



# GROWTH POINT

MIDWEEK SERVICE

TOBI ENGLAND | MARCH 4, 2020

## Title: Isaiah

*“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. <sup>2</sup> Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.” (Isaiah 1:1-2)*

## INTRODUCTION

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### 1. \_\_\_\_\_ **Is Isaiah?**

- The name Isaiah means “God is salvation.” He is one of four major prophets in the Old Testament.
- Tradition records that Isaiah was the cousin of King Uzziah, but we are not sure of this.
- Old Testament prophets don’t always foretell, but they do forth-tell. Much of their ministry focused on the present. Like a good doctor, they diagnose the need, prescribe a remedy, and warn of the future consequences if the remedy is ignored.
- Isaiah is quoted twenty-two times in the New Testament, more than any other prophet.

### 2. \_\_\_\_\_ **Did He Minister?**

- Isaiah ministered during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (Isaiah 1:1). He also worked during the ministries of Amos, Hosea, and Micah.



### 3. \_\_\_\_\_ **Was His Message?**

- The message of Isaiah includes judgement for sin and the promise of future restoration.
- After the warning of chapters 1–35, Isaiah describes several deliverances that God would provide.

### 4. \_\_\_\_\_ **Are the Main Players?**

- **Uzziah** (792–740 B.C.) ruled during a time when Judah was strengthening militarily, politically, and economically. He became king when he was sixteen (2 Chronicles 26:1). Isaiah is traditionally thought of as the cousin of this king, and his death is recorded in Isaiah 6:1.
- **Ahaz** (735–715 B.C.) was the grandson of King Uzziah (2 Chronicles 27:9). He was a wicked king who promoted pagan worship in Judah and even sacrificed his son in fire (2 Chronicles 28:1–5). Israel and Syria wanted him to join in league with them against Assyria, and when he refused, they invaded Judah to force his hand. King Ahaz asked Assyria for help (2 Chronicles 26:16), a decision that was resisted by Isaiah (Isaiah 7:1–9) and ended disastrously.
- **Hezekiah** (715–686 B.C.) was the son of King Ahaz and was a good king who led Judah back to God. He cleansed the temple and restored sacrifices (2 Chronicles 29:18–36). When on his death bed, God used Isaiah to inform Hezekiah that he would live another fifteen years longer (2 Kings 20:1–11). God delivered Judah out of the grip of Assyrian invasion (Isaiah 37). His son Manasseh returned to idolatry, was captured by the Assyrians, and may even have had Isaiah martyred.

### 5. \_\_\_\_\_ **Christ Is Pictured Here?**

- The clearest messianic passages in the entire Old Testament are found in Isaiah:  
*“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, And shall call his name Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)*  
*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: And the government shall be upon his shoulder: And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)*  
*“But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: The chastisement of our peace was upon him; And with his stripes we are healed.” (Isaiah 53:5)*

### **Outline of the Book:**

Similar to the Bible, Isaiah is divided into a first section of 39 chapters and a later section 27 chapters:

- The Judgment of God (Isaiah 1–39). Begins with the command to “hear.” This section highlights the holiness of God. Isaiah refers to God as “the Holy one of Israel” 28 times, a phrase that is only used 6 times in the rest of the Old Testament.
  - God’s charge against the nations (1–6)
  - Prophecies of deliverance (7–12)
  - God’s plan for other nations (13–23)
  - Punishment and kingdom blessing (24–27)
  - Don’t trust in enemies because they will be defeated (28–33)
  - Vengeance and blessing (34–35)
  - Siege of Assyria (36–39)
- The Restoration of God (Isaiah 40–66). Begins with the command to “comfort.”

### **Take-Aways for Today’s Believer:**

- Hearing a message from God is not enough; we need to respond to it. After delivering a message to frightened Ahaz, Isaiah said, “If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established” (Isaiah 7:9).
- We can learn from the lives of others. Hezekiah saw God judge the northern tribes of Israel and determined to set Judah on a better path.
- We sometimes suffer from the sins of others. Assyria invaded Judah during the reign of Hezekiah, one of the few righteous kings.
- We should trust God when His plan seems counterintuitive. Instead of turning to Egypt for help with the Assyrians, Hezekiah chose to turn to God.
- We must recognize the need for vigilance. While Hezekiah stood up to the Assyrians and resisted going to Egypt for help, he then opened his door wide to the Babylonians (chapter 39).
- We can maintain confidence no matter the circumstances. When empires were rising and falling around him, Isaiah wrote, “In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength” (Isaiah 30:15).

### **CONCLUSION**

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