

Isaiah

Day 1

FYI: "Isaiah was married to a prophetess who bore him at least two sons (Isaiah 7:3; 8:3). He prophesied under the reign of four Judean kings—Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (1:1)—and he likely met his death under a fifth, the evil King Manasseh." <http://www.insight.org/resources/bible/isaiah>

"Isaiah...has the most to say about Messiah. Through Isaiah, God has indicted Judah for her sin. The people still go through their religious rituals, but practice injustice and violence. They have no mercy or compassion on the helpless, the orphan and the widow. The nation is affluent, but oppressive and proud. Because of their sin, God is going to judge the nation, send them into exile, and later restore them. God will use the nations as instruments of judgment, but it will be the Messiah who will finally and fully deliver His people and restore them. The coming of Messiah is thus a prominent theme in the Book of Isaiah." <https://bible.org/article/anticipation-israels-messiah>

FYI: "Against the background of the prophecy of war and destruction, darkness and gloom Isaiah gave this prophecy about the Messiah—the glorious coming king. "Messiah" is a Hebrew term that means "anointed one," that is, the anointed king. In a sense, every king who was anointed in Jerusalem as a descendant of David would be called a "mashiah" (pronounced mah-she-ack), a messiah. But the Bible tells how ultimately a son of David would come who would be known as "the Messiah." We believe that Jesus Christ is that Messiah. The New Testament word "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah." <https://bible.org/seriespage/6-glorious-messiah-and-messianic-age-isaiah-91-7>

"Isaiah has been called the 'Fifth Gospel'...Isaiah says, 'herald of good news (lit., gospel)' (Isa. 40:9). It is the good news that, although God's people rightly deserve judgment, God will come as their king and bring peace and salvation to all who trust him (Isa. 40:9; 52:7)." <https://www.crossway.org/blog/2014/06/why-study-the-book-of-isaiah/>

Isaiah 6:8-13 (NLT) Holy Seed from a stump

⁸ Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?" I said, "Here I am. Send me." ⁹ And he said, "Yes, go, and say to this people,

'Listen carefully, but do not understand.

Watch closely, but learn nothing.'

¹⁰ Harden the hearts of these people.

Plug their ears and shut their eyes.

That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing."

¹¹ Then I said, "Lord, how long will this go on?" And he replied,

"Until their towns are empty, their houses are deserted,

and the whole country is a wasteland;

¹² until the LORD has sent everyone away, and the entire land of Israel lies deserted.

¹³ If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned.

But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down,

so Israel's stump will be a holy seed."

1. In Isaiah 6:8 God calls Isaiah to be his prophet to Judah. What message to God ask him to take to them? How would the people respond to the message? (6:9-10)

- Did the nation of Israel as a whole ever respond to Isaiah's message? (Acts 28:25-28)

2. What question did Isaiah ask God in return to this call? What does this possibly tell you about Isaiah's attitude toward his call? (6:11)

3. If you were Isaiah how would you explain to a friend what God just asked you to do?
4. Do you think God is telling Isaiah what He wants to see happen, or what God knows will happen? (6:9-10)
5. Note the word “*But*” in verse 13. (“*but*” is a conjunction that indicates the next clause will contradict the previous one.) What is being contradicted?
6. What does the imagery God used indicate about His plan for the nations in the midst of Isaiah’s hopeless calling. (6:13)

IT’S HEBREW TO ME: זֵרַע **zera’**; seed; figuratively: fruit, plant, sowing-time, posterity: child, fruitful, seed-time
- Strong’s Concordance

Digging Deeper

What do these verses add to the understanding of tree, stump, seed?

- Isaiah 37:31
- Revelation 5:5
- Luke 1:35

FYI... “[Isaiah’s] heartbreaking assignment rested on God’s decision to Judge the nation. Jesus quoted this text in Matthew 13:14-15 and Paul used it in Acts 28:26-27. The judgement would continue until Judah’s removal from the land by the exile. The nation of Israel in exile was portrayed by a burned tree. But after 70 years “a tenth” of the people would return (6:13). And there would be life in the roots of the stump from which the Messiah the (“holy seed”) would “grow again.” Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary. By Robert B. Hughes, J. Carl Laney p.

Isaiah 11:1-5 (NLT) Branch from David

- ¹ *Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot—
yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root.*
- ² *And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*
- ³ *He will delight in obeying the LORD.
He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay.*
- ⁴ *He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited.
The earth will shake at the force of his word,
and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked.*
- ⁵ *He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.*

7. How does the imagery in Isaiah 11:1 compare with Isaiah 6:13?

8. List the words used to describe the Spirit (v. 2) resting on this “shoot” or “branch”.
“Spirit of Lord”
9. In verses 3-5 Isaiah begins to talk about a person. Describe His character and reign.
10. Paul quotes Isaiah’s words in Romans 15:8-12. Who does Paul say Isaiah is referring to?
11. Compare these stories in the Gospels to the description in Isaiah 11:2-5 of the character of the *“stump,” “new branch.”*
- Matthew 8:13-17

 - Matthew 9:2-6

 - Matthew 9:10-13

 - Matthew 21:12-15

 - Mark 4:39-41

 - Luke 2:46-47; 52

 - John 7:14-15

 - John 12:12-13

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NLT) Great Oaks

¹ *The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me,
for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted
and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.*

² *He has sent me to tell those who mourn
that the time of the LORD's favor has come,
and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.*

³ *To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes,
a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair.
In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks
that the LORD has planted for his own glory.*

12. When Jesus began His ministry, He read these verses. Luke 4:16-22. Note where Jesus stopped reading from Isaiah. What does this tell you about his mission at the time? (John 5:22-29) What did Isaiah indicate is yet to come?

13. In the table below write the condition of the people described in these verses and the response of the Messiah.

Condition of the People	Messiah's Response
<i>Poor</i>	<i>Bring good news</i>

Applying the Word: Are any of the conditions in the first column describing your life? In what ways would you like God to transform your life?

Day 2

Isaiah 7:10-16 (NLT) Child/Sign

¹⁰ Later, the LORD sent this message to King Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask the LORD your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead.” ¹² But the king refused. “No,” he said, “I will not test the LORD like that.”

¹³ Then Isaiah said, “Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well?” ¹⁴ All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’). ¹⁵ By the time this child is old enough to choose what is right and reject what is wrong, he will be eating yogurt and honey. ¹⁶ For before the child is that old, the lands of the two kings you fear so much will both be deserted.

14. What did God invite Ahaz to do? (7:10-11)

FYI “...seeking a sign was in itself an expression of believing commitment. The reference to *the Lord your God* shows that Isaiah is appealing to Ahaz in this light. The opportunity remains open to affirm faith and act as a believer. The Lord is ready to ‘stop at nothing’, *whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights*, for the sake of the Davidic king and the chosen city.”
The Prophecy of Isaiah by J. Alec Motyer p. 83

15. How did Ahaz respond to the invitation to ask God for a sign in verse twelve? (7:12)

FYI... “Ahaz refuses to put the Lord to the test and thereby shrouds his unwillingness to face the spiritual realities of the situation in a veil of piety...to refuse a proffered sign is proof that one demonstrated himself to be an unbelieving man.”

“From the time of Ahaz there never was again a ‘house of David’ in the true sense but only a line of puppet, pretend-kings under an alien domination until, at the exile, even then they disappeared into the sands of history never to re-emerge. The name of the overlord power would change, from Assyria to Babylon to Persia, to Greece and finally to Rome, before Immanuel would be born, but when he was born it was to share the poverty of his people, to inherit a non-existent throne and to feel the full weight of the oppressor. The blame for all this rested on Ahaz and his failure to believe the Lord’s word.”
The Prophecy of Isaiah by J. Alec Motyer p. 83; 87

16. How did God react to Ahaz’s refusal to ask for a sign? (7:13)

17. What sign was promised by God, even though Ahaz had not asked for it? (Isaiah 7:14-15; Matthew 1:23)

18. What thoughts arise when you consider Ahaz’s unbelief, that God would still give him the most astounding sign of His mercy, the prophecy of the Messiah?

Isaiah 9:1-7 (NLT) Child/Light

¹ Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever.

The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

² The people who walk in darkness will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine.

³ You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice.

They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest
and like warriors dividing the plunder.

⁴ For you will break the yoke of their slavery
and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.

You will break the oppressor's rod,

just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.

⁵ The boots of the warrior and the uniforms bloodstained by war will all be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

⁶ For a child is born to us, a son is given to us.

The government will rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ His government and its peace will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!

19. Using the chart below, describe the imagery foretold by Isaiah and look up the verses giving examples of where Jesus fulfilled them.

	Isaiah Foretold	Jesus Fulfilled
Light/Glory	vv. 1-2	Matthew 4:12-16 Luke 2:28-32 John 8:12; 12:35
Rejoice before You	v. 3	Luke 19:35-40 John 12:12-16

Yoke/Government on His shoulders	v. 4-6	<i>Matthew 11:28-29</i> <i>Matthew 28:18</i> <i>John 3:35</i>
Child/Son	v. 6	<i>Luke 2:11-12; 16</i> <i>Matthew 1:20-23</i>
Wonderful counselor	v. 6	<i>Mark 1:21-22</i> <i>Luke 4:31-32</i>
Mighty God	v. 6	<i>Luke 1:35</i>
Everlasting Father	v. 6	<i>John 10:30</i>
Prince of Peace	v. 6	<i>John 14:26-28; 16:33</i> <i>(see also Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20)</i>
Throne of David	v. 7	<i>John 14:26-28; 16:33</i> <i>Matthew 1:1; 19:28</i> <i>Luke 1:32-33</i>

FYI: "...Zebulan and Naphtali devastated by Assyria in 732 BC. They are the first to see the great light of God's deliverance in Jesus."
ESV Global Study Bible; notes on Matthew 4:16

"This prophecy is especially significant for several reasons. First, it builds upon the promise of a virgin born Savior in chapter 7. A child, we are told will be born, a son will be given (v. 6). The humanity of the Messiah (something always assumed) is here maintained. Secondly... the claim is boldly made that this child who will be born is to be God incarnate. The name of the child is equated with His person, and His names are the names and the attributes of God. He is called "the Mighty God" and the "Eternal Father." In some way not yet fathomed by the human mind, the Messiah was to be both God and man. This God-man would sit upon the throne of David and would establish his kingdom, an eternal kingdom of justice and righteous." <https://bible.org/article/anticipation-israels-messiah>

Applying the Word: *Isaiah speaks of a total reversal the Messiah will bring. Describe reversals Jesus has made in your life.*

Day 3

Isaiah 40:1-11 (NLT) Comfort

1 "Comfort, comfort my people," says your God.

2 "Speak tenderly to Jerusalem.

Tell her that her sad days are gone and her sins are pardoned.

Yes, the Lord has punished her twice over for all her sins."

3 Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting,

"Clear the way through the wilderness for the Lord!

Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!

4 Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills.

Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places.

5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

The Lord has spoken!"

6 A voice said, "Shout!"

I asked, "What should I shout?"

"Shout that people are like the grass.

Their beauty fades as quickly as the flowers in a field.

7 The grass withers and the flowers fade beneath the breath of the Lord.

And so it is with people.

8 The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever."

9 O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops!

Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid.

Tell the towns of Judah, "Your God is coming!"

10 Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power.

He will rule with a powerful arm.

See, he brings his reward with him as he comes.

11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart.

He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

20. Mark the word *shout* in Isaiah 40:3,6,9. What is shouted? How would what they are shouting be a comfort to the people?

- vv. 3-5

- vv. 6-8

- v. 9

21. Observe who was referred to in the New Testament concerning these verses. Mark 1:1-3
John 1:23

22. How is the Lord described in v. 10?

- How is He described in v. 11?
- Contrast what He does with His arms in the two verses. How does this description of the Lord bring comfort?

Applying the Word: *What needs clearing, straightening, or smoothing in your life to make a way for Jesus to enter? Describe times you have felt His powerful arm and times you need to be held in His arms.*

Day 4

FYI: "The fifty-third chapter of Isaiah contains probably the clearest and fullest exposition of the sacrificial sufferings of Christ in substitution for our sins to be found anywhere in the Bible, including the New Testament..."

Verses from Isaiah 53 are quoted at least six times in the New Testament, always indicating its fulfillment in Christ, more than seven hundred years later."
- Henry Morris, Defender's Study Bible, Isaiah

23. All the New Testament writers seemed to use Isaiah's words in their writing. This week read through these verses and choose one passage that speaks to you.

Isaiah 53 (NLT) Suffering

1 Who has believed our message?

To whom has the Lord revealed his powerful arm?

2 My servant grew up in the Lord's presence like a tender green shoot, like a root in dry ground.

There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him.

3 He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief.

We turned our backs on him and looked the other way.

He was despised, and we did not care.

4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows[a] that weighed him down.

And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God,

a punishment for his own sins!

5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins.

He was beaten so we could be whole.

He was whipped so we could be healed.

6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away.

We have left God's paths to follow our own.

Yet the Lord laid on him

the sins of us all.

7 He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word.

He was led like a lamb to the slaughter.

And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.

John 12:37-38

Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him,³⁸ so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

"Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God...NASU

Matt 27:26-31 Then [Pilate] released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole Roman cohort around Him. ²⁸ They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. ²⁹ And after twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they knelt down before Him and mocked Him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ They spat on Him, and took the reed and began to beat Him on the head. ³¹ After they had mocked Him, they took the scarlet robe off Him and put His own garments back on Him, and led Him away to crucify Him.

Luke 23:8-9 Now Herod was very glad when he saw Jesus; for he had wanted to see Him for a long time, because he had been hearing about Him and was hoping to see some sign performed by Him. ⁹ And he questioned Him at some length; but He answered him nothing. NASU

<p>8 <i>Unjustly condemned, he was led away. No one cared that he died without descendants, that his life was cut short in midstream.</i></p> <p><i>But he was struck down for the rebellion of my people.</i></p> <p>9 <i>He had done no wrong and had never deceived anyone.</i></p> <p><i>But he was buried like a criminal; he was put in a rich man's grave.</i></p> <p>10 <i>But it was the Lord's good plan to crush him and cause him grief. Yet when his life is made an offering for sin, he will have many descendants. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord's good plan will prosper in his hands.</i></p> <p>11 <i>When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.</i></p> <p>12 <i>I will give him the honors of a victorious soldier, because he exposed himself to death. He was counted among the rebels. He bore the sins of many and interceded for rebels.</i></p>	<p>Luke 23:22-24 Pilate said to them the third time, "Why, what evil has this man done? I have found in Him no guilt demanding death; therefore I will punish Him and release Him." 23 But they were insistent, with loud voices asking that He be crucified. And their voices began to prevail. 24 And Pilate pronounced sentence that their demand be granted. NASU</p> <p>Philippians 2:6-8 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, ⁸ being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.</p> <p>1 Peter 1:18-19 ...you were redeemed ...with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. NIV</p> <p>Matthew 27:57-60 ⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away.</p> <p>II Corinthians 5:21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.</p> <p>Luke 23:33-34 When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. 34 But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." NASU</p>
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24. What passage did you choose? Explain why you chose that passage.

25. How has Christ's love affected your life?

FYI: "The book of Isaiah provides us with the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ in the entire Old Testament. It includes the full scope of His life: the announcement of His coming (Isaiah 40:3–5), His virgin birth (7:14), His proclamation of the good news (61:1), His sacrificial death (52:13–53:12), and His return to claim His own (60:2–3).

Because of its scope, Isaiah contains one of the clearest expressions of the gospel in all the Old Testament. Even from the first chapter, it is clear that the people have turned away from God and failed in their responsibilities as His children (Isaiah 1:2–17). Yet God miraculously holds out hope to this unrepentant people, offering cleansing of sins and the blessing that comes with faith and obedience in Him (1:18–20). Salvation lies only in God—the only question is whether or not we will accept His offer."

<http://www.insight.org/resources/bible/isaiah.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/#sthash.cqRvbErC.dpuf>