

THE FINAL SECTION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

We have made our way through the Pentateuch, the twelve Historical Books, the Five Poetical Books. We are now about to enter the last seventeen Prophetic Books. We will see that they are divided into Major (5) and Minor (12) Prophets.

The word "prophet" is often misunderstood. Prophecy is not merely predicting something, as is the common idea today. A Greek word study will reveal that the word prophet actually means "one who speaks in place of another". You will find this to be the case when you read **Exodus 7:1**. Aaron was to speak to Pharaoh "in place of Moses" and he was called his prophet.

Prophecy in the non-predictive sense is declaring a truth by the inspiration of God. Prophecy in the predictive sense is declaring of the future, which only can be done by the inspiration of God (**Isaiah 2:1**, "the word that Isaiah SAW").

The **qualifications** of a prophet may be found in various places in the Bible but I want to share some of those with you. The greatest example is the Messiah-Prophet as described by the Lord God in **Deuteronomy 18:15, 18**. Compare these verses to **Acts 3:22-23**. You will find the "test" of a prophet in **Deuteronomy 18:22**. A prophet was to deal with the moral and religious life of his people. In God's Word a prophet of God was always a Hebrew.

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

The central message of the Book of Isaiah - "A Throne" (**6:1**) and "A Lamb" (**53:7**). Compare that to "A Lamb - in the midst of a throne" (**Revelation 7:17** and **4:2**).

The Structure of the Book

THE JUDGEMENT OF GOD - GOD'S GOVERNMENT CHAPTERS 1-39

1. Judgement on Judah and Jerusalem - Chapters 1-12.
2. Judgment on nations - Chapters 13-27.
3. Warnings and promises - Chapters 28-35.
4. Historical - Chapters 36-39 (See II Kings 18-20).

THE COMFORT OF GOD - GOD'S GRACE CHAPTERS 40-66

1. Jehovah and idols - Chapters 40-48.
2. The Coming Messiah - Chapters 49-57.
3. Final restoration and glory - Chapters 58-66.

Isaiah's Prophetic Perspective

Isaiah was given a divine revelation concerning prophetic points:

1. Under the JUDGEMENT section (**1-39**).
 - a. He saw things to come to pass in his own time.
 - b. He saw the coming captivity of Babylon (**39:6**).
2. Under the COMFORT section (**40-66**).
 - a. He saw the coming of Christ: both First (**7**) and Second (**11**) advents (**61**).
 - b. He saw and proclaimed the millenium and the new heavens and new earth (**66**).

How To Remember the 66 Chapters

1. Isaiah has 66 Chapters - The Bible has 66 Books.
2. Isaiah has Two main divisions - first: 39 Chapters; the second: 27 Chapters.
Old Testament 39 Books; New Testament 27 Books.
3. The theme of the first division of Isaiah is JUDGEMENT.
The theme of the Old Testament is LAW.
The theme of the second division of Isaiah is COMFORT.
The theme of the New Testament is GRACE.

Isaiah's Call to Be A Prophet

In Chapter 6 we have a vivid description of God's call in the Life of Isaiah: He had VISION of God - 6:1-4; See John 12:41.

1. That produced conviction and confession (6:5)
2. He was forgiven and cleansed (6:6-7).
3. He heard God's call (6:8).
4. He offered himself for service (6:8).
5. He was commissioned to serve (6:9-13).

I believe that these steps are common to all whom God has called to serve.

Isaiah Saw The Birth of Christ

1. Compare Isaiah 7:14 to Matthew 1:23.
2. Compare Isaiah 9:6-7 to Luke 2:11.
3. Isaiah saw His death on the cross (Isaiah 53). Details to follow.
4. He saw His Second Coming and Jesus reigning over His Kingdom: Isaiah 11:1, 6, 8 and Isaiah 59:20-21. Read Romans 11:26-27.

Isaiah, the Evangelical Prophet (Isaiah 53)

Of the many Messianic passages in Isaiah, I want us to focus at the pre-eminent one that is Chapter 53. This Chapter that was written about 700 B.C. proves the miracle of the inspiration of the Word of God. This Chapter will only fit one figure in human history: Jesus Christ, the man of Calvary!

TWELVE POINTS CONFIRM THIS:

1. He came in lowliness (a root out of dry ground) (53:2). Look up Romans 15:12 and Isaiah 11:1.
2. He was "despised and rejected of men" (53:3). Matthew 27:30-31.
3. He suffered for us: "He was wounded for our transgressions" (53:5). 1 Peter 2:24
4. God placed upon Him our suffering; He became our substitute (53:6). Matthew 8:17
5. "He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth" (53:7). Acts 8:32-33.
6. He died as a felon. "He was taken from prison and judgement" (53:8). Acts 4:27-28
7. He was guiltless. "He had done no violence" (53:9). 1 Peter 2:22.
8. "My servant shall justify many" (52:11). Romans 5:15.
9. "He poured out his soul unto death" (53:12). Romans 3:25
10. "He was numbered with the transgressors" (53:12). Matthew 27:38.
11. "He bare the sin of many" (53:12). 1 Peter 2:24.
12. "Made intercession for the transgressors" (53:12). Luke 23:34.

Isaiah and the New Testament

The Book of Isaiah is quoted over 66 times in the New Testament. Please remember that in the Greek, his name is *Esaias*.

QUOTED BY	PASSAGES
Matthew	Matthew 4:14-16; 8:17
John the Baptist	John 1:23
Jesus	Luke 4:16-21
Apostle John	John 12:38-41
Ethiopian	Acts 8:28
Paul	Acts 28:25-27; Romans 9:27,29; 10:16,20 and 15:12

Isaiah has been called the fifth evangelist and his Book has been called the fifth Gospel.

FOR NEXT WEEK:
READ JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS