Old Testament Survey - Isaiah

Author: Isaiah  (Unity in authorship. Difference between sections due to the subject matter)

Date: Ministry period about 740-680 (from the end of Uzziah’s reign through Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah’s reigns. He died during early part of Manasseh’s reign - Talmud tradition says by being sawn in two - cf. Hebrews 11:37)

Theme: Salvation: Judgment & Hope - God's punishment of the wicked, preservation of the godly, and promised salvation through Messiah.

Outline:
I. Prophecies of Judgment (1-35)  [Condemnation]
   A. Prophecies against Judah (1-12)
   B. Prophecies against Other Nations (13-23)
   C. Prophecies of the Day of the LORD (24-27)
   D. Prophecies of Judgment & Blessing (28-35)
II. Historical Parenthesis (36-39)
III. Prophecies of Hope (40-66)  [Consolation]
   A. Prophecies of Israel's deliverance (40-48)
   B. Prophecies of Israel's deliverer (49-57)
   C. Prophecies of Israel's destiny (58-66)

Key People: Isaiah

Key Chapters & Verses
1:18 Redemption - “Though your sins be as scarlet, They shall be as white as snow”
6 Isaiah's call & commissioning
7:14 The virgin birth of Immanuel  “Therefore, the LORD himself will give a sign. Behold, a virgin will be with child & bear a son, & she will call His name Immanuel.”
9:6 The birth & reign of the “prince of peace”  “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. And the government shall be upon his shoulders; And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
11:1-5 The righteous reign of the Branch from Jesse
24 Judgment of the Earth in Tribulation
36-37 Historical interlude - Hezekiah & Sennacherib
40 Comfort to Israel - The voice calling in the wilderness - The greatness of God - Strength for those that wait on the Lord
44:6 The LORD says, ‘I am the first & I am the last, And there is no God besides Me.”
48:16 Trinity in the O.T.  “. . . Now the Lord God has set Me, and His Spirit”
53 The suffering servant (Messiah)
55:1-3 “Ho! Everyone who thirst, come...buy without money...incline - to me... And I will make an everlasting covenant with you...”
64:6 Total depravity of man - our “righteous deeds are like filthy garments”
66 Zion's future, the consummation of history.

Contemporaries: Amos, Jonah, Hosea, Micah.
Prophecies in Isaiah:

Isaiah is full of prophecies concerning Jesus, both His first and second Advents including the following:


Isaiah is extensively quoted in the New Testament. He is referenced by name 21 times and Isaiah 53 is quoted or alluded to at least 85 times. Here is a listing of direct quotes (LXX = quote from the Septuagint). 1:9 (Rom. 9:29); 6:9 (Luke 8:10); 6:9-10 (Matt. 13:14-15; Mark 4:12; Acts 28:26-27); 6:10 (Jn 12:40); 7:14 (Matt. 1:23); 8:8,10LXX (Matt. 1:23); 8:12-13 (1 Pet. 3:14-15); 8:14 (Rom 9:23; 1 Pet. 2:18); 8:17LXX (Heb. 2:13); 8:18 (Heb. 2:13); 9:1,2 (Matt. 4:15-16); 11:10 (Rom. 15:12); 22:13 (1 Cor. 15:32); 25:8 (1 Cor 15:54); 26:20 (Heb. 10:37); 28:11-12 (1 Cor. 14:21); 28:16 (Rom. 9:23; 10:11; 1 Pet. 2:6); 29:10 (Rom. 11:8); 29:13LXX (Matt. 15:8-9; Mark 7:6,7); 29:14 (1 Cor. 1:19); 40:3 (Matt. 3:3; Mark 1:3; John 1:23); 40:6-8 (1 Pet. 1:24-25); 42:1-4 (Matt. 12:18-21); 43:20 (1 Pet. 2:9); 43:21 (1 Pet. 2:9); 45:21 (Mark 12:32); 45:23 (Rom. 14:11); 49:6 (Acts 13:47); 49:8 (2 Cor. 6:2); 52:5 (Rom. 10:15); 52:11 (2 Cor. 6:17); 52:15 (Rom. 15:21); 53:1 (John 12:38; Rom. 10:16); 53:4 (Matt. 8:17); 53:7-8LXX (Acts 8:32-33); 53:9 (1 Pet. 2:22); 53:12 (Luke 22:37); 54:1 (Gal. 4:27); 54:13 (John 6:45); 55:3LXX (Acts 13:34); 56:7 (Matt. 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46); 59:7-8 (Rom. 3:15-17); 59:20-21 (Rom 11:26-27); 61:1-2 (Luke 4:18-19); 61:6 (1 Pet. 2:9); 62:11 (Matt. 21:5); 64:4 (1 Cor. 2:9); 65:1 (Rom. 10:20); 65:2 (Rom. 10:21); 66:1-2 (Acts 7:49-50).

Salvation is also a central theme in Isaiah with the word “salvation” appearing 26 times compared to only 7 times in all the other prophets combined. Isaiah 52:13-53:12 is the central passage dealing with salvation in Messiah and it parallels the sacrificial system: 52:13-15 - His wholehearted sacrifice (burnt offering); 53:1-3 - His perfect character (meal offering); 53:4-6 - His atonement bringing peace with God (peace offering); 53:7-9 - His payment for transgressions (sin offering); 53:10-12 - His death for the effects of sin (tresspass offering).

Isaiah 1-35 details the sin of Judah in and eleven of the surrounding nations and pronounces God’s judgment upon them.

Isaiah 36-39 details the historical Assyrian invasion of Judah in 701 B.C. and anticipates the coming Babylonian invasion of Judah.

Isaiah 40-66 details God’s promises of hope and restoration to Judah in the future.
Detailed Outline of Isaiah

I. Prophecies of Judgment (1-35)  [Condemnation]
   A. Prophecies against Judah (1-12)
      1. Judgment of Judah (1)
      2. The Day of the Lord (2-4)
      3. The Parable of the Vineyard (5)
      4. The Commission of Isaiah (6)
      5. The Destruction of Israel by Assyria (7:1-10:4)
         a. The Sign of Immanuel (7)
         b. The Sign of Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz (8)
         c. Prophecy of Messiah’s Birth (9:1-7)
         d. Judgment of Ephraim (9:8-10:4)
      6. The Destruction of Assyria by God (10:5-12:6)
         a. Judgment of Assyria (10:5-19)
         b. Israel’s Remnant Returns (10:20-34)
         c. Righteous Reign of the Messiah (11)
         d. Thanksgiving (12)
   B. Prophecies against Other Nations (13-23)
      1. The Oracle about Babylon (13:1-14:23)
2. Prophecies Against Assyria (14:24-27)

3. Prophecies Against Philistia (14:28-32)

4. The Oracle about Moab (15-16)

5. The Oracle about Damascus (17)

6. Prophecies Against Ethiopia (18)

7. The Oracle about Egypt (19 & 20)

8. The Oracle about the Wilderness of the Sea (21:1-10)

9. The Oracle about Edom (21:11-12)

10. Prophecies Against Arabia (21:13-17)

11. The Oracle about the Valley of Vision (22)

12. The Oracle about Tyre (23)

C. Prophecies of the Day of the LORD (24-27)
   1. Judgment of the Tribulation (24)
   
   2. Triumphs of the Kingdom (25-27)
      a. Israel’s Praise for God’s Favor (25)
      
      b. Israel’s Song of Trust in God (26)
      
      c. Israel’s Deliverance (27)

D. Prophecies of Judgment & Blessing (28-35)
   1. Woe to Ephraim (28)
   
   2. Woe to Ariel (Jerusalem) (29)
   
   3. Woe to Egyptian Alliance (30-31)
   
   4. Behold the Coming King (32)
5. Woe to the Destroyer (Assyria) (33)

6. Woe to the Nations (34)

7. The Future of the Redeemed (35)

II. Historical Parenthesis (36-39)
   A. Assyria Challenges God (36)
   
   B. God Destroys Assyria (37)
   
   C. Hezekiah’s Salvation from Sickness (38)
   
   D. Hezekiah’s Foolishness Pride (39)

III. Prophecies of Hope (40-66) [Consolation]
   A. Prophecies of Israel's deliverance (40-48)
      1. Comfort because of God’s Greatness (40-41)
      
      2. Comfort because of God’s Servant (42)
      
      3. Comfort because of Israel’s Redemption (43-44)
      
      4. Comfort because of God’s Use of Cyrus (45)
      
      5. Comfort because of Babylon’s Destruction (46-48)
         a. Destruction of Babylon’s Idols (46)
         
         b. Lament for Babylon’s (47)
         
         c. Declaration of Judah’s Chastening (48)
   
   B. Prophecies of Israel's deliverer (49-57)
      1. The Messiah’s Mission (49)
2. The Messiah’s Obedience (50)

3. The Messiah’s Encouragement to Israel (51:1-52:12)

4. The Messiah’s Atonement (52:13-53:12)

5. The Messiah’s Promise of Israel’s Restoration (54)

6. The Messiah’s Invitation (55:1-56:8)

7. The Messiah’s Rebuke (56:9-57:21)

C. Prophecies of Israel's destiny (58-66)
   A. Blessings of True Worship (58)

   B. Israel’s Sins (59)

   C. Zion’s Future Glory (60)

   D. Advents of the Messiah (61)

   E. Jerusalem’s Future (62)

   F. God’s Vengeance (63:1-6)

   G. The Remnant’s Prayer (63:7-64:12)

   H. The Lord’s Answer to the Remnant (65)

   I. The Consummation of History (66)