

## The Scriptures Summarized / Book 23 – Isaiah

Isaiah (The LORD saves) is considered the greatest of the writing prophets. His book dates his ministry as beginning in the year that King Uzziah died. Isaiah then ministered during the reigns of 4 kings in Judah, while the final 4 kings up north in Israel were murdered and replaced by assassins. Assyria loomed on the horizon as a dominant military threat who tormented those they defeated. Thus his ministry of peace was during a time of constant turmoil. However, Isaiah first needed an attitude adjustment and a commission from God.

**Isaiah 6:8** Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

**John 12:41** Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

Some kings during Isaiah's prophetic ministry chose to trust in their military or foreign alliances and treaties. Others hoped paying tribute would appease these cruel invading warmongers. Isaiah, however, delivers an evangelistic message of salvation and hope, so long as God's people trust in Him.

**Isaiah 40:31** but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Often, his predictions had both present as well as future applications. God would provide immediate salvation from the military dangers, which would reinforce His promises and plans to send His people a Savior from the ultimate moral disaster of sin.

**Isaiah 53:5** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

God thus used Isaiah to reveal major predictions about the coming Messiah. In fact, this masterpiece is known as the Gospel of the OT. No wonder, Jesus, in the 4 NT Gospels, quotes Isaiah most.

**Mark 7:6** He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written:" 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.

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