

OT-OV

Lesson 110

1. Last week I continued teaching an overview of the Book of Isaiah.
2. I want to review some of that learned and then begin new material on page four.
3. Introduction to Isaiah the man: Isaiah wrote the Book of Isaiah in about 700 B.C. from Judah. Isaiah speaks to both the southern and northern Kingdoms.
 - 3.1 It is believed that Isaiah ministered by word and pen for 60 years or more, from c. 740 to 680. His call to the prophetic ministry of warning and rebuke came in the year of King Uzziah's death.
 - 3.2 Isaiah must have lived longer to be able to record the death of Sennacherib in c. 681 B.C. and to know the name of the succeeding Assyrian monarch, Esarhaddo. Thus Isaiah lived on into the reign of Manasseh (c. 687-642).
 - 3.3 Tradition holds that Isaiah was sawn in half at the order of Manasseh, if credible it occurred early in the reign of Manasseh. Supposedly because Isaiah rebuked the King for his vices and idolatry he (Isaiah) was sawed asunder and if this is true, Hebrews 11:37 applies to him.
4. His reputation greatly increased after the fulfillment of many of his prophecies by the Babylonian exile, the victories of Cyrus, and the deliverance of a remnant from captivity.

The Book of Isaiah

1. The Book of Isaiah is regarded as the greatest of the prophetic books.
2. Judah and Israel were sinful nations. Although they were God's people, they were apostate and richly deserved chastisement. Isa 1:2-6
3. Isaiah is known to have been a court historian and personal prophet for Kings Uzziah and Hezekiah (2Ch 26:22; 32:32). During most of his tenure he was Israel's national prophet.
4. The unity of the Book of Isaiah has been upheld by solid scholarship and numerous New Testament citations though it has been common for critics to speak of a "second Isaiah" who allegedly wrote in the period immediately before the end of the Babylonian Captivity.

5. Given the reputation of the Book of Isaiah as the greatest of all prophetic books our overview will be well served if we concentrate on prophecy; for indeed this was Isaiah's major claim to "fame."

6. Summary of the Messianic Prophecies

6.1 The Reign of Christ in the Kingdom - Isa 2:3-5

6.2 The Virgin Birth - Isa 7:14

6.3 The Joyful Reign of Christ - Isa 9:2-7

6.4 The Rule of Christ Over the World - Isa 13:11; Isa 14:9

6.5 Christ As A Descendant of Jesse and David - Isa 11:1-10; Isa 16:5

6.6 Christ To Be Filled With The Spirit - Isa 11:2; Isa 42:1

6.7 Christ To Judge With Righteousness And Justice - Isa 11:3-5; Isa 42:1-4

6.8 Christ To Make Possible The Unconditional Covenants Isa 42:6; 49:8-11

6.9 Christ A Light To The Gentiles & To Be Worshipped By Them Isa 49:6 and Isa 52:15

6.10 Christ To Be Rejected

Isa 53:1 Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

Isa 53:2 He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

Isa 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

6.10.1 Christ's suffering is better described by an expanded translation

Isa 53:2 The Messiah will be caused to grow up like a mere suckling plant. And like a root tenuously seen atop the desert sand; in His appearance there will be no slick talking handsome man to attract us ...

Isa 53:3 He will be despised and forsaken of men, a man of adversities, One knowing catastrophes. Like a leper he will hide His face for after the beatings and scourgings administered by Rome's finest, He will be so gross in His appearance that no one will look upon Him; in pain He will carry His cross up the hill toward Golgotha, on the way He will be shunned, all will look away.

Isa 53:4 He will carry the guilt of our sinful afflictions, they will be upon Him like a heavy burden. He will take upon Himself our sins and carry our sorrows, yet many will consider him stricken of God, deservedly smitten, and afflicted for claiming to be the King.

Isa 53:5 But rather He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment which produced our peace was His spiritual death ...

Isa 53:6 All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, each one of us has turned to his own way; so the Father has caused to fall on Him, Jesus, the punishment of us all.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and humiliated, yet He did not open his mouth; like a lamb He was led to the slaughter, and like a ewe being sheared He is silent, He said not a word.

Isa 53:8a By oppression and injustice our Savior was taken away . . .

6.11 Christ To Be Obedient To God

Isa 50:6 I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

Isa 53:7 He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

Isa 53:8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.

6.12 Christ To Be Exalted

Isa 52:13 See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

Isa 53:12 Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Isa 30:18 And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

6.13 Christ To Restore Israel And Judge The Wicked

Isa 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

Isa 61:2 to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favor [and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,] - See Mat 4:17-20

Isa 61:3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor.

6.13.1 An early teaching of the two Advents of Christ:

Luk 4:17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

Luk 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

Luk 4:19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Luk 4:20 And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him.

6.14 Christ would live in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali

Isa 9:1 Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan--

Isa 9:2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

Isa 9:3 You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder.

Isa 9:4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor.

7. Now for new material.

8. The captivity of the ten northern tribes

Isa 9:8 The Lord has sent a message against Jacob; it will fall on Israel.

Isa 9:9 All the people will know it-- Ephraim and the inhabitants of Samaria-- who say with pride and arrogance of heart,

Isa 9:10 "The bricks have fallen down, but we will rebuild with dressed stone; the fig trees have been felled, but we will replace them with cedars."

Isa 9:11 But the LORD has strengthened Rezin's foes against them and has spurred their enemies on.

Isa 9:12 Arameans from the east and Philistines from the west have devoured Israel with open mouth. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

Isa 9:13 But the people have not returned to him who struck them, nor have they sought the LORD Almighty.

Isa 9:14 So the LORD will cut off from Israel both head and tail, both palm branch and reed in a single day;

Isa 9:15 the elders and prominent men are the head, the prophets who teach lies are the tail.

Isa 9:16 Those who guide this people mislead them, and those who are guided are led astray.

Isa 9:17 Therefore the Lord will take no pleasure in the young men, nor will he pity the fatherless and widows, for everyone is ungodly and wicked, every mouth speaks vileness. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

Isa 9:18 Surely wickedness burns like a fire; it consumes briars and thorns, it sets the forest thickets ablaze, so that it rolls upward in a column of smoke.

Isa 9:19 By the wrath of the LORD Almighty the land will be scorched and the people will be fuel for the fire; no one will spare his brother.

Isa 9:20 On the right they will devour, but still be hungry; on the left they will eat, but not be satisfied. Each will feed on the flesh of his own offspring:

Isa 9:21 Manasseh will feed on Ephraim, and Ephraim on Manasseh; together they will turn against Judah. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.

Isa 10:1 Woe to those who make unjust laws, to those who issue oppressive decrees,

Isa 10:2 to deprive the poor of their rights and withhold justice from the oppressed of my people, making widows their prey and robbing the fatherless.

Isa 10:3 What will you do on the day of reckoning, when disaster comes from afar? To whom will you run for help? Where will you leave your riches?

Isa 10:4 Nothing will remain but to cringe among the captives or fall among the slain. Yet for all this, his anger is not turned away, his hand is still upraised.



14. God's judgment of the nations

14.1 Babylon - Isa 13:1-10

Isa 13:1 An oracle concerning Babylon that Isaiah son of Amoz saw ...

Isa 13:4 Listen, a noise on the mountains, like that of a great multitude! Listen, an uproar among the kingdoms, like nations massing together! The LORD Almighty is mustering an army for war.

Isa 13:5 They come from faraway lands, from the ends of the heavens-- the LORD and the weapons of his wrath-- to destroy the whole country.

Isa 13:6 Wail, for the day of the LORD is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty.

Isa 13:7 Because of this, all hands will go limp, every man's heart will melt.

Isa 13:8 Terror will seize them, pain and anguish will grip them; they will writhe like a woman in labor. They will look aghast at each other, their faces aflame.

Isa 13:9 See, the day of the LORD is coming-- a cruel day, with wrath and fierce anger-- to make the land desolate and destroy the sinners within it.

Isa 13:10 The stars of heaven and their constellations will not show their light. The rising sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light.

14.1.1 Not only will eschatological Babylon be destroyed by King Jesus, but the Persians will put down a rebellion by defeating the once great city.



14.2 Assyria - Isa 14:25-27

Isa 14:25 I will crush the Assyrian in my land; on my mountains I will trample him down. His yoke will be taken from my people, and his burden removed from their shoulders."

Isa 14:26 This is the plan determined for the whole world; this is the hand stretched out over all nations.

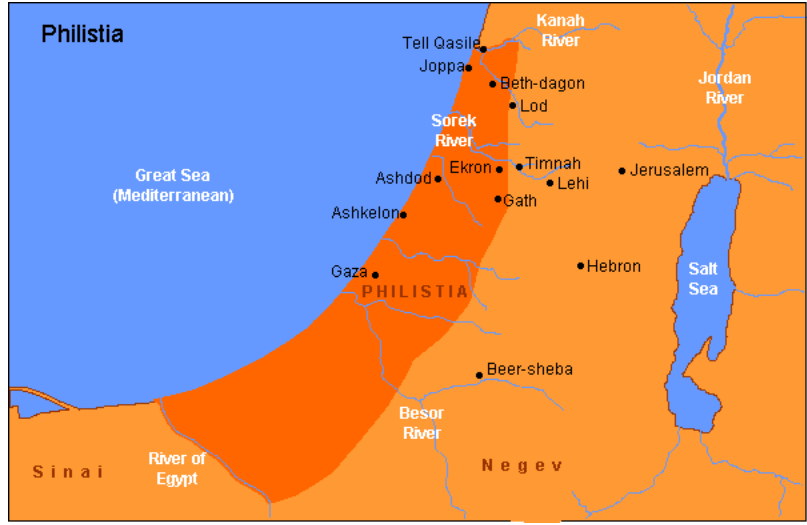
Isa 14:27 For the LORD Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?

14.2.1 Assyria will be defeated by Babylon in c. 612 B.C. and later during the Great Tribulation Assyria will be ravaged by the King of the North.



14.3 Philistines - Isa 14:29:32

Isa 14:29 Do not rejoice, all you Philistines, that the rod that struck you is broken; from the root of that snake will spring up a viper, its fruit will be a darting, venomous serpent.
 Isa 14:30 The poorest of the poor will find pasture, and the needy will lie down in safety. But your root I will destroy by famine; it will slay your survivors.
 Isa 14:31 Wail, O gate! Howl, O city! Melt away, all you Philistines! A cloud of smoke comes from the north, and there is not a straggler in its ranks.
 Isa 14:32 What answer shall be given to the envoys of that nation? "The LORD has established Zion, and in her his afflicted people will find refuge."



14.3.1 Philistia is warned of coming retribution from Hezekiah and from the later Jewish princes of the Hasmonean dynasty (like Jonathan Maccabeus, who burned Ashdod and Ashkelon and compelled Gaza to surrender).

14.3.2 A smoke out of the north refers to the coming devastations of Sargon and Sennacherib.

14.4 Moab - Isa 15:1-16:10

Isa 15:1 An oracle concerning Moab ... Moab is ruined, destroyed in a night ...

Isa 15:3 In the streets they wear sackcloth; on the roofs and in the public squares they all wail, prostrate with weeping ...

Isa 15:6 The waters of Nimrim are dried up and the grass is withered; the vegetation is gone and nothing green is left ...

Isa 15:8 Their outcry echoes along the border of Moab; their wailing reaches as far as Eglaim, their lamentation as far as Beer Elim ...

Isa 16:2 Like fluttering birds pushed from the nest, so are the women of Moab at the fords of the Arnon.



Isa 16:3 "Give us counsel, render a decision. Make your shadow like night-- at high noon. Hide the fugitives, do not betray the refugees ...

Isa 16:6 We have heard of Moab's pride-- her overweening pride and conceit, her pride and her insolence-- but her boasts are empty ...

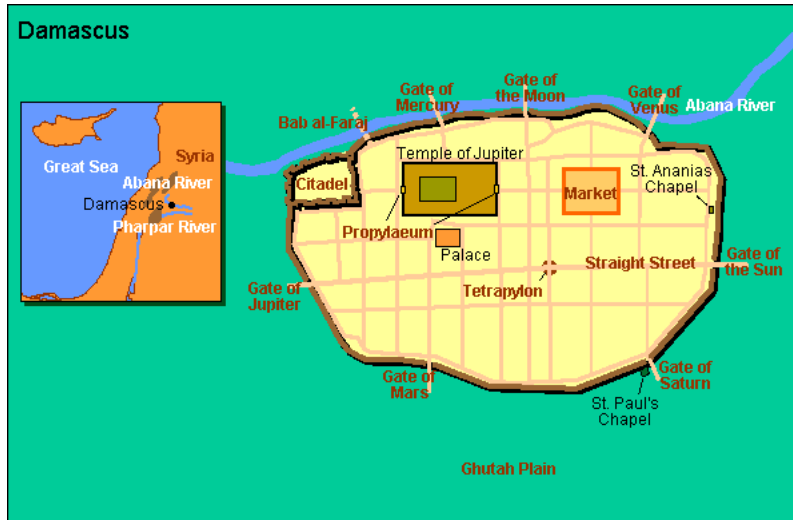
Isa 16:10 Joy and gladness are taken away from the orchards; no one sings or shouts in the vineyards; no one treads out wine at the presses, for I have put an end to the shouting.

14.4.1 Here we have a vision of the fearful depredations the Assyrians were to inflict upon the various cities of Moab. Even though the Moabites had been implacable enemies of Israel, the prophet could only weep with compassion at the spectacle of the bloody cruelty of the conqueror and the wretched lines of refugees streaming away from their doomed cities. In verse 9 the word "Waters of Dimon ... full of blood are used to describe the horrific defeat.

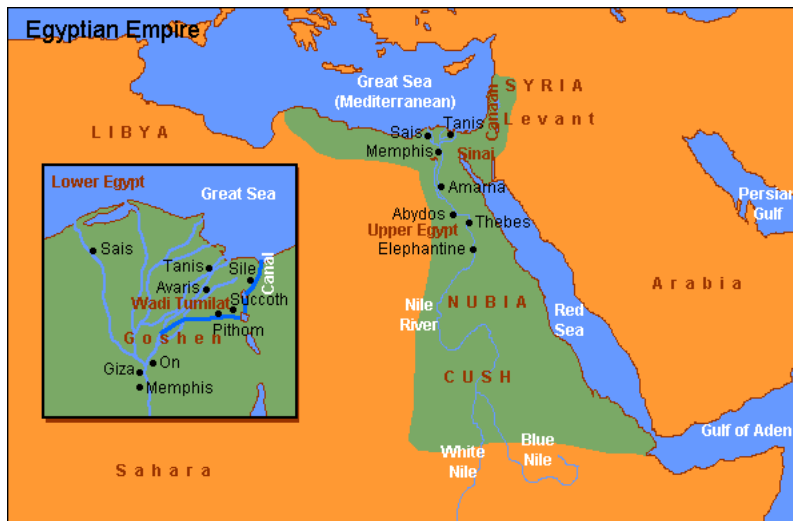
14.5 Damascus - Isa 17:1

Isa 17:1 An oracle concerning Damascus: "See, Damascus will no longer be a city but will become a heap of ruins."

14.5.1 Here Isaiah predicts the downfall of the northern coalition in the reign of Ahaz. Tiglath-pileser was to leave Damascus a heap of ruins in 732 B.C.; likewise its vassal cities, like Aroer near Rabbath-Ammon. The glory of Damascus would be removed along with that of the Northern Kingdom (which had risen to such power under Jeroboam II.)



14.6 Cush (Egypt, Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan) - Isa 18:1-7



Isa 18:1 Woe to the land of whirring wings along the rivers of Cush,
Isa 18:2 which sends envoys by sea in papyrus boats over the water. Go, swift messengers, to a people tall and smooth-skinned, to a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers ...

Isa 18:5 For, before the harvest, when the blossom is gone and the flower becomes a ripening grape, he will cut off the shoots with pruning knives, and cut down and take away the spreading branches.

Isa 18:6 They will all be left to the mountain birds of prey and to the wild animals; the birds will feed on them all summer, the wild animals all winter.

Isa 18:7 At that time gifts will be brought to the LORD Almighty from a people tall and smooth-skinned, from a people feared far and wide, an aggressive nation of strange speech, whose land is divided by rivers-- the gifts will be brought to Mount Zion, the place of the Name of the LORD Almighty.

14.7 Egypt - Isa 19:1-25

Isa 19:1 An oracle concerning Egypt: See, the LORD rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. The idols of Egypt tremble before him, and the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them.

Isa 19:2 "I will stir up Egyptian against Egyptian-- brother will fight against brother, neighbor against neighbor, city against city, kingdom against kingdom.

Isa 19:3 The Egyptians will lose heart, and I will bring their plans to nothing; they will consult the idols and the spirits of the dead, the mediums and the spiritists.

Isa 19:4 I will hand the Egyptians over to the power of a cruel master, and a fierce king will rule over them," declares the Lord, the LORD Almighty.

Isa 19:5 The waters of the river will dry up, and the riverbed will be parched and dry.

Isa 19:6 The canals will stink; the streams of Egypt will dwindle and dry up. The reeds and rushes will wither,

Isa 19:7 also the plants along the Nile, at the mouth of the river. Every sown field along the Nile will become parched, will blow away and be no more.

Isa 19:8 The fishermen will groan and lament, all who cast hooks into the Nile; those who throw nets on the water will pine away.

Isa 19:9 Those who work with combed flax will despair, the weavers of fine linen will lose hope.

Isa 19:10 The workers in cloth will be dejected, and all the wage earners will be sick at heart.

14.7.1 Egypt has been invaded often. The Babylonians, Alexander, Napoleon and Germany have extended their hegemony over not only Egypt but what is called in our context Cush. In the future Egypt, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan will be ravaged by the King of the North.

End Lesson