

Christ and His Kingdom

In the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

(Part II - Chapters 13-48)

Section 1 (Chapters 13 to 27): The Judgment of LORD of Hosts on the Nations and on the Whole Earth

- I. Chapters 13 to 23 – God’s judgment on the nations surrounding Jerusalem
 - A. Judgment on Babylon (Is. 13-14; Jer. 50-51)
 1. Through the Median/Persian armies led by Cyrus (Is. 13:2-5, 17-20; Jer. 50:3, 9; 51:11, 27-28; Dan. 5:22-31; 6:28)
 2. The king of Babylon – a figure of Satan <Lucifer>, the prince of this world (Is. 14; John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; Luke 10:18; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:1-2; 6:12; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; Rev. 12:9-10; 20:2-3, 10)
 - B. Judgment on Tyre (Is. 23; Ezek. 28)
 1. The king of Tyre – another figure of Satan as the ruler of this world (1 John 5:19; 2:15-17; James 4:4; 1 Tim. 6:6-10; John 15:18-19; Gal. 1:4; Tit. 2:11-14)
 2. Tyre portrays the commercial world (Is. 23:2, 8, 16-17; Ezek. 26:12; 28:4-5, 16; Zech. 9:3)
 - C. Mystery: Babylon the Great, the mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth (Rev. 17-18)
 1. “Merathaim” <Double Rebellion> – another name for Babylon (Jer. 50:21)
 - a. A visible power on earth and invisible principalities and powers in the heavenly places
 - b. The religious world and the commercial world
 2. The final judgment on Babylon with double measure (Rev. 14:8; 18:2-3; 17:11-18; 18:5-8, 17-20)

3. The final call to God's people to COME OUT OF HER
(Rev. 18:4; Is. 48:20)
 - D. Judgment on Moab (Is. 15-16), Damascus (Is. 17),
Ethiopia (Is. 18), Egypt (Is. 19-20), Dumah <Edom> and
Arabia (Is. 21)
 - E. Oracle against the Valley of Vision – Jerusalem (Is. 22)
 1. Deplorable condition: not trusting and not depending
on God (vv. 12-14)
 2. The unfaithful and treacherous steward Shebna driven
out of office (v. 19) and replaced with the faithful
Eliakim – a type of Christ
(vv. 20-24; Is. 9:6; Heb. 3:1-6; Rev. 3:7-8)
- II. Chapters 24 to 27 – God's judgment on the whole earth
- A. An allusion to the Great Day of God's Wrath
(Is. 24:21-23; Rev. 6:12-17; 19:19-21)
 1. The principalities and powers on high will be destroyed
(Is. 27:1; Rev. 20:1-3)
 2. The kings on the earth will be punished
 - B. Songs of praise and victory from God's faithful people
(Is. 25-26; Rev. 11:15-18; 15:2-4; 16:1-7; 19:1-6)

*Section 2 (Chapters 28-35): Five Woes Pronounced against Israel
and Jerusalem; One Woe against the Destroyer and the
Treacherous One (the Assyrians)*

- I. Referring to the decadence and destruction of Israel and
Jerusalem in the later times
(Matt. 23; Rev. 11:1-2, 8; Is. 1:9-10; Ezek. 16:46-48)
 - A. Woe to Ephraim, crowned with pride and intoxicated with
wine – their glorious beauty is a fading flower (Is. 28:1-4) –
the sickness spread to Judah

-
- B. Woe to Ariel <the lion of God or strong lion> (Is. 29:1a; Gen. 49:9; Rev. 5:5) referring to Jerusalem, the city where David dwelt
 - 1. Becoming complacent and traditional – “Add year to year; let feasts come around” (Is. 29:1-8, 13-14)
 - 2. “The spirit of deep sleep <trance>” poured upon them (Is. 29:9-12)
 - 3. Honoring God with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Him – man-made worship (Is. 29:13-14; Matt. 15:7-9; Mark 7:6-8; 2 Tim. 3:5)
 - C. Woe to those hiding deeply their counsel far from the Lord – their works are in the dark, turning things upside down (Is. 29:15-16; Ps. 94:7-9; Is. 5:20; Prov. 17:15)
 - D. Woe to the children who rebel against God’s counsel and the Holy Spirit, seeking for help from Egypt (Is. 30:1-2, 7-12)
 - E. Woe to the ones who rely on the strength of Egypt for help instead of seeking the Lord for help (Is. 31:1-3)
- II. Making a covenant with death (Is. 28:14-15, 18-22; 33:8; Dan. 9:27)
- A. A covenant of peace based on lies and falsehood
 - B. The covenant will be annulled and broken (Is. 33:7-9)
- III. The 6th woe is to the “destroyer <plunderer>” (Is. 33; Rev. 9:11; 13:1-9; 17:8-11; 19:11-21)
- A. Ushering in the “day of the Lord’s vengeance” – the winepress of God’s wrath (Is. 34 <v.8>; Rev. 14:18-20; 16:13-16; Is. 29:2-4)
 - B. The siege of Jerusalem (Zech. 12:1-9)
 - C. The prayer of the saints and the Lord’s answer (Is. 33:2-6; Rev. 8:1-5)
 - D. The desolation (Is. 33:7-9)
-

- E. The rising up of the LORD and His exaltation in the battle (Is. 33:10-13; 30:17-18; Zech. 12:4-9; Exod. 15:9-12)
- F. Their “eyes will see the King in His beauty” – the second coming of the King of kings and Lord of lords (Is. 33:17-24; Zech. 12:10; Rev. 1:7)

IV. The final restoration of Zion (Is. 35)

- A. In that day the Lord will save and defend Jerusalem and the remnant (Is. 30:27-33; 31:4-9; 33:2-3)
- B. Zion and Jerusalem restored (Is. 30:18-26; 32:1-4, 15-20; 33:5-6, 15-24)
- C. The Highway of Holiness – the redeemed shall return with singing unto Zion (Is. 35:8-10)
- D. All shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God, in Zion (Is. 35:1-2; 40:5; Ps. 50:2; 102:15-16; Rev. 21:23)

Section 3 (Chapters 36-39): Historical Record of King Hezekiah <a Parenthesis>

Section 4 (Chapters 40-48): God’s Consolation to Jerusalem

- I. Announcing the first coming of the Messiah (Is. 40)
 - A. The forerunner (John the Baptist) – Preparing the way of the Lord (Is. 40:3-8; <62:10-11>; Mal. 3:1; Matt. 3:1-3; John 1:23; Luke 3:2-6)
 - B. Proclaiming the arrival of Immanuel (Is. 40:9-27)
 - C. The hope of those eagerly expecting His appearing (Is. 40:28-31)
- II. God raising up Cyrus (Is. 41:1-7, 25; See Is. 45; 46:11)

III. A further comforting word to God's people (Is. 41:14-20)

IV. God's challenge to the nations (Is. 41:21-29)

- A. They neither know the former things nor their end
- B. They know not the things of the future
- C. They and their work are nothing and worthless
(Is. 41:11-12, 24, 29; 40:15-17)
- D. As the Holy One of Israel – the only true God,
the First and the Last
(Is. 41:4; 43:10; 44:6; 48:12-13; Rev. 1:4, 8, 11a*, 17;
22:13) * The oldest manuscripts omit this clause.

V. Revelation concerning the Messiah

(Is. 42:1-7; Matt. 12:18-21; Luke 4:17-19)

- A. God's Servant and Elect in Whom His soul delights (v. 1)
- B. The Spirit of God upon the Messiah
- C. His ultimate goal: to bring forth justice to the nations (v. 4)
- D. His perfect humanity (vv. 2-4; 2 Tim. 2:24):
 - 1. His lowliness and humility, meekness and longsuffering, not quarrelsome
 - 2. Compassionate and kind toward others
 - 3. Just and righteous (Is. 11:4-5; 32:1)
 - 4. Faithful, true, steadfast and enduring
(Is. 42:4; Luke 9:51; 12:50; Rev. 19:11)
- E. His commission (Is. 42:5-7)
 - 1. To fulfill God's covenant with Abraham
(Is. 42:6; Gal. 3:6-9, 13-16)
 - 2. To enact and establish the New Covenant (Is. 49:8;
Jer. 31:33; 50:5; Matt. 26:28; Heb. 8:6; 9:15; 12:24)
 - 3. To be a light to those in darkness
(Is. 49:6; 9:2; Acts 13:47; 28:28)
 - 4. To set the prisoners free (Ps. 107:10-16; 146:7;
Luke 4:18-21; 2 Tim. 2:26; Rom. 8:2)

5. To defeat God's enemies and bring in the heavenly kingdom to earth
6. All nations shall wait in hope for His law
<instruction or word> (Micah 4:1-3; Is. 51:5)

F. The zeal of the LORD (Is. 42:8-9)

1. For His own name (Exod. 34:14)
2. He will not give His glory and praise to another
3. He alone is God

VI. A universal song of praise to the Lord (Is. 42:10-17)

VII. Israel's rejection of the Messiah foretold

(Is. 42:18-25; John 1:11; 12:37-41)

VIII. God's loving-kindness expressed in His appeal to His people

(Is. 43-44; 2 Cor. 5:18-21)

IX. Specific prophecy regarding Cyrus – Some 200 years before his reign in 536 B.C. (Is. 44:28; 45:1-13; 41:1-7, 25; 46:11; 48:14-15; 2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-4; 5:1-6:13)

A. Historical evidence that the LORD is the only true God (Is. 45:3b-7)

1. Calling Cyrus by name long before he existed
2. His origin from the East (Is. 41:2, 25; 46:11)
3. Making him a ruler and a conqueror; feared by the nations (Is. 41:2b-7)
4. Foretelling his character – a righteous man

B. Designated by God as a righteous one – His anointed, God's appointed "shepherd" to perform all God's pleasure (Is. 44:28; 46:10-11; 48:14)

1. With regards to God's purpose
 - a. Destroy Babylon
(Is. 43:14; 13:1-6, 17-22; Dan. 5:28-30)

- b. Release God's people to return to Jerusalem (Is. 45:13)
 - c. Rebuild Jerusalem (Is. 44:28; 2 Chron. 36:22-23; Ezra 1:1-3)
 - d. Lay the foundation of the temple
 - e. Not for price or reward (Is. 45:13)
 - f. He shall call on the Lord's name (Is. 41:25; Ezra 1:1-2)
2. With regards to the nations:
- a. Conquer them and rule over the kings (Is. 41:2-3, 25; 45:1a)
 - b. God will open before him the double doors and gates (Is. 45:1b-2)
 - c. Make the crooked places straight
 - d. Break in piece the gates of bronze and cut the bars of iron
 - e. Give him the treasures of darkness and the hidden riches of secret places (Is. 45:3)
3. Guided by the Almighty God who held his right hand (Is. 45:1, 3b-7; 46:11)
- X. The fall of Babylon and the judgment upon her (Is. 46-47; 21:1-10; Rev. 14:8; 18:2-3)
- A. The futility of the Babylonian idols (Is. 46:1-2, 6-7)
 - B. God's unchanging and untiring loving care for His people (Is. 46:3-5, 8-13)
 - 1. He is the only true God
 - 2. He called Cyrus – a bird of prey – to destroy Babylon
 - 3. His counsel shall stand
 - 4. For the sake of Zion and Israel His glory, God promised them Salvation although they were stubborn hearted and far from righteousness
 - C. The utter destruction of Babylon (Is. 47)

- XI. Assurance of salvation and deliverance from Babylon to His obstinate people (Is. 48)
- A. Reminding His people that He is their God, the only true God (Is. 48:2-13)
 - 1. His name: the LORD of Hosts
 - 2. Fulfilling the things He foretold in the former time
 - 3. Foretelling things to come
 - 4. Doing everything for His own name's sake
 - 5. "The First and the Last"
 - 6. The Creator of the universe
 - 7. The Messiah (vv. 16-17)
 - B. The name "Cyrus" was mentioned again to carry out God's judgment against Babylon (Is. 48:14-15)
 - C. A call to the obstinate people to hearken to His word, but they would not (vv. 18-21; Matt. 22:3; 23:37; Prov. 1:24-31; Hos. 11:7)