are inconsistent with their position.
- The leaders are deceptive and corrupted, and therefore they have lost perspective.

28:10 – “line upon line” – Israel is mocking Isaiah’s teaching as over-simplistic; baby-talk.

- When the religious leaders come off as spiritual heavyweights because of their understanding which seems better than the Bible, it is only a matter of time until they stumble. And that makes others wonder if any of it could be true.
- Are you reading the Bible?

28:11 – “with stammering lips” – Referring to the Assyrians and Babylonians God will be using to speak to His people.

- Quoted by Paul in 1 Cor. 14:21 to refer to speaking in tongues.

28:12 – “the refreshing” – The benefit of simple Bible-teaching.

28:13 – “the word of the Lord” – God’s message to the people is complete and accurate, and therefore must be delivered simply and systematically.

- “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” (Matt. 13:9)

28:15 – “a covenant with death” – They seem to have some agreement they believe will preserve their lives.

28:16 – “tried” – Jesus was tested and proven.

- “cornerstone” – Quoted by Peter in 1 Pet. 2:6.
- “sure foundation” – “Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock.” (Matt. 7:24)
- “not act hastily” – Also translated “not be ashamed.”

28:17 – “the measuring line” – God doesn’t do poor or shoddy work. He lays this out with a right standard.

- When God comes, His kingdom will be measured out “line upon line, precept upon precept.” (v. 10, 13)
- “hail” – Rev. 16:21 speaks of God judging blasphemers with hailstones in the Tribulation.

28:18 – “annulled” – God is overriding their covenant with death.

- Fathers and husbands have the right to annul vows made by their daughters and wives. (Num. 30)

28:19 – “terror just to understand the report” – Simply the news of the coming judgment will be enough to be a terror to the people.

28:20 – “too short...narrow” – Their idols will not be able to comfort or cover the people in judgment.

28:21 – “Perizim” – David defeated the Philistines in a great victory there.

- “Valley of Gibeon” – Joshua won a great victory there as God made the sun to stand still.

28:24 – “plowing all day” – The farmer only plows until the ground is ready, then he sows.

- God is preparing His people for a harvest, not just to constantly discipline them.

28:27 – “threshed...cartwheel...beaten out” – God reaps different harvests in different ways.

- God is infinitely wise in His chastening work in our lives.

28:29 – “wonderful in counsel” – Only God alone.

Chapter 29:

29:1 – “Ariel” – means “the lion of God.”

- This is Jerusalem.

29:4 – “speech shall be low” – They are whispering like at a funeral.

29:5 – “chaff that passes away” – The Assyrians are a picture of this truth.

29:8 – “still empty” – They are unsatisfied.

29:10 – “spirit of deep sleep” – Quoted in Rom. 11:8.

29:11 – “I cannot” – Their hearts have made them incapable of hearing and understanding God’s word.

29:13 – “these people draw near” – In Jesus’ day, the Temple was full of people.

- It is no honor to draw huge crowds of lukewarm people.
- “honor Me with their lips” – Rote ritualistic religious duty. (Matt. 15:7-9)
- The word is closed to them (v. 11-12) because they don’t intend to obey it.
- God desires relationship, not religion.

29:14 – “wisdom of the wise men shall perish” – Quoted in 1 Cor. 1:19.

29:15 – “Who sees us?” – “There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” (Heb. 4:13)

29:16 – “the potter” – Quoted in Rom. 9:20

- “no understanding” – They are acting like their Creator cannot see past their external behavior.

29:17 – “fruitful field will be esteemed as a forest” – God will turn things around.

29:20 – “the terrible one” – Is this referring to the Antichrist? Isaiah is seeing Sennacherib of Assyria, but also looking down to the last days.

29:21 – “an offender by a word” – This world’s sense of justice is upside-down.

- “the gate” – The place of public justice.

29:24 – “come to understanding” – God will set all this straight at some point.

Chapter 30:

30:1 – “take counsel, but not of Me” – People have a tendency to seek counsel from other people, but neglect seeking direction from the Lord or even reading the Bible.

- Judah is attempting to align with Egypt against Assyria.

30:2 – “the shadow of Egypt” – Egypt has no real substance.

30:5 – “all ashamed” – Working with Egypt will only be something to be ashamed of later.

30:6 – “riches” – Judah’s payment for Egypt’s help.

- “their treasures” – This is God’s money, given to God’s people, and here they are giving it to the world while seeking the help of the world.

30:7 – “Rahab” – One of the names for Egypt in the OT.

- Rahab means “storm” or “arrogance.”

30:8 – “write it before them” – God is speaking to Isaiah here.

- “forever” – We are still reading it.

30:9 – “a rebellious people” – Speaking of Jerusalem.

30:10 – “Speak to us smooth things” – They have itching ears and are demanding of the prophets a message that guarantees their success and prosperity. (2 Tim. 4:3)

- “deceits” – They prefer lies above God’s Word.

30:13 – “a bulge in a high wall” – Trusting in other people is building on a weak foundation.

30:15 – “quietness” – The Hebrew carries the idea of the peace a baby has while lying on its mother’s chest.

- “you would not” – It is a matter of the will.
- God keeps calling the prodigal back to Himself.

30:16 – “No” – The people develop their own plan.

- “swift” – They think they can run faster than God.
- “horses” – “A horse is a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver any by its great strength.” (Ps. 33:17)

30:17 – “One thousand shall flee at the threat of one” – This could only happen if “their Rock had sold them.” (Deut. 32:30)

30:18 – “gracious” – This is always the motivation of God, even while He calls to, waits for, and disciplines His children.

- “He will be exalted” – The Hebrew implies “He will win.” One of the most gracious things God can do in my life is to win.
- God wants to fight for Israel, not against them.

30:20 – “teachers” – God’s ministers to build up God’s people.

30:21 – “ears shall hear a word behind you” – In conjunction with God-given teachers, the Holy Spirit is an active member in leading our lives.

- At the beginning of the chapter, the people didn’t want to listen to God. (Isa. 30:1)

30:22 – “unclean thing” – Lit. “used menstrual cloth.”

30:23 – “the rain for your seed” – After the people return, God can bless them again.

- The Father throws the returning prodigal a party.

30:26 – “sun will be sevenfold” – The sun’s intensity will increase 7x. Is this a supernova?

30:27 – “indignation” – Flashing ahead to the Tribulation again.

30:28 – “Causing them to err” – They will believe “the lie.” (2 Thess. 2:11)

30:31 – “Assyria will be beaten down” – God will perform the deliverance for His people.

- Assyria has a near (the nation of Assyria) and a far (the Antichrist) fulfillment.

30:33 – “Tophet” – The Valley of Hinnom, historically where they would sacrifice their children on the burning statues of Molech.

- The Greek word “Gehenna” comes from the Hebrew phrase “Valley of Hinnom.”
- Satan has continued to pervert the Valley of Hinnom knowing it points to his ultimate and eternal demise.

Chapter 31:

31:1 – “Egypt” – How quickly they forgot. (Exod. 15)

- The people are pressuring Hezekiah to turn to Egypt for help against Assyria.
- “trust in chariots” – “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses; But we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” (Ps. 20:7)
- “The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the Lord.” (Prov. 21:31)
- “many” – People often think more is better.
- “because they are very strong” – They are not stronger than God.

31:3 – “men, and not God” – It seems like it should be easy to remember that Egypt is not God.

31:4 – “their noise” – When a lion attacked sheep, shepherds would gather together and yell in attempt to scare the lion away from attacking the sheep or move the lion off the killed sheep so they could report that sheep to its owner.

- “fight for Mount Zion” – God will defend Jerusalem from the Assyrians despite Judah’s failure.

31:5 – “like birds flying about” – Some equate this with General Allenby winning Jerusalem in 1917 by flying over the city to scout and drop pamphlets, scaring off the Turks who were currently holding the city.

31:8 – “a sword not of man” – One angel killed 185,000 Assyrians in one night. (2 Kings. 19:35)

Chapter 32:

32:1 – “a king will reign in righteousness” – Ultimately, that king is Jesus.

- The Lord will comfort His people.

32:5 – “the foolish person will no longer be called generous” – We live in a day where right is called wrong and wrong is called right.

32:8 – “by generosity he shall stand” – We will always reap what we sow. (Gal. 6:7)

32:9 – “women who are at ease” – The women were used to drinking and partying.

- In many cases, the condition of the women is indicative of the condition of the nation. When women pervert, the nation has very little hope as the women are often the ones to pass the morals on to the next generation.
- “complacent” – Lit. “to be at rest, to live at ease, to live carelessly.”

32:11 – “gird sackcloth” – The complacency of the men and leaders doesn’t give the women license to be complacent as well.

32:15 – “Until the Spirit is poured upon us from on high” – That day is coming.

- “fruitful” – The results of a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led life.

32:17 – “peace” – “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you.” (John 14:27)

- “the effect of righteousness” – Righteousness yields good fruit.

32:18 – “peaceful habitation” – Peace will follow punishment.

- Ps. 104:30 speaks of God renewing the face of the earth. We have no idea how good His kingdom is going to be.

Chapter 33:

33:1 – “you who plunder” – Speaking specifically of the Assyrians coming against Jerusalem in the 14th year of Hezekiah..

- This chapter applies to all those who directly oppose God’s people.
- “you who deal treacherously” – Assyria promised to refrain from attacking Judah if Hezekiah paid tribute. Hezekiah did pay the tribute (against Isaiah’s instructions), and Assyria attacked anyway. (2 Kings 18:14)

33:2 – “be gracious to us” – This is a prayer.

33:4 – “locusts” – Locusts are known to swarm and devour all in their path.

33:7 – “valiant ones shall cry outside” – Speaking of the Assyrians outside the city.

- “ambassadors of peace” – Hezekiah attempted to buy off the Assyrians with a gift. Sennacherib took the money and then came against Jerusalem anyway. (2 Kings 18:14-16)
- God took away every opportunity for escape from Judah and Hezekiah. So all will know the deliverance to be of God.

33:9 – “Lebanon” – As the Assyrians came through to Israel and Judah, they leveled Lebanon along the way.

33:11 – “chaff” – Speaking of Sennacherib and Assyria’s vain attempt to take Jerusalem.

33:13 – “you who are afar off” – Is this speaking to us?

33:14 – “sinners in Zion are afraid” – The judgment of God on the Assyrians is causing the sinners in Jerusalem to tremble.

- “It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb. 10:31)
- “the devouring fire” – “For our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb. 12:29)

33:15-16 – The character of the man of God. (Ps. 15)

- The NT tells us that this character is a result of placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

33:17 – “your eyes will see the King” – The work of Jesus makes this possible for us.

33:18 – “scribe” – He who raised the tribute.

- “he who weighs” – The one who measured out the gold and silver to be paid in tribute.
- “counts the towers” – The one who planned the defense of Jerusalem.
- All these offices are passing away.

33:20 – “a tabernacle” – He is comparing Jerusalem to a tent.

33:21 – “broad rivers” – Ezekiel 47 speaks of the river that will flow from the Temple through Jerusalem to the seas.

33:22 – “He will save us” – They say this in the face of the Assyrian army.

Chapter 34:

34:1 – “all” – This is a universal destruction.

- This chapter is a picture of God’s final judgment on the nations.

34:3 – “mountains shall be melted” – The mountains are eroding due to the flowing blood.

- “blood” – “And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses’ bridles.” (Rev. 14:20)

34:4 – “host shall fall” – The stars falling from the sky are also mentioned in Matt. 24:29 and Rev. 6:13-14. (See also Joel 2:30-31.)

34:5 – “Edom” – The perpetual enemies to God’s people. Edom is a type of the flesh throughout the Bible.

- Passages in Daniel seem to imply that part of Edom will be spared this judgment.
- “the people of My curse” – Those who have been permanently set apart for destruction.

34:9 – “burning pitch” – The oil fields are on fire.

- This is a stark picture of hell and the Lake of Fire.

34:10 – “smoke shall ascend forever” – Spoken of Babylon Rev. 19:3.

34:11 – “confusion...emptiness” – (Heb. “tohu...bohu”) These are the same words translated “without form and void” in Gen. 1:2.

34:14 – “wild goat...night creature” – These may references demonic activity.

- During the Tribulation, the area of the Euphrates will be a home for demonic activity.

34:16 – “Search from the book of the Lord, and read” – Good advice for all of us.

- Israel took their name in 1948 as a result of reading the prophecies in Ezekiel 36-39.

Chapter 35:

35:2 – “blossom abundantly” – See Isaiah 27:6.

- “Carmel” – means “the vineyard of God.”

35:4 – “Say to those who are fearful-hearted...He will come and save you” – Pointing the hurting to God and His coming glory will be a comfort to them.

- “save you” – Some day God will make all this right and very good again.

35:5 – “eyes of the blind shall be opened” – These were marks of Jesus’ earthly ministry. (Luke 7:22)

35:7 – “parched ground” – Lit. “mirage.”

35:8 – “A highway shall be there” – Lit. “a highway shall rise there.”

- This is the road we will take to see Jesus. (Zech. 8:23)

- 35:9 – “No lion” – Isaiah 11 speaks of the peace in the animal kingdom during the Millennial Age.
- God’s way is a safe way.
 - “the redeemed” – Those purchased by and to God.

35:10 – “joy and gladness” – In the presence of Jesus, tears and sighing fade away.

Chapter 36:

Isa. 36-39 is as an historical interlude that deals with Judah’s present situation with Assyria.

- Repeated in 2 Kings 18-20 and 2 Chronicles 32.
- 36:1 – “the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah” – 701 BC.
- In 2 Chronicles 32:1, this scene is prefaced with “After these deeds of faithfulness.” Assyria is coming on the heels of Hezekiah’s reforms in Judah.
 - “all the fortified cities” – Modern archeology found inscriptions saying that Sennacherib took 46 cities and 200,000 captives from Judah.
- 36:2 – “the Rabshakeh” – His title. He serves as Sennacherib’s messenger.
- “Jerusalem” – Jerusalem is the final city of Judah to be taken by Assyria.
- 36:4 – “the great king” – Sennacherib’s self-appointed title.
- “Hezekiah” – The Rabshakeh won’t call him “King.”
 - “trust” – Used 7 times in chap. 36. (v. 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 15)
 - Our enemy will ask us the same question in every single situation of life. He will challenge our faith in God.
- 36:6 – “trusting in the staff of this broken reed, Egypt” – Sennacherib had heard that there were some in Jerusalem that wanted to make a treaty with Egypt.
- “trusting...leans” – This is the definition of trust – “to lean heavily upon.”
- 36:7 – “whose altars Hezekiah has taken away” – Rabshakeh is falsely accusing God’s people because he doesn’t know God’s word. He is speaking without understanding.
- 36:8 – “give you two thousand horses” – The Rabshakeh is challenging Hezekiah to fight.
- 36:10 – “the Lord said to me” – But Isaiah is prophesying contrary to this at this time.
- The Rabshakeh is lying and mocking God in the process.
- 36:11 – “Hebrew” – Lit. “Judean.”
- 36:12 – “eat and drink their own waste” – Assyria is threatening a very difficult siege.
- 36:16 – “Make peace with me by a present” – You cannot cut a deal with the flesh.
- Satan often offers us a quick and easy way out of trusting God.
 - “eat from his own vine” – The Rabshakeh is promising to go easy on them.
 - Assyria was known to cut the heads off of every prisoner who surrendered to them.
- 36:18 – “gods of the nations delivered” – The Rabshakeh is trying to get Israel to move out of fear, guilt, and condemnation.

36:19 – “Where are the gods” – Jehovah will do what none of the other gods can do.
- Sennacherib will quickly come to know the difference between Jehovah and all the other gods of the world.

36:21 – “they held their peace” – Rabshakeh is trying to get the people to panic.
- Each of Hezekiah’s men show great faith in God and in Hezekiah simply to be quiet.

Chapter 37:

37:1 – “went into the house of the Lord” – Hezekiah runs in the right direction; he goes to God when in trouble.

37:2 – “to Isaiah” – Hezekiah is begging Isaiah to seek God on their behalf.

37:6 – “Thus says the Lord” – This is the point to asking Isaiah to pray...hearing from God.

37:10 – “Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you” – Sennacherib is really angry now.

37:14 – “spread it before the Lord” – Hezekiah gives this message to God.

37:19 – “not gods” – Psalm 115 says we become like our gods.

37:20 – “know that You are the Lord” – Hezekiah is praying for God’s glory.

37:21 – “Thus says the Lord” – God answers Hezekiah’s prayer through Isaiah.
- Sometimes God answers quickly and sometimes God takes longer to answer.

37:22 – “despised you” – God is mocking Sennacherib.

37:23 – “Whom have you reproached and blasphemed?” – A modern translation would say, “Who do you think you are talking to?”

37:26 – “I have brought it to pass” – Assyria has been God’s tool of judgment on the surrounding nations, but they think it is only the result of their own power.

37:29 – “My hook in your nose” – The Assyrians were known to lead captives away with a fish hook on a rope through their nose or lips.

37:30 – “a sign to you” – God is speaking to Hezekiah now.
- “in the third year” – God is time-dating their deliverance.

37:31 – “remnant” – They are still around today.
- “take root downward, and bear fruit upward” – This is always how it happens in our lives; root precedes fruit.

37:35 – “for My servant David’s sake” – God still thinks a lot of David.

37:36 – “all dead” – The angel silently kills 185,000 Assyria soldiers in one night.

37:37 – “Sennacherib king of Assyria” – He is not the “great king” anymore.

37:38 – “it came to pass” – This happens about 20 years after Assyria’s defeat at Jerusalem.

- “in the house of Nisroch his god” – Sennacherib’s god couldn’t even protect him in its temple.

Chapter 38:

Many believe that Isaiah 38 actually comes before Isaiah 37 chronologically. (v. 6)

38:1 – “Set your house in order” – What would you have to do to get ready to die?

- “die and not live” – This is an especially foreboding message when coming from Isaiah the prophet.

38:2 – “prayed to the Lord” – This is the right place to go at a time like this.

- Hezekiah said his prayers were like the chattering of a bird. (v. 14)

38:3 – “Hezekiah” – Hezekiah is between 38-40 years old without a child.

- Manasseh will be born 2 years later. (Manasseh was the worst king of Judah, but he was also of the line of the Messiah.)
- “wept bitterly” – Hezekiah must be questioning God in this after all he has done to faithfully serve God.

38:5 – “add to you days” – God promises to restore life to Hezekiah.

38:6 – “deliver you and this city” – God also promises to free Jerusalem from the Assyrian threat.

38:7 – “the sign” – In 2 Kings 20:8, Hezekiah asks God for a sign.

38:8 – “the sun returned ten degrees” – God could have performed this sign by bending the light rays.

38:10 – “deprived of the remainder of my years” – Hezekiah was really feeling the loss of his life. He is mourning his own death.

38:17 – “You have cast all my sins behind Your back” – Real healing is having our sins taken away.

38:21 – “a poultice on the boil” – God’s healing and doctor’s medicine working together.

Chapter 39:

39:1 – “Babylon” – Israel and Babylon have a common enemy.

- A common enemy is not sufficient reason for unification.

39:2 – “Hezekiah was pleased” – Hezekiah’s relaxed position and pride in Babylon’s praise, leads him to move without seeking or obeying God’s will.

- Hezekiah, at this point in his life, was vulnerable to flattery and deceit.

39:6 – “carried to Babylon” – Babylon, not Assyria, will take Jerusalem. And Babylon wasn’t even a world power at this time.

- What Assyria could not do with weapons, Babylon did with gifts.

39:7 – “sons” – Hezekiah hasn’t even had a son yet.

- “eunuchs” – Likely done to Daniel. (Dan. 1:3)

39:8 – “The word...is good” – In 2 Chron. 32:26, we are told that Hezekiah repented at this judgment.

- “peace and truth in my days” – Hezekiah seems to be looking out for himself.

Chapter 40:

40:1 – “comfort” – The purpose of Isaiah 40.

- This is a message for Israel that they will not fully walk in for over 70 years until after the Babylonian captivity.
- “My people” – God still owns these people as His own.

40:2 – “warfare” – The external circumstances.

- “iniquity” – The internal spiritual need.
- “Double for all her sins” – Israel needed double punishment to bring her to repentance.
 - It is God’s goodness that leads us to repentance. (Rom. 2:4)

40:3 – “one crying in the wilderness” – John the Baptist. (Matt. 3:3; Luke 3:4-6)

- Jesus said that John the Baptist was Elijah, coming to precede His arrival (Matt. 17:10-13). But Elijah will also come again before Christ’s second coming to more fully fulfill these verses (Mal. 4:5-6; Rev. 11:1-6)
- “Prepare the way of the Lord” – The road crews would precede the coming of a king and prepare the roadways for his horses and chariot.

40:4 – “valley shall be exalted...hill brought low” – This verse has a spiritual fulfillment as Israel is morally changed in preparation for their Messiah, and it has a physical fulfillment in the actual landscape around Jerusalem before Christ’s second coming.

40:5 – “all flesh” – The future coming of Christ. (Phil. 2:9-11)

40:6 – “All flesh is grass” – In contrast to our God who is coming.

- “We are not as strong as we think we are” – Rich Mullins.
- Our temporality should make it a little easier to hold onto the things of this life a little more loosely.

40:8 – “grass withers” – Grass withers out of season. (1 Tim. 4:2)

- For Israel, it would be an encouragement to know that their enemies were grass too. The affliction they are in currently will not last forever.
- “the word of our God stands forever” – “Till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.” (Matt. 5:18)
- The kingdom of God is established by God alone. It is not up to humanity to set up the kingdom so God can come back.

40:9 – “good tidings” – The Gospel.

40:10 – “His reward” – His sheep are His reward.

- 40:11 – “feed His flock like a shepherd” – By teaching them His word. (Mark 6:34)
- “shepherd” – Psalm 23.
 - Jesus is the “good shepherd who gives His life for the sheep.” (John 10:11) His sheep hear His voice and they follow Him. (John 10:27)
 - “carry them in His bosom” – Next to His heart.
 - His voice has hands, arms, and a chest attached.
- 40:12 – “the waters” – There are 330 million cubical miles of water on earth and 1.5 trillion tons of rain fall every day.
- God balances the earth like balancing a tire, the mountains and sea trenches are placed perfectly to keep this earth spinning.
 - “His hand” – The same hand that holds and leads us. (John 10:28-29)
 - “Measured heaven with a span” – The universe fits into the hand of God.
 - “span” – The distance from the thumb to the forefinger.
- 40:14 – “who instructed Him” – Like when God questioned Job.
- When people say such things like “If I were God...” they are trying to counsel Him too.
- 40:15 – “small dust” – In the marketplace, they would blow the dust off their side of the scales before weighing something on it.
- 40:16 – “Lebanon is not sufficient to burn” – In that day, Lebanon was covered with cedars and other trees. But all of Lebanon would not provide enough wood to offer God an appropriate sacrifice.
- 40:17 – “All nations” – No political power is big compared to God. No religious system is meaningful compared to God.
- 40:18 – “To whom then will you liken God?” – We often make God out to be like us. We try to compare Him to ourselves or to other people.
- “We see something every day that God does not see: our equals” – G. Campbell Morgan.
- 40:19 – “overspreads it with gold” – He makes his idol look really good.
- 40:20 – “a tree that will not rot” – No one wants a rotting god.
- Isaiah is sarcastic regarding idolatry.
 - God will have no other gods “in His presence.” (Exod. 20:3 – literal translation)
- 40:21 – “Have you not known?” – Isaiah is crying out to those of his people that have turned to idols.
- 40:22 – “like a tent” – The heavens are temporary.
- 40:23 – “princes to nothing” – Speaking of Assyria and Babylon.
- 40:26 – “who has created” – All things were created by Him (John 1:3) and in Him all things are held together (Col. 1:17).
- “calls them all by name” – Scientists find more stars each year than they can name.

40:27 – “hidden from the Lord” – Israel is despairing. They are having a difficult time believing that God is caring for them.

40:28 – “Neither faints nor is weary” – God doesn’t get tired.
- And God doesn’t get tired of me.

40:29 – “gives power to the weak” – Not that we enjoy being weak, but His “strength is made perfect in weakness.” (2 Cor. 12:9)
- The only criteria that God lays out for our empowerment is that we’d be weak.

40:30 – “the youths” – Our powerful God condescends to the feeble youths.

40:31 – “wait” – Lit. “to bind together by twisting.” The idea is “trusting strongly or expecting.”
- “renew” – Lit. “change, or exchange.”
- “wings like eagles” – Eagles step out of their nest on the side of a cliff and simply unfurl their wings to catch the updraft.

Chapter 41:

41:2 – “one from the east” – Cyrus of the Medes and Persians released the Jews to return to Judah in Ezra 1:1-4. (Isa. 44:28)
- Isaiah’s prophecies regarding Cyrus were written 200 years before Cyrus was born.
- Some believe this is a reference to Abraham or to the Messiah.

41:7 – “That it might not totter” – They are encouraging each other with idolatry.

41:8 – “whom I have chosen” – God is owning a disobedient people.
- “Abraham” – Abraham was an idol maker from the Chaldees before God called him. (Josh. 24:2)
- “Abraham My friend” – 2 Chron. 20:7; James 2:23
- Jesus has called us friends. (John 15:15)

41:9 – “taken from the ends of the earth” – There is a near fulfillment in this under Cyrus and a far fulfillment in our modern day as Jews are emigrating to Israel. (Jer. 16:14-15)
- “not cast you away” – If there was a nation that deserved to be cast away, it was Israel. They sinned in the face of such incredible light and grace.

41:10-14 – “Fear not” – Three times in these 5 verses.

41:10 – “I” – This is pointing to God’s sovereignty in light of Cyrus’ decree to release the Jews.
- God is pulling this plan off. If it depended on anyone else, it wouldn’t happen.

41:11 – “those who strive with you shall perish” – God will bless those who bless Israel and curse those who curse them. (Gen. 12:3)

41:14 – “you worm Jacob” – Despite being little and ugly, God chose Jacob.
- This worm has teeth and will thresh the nations.
- “Redeemer” – (Heb. “goel”) Lit. “kinsman-redeemer.”

41:15 – “mountains...hills” – This is an idiom speaking of human governments.

41:18 – “fountains...springs” – A prophecy with a physical and a spiritual fulfillment.

41:19 – “tree” – Seven trees are names and all seven are currently found in Israel.

41:21 – “reasons” – No one should blindly follow a god.

41:22-23 – The God Test: Can it explain past things and can it declare future things?

41:22 – “what will happen” – God speaks forth a lot of prophecy. Over one-tenth of the NT is prophecy.

- Jesus expected the Jews of His day to know He was the Messiah from prophecy. And we are expected to know the signs of the times from what we read too.
- “the former things” – Genesis gives an accurate record on the creation of the earth.

41:25 – “one from the north” – Speaking of Cyrus of the Medes and Persians. (Isa. 44:28)

41:29 – “all worthless” – There was no one to accept God’s challenge.

Chapter 42:

42:1 – “My servant” – Referring to Jesus. (Matt. 12:18-21)

- Jesus took “the form of a bondservant.” (Phil. 2:7)
- “My Spirit upon Him” – At Jesus’ baptism, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove upon Jesus. (Luke 3:22)
- “justice” – The sacrifice of Jesus allows God to be just and to justify sinners. (Rom. 3:26)
- “Gentiles” – The OT declares God’s care for the Gentiles.

42:2 – “not cry out” – Jesus didn’t need to lift His voice to be heard.

- Jesus doesn’t rely on hype...He has the substance.

42:3 – “bruised reed” – Jesus cares for the broken.

- Many are bruised because of things done to them or things they have done.
- “not fail nor be discouraged” – Jesus won’t quit on anyone.

42:4 – “wait for His law” – The coastlands are anticipating His teaching.

42:5 – “Who gives breath” – Even our very breath is in the hands of God. (Dan. 5:23)

42:6 – “a covenant” – Jesus offers us a new covenant. (Luke 22:19-20)

- “a light to the Gentiles” – This was prophesied of Jesus by Simeon in Luke 2:29-32.
- Paul had a similar mission. (Acts 26:15-18)

42:7 – “bring out prisoners” – Jesus will not fail; He is able to deliver.

- “in darkness” – We have been brought from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. These are the only two kingdoms that exist.

42:8 – “carved images” – Not even to Mary or Jesus statues.

42:9 – “new things I declare” – God is speaking prophetically.

42:11 – “wilderness” – Even the creation will be loosed from its bondage. (Rom. 8:21)

- “Sela” – or “Petra.”

42:13 – “He shall cry out” – This is referring to Jesus’ second coming.

- “He shall prevail” – In Jesus’ second coming, they won’t beat Him, pull out His beard, or hang Him on a cross. He will come to bring judgment on those who have rejected Him and the Gospel.
- Jesus came the first time as the Suffering Servant; next time He comes as the Conquering King.

42:14 – “held My peace a long time” – Jesus is patiently waiting to save as many as possible.

42:18 – “blind...deaf” – Referring to Israel nationally.

- Isaiah is hinting at Israel’s rejection of their Messiah the first time around. Jesus “came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.” (John 1:11)
- Rabbis and Jewish scholars refuse to acknowledge these verses as pertaining to Israel. They try to make it refer to Cyrus or someone else.

42:19 – “perfect” – (Heb. “meshullam”) Arab is “muslim.” This is holy irony.

- Israel was to be God’s priest among the nations, but God’s servant failed.

42:22 – “a people robbed and plundered” – A synopsis of the history of the nation of Israel.

- 6 million Jews were killed during the Holocaust alone.

42:25 – “take it to heart” – We need to let the history of Israel speak to our hearts.

Chapter 43:

43:1 – “But now” – God is returning to Judah’s current situation in Isaiah’s day.

- God will again turn to these people despite their disobedience.
- “O Jacob...O Israel” – Their natural name and their spiritual name.
- “I” – God refers to Himself in the first person 36 times in this chapter.

43:2 – “pass through the waters” – God will bring them through, not out of, trouble.

- Israel is indestructible, despite tremendous opposition throughout their history.
- “waters” – This is a reminder of the Red Sea.
- “rivers” – This is a reminder of the Jordan River.

43:3 – “Egypt...Ethiopia...Seba” – God will give these three nations to Cyrus and the Medo-Persians as a reward for his favorable treatment of Israel.

- “ransom” – (Heb. “kopher”) Translated “pitch” in Gen. 6:14 and “sum of money” in Exod. 21:30.
- God moved other nations for Israel.

43:6 – “the north” – This may hint of the modern-day emigration of Jews from Russia.

43:7 – “created for My glory” – Israel, as well as the rest of us, is created for God’s pleasure. (Rev. 4:11)

- 43:10 – “You are My witnesses” – Israel was to be God’s priest-nation to the world.
- God is calling the nations of the world to trial and Israel will be one of His witnesses. One of the great proofs of the Scriptures is the actual existence of the nation of Israel.
 - “no God formed” – Man will never be a god like our God.
 - This flies in the face of the “many gods” philosophies of the New Age.
- 43:11 – “besides Me there is no savior” – “There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)
- “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” (John 14:6)
 - It is true that all roads lead to God, but only one leads to eternal life, the rest lead to judgment.
- 43:13 – “no one who can deliver out of My hand” – Quoted from Deut. 32:39.
- Jesus said, “I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.” (John 10:28-29)
- 43:14 – “their ships” – Probably the merchant ships of Babylon.
- 43:17 – “quenched like a wick” – God will snuff them out.
- 43:18 – “do not dwell on the past” – In the NT, we are told “forgetting the things that are behind...press on to the high call of God in Christ Jesus.” (Phil. 3:13-14)
- God shifts from what He has done to what He will do.
- 43:22-28 – “you have not” – There are numerous sins of omission in this section. These are things Israel failed to do that hurt their relationship with God.
- 43:22 – “not called upon Me” – They lost their first love and forsook their relationship with God.
- 43:23 – “not brought...burnt offerings” – They have failed to offer the sacrifice of consecration.
- These sacrifices pointed to the death of our innocent substitute – Jesus Christ.
 - “not caused you to serve with grain offerings” – They are sacrificing more to their idols than God ever asked of them to sacrifice to Him.
 - God doesn’t want them to respond to Him as slaves; He desires their offerings to come out of love.
- 43:24 – “cane” – An import. This speaks of the day-to-day business.
- “wearied Me with your iniquities” – All the way to the cross.
- 43:25 – “blots out your transgressions for My own sake” – This is God’s amazing grace.
- 43:27 – “transgressed against Me” – These sins marked their lives; they were not just one time things.

Chapter 44:

44:1 – “Yet” – God turns this around.

44:2 – “help you” – God will bring them through chastisement.

- “Jeshurun” – Another name for Israel. It means “the upright one.”
 - Davidson’s Lexicon translates this “my darling, honest one.” This is how God sees His people. He who calls things that are not, as though they are. (Rom. 4:17)

44:3 – “thirsty” – The prerequisite of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

44:5 – “I am the Lord’s” – There will be a day when the nations come to the Lord.

44:6 – “King of Israel” – Jesus affirmed to Pilate that He was the King of the Jews.

- “his Redeemer, the Lord” – This refers to the Father and the Son, and hints to the deity of the Messiah.
- “I am the First and I am the Last” – Rev. 1:8.

44:7 – “let him declare it” – God is asking the idols to predict the future.

44:8 – “Is there a God besides Me?” – Too many try to worship other gods alongside the Lord.

44:11 – “the workmen, they are mere men” – If those who make the idols are fallible humans, then how much more fallible are the gods they make.

44:12 – “his strength fails” – The worker gets tired making his god.

44:13 – “craftsman stretches out his rule” – The god has to be the right size.

- “like the figure of a man” – Humans always make gods in their own image.

44:15 – “to burn” – From the same wood that the idol was made of, the rest becomes firewood. This is a joke!

44:17 – “Deliver me” – To what do we look to deliver us? I’d be happy if I had...

44:18 – “the cannot understand” – The blasphemy of the Holy Spirit. After the human heart willfully rejects the knowledge of the Truth, it will eventually come to the place where it is hardened and desensitized to the Lord. (John 12:37,39)

44:19 – “fall down before a block of wood” – Trusting in other gods is really foolish.

- In the modern-day, there is a “Shrine of the Stump” which is supposedly the tree the cross was cut from on which Jesus was crucified. People worship anything.

44:22 – “redeemed” – To purchase a slave out of slavery.

44:23 – “Sing” – We can sing of God’s redemption.

44:25 – “the babblers” – Those who are saying that Judah will not be taken by Babylon.

44:28 – “Cyrus” – God names him 200 years before Cyrus was born.

- Tradition says that when Cyrus came into the city of Babylon, an aged Daniel met him in the streets and presented this passage of Scripture to him. From that time on, Cyrus determined to fulfill each item in this prophecy.
- “saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built’” – Many of Isaiah’s day were saying that Judah would not be taken by the Babylonians.

Chapter 45:

Higher criticism has a problem with the accuracy of these prophecies regarding Cyrus and wants to find a reason to explain away these prophecies.

45:1 – “subdue nations” – Cyrus directed the charge that took Babylon. His military diverted the Euphrates River that ran through the city and came into the city under the walls in the dry river bed.

- The walls of Babylon were amazing. They were wide enough to race 6 chariots abroad on the top of the walls. They stood between 280-300 feet high. And there was a second huge wall inside the outer wall.
- Babylon fell on Oct. 13, 536 BC.
- “loose the armor of kings” – Belshazzar had “the joints of his hips loosened” in fear at the handwriting on the wall. (Dan. 5:6)
- “open before him the double doors” – When the soldiers that came through the walls went to open the gates for the rest of the Medo-Persian army, they found that the main gates were left unlocked.

45:4 – “I have even called you by your name” – What must Cyrus think when reading this prophecy?

45:4,5 – “though you have not known Me” – God doesn’t need a king to surrender to Him to use that king for His purposes in this world.

45:7 – “calamity” – (Heb. “ra”) Lit. “adversity, calamity.”

45:9 – “who strives with his Maker” – It is foolishness to fight against one who is looking out for your best interest.

- This must be the result of misunderstanding the intention of God.
- “clay” – Pottery is essentially dirt.
 - Adam was made of “the dust of the ground.” (Gen. 2:7)
 - 2 Cor. 4:7 says that God has placed His treasure in “earthen vessels.”
- “your workmanship” – In Christ Jesus, we are His workmanship – His poetry – created for good works. (Eph. 2:10)

45:10 – “the woman” – His mother. We cannot choose our parents.

- God even knows us in our mother’s womb. (Ps. 139)

45:11 – “of things to come” – God prophecies.

- Positive confession teachers claim this verse teaches us that we can command God to do what we want. But the sarcastic tone of the verse implies, “Go ahead and try to command God, but you can’t.”

45:13 – “let My exiles go free” – As Cyrus did in Ezra 1:2.

- There is a near (Cyrus) and a far (Jesus) element to this verse.
- “Not for price nor reward” – Cyrus sent Judah back with letters and resources to guarantee their success without any personal gain of his own.

45:14 – “Egypt...Cush...Sabeans” – The reward God will give to Cyrus for his treatment of Israel. (Isa. 43:3)

45:17 – “Forever and ever” – Israel will endure to the end.

45:18 – “did not create it in vain” – Some use this verse to support the Gap Theory. (Gen. 1:2) But see also Isa. 34:11.

- “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.” (Rom. 5:12)

45:19 – “I have not spoken in secret” – God is not hiding the truth. (Prov. 1:20)

45:21 – “no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior” – This is the narrow road to salvation.

45:22 – Charles H. Spurgeon was saved by this verse.

45:23 – “to Me every knee shall bow” – Paul clarified this as referring to Jesus. (Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:10-11)

Chapter 46:

46:1 – “Bel” – Another name for Marduk, the chief deity of Babylon.

- Marduk (Molech) was worshipped by sacrificing children on the arms of a heated statue and then the ashes of the child were stored in a box in a special part of their house.
- The name “Bel” is equivalent to the Canaanite “Baal” and means “lord.”
- “Nebo” – Known as Nabu, the god of learning and writing. He was the son of Marduk.

46:4 – “I will carry you” – As opposed to others who must carry their gods.

- God has seen Israel through tremendous wars and persecution. The only possible explanation for their existence is God.

46:5 – “To whom will you liken Me” – How will you fashion God?

46:6 – “lavish gold out of the bag” – People still sacrifice to their gods.

- People make tremendous sacrifices to music, sports, or academics and they are seen as noble and heroes. But when we make the same sacrifices to our God we are called crazy.

46:7 – “Nor save him” – No other god, cause, or principle can do this.

46:10 – “Declaring the end from the beginning” – The importance of prophecy.

- We need to take this to heart. The same God making these predictions for Judah and Babylon is the God preparing to come back and set up His kingdom.
- Studying Revelation should make us hungry to study Leviticus. Prophecy should lead us to holiness.

46:11 – “from the east” – Referring to Cyrus king of Persia.

Chapter 47:

47:1 – “Babylon” – Prophesying of the near and far destruction of Babylon. (Rev. 17-18)

47:2 – “grind meal” – A job for servants.

47:3 – “not arbitrate” – God will meet this in judgment. There will be no discussion.

47:6 – “no mercy” – Cruelty is an evidence of pride.

47:6 – “On the elderly you laid your yoke” – Babylon was known for making slaves of their captives, even of the elderly, and forcing them into hard labor.

- Cyrus and the Persians were not especially cruel to their captives.

47:7 – “I shall be a lady forever” – They think their nation is secure and will stand forever.

- “you did not take these things to heart” – God is calling Babylon to account for the things he spoke through Isaiah.

47:8 – “dwell securely” – Babylon never thought they would suffer the loss of their husbands and children. They thought they could take care of themselves and do what they wanted.

47:9 – “enchantments” – Synonymous with taking drugs in the OT.

47:10 – “No one sees me” – They think they are getting away with their evil.

- To be living in sin is to be self-deceived.

47:12 – “Perhaps” – God is prodding to see if their gods will save them.

47:13 – “astrologers, stargazers, monthly prognosticators” – Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar would ask these guys to interpret first, but they would always fail. Eventually, they would turn to Daniel and Daniel’s God for interpretation.

47:15 – “each one to his quarter” – Seems to speak of a global Babylon.

Chapter 48:

48:1 – “Jacob” – means “heel-catcher, supplanter, or deceiver.”

- “Israel” – means “governed by God.”
- “But not in truth” – They are living in hypocrisy. They claim to be of God, but they live opposite to their claim.

48:3 – “I have declared” – God is saying, “I told you so.” He wants them to recognize Him as God.

- God pleads with them to not give themselves to idols, and He pleads with them knowing their future and their stubborn, rebellious hearts.

48:4 – “obstinate” – The only thing God asks of us is surrender.

- He knows we are powerless and ignorant, so He offers the wisdom and the strength. He doesn’t ask us to do this ourselves, but He does expect us to submit to what He offers to us.

48:5 – “from the beginning I have declared it to you” – They are so stubborn and stiff-necked that God has to show them their judgment before it happens so they will know that it is Him.

- God is challenging them to hear the prophetic word of God and respond appropriately.

48:9 – “For My name’s sake” – This is all of grace; they didn’t do anything to deserve this mercy.

- “If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.” (2 Tim. 2:13)

48:10 – “tested you in the furnace of affliction” – Because they refused to be obedient.

- “affliction” – Egypt, Babylon, Rome, Nazi Germany, and the Antichrist. Israel has endured a lot of affliction.

48:11 – “profaned” – They have made God look common.

48:12 – “First...Last” – This is spoken of Jesus in Rev. 1:11; 22:13.

48:13 – “My hand has laid the foundation of the earth” – God is the Creator.

48:14 – “The Lord loves him” – Speaking of Cyrus in the near, but looking to the Messiah in the far.

48:16 – “I was there” – The eternality of Jesus.

- “Lord God...Spirit...Me” – The trinity is in this verse.

48:17 – “the way” – Interesting phrase in the Scriptures. (Gen. 3:24; Prov. 22:6; John 14:6)

48:20 – “Go forth from Babylon” – God is predicting Israel’s return from Babylon even before Israel went to Babylon.

- God has to command them to leave Babylon because so many have grown comfortable there.

48:22 – “no peace...for the wicked” – “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world gives do I give unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” (John 14:27)

- “no peace” – This phrase separates the 3 major sections of Isaiah after chapter 40. (Isa. 57:21)

Chapter 49:

God is using the future situation with Babylon to set the stage to reveal the Messiah in prophecy.

49:1 – “called me from the womb” – This prophecy is that Messiah would be born. (Ps. 22:9)

49:2 – “sharp sword” – Rev. 19:15.

- The Christ will be God’s secret weapon against Satan and his Antichrist.

49:3 – “O Israel” – Jesus perfectly personifies what Israel was intended to be – “governed by God.”

49:4 – “labored in vain” – Measured by most human estimates, Jesus’ life and ministry was a failure.

- “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing.” (Luke 13:34)

49:5 – “To bring Jacob back to him” – Jesus was sent first unto the “lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Matt. 15:24)

49:6 – “a light to the Gentiles” – God’s intention was for the Gentiles to be saved too; even in the OT.

- Yet, the Jews taught that the Gentiles were created to be fuel for the fires of hell.
- “be My salvation” – Jesus means “Jehovah is salvation.”
- This verse is quoted in part by Paul and Barnabas in Acts 13:47.

49:7 – “Him whom man despises” – “He is despised and rejected by men.” (Isa. 53:3)

- People still despise Him in us. (Matt. 5:11)
- “Him whom the nation abhors” – Israel still largely abhors Jesus.
- A Jew cannot immigrate to Israel when claiming to be a follower of the rabbi, Jesus.

49:8 – This verse is quoted by Paul in 2 Cor. 6:2 and then expanded upon by saying “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

49:10 – “neither hunger nor thirst” – Spoken of the martyrs in Rev. 7:16.

- “lead them” – Jesus is the Good Shepherd. (John 10:3, 11)

49:12 – “Sinim” – China.

- The reforming and regathering of the Israel sets the prophetic time-clock.

49:14 – “my Lord has forgotten me” – Israel questions and doubts God’s concern for them. They have rejected His provision in Christ, but they think He doesn’t care about them

49:15 – “I will not forget you” – God is the best of fathers. (Luke 11:13)

49:16 – “inscribed you on the palms of My hands” – The wounds of the cross. (Zech. 12:10)

49:18 – “as an ornament” – God is adorned by His children.

49:19 – “too small for the inhabitants” – Israel isn’t large enough to hold all the people God will lead to return to the land.

- In 2005, Ariel Sharon was giving parts of the West Bank settlements to the Palestinians. Israel will need that space.

49:21 – “wandering to and fro” – This is the history of Israel to this point.

49:23 – “They shall bow down to you” – Even the rulers of the earth will bow before Jesus.

49:26 – “their own blood” – Even up to the horse’s bridle. (Rev. 14:20)

Chapter 50:

50:1 – “you have sold yourselves” – They are blaming God for their circumstances (Isa. 49:14), but God is showing them that these difficulties are that results of their sin.

50:4 – “morning by morning” – He would receive in the morning what He needed to share with people through the day.

- “to him who is weary” – Jesus still speaks to the weary.

50:5 – “opened My ear” – Lit. “pierced My ear.” Speaking of the voluntary act of slave to continue in the service of a kind master. (Exod. 21:6)

- Jesus is a willing servant. “Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened” (Ps. 40:6) or “a body You have prepared for Me” (Heb. 10:5)

50:6 – “gave My back to those who struck Me” – The scourging of Jesus.

- “plucked out the beard” – An unspoken part of the crucifixion of Christ.
- “spitting” – The greatest show of being despised in that culture.

50:7 – “set My face like a flint” – “Now it came to pass, when the time had come for Him to be received up, that He steadfastly set His face to go to Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:41)

- “not be ashamed” – God will make sure of that in the end. (Phil. 2:9-11; Heb. 12:2)

50:11 – “who kindle a fire” – To idols.

Chapter 51:

51:2 – “Abraham your father” – An idolatrous Babylonian who was accepted by God simply because he believed what God said.

- “I called him alone” – God started Israel with two people. God isn’t dependant upon great numbers of people to accomplish His work.
- God is affirming His faithfulness to Israel.

51:3 – “the Lord will comfort Zion” – This hasn’t happened completely yet.

51:5 – “coastlands” – May include the United States.

51:6 – “The earth will grow old like a garment” – At some point, “the heavens will pass away” (2 Pet. 3:10) and “the heavens will be rolled up like a scroll” (Isa. 34:4; Rev. 6:14).

51:7 – “whose heart is My law” – This is speaking of us.

- “Nor be afraid of their insults” – A theme of this chapter. (v. 12, 23)

51:8 – “the worm will eat them” – Jesus described hell as a place where “their worm dies not.” (Mark 9:44)

51:9 – “Awake, awake” – The people are trying to rouse God to action.

- “Rahab” – Referring to Egypt. (Isa. 30:7)

51:11 – “everlasting joy” – Still future.

- The deliverance from Egypt and the Red Sea is evidence that God can and will deliver them again.

51:12 – “Who are you that you should be afraid of a man” – Fear of man is an evidence of a lack of faith in God.

- “Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” (Matt. 10:28)
- “The fear of man brings a snare.” (Prov. 29:25)

51:16 – “the shadow of My hand” – Don’t give up hope; we are in good hands.

51:17 – “Awake, awake” – God speaks this back to Israel. (Isa. 51:9)

- In reality, it was Israel who fell asleep on God and not the other way around.
- “The cup of His fury” – Jeremiah speaks much about the cup of God’s wrath. (Jer. 25:15-16)
- Jesus accepted this cup in the Garden of Gethsemane. (Matt. 26:39)

51:20 – “Your sons” – The young and strong ones.

51:22 – “the sup of My fury; You shall no longer drink it” – Rev. 14.

51:23 – “those who afflict you” – God is defending the cause of His people.

- “we may walk over you” – They make themselves like grass to be walked upon.
- Sometimes a conquering army would force the defeated foes to lie down in the streets so they could walk on them as a sign of their victory.

Chapter 52:

52:1 – “Awake, awake” – God is calling to Israel again. (Isa. 51:17)

- “Put on your beautiful garments” – The captivity is over.

52:2 – “the bonds of your neck” – The shackles of their captivity.

52:3 – “sold yourselves for nothing” – “For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” (Matt. 16:26)

- “redeemed without money” – We are redeemed “with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” (1 Pet. 1:19)

52:5 – “My name is blasphemed continually every day” – Quoted in part in Rom. 2:24.

52:6 – “My people shall know My name” – Jesus.

- “Behold, it is I” – Jesus came unto His own and His own did not receive Him. (John 1:11)

52:7 – “How beautiful” – Nahum 1:15; Romans 10:13-15.

- “good news” – The context would speak of the news of Israel’s deliverance from Babylon.
 - The word “gospel” means “good news.”

52:8 – “eye to eye” – They shall see Him face-to-face.

52:10 – “made bare His holy arm” – God will roll up His sleeves and get to work.

52:11 – “Touch no unclean thing” – The redeemed are to be separated from sin. (2 Cor. 6:17)

52:12 – “not go out with haste” – They won’t need to hurry.

52:13-53:12 – Quoted more frequently in the NT than any other passage (at least 41 times) and is often referred to as the “gospel of the OT.”

52:13 – “My Servant” – Written 740 years before Jesus was born.

- The modern-day Jew wants to say this passage is referring to the nation of Israel as a whole, but it is clearly referring to a person.
- “extolled” – Lit. “lifted up.”
 - “And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.” (John 12:32)

52:14-15 – “Just as...So shall” – It forms a contrast. It is Jesus’ death and mutilation that allows Him to sprinkle and cleanse people.

52:14 – “astonished” – The Hebrew carries the idea of “put to silence.” This scene is so stunning that no one can speak.

- “His visage was marred more than any man” – Lit. “His appearance no longer seemed human.” (Isa. 50:6)
- “marred” – A term used of a “blemished animal” which should not be offered to the Lord. (Mal. 1:14)

52:15 – “sprinkle” – As the High Priest would sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice before the altar.

Chapter 53:

53:1 – “Who has believed” – God will intervene on behalf of Israel, but they will miss it because He will not appear as they expected or hoped Him to appear.

- “the arm of the Lord” – In Isaiah’s day, they were seeking the arm of the Lord to act on their behalf. (Isa. 52:10)

53:2 – “before Him” – Before God.

- “grow up” – The Messiah as a baby, a toddler, or adolescent.
- “no form or comeliness” – Even John the Baptist didn’t recognize Jesus as the Messiah until the Holy Spirit manifested Himself upon Jesus. (John 1:31-33)
- “no beauty that we should desire Him” – Jesus didn’t manipulate externals to draw us to Himself. He didn’t win us with beauty, but with love.
 - This world clamors for power and beauty; Jesus didn’t come with either.

- 53:3 – “Man of sorrows” – Only the one who knows the potential of a thing can fully grieve the loss of it.
- It seems the more we grow into Christ’s image, the more we become acquainted with sorrows and grief. (Phil. 3:10)
 - “we hid...our faces from Him” – Something so hideous or shocking that we have to turn away.
- 53:4 – “borne our griefs” – “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us.” (2 Cor. 5:21)
- “our” – We are responsible for the death of Jesus.
 - “Smitten by God” – He was (v. 10), but not in the way they thought.
 - The High Priest of Jesus’ day thought Jesus was being punished for claiming to be God.
- 53:5 – “wounded” – Lit. “pierced.”
- “They will look on Me whom they pierced.” (Zech. 12:10)
 - In Isaiah’s day, stoning was the means of capital punishment. Crucifixion hadn’t really been invented yet.
 - “bruised” – Lit. “crushed under.”
 - “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” (Gen. 3:15)
 - “by His stripes we are healed” – This verse is quoted twice in the NT, once in reference to physical healing and the other time in reference to spiritual healing.
- 53:6 – “his own way” – This is the epitome of sin, to go our way rather than God’s.
- “iniquity of us all” – Jesus is more acquainted with our sin and failure than we are. He carried it all on the cross: past, present, and future.
- 53:7 – “He opened not His mouth” – Jesus didn’t implicate any of us in his torture. And He took the full brunt of the punishment as a result.
- “a lamb to the slaughter” – Even in heaven, Jesus will still be bearing the marks of His slaughter. (Rev. 5:6)
- 53:8 – “who will declare His generation” – Jesus was left without any natural children.
- “cut off” – “After 69 sevens the Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.” (Dan. 9:26)
- 53:9 – “with the rich at His death” – Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. (John 19:38-39)
- “Nor was any deceit in His mouth” – Quoted by Peter in 1 Peter 2:22.
- 53:10 – “pleased the Lord to bruise Him” – Because of what it accomplished for “His seed.”
- “Jesus...who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross.” (Heb. 12:2)
 - “He shall see His seed” – The “generation” from v. 8. Jesus is without physical children, but He has a multitude of spiritual descendants.
- 53:11 – “By His knowledge” – Knowing God through a personal relationship with Jesus.
- “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” (John 17:3)

- 53:12 – “divide the spoil” – After Armageddon, Jesus will take His proper place over all.
- “poured out His souls unto death” – Jesus said of His death, “No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself.” (John 10:18)
 - Jesus was crucified in 6 hours. The shortest crucifixion on Roman record is 13 hours.
 - “made intercession” – Jesus is still making intercession for us. (Heb. 7:25)

Chapter 54:

- 54:1 – “more are the children of the desolate” – Paul uses this verse to refer to the promised son coming through Sarah, rather than through Hagar to demonstrate the difference between the spiritual and the natural life. (Gal. 4:27)
- God is speaking to the redeemed of Israel and looking to the Kingdom Age.
 - “children” – Jesus will see His seed. (Isa. 53:10) It only seems barren now.
- 54:2 – “Enlarge the place of your tent” – They will need more room.
- 54:4 – “you will not be ashamed” – Because of God’s grace.
- “the reproach of your widowhood” – Their exile in Babylon.
- 54:5 – “your Maker is your husband” – God makes a very good husband.
- 54:6 – “Like a woman forsaken” – God called forth a forsaken people.
- 54:7 – “a mere moment” – This may include the last 2,000 years of Israel’s history.
- 54:8 – “I will have mercy on you” – Israel has not been cast off. (Rom. 11)
- 54:9 – “rebuke” – Lit. “to push away forcefully.”
- 54:10 – “mountains shall depart” – This may be literal.
- 54:12 – “your walls of precious stones” – Much like the New Jerusalem of Rev. 21.
- 54:13 – “your children shall be taught by the Lord” – Jesus will be their Sunday school teacher.
- Jesus said, “It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’” (John 6:45)
- 54:15 – “Whoever assembles against you shall fall” – No nation will defeat Israel again.
- 54:16 – “I created the blacksmith” – God created all things to bring His plan to pass.
- 54:17 – “No weapon formed against you shall prosper” – Sometimes it seems like so many of the world’s weapons are prospering against us.
- “every tongue” – When He can’t get at us in any other way, Satan will attack us by the tongue.
 - “the servants of the Lord” – This would apply to all who are redeemed by Christ.
 - After chapter 53, the singular “servant” no longer occurs in Isaiah. The “servants” are true believers – both Jew and Gentile – who are faithful to the Lord.
 - “righteousness is of Me” – We stand before God in the righteousness of Christ Jesus.

Chapter 55:

55:1 – “Everyone who thirsts” – Jew and Gentile alike.

- “Come to the waters” – There is only one source of the water we really need.
 - Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.” (John 7:37)
- “without price” – It is free for us, because it was paid for by Jesus.

55:2 – “what does not satisfy” – Nothing of this world satisfies.

55:3 – “sure mercies of David” – The Davidic covenant culminated in the Messiah.

55:6 – “Seek the Lord” – He is calling all people to Himself.

55:8 – “My thoughts are not your thoughts” – How many times do we get angry at God when we don’t understand what He is doing?

55:9 – “My ways higher than your ways” – Especially in reference to His grace.

- His way is the right way. Only He has all the information necessary to make the right decision.

55:10 – “as the rain comes down” – This is a picture of how God’s Word works little by little in our lives.

- “seed to the sower” – “Those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.” (Ps. 126:5-6)

55:11 – “it shall accomplish what I please” – The Word of God works the will of God in us and through us.

- Growing in God is growing in His Word. The two are inseparable.
- Christians turn to so many other things to try to grow, and none of it bears fruit in our lives.

55:12 – “you shall go out with joy” – This is what the Word works into us.

- God has great plans for Israel and for us.

55:13 – “Instead of the thorn” – God will reverse the curse.

- Even nature is groaning for the sons of God to be revealed. (Rom. 8:22)

Chapter 56:

56:1 – “Keep justice” – Christians should be speaking about and working for justice in our day too.

- “do righteousness” – This is what God has desired from His people all along.

56:2 – “the Sabbath” – The Sabbath day is a sign between God and nation Israel. (Exod. 31:16-17)

56:3 – “the son of the foreigner” – Referring also to the Gentiles.

- The Jews often considered Gentiles fuel for the fires of hell.
- “joined himself to the Lord” – The Church has been grafted into the tree of Israel.

56:4 – “the eunuchs” – In the OT, eunuchs were excluded from the assembly of the Lord. (Deut. 23:1)

- Nothing can “separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 8:39)

56:5 – “a place and a name” – (Heb. “yad vashem”) The main Holocaust monument in modern Israel.

56:7 – “a house of prayer” – Quoted by Jesus as He cleansed the Temple. (Matt. 21:13)

56:10 – “His watchmen” – The leaders of God’s people.

- Jeremiah and Ezekiel both spoke of the immoral state of Israel’s leaders and its effect on the nation.

56:11 – “all look to their own way” – Shepherds are to look to the benefit of those they are serving. (Ezek. 34:1-6)

56:12 – “much more abundant” – They are looking to their own prosperity.

- Jesus called the religious leaders of His day “extortioning” wolves. (Matt. 7:15)

Chapter 57:

57:1 – “the righteous is taken away from evil” – There is a Biblical principle of God’s separation of the righteous from the wicked before judgment. (Gen. 18:23,25; 2 Pet. 2:9)

- This is possibly an allusion to the rapture.

57:3 – “the adulterer and the harlot” – Spiritually, the nation of Israel was in adultery against God in its worship of idols.

57:5 – “gods under every green tree” – Their idol worship.

- “Slaying the children” – In worship of the idol Molech. (v. 9)

57:9 – “the king” – Translated “Molech” in the NIV.

57:10 – “the life of your hand” – The life that comes from your own doing.

- “He who finds his life will lose it.” (Matt. 10:39)

57:13 – “Let your collection of idols deliver you” – The Lord has kept silent for some time, but judgment is coming. Then they can see if their gods will deliver them.

- “But he who puts his trust in Me shall possess the land” – The great contrast in this chapter.

57:15 – “a contrite and humble spirit” – Humility is a prerequisite to a relationship w/God.

- The great God is condescending in His relationship with lowly man.
- “contrite” – Lit. “crushed.”

57:16 – “the spirit would fail before Me” – Nobody can stand under His perfection.

- If God would not turn back His wrath, man would be completely destroyed. Thankfully, He turns His wrath in Jesus Christ.

57:19 – “him who is far off and him who is near” – The Gentile and the Jew alike.

- “I will heal him” – Israel is indestructible because God and His covenant are indestructible.
- This promise is for those who were turning from Him.

57:20 – “cannot rest” – They cannot rest because they don’t know the God of rest.

Chapter 58:

58:1 – “Cry aloud” – God seems to be speaking to Isaiah, His messenger, again.

58:2 – “Yet they seek Me daily” – They are maintaining a very spiritual façade.

58:3 – “Why have we fasted” – They are fasting in hypocrisy and for self-serving ends, but then they blame God when He doesn’t bless them for this fasting.

- Nearly all religious systems have some form of self-affliction and they perform their deeds to manipulate God to bless them.
- Religion is empty when there is no God behind it.
- “in the day of your fast you find pleasure” – Despite fasting, they are still not following God’s will.
 - They are fasting in the flesh. (Matt. 6)
 - “Whatever is not from faith is sin.” (Rom. 14:23)
 - “Having a form of godliness but denying its power.” (2 Tim. 3:5)
- “exploit all your laborers” – They are pushing their workers to the extreme to get as much out of them as possible.

58:4 – “to strike with the fist” – They are getting into fistfights on their fasting day.

58:5 – “an acceptable day to the Lord” – God is not pleased with these offerings.

58:6 – “the fast that I have chosen” – God has other things He would have them do.

- Fasting is not a way to get God to do something for us, but a way to teach us to submit to His will.

58:7 – “your own flesh” – They are neglecting their family to be religious.

58:8 – “Then” – The promised blessings of obedience.

58:9 – “Here I am” – God’s presence.

58:11 – “a watered garden” – Refreshed and refreshing to others.

58:13 – “call the Sabbath a delight” – God is not asking them to abandon all forms of religion, but to be doing them with the right heart.

- The principle of the Sabbath is to take 1 in 7 of our time and devote it to the Lord.
- “honor Him” – The purpose in all they do.
- “your own ways...your own pleasure...your own words” – They are just doing their own thing.

Chapter 59:

59:1 – “Lord’s hand is not shortened” – God doesn’t lack ability.

59:2 – “your iniquities have separated you from your God” – Sin is the problem. The difficult things that have happened to them are the results of their disobedience.

59:5 – “eats of their eggs” – They are feeding on the sin of their schemes.

59:7 – “Their feet run to evil” – And this despite being very religious.

59:8 – “the way of peace they have not known” – Quoted in Romans 3:15-17.

59:9 – “us” – Here the voice changes from “they” to “us.” We all suffer from sinful behavior.

59:10 – “blind” – They have no spiritual sight.

59:12 – “our sins testify against us” – This is true of everyone apart from Jesus Christ.

59:15 – “truth fails” – They have sacrificed truth in favor of their sin and personal gain.

- “makes himself a prey” – In that culture, they are persecuting those who are doing and standing up for what is right.

59:16 – “there was no intercessor” – No human can stand between God and man.

- “His own arm brought salvation” – God provides His own savior in Jesus Christ. (Isa. 53:1)
- Our righteousness is “righteousness which is from God by faith.” (Phil. 3:9)

59:17 – “helmet of salvation” – Paul details the armor of God in Eph. 6:14.

59:19 – “lift up a standard against him” – This will ultimately be fulfilled in the Tribulation as Jesus finally defeats the Antichrist.

59:20 – “Redeemer” – (Heb. “goel”) Lit. “kinsman-redeemer.”

- The first time Jesus came as the suffering servant; the next time He comes as the conquering king.

59:21 – “forevermore” – This sinful generation is bad, but it won’t last forever. But God’s covenant is forevermore.

Chapter 60:

60:1 – “Arise, shine” – The light of the Messiah shines brightly in that darkness.

60:2 – “deep darkness” – Likely speaking specifically of the time of the Tribulation.

60:3 – “Gentiles shall come to your light” – Those who are on earth when Christ returns, and do not die in opposition of Him, will all be saved.

60:4 – “your sons” – The diaspora.

60:6 – “those from Sheba” – Even the Arabs will come to worship the Christ.

- “Lord” – Yahweh.

60:8 – “those who fly in a cloud” – Possibly referring to airplanes.

- They are coming in droves to Zion.

60:9 – “To bring your sons from afar” – The Gentiles are bringing the dispersed Jews with them.

60:11 – “your gates shall be open continually” – Because they will have no enemies and because multitudes will be coming in at all times.

60:13 – “cypress, the pine, and the box tree” – Even nature will be restored.

- “To beautify the place of My sanctuary” – Not just through building, but also through planting and growth.

60:16 – “drink the milk of the Gentiles” – As Israel is nursed back to health and strength.

60:17 – “your magistrates righteousness” – There will be a just government.

60:18 – “violence shall not longer be heard” – We are to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem,” (Ps. 122:6) but we know that will only happen when Jesus is ruling the world from Jerusalem.

60:20 – “sun shall no longer go down” – There will be no more darkness, because God Himself will be the light.

60:22 – “in its time” – Translated “in his time” in KJV.

Chapter 61:

61:1-2 – Jesus referred these verses to Himself in Luke 4:17-21.

- “Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me” – The baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers for service. For Jesus, this was fulfilled at the baptism of John.
 - The Spirit of God will always look like Jesus.
- “good tidings” – The Gospel.
- “liberty” – Galatians 5:1.
- “opening” – This word is always used to refer to the opening of the eyes and ears. It is speaking of bringing people from darkness to light.

61:2 – “Lord” – Jesus came to fulfill the acceptable year of the Lord.

- “the day of vengeance” – Jesus stopped short of reading this part of the verse.
 - Jesus did not come into the world to condemn the world. (John 3:17; see also Ezek. 18:32; 2 Pet. 3:9))

61:3 – “trees” – This word comes from the Hebrew for “terebinth.” Throughout the Bible, the Angel of the Lord would meet His people among the terebinth trees.

61:4 – “they” – This is not speaking of the Church.

- “the ruined cities” – These were the cities destroyed in Israel.

61:5 – “shall stand” – The idea is they will stand at their posts to care for their flocks.

61:6 – “the priests of the Lord” – Israel failed in its calling as a priest-nation, but God will at some point restore them to it.

61:7 – “double honor” – God will repay them for the double judgment they received.

61:8 – “justice” – Isa. 1:16-17.

61:9 – “shall acknowledge them” – All the nations of the world will acknowledge Israel as a nation.

61:10 – “I” – Seems to be Jesus speaking.

- “garments of salvation” – “The fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.” (Rev. 19:8)
- “As a bridegroom” – Still in the excitement of the relationship.

61:11 – “as the earth brings forth its bud” – Isa. 55:10-11.

Chapter 62:

62:4 – “Forsaken” – How often have the Jews been considered forsaken?

- “Hephzibah” – means “desired one.”
- “Beulah” – means “married one.”

62:5 – “virgin” – A chaste virgin was considered pure. It is amazing that God could see them that way.

62:7 – “give Him no rest” – Persistence in prayer.

- Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi are examples of those who prayed for Israel.

62:8 – “the foreigner shall not drink your new wine” – No one will take their stuff from them anymore.

62:10 – “Prepare the way” – They are repairing the roads to make pilgrimage to Jerusalem.

62:11 – “salvation is coming” – Jesus is going to return to this earth.

- “His reward is with Him” – The redeemed are His reward.
- “The glory of His inheritance in the saints.” (Eph. 1:18)

Chapter 63:

63:1 – “Who is this?” – Isaiah is asking the questions and God will answer.

- “from Bozrah” – To the Mount of Olives.

63:3 – “trodden the winepress alone” – This is Jesus, as He comes to put down the enemies that stand before Him as He comes to set up His kingdom. (Rev. 14:10-11,17-20; 16:16; 19:11-13)

63:4 – “day of vengeance” – Jesus is as extreme in vengeance and judgment as His is in love and mercy. (Isa. 61:1-2)

- It is in His heart, not because He takes pleasure in the death of the wicked, but because it will lead to the year of His redeemed. He is doing all this for them. The purpose of vengeance is redemption.
- “the year of my redeemed has come” – This is the answer to the question of “why” from v. 2.

63:7 – “lovingkindnesses” – Jesus’ vengeance on His enemies is mercy toward His children.

- God treats His children differently from those who reject Him.
- “the praises of the Lord” – Isaiah praises the Lord in response to God’s declaration of His intent to bring vengeance on the earth.
- God gives Israel a very real place in His plans for the future.

63:9 – “In all their affliction He was afflicted” – He feels their pain.

- Anyone with children understands how a parent can feel the pain of their child.
- “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” (Acts 9:4)

- 63:10 – “rebelled” – They have maintained an overall attitude of rebellion.
- They rebel despite God’s mercy extended to all mankind.
 - “grieved His Holy Spirit” – God allows Himself to be hurt by us. (Eph. 4:30)

63:11 – “within them” – Lit. “in the midst of them.”

63:13 – “the deep” – Lit. “the deep of the abyss.” This is the Red Sea, not the Reed Sea.

63:16 – “You are our Father” – Christians have the spirit of sonship, but Israel has God as their Father nationally.

63:17 – “made us stray” – James tells us that God does not tempt anyone with evil (James 1:13), but as He did to Pharaoh in the Exodus, He will at times strengthen the rebellious in their rebellion.

Chapter 64:

64:1 – “That You would come down” – Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us.

- Jesus came the first time meek and gentle; the next time He comes will be with power and authority. (Isa. 63:3-4)

64:4 – “Men have not heard nor perceived” – Similar to, but not the same as, 1 Cor. 2:9.

- As God is faithful to complete the work in bringing Israel back to the land, He is also faithful to complete His work in the believers and bring them to their heavenly home. The nation of Israel is one of the truest proofs of God’s faithfulness.
- “acts for the one who waits for Him” – Do you want what you do, or do you want what He does? If you want what God does, you must learn to wait on Him.
- God’s promises are for those who will wait for Him.
- While we are waiting, God is working.

64:6 – “we” – Isaiah includes himself. (Like Daniel and the apostle John will do later in the Bible.)

- “righteousnesses” – This is what we produce by trying to make ourselves righteous.
 - Anyone who seeks to justify themselves will not be cleansed.
- “filthy rags” – Lit. “used menstrual cloths.”

64:8 – “You are our Father” – For Israel nationally.

- This is as Israel is suffering as a result of their sin, but still they are looking to and waiting on God.
- “the work of Your hand” – Our sovereign God is also very good.
 - It is good to surrender to His way.

Chapter 65:

65:1 – “I” – The Lord answers the question from Isa. 64:12.

- “those who did not ask for Me” – The Gentiles. (Rom. 10:20-21)

65:2 – “According to their own thoughts” – This is the ultimate in disrespect while the Father is stretching out His hands.

65:3 – “altars of brick” – Molech was served with the burnings of the brick kilns.

- 65:5 – “holier than you” – The people of Israel are sinning by participating in necromancy, worshipping idols, and eating pig, but still they think they are better than everybody else.
- “smoke in My nostrils” – Aggravating.
 - This is Phariseeism in its early stages. This was never pleasing to God.
- 65:6 – “it is written” – God has His books.
- 65:7 – “Your iniquities and the iniquities of your fathers” – The children have followed in the sinful practices of their ancestors.
- “mountains” – The idolatrous worship of the high places.
- 65:8 – “I may not destroy them all” – There will be a remnant of Israel saved.
- 65:9 – “My elect” – Referring to Israel. (Matt. 24:22; Rom. 11:7,28)
- 65:10 – “Valley of Achor” – Where Achan was stoned. (Josh. 7)
- “a place for herds” – Israel will be rejuvenated.
- 65:11 – “Gad...Meni” – Foreign gods.
- 65:12 – “number” – This is a play on words with the word “Meni” of v. 11.
- 65:13 – “Behold” – Lit. “Consider.”
- “Behold...But” – Comparing between those who seek God and those who do not.
 - “Behold, My servants...” – During the Kingdom Age.
- 65:16 – “the God of truth” – Jesus said “I am...the truth.” (John 14:6)
- “hidden from My eyes” – God will remember our sins no more.
 - God cannot forget, but He can choose to not remember.
- 65:17-25 – Isaiah mixes the descriptions of the Millennial Age and the Eternal Kingdom.
- 65:17 – “create” – (Heb. “barra”) Lit. “to create out of nothing.”
- This requires a passing away of the present heaven and earth. (2 Pet. 3:10-13)
 - “come to mind” – The Hebrew phrase carries the idea of “weighing upon the heart.”
 - In the Kingdom of God, you will not worry about or suffer from the past or anything from the earth. The former things will pass away and be remembered no more.
- 65:20 – “accursed” – During the Millennial Kingdom, sinners will die an early death.
- “child shall die one hundred years old” – To die at 100 would seem untimely.
- 65:22 – “not build and another inhabit” – The people will be living up to 1,000 years, so they won’t be dying and passing their homes to others.
- Imagine what these people will be able to learn and do if they can live 800 years with health, safety, and prosperity.
- 65:24 – “before they call” – God will be so near and unhindered in that day.

65:25 – “wolf and the lamb shall feed together” – Similar to Isa. 11:6-9.

- “dust shall be the serpent’s food” – His form remains the same, but his ability to hurt anyone is removed.

Chapter 66:

66:1 – “the house that you will build Me” – God is speaking to Israel of a future temple that will be built. (Rev. 11:1)

- Orthodox Jews of our day desperately want a temple built.
- “The Most High does not dwell in temples made with hands.” (Acts 7:48; see also 1 Kings 8:27 and Acts 17:24)

66:2 – “contrite” – Lit. “squeezed, crushed.”

- “trembles at My word” – We do not do anything for God, but rather we respond to God in faith and obedience.
- God is not looking for the outward trappings of religion, but to the heart.

66:3 – “as if he slays a man” – God is challenging their sense of self-righteousness.

66:4 – “delusions” – God will give them strong delusions to believe the lie. (2 Thess. 2:11)

- Jesus said, “I come in my Father’s name and you rejected Me; another will come in his own name, and him you will accept.” (John 5:43)

66:8 – “shall a nation be born at once” – Modern Israel was formed on May 14, 1948.

- There will be a day when Israel will be the stumbling-block of the nations. At that time God will step in and complete His plan for the ages.
- God has been working for 6,000 years of human history to bring this plan of His to completion.

66:10 – “Rejoice with Jerusalem” – All the nations of the earth will benefit from the nation of Israel.

66:12 – “extend peace” – Lit. “guide peace.” God is pulling all the strings of all the nations to bring this about.

66:14 – “your heart shall rejoice” – We will rejoice over this too.

- “servants...enemies” – God will deal with both.

66:18 – “My glory” – This is not the glory of His grace, but of His vengeance.

66:19 – “escape” – The idea is “remain, survive.”

- “Tarshish” – Spain or Britain.
- “Tubal” – Russia.
- “Javan” – Greece.
- “among the Gentiles” – The Gentiles will be escorting Jews to Jerusalem to worship Jesus together.

66:21 – “them” – The grammar demands this to refer to the Gentiles.

- The church will serve as kings and priests with Him in His kingdom. (Rev. 1:6; 5:10)

66:22 – “So shall your descendents and your name remain” – God’s plan for a new heaven and a new earth is directly related to His people.

66:23 – “All flesh shall come” – They will come from all nations to worship Jesus in Jerusalem.

66:24 – “their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched” – Quoted by Jesus in referring to hell. (Mark 9:44,46,48) This refers to the eternal punishment of the lost.

- Man’s history will one day come to an end. All that will be left then is either heaven or hell.