



# ISAIAH

## THE BIG PICTURE

# ISAIAH

## THE BIG PICTURE

1. There are approximately 1,292 verses in the book of Isaiah. At ten minutes per verse, it would require 288 45-minute meetings to examine the entire book (nearly six years if we met every Sunday).
2. Hymns, songs, and “greeting card verses”
3. The Structure of the Book of Isaiah:
  - a) Chapters 1 through 39 — The Emerging Assyrian Threat
  - b) Chapters 40 through 55 — Deportation to Babylon
    - i) Babylonian Captivity (± 609/588 B.C. to ± 538/515 B.C.)
  - c) Chapters 56 through 66 — Hope of Restoration
4. Isaiah’s place in history / the macro-story of salvation history / overview
  - a) The time leading up to the Babylonian Exile
  - b) The time during the Exile
  - c) The return to the Land under Cyrus the Persian
  - d) Terminology: Hebrews vs. Israelites vs. Jews
5. What does this have to do with us?
  - a) Drawing connections between geo-political narratives from 3,000 years ago and my own personal experiences of joy and sorrow
  - b) Using paradigms and archetypes from Scripture as lenses through which to view our experiences, circumstances, relationships, selves, and lives
  - c) Phases of history
    - i) The nation’s downward spiral
    - ii) The nation in captivity
    - iii) The nation redeemed and reborn
  - d) God works sometimes on a collective level, sometimes on an individual.
  - e) But it’s not fair! I didn’t do it, and I’m suffering the consequences for it.
  - f) Phases in a nation’s history correlate to phases in our lives
    - i) Are we caught up in a downward spiral? who caused it? me or others?
    - ii) Are we in a captivity?
    - iii) Is God redeeming us and freeing us?

# ISAIAH

## THE BIG PICTURE

6. Themes from chapters 1 through 39
  - a) Judgement
  - b) Details of military and political action
  - c) Remnant
  - d) Promise of future redemption
  - e) Justice
7. God's version of social justice. God gives privileges to four groups; how?
  - a) God's "class system" inverts what was then current (cf. Hammurabi).
8. Groups #1 and #2: 1:17, 1:23, 9:17 and 10:2
9. Group #3: 3:14, 3:15, 10:2, 10:30, 11:4, and 14:30
10. Group #4 (Why is this class not emphasized in Isaiah, when it's featured in the Pentateuch?) Deuteronomy 1:16, 10:18, 10:19, 14:29, 24:14, 24:17, 24:19, 24:20, 24:21, 26:12, 26:13, and 27:19
11. Past, present, and future: Grammar time! Verbs matter. Look at the first chapter of Isaiah.
12. Looking at 1:18 to 1:20, why do verses 19 and 20 appear after verse 18? How would the meaning be different if they appeared before verse 18?
13. The "day of the Lord" 2:11, 2:12, 2:17, 2:20, 3:7, 3:18, and 4:1
14. The "day of the Lord" 4:2 (grace from the very beginning!)
15. The "day of the Lord" 5:30, 7:18, 7:20, 7:21, 7:23, 9:14, 10:3, and 10:17
16. The "remnant" 10:20, 10:21, 10:22, 11:11, and 11:16
17. God uses one nation against another: 8:17, but 10:5 and 14:25
18. Other people get in trouble, too: 13:19, 14:31, 15:1, 17:1, 18:1, and 19:3