

EXPOSITION 123

Outline of the book of ISAIAH

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- I. Prophecies of judgment interspersed with prophecies of blessing (1:1-35:10).
 - A. Concerning Judah and Jerusalem (1:1-12:6).
 1. Israel pictured historically, currently (with Isaiah's time), and prophetically (1:1-31). This chapter is really introductory to the whole book.
 - a. The apostasy of the people (1:1-4).
 - b. The desolation which is the result (1:5-9).
 - c. The meaningless religious activities (1:10-15).
 - d. The divine appeal to Israel (1:16-20).
 - e. The present condition in contrast with the former (1:21-23).
 - f. The salvation promised to Israel (1:24-31).
 2. The latter days for Israel (2:1-4:6).
 - a. God's ultimate purpose for the nation (2:1-4).
 - b. Isaiah's appeal to his people and the explanation of the reasons for God's judgment (2:5-11).
 - c. Various judgments of God (2:12-4:1).
 - (1) Against the pride of men (2:12-22).
 - (2) Against the leaders of the people (3:1-15).
 - (3) Against the beauty of the women (3:16-4:1).
 - d. The final cleansing and restoration of Israel (4:2-6).
 3. Israel as the vineyard of the Lord (5:1-30).
 - a. The parable and its interpretation (5:1-7).
 - b. The description of the wild grapes--the six woes (5:8-23).
 - c. The judgment to come (5:24-30). Notice that there is no promise of mercy in this section.
 4. The call of Isaiah (6:1-13).
 - a. The vision of the Lord (6:1-4).
 - b. The confession by the prophet (6:5).
 - c. The cleansing of the prophet (6:6, 7).
 - d. The call given to the prophet (6:8).
 - e. The charge to the prophet (6:9-13).
 5. The revelation of God to Ahaz (7:1-25).
 - a. The historical situation (7:1, 2).
 - b. God's promise to Ahaz concerning the safety of Judah (7:3-9).
 - c. The unbelief of Ahaz (7:10-12).
 - d. The threefold prophecy (7:13-25).
 - (1) The birth of Immanuel (7:13-15). This is the first sign.
 - (2) The downfall of Syria and Ephraim (7:16).
 - (3) The hostility of Assyria and Egypt toward Judah (7:17-25).
 6. The prophecies and warning concerning Assyria (8:1-9:7).
 - a. To defeat Samaria (8:1-4).
 - b. To attack Judah (8:5-8).
 - c. Warnings against false hopes (8:9-22).
 - d. The true hope of Israel (9:1-7).

7. The reasons for the judgment upon Israel (9:8-10:4).
 - a. Pride (9:8-12).
 - b. Refusal to seek the Lord (9:13-17).
 - c. Wickedness (9:18-21).
 - d. Injustice (10:1-4).
8. The destruction of Assyria predicted (10:5-34).
 - a. The reason: pride (10:5-14).
 - b. The character of the destruction (10:15-19).
 - c. The result: the preservation of Israel (10:20-34).
9. The millennial reign of the Messiah (11:1-12:6).
 - a. The Messiah, His character and His work (11:1-5).
 - b. The effect upon the animal world (11:6-9).
 - c. The salvation of the nations (11:10).
 - d. The regathering of the remnant of Israel (11:11-16).
 - e. The thanksgiving of the redeemed (12:1-6).
- B. Concerning the Gentile nations (13:1-23:18). The judgments are presented as ten burdens with various other prophecies included.
 1. The burden of Babylon (13:1-14:23).
 - a. The fall of Babylon predicted (13:1-5).
 - b. The day of the Lord (13:6-16).
 - c. The fall of Babylon described more completely (13:17-22).
 - d. The compassion of the Lord for Israel (14:1, 2).
 - e. The downfall of the king of Babylon (14:3-20).
 - (1) The parable (14:3-11).
 - (2) The downfall of the king of Babylon related to and likened to the fall of Lucifer (14:12-20).
 - f. The imminence of Babylon's doom (14:21-23).
 2. The prophecy against Assyria (14:24-27).
 3. The burden of Palestina, or Philistia (14:28-32). See ASV.
 4. The burden of Moab (15:1-16:14).
 - a. The downfall of Moab predicted (15:1-9).
 - b. The only hope of Moab: submission to the throne of David (16:1-5).
 - c. The pride of Moab and its judgment by the Lord (16:6-14).
 5. The burden of Damascus and Israel (17:1-14).
 - a. The downfall of Damascus and Israel predicted (17:1-3).
 - b. Israel in the day of the Lord (17:4-11).
 - c. The ultimate downfall of all nations that come against Israel (17:12-14).
 6. The prophecy concerning Ethiopia (18:1-7).
 - a. The prediction of judgment upon Ethiopia (18:1-6).
 - b. The prediction of the repentance of Ethiopia (18:7).
 7. The burden of Egypt (19:1-25).
 - a. The downfall of Egypt predicted (19:1-15).
 - b. Egypt in the day of the Lord (19:16-25).
 8. The prophecy of Assyria's conquest of Egypt and Ethiopia (20:1-6).
 9. The burden of the desert, or wilderness, of the sea--Babylon (21:1-10).

10. The burden of Dumah, or Edom (21:11, 12).
 11. The burden of Arabia (21:13-17).
 12. The burden of the valley of vision--Jerusalem (22:1-14).
 - a. The grief of Isaiah over the city (22:1-4).
 - b. The shameless and unrepentant attitude of Jerusalem which leads to the prophecy of judgment (22:5-14).
 13. The prophecy against Shebna (22:15-25).
 14. The burden of Tyre (23:1-18).
 - a. The prediction of Tyre's downfall (23:1-14).
 - b. The restoration of Tyre for the benefit of Israel (23:15-18).
- C. The establishment of the kingdom (24:1-27:13).
1. The judgment of God upon the earth (24:1-23).
 - a. The desolation of the earth (24:1-12).
 - b. The remnant of Israel glorifying the Lord in the midst of the earth's desolation (24:13-16a).
 - c. The grief of Isaiah for the earth (24:16b-20).
 - d. The judgment of the nations (24:21-23).
 2. The praise of redeemed Israel (25:1-26:19).
 - a. For the wonderful things which God has done in delivering His people (25:1-5).
 - b. For the Lord's provision for the nations in His kingdom (25:6-8).
 - c. For the destruction of the hostile Gentile powers (25:9-12).
 - d. For the establishment of a city and the promise of peace (26:1-7).
 - e. For the Lord's judgments in establishing righteousness (26:8-10).
 - f. For the salvation and resurrection of Israel (26:11-19).
 3. Isaiah's exhortation and encouragement for his people in view of the hope of Israel (26:20-27:13).
 - a. The invitation to enter their chambers with the promise that the tribulation would soon be over (26:20, 21).
 - b. The promise of the destruction of the world powers (27:1). There is the possibility that this promise also includes the downfall of Satan who inspires and directs the world powers in their opposition of Israel. Cf. REV 10:1-2.
 - c. The protection of the Lord over Israel and the prediction of her fruitfulness as a nation (27:2-6).
 - d. The chastisement of Israel and the means of forgiveness (27:7-11).
 - e. The regathering of Israel and her worship of the Lord (27:12, 13).
- D. Six woes of judgment (28:1-33:24). ^{BEGIN WITH ISRAEL, MOVE TO JUDAH IN SEC. WOES.} The first five are against Israel; the last is against the Gentiles, possibly against Assyria in particular. The warnings to Israel are because of her sin and her desire to ally herself with Egypt for protection. ^{WOE = "CENSURE AND THREATENING" (DEL. II, 2)}
1. Woe against the pride and self-indulgent drunkenness of Israel (28:1-29).
 - a. The warning of certain judgment by God (28:1-13).
 - b. The folly of trusting in men for deliverance instead of the Lord to escape divine judgment (28:14-22).
 - c. God's gracious purpose even in judgment (28:23-29).

2. Woe to Ariel (the altar-hearth, or lion of God), i. e. , Jerusalem (29:1-14). This is a woe primarily against hypocrisy in worship.
 - a. The warning of the complete humiliation of Jerusalem (29:1-4).
 - b. The hope extended to Israel for the destruction of her Gentile enemies (29:5-8).
 - c. Israel judged by spiritual blindness (29:9-12).
 - d. Formality in religion condemned and judgment promised (29:13, 14).

3. Woe against those who seek to hide their plans from God (29:15-24).

DELITZSCH →
SAYS THIS IS
NOT SEPARATE
WOE, BUT A PART
OF SECOND WOE.

- a. The folly of such behavior (29:15, 16).
- b. The promise of the Lord to straighten things out which men have turned upside down (29:17-24).

→ HOWEVER, THERE IS JUSTIFICATION (FROM THE CONTEXT) FOR SEPARATING THEM.

4. Woe to the rebellious children (30:1-33).

- a. The alliance with Egypt condemned (30:1-17).
- b. The patience of God awaiting Israel's repentance and the promise of salvation with great blessing (30:18-26).
- c. The anger of the Lord upon the nations (30:27-33).

DELITZSCH →
SAYS THIS
IS CLIMAX

5. Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help (31:1-32:20).

- a. The Lord in contrast with the Egyptians (31:1-3).
- b. The Lord's appeal to Israel to turn to Him with the promise of protection for them (31:4-9).
- c. The establishment of a reign of righteousness (32:1-8).
- d. A warning to the careless women of Israel (32:9-15).
- e. The description of the kingdom of righteousness continued (32:16-20).

6. Woe to the Gentiles who have destroyed the people of Israel (33:1-24).

- a. The Gentiles to be judged (33:1).
- b. Isaiah's prayer for Israel (33:2).
- c. The answer as the hope of Israel (33:3-6).
- d. The desolation of Israel (33:7-9).
- e. The promised salvation of Israel (33:10-24).

DIRECTED
PRIMARILY
AGAINST ASSYRIA
WHO WAS THEN
IN THE LAND,

- E. The judgment of the nations (34:1-17).

BUT WHO
HAD NOT
TAKEN
JERUSALEM.

1. The indignation of the Lord against the nations, particularly Edom, (34:1-15).

2. The certainty of the judgment (34:16, 17).

- F. God's blessing upon the land and the redeemed people of Israel (35:1-10).

II. Historical section (36:1-39:8). These chapters form a transition between the two major divisions of the book, from Assyria to Babylon. Cf. 2 Kings 18:13-20:19.

- A. Hezekiah and Assyria (36:1-37:38). There are two crises:

1. The first crisis (36:1-37:9a).

- a. Sennacherib's warning to Hezekiah given by Rabshakeh (36:1-22).
- b. Hezekiah's appeal to Isaiah (37:1-5).
- c. Isaiah's message to Hezekiah from the Lord (37:6, 7).
- d. Rabshakeh's return to Assyria (37:8, 9a).

2. The second crisis (37:9b-38).
 - a. Rabshakeh's letter (37:9b-13).
 - b. Hezekiah's prayer (37:14-20).
 - c. God's answer to Hezekiah's prayer (37:21-38).
 - (1) In the message of Isaiah (37:21-35).
 - (2) In the defeat of the Assyrians (37:36).
 - (3) In the death of Sennacharib, the king of Assyria (37:37, 38).

B. Hezekiah's sickness and recovery (38:1-22).

1. Isaiah's message concerning the approaching death of Hezekiah (38:1).
2. Hezekiah's prayer for his life (38:2, 3).
3. The Lord's answer to Hezekiah's prayer: Hezekiah's life to be extended for fifteen years (38:4-8).
4. Hezekiah's praise (38:9-22).

C. Hezekiah and Babylon (39:1-8).

1. Hezekiah's foolishness in showing the Babylonians all that he had (39:1, 2).
2. Isaiah's prediction of judgment (39:3-7).
3. Hezekiah's foolish response (39:8).

III. Prophecies of redemption interspersed with warnings of judgment and appeals for repentance (40:1-66:24). The prophecies constitute the "comfort" of God for His people.

A. The deliverance of Israel from Babylon (40:1-48:22).

1. The incomparable character of God (40:1-31).
 - a. The prologue (40:1-11). This not only introduces this chapter and this section (40-48), but introduces also the entire last part of the prophecy (40-66).
 - (1) The pardon of iniquity (40:1, 2).
 - (2) The preparation of a highway for the coming of the Lord (40:3-5).
 - (3) The passing character of man in comparison with the permanent character of God's word (40:6-8).
 - (4) The proclamation of the coming of the Lord (40:9-11).
 - b. The greatness of God (40:12-26).
 - (1) Greater than creation (40:12-14).
 - (2) Greater than nations (40:15-17).
 - (3) Greater than idols (40:18-20).
 - (4) Greater than the inhabitants of the earth (40:21-24).
 - (5) Greater than the hosts of heaven (40:25, 26).
 - c. The prophet's encouragement for the discouraged nation of Israel (40:27-31).
2. The sovereignty of God (41:1-29).
 - a. In the affairs of the nations (41:1-7).
 - b. In the calling, preservation, and redemption of Israel (41:8-20).
 - c. In the prediction of things to come (41:21-29).

3. The salvation promised by God (42:1-43:13). This is the first Messianic passage of chapters 40-66. Cf. Matthew 12:17-21.
 - a. The Messiah, the Servant of the Lord (42:1-4).
 - b. The ministry of Israel to the Gentiles (42:5-13).
 - c. The work of the Lord in establishing righteousness (42:14-25).
 - d. The message of comfort for Israel (43:1-13).
4. The gracious deliverance of Israel and God's blessing upon her (43:14-44:5).
 - a. The downfall of Babylon by the God who delivered Israel from Egypt (43:14-17).
 - b. The "new thing", i. e., a deliverance greater than any previous deliverance (43:18-21).
 - c. The reason for Israel's suffering (43:22-28).
 - d. The outpouring of the Spirit upon Israel (44:1-5).
5. The character of the Lord in contrast with idols (44:6-23).
 - a. The uniqueness of the Lord (44:6-8).
 - b. The folly of idolatry (44:9-20).
 - c. Israel's relationship to the only true God (44:21-23).
6. The prophecy of Cyrus who will deliver Israel from Babylon and rebuild Jerusalem (44:24-45:25).
 - a. The Creator sufficient to raise up Cyrus for Israel's blessing (44:24-28).
 - b. The Lord's message to Cyrus (45:1-7).
 - c. The heavens and the earth to cooperate with God's work through Cyrus (45:8-13).
 - d. The overthrow of the nations and their heathenism, resulting in the salvation of the Gentiles and of Israel (45:14-25).
7. The destruction of Babylon's gods with its meaning for Israel (46:1-13).
 - a. The destructions prophesied (46:1, 2).
 - b. The threefold admonition to Israel (46:3-13).
 - (1) A warning to all who are inclined to be idolatrous (45:3-7).
 - (2) A warning to the transgressors who forget the purposes of God have never been thwarted (46:8-11).
 - (3) A warning to the proud who believe that God's righteous judgments are far in the future (46:12, 13).
8. The fall of Babylon (47:1-15). *Babylon*
 - a. The complete humiliation of ~~Israel~~ *Babylon* prophesied (47:1-5).
 - b. The reasons for Babylon's fall (47:6-10).
 - (1) Babylon's treatment of Israel (47:6).
 - (2) Babylon's pride (47:7-9).
 - (3) Babylon's sin (47:10).
 - c. The sudden and inescapable nature of Babylon's judgment (47:11-15).
9. Israel's deliverance from Babylon (48:1-22).
 - a. The reasons for the prophecy of Babylon's fall (48:1-8).
 - (1) To keep Israel from giving the glory to idols (48:1-5).
 - (2) Because of Israel's sin which justified her suffering under Babylon (48:6-8). And yet it was because of sin that Israel was ignorant of the prophecies which could have served as a warning.

- b. The reasons for Israel's deliverance (48:9-15). Both emphasize God's grace in dealing with Israel.
 - (1) For the Lord's own name (48:9-11).
 - (2) Because of the Lord's love for His people (48:12-15).
- c. The twofold exhortation to Israel (48:16-22).
 - (1) To come to the Lord (48:16-19).
 - (2) To go out of Babylon (48:20-22).

B. The suffering and glory of the Servant of the Lord, the Messiah (49:1-57:21).

- 1. The message of the Servant and its promise of hope for Israel (49:1-50:11).
 - a. The message of the Servant concerning Himself and His work (49:1-12).
 - (1) His calling and appointment to glorify God (49:1-3).
 - (2) The temporary delay in seeing the purpose of God fulfilled (49:4). Note that the first four verses point to the first coming of the Lord, His earthly ministry, and His rejection by Israel; verses 5-12 point to His second coming in triumph and glory.
 - (3) The ultimate triumph of the Servant in the salvation of Israel and the Gentile nations (49:5-12).
 - b. The comfort of the Servant for Israel that God has not forsaken and forgotten His people (49:13-26).
 - c. The Servant's charge that Israel had sinned, and so had been put away (50:1).
 - d. The Servant's explanation of the power and work given to Him by the Lord God (50:2-9).
 - (1) His power (50:2, 3).
 - (2) His ministry of the Word (50:4).
 - (3) His suffering (50:5-9).
 - e. The Servant's appeal to Israel (50:10, 11). There are two alternatives which are possible.
- 2. The encouragement of the Lord for His people (51:1-52:12). Here the people in Israel who desire salvation are addressed.
 - a. The threefold exhortation of the Lord (51:1-8).
 - (1) Hearken--the experience of Abraham to be the type and assurance of Israel's salvation (51:1-3).
 - (2) Hearken--the salvation of God to extend beyond Israel to the Gentiles, and to be forever (51:4-6).
 - (3) Hearken--the reproach of men unable to thwart the purposes of God (51:7, 8).
 - b. Awake, awake--the response of the people (51:9-11).
 - c. The assurance that the Lord can and will care for His people in their sufferings (51:12-16).
 - d. Three additional exhortations to Israel from the Lord (51:17-52:12).
 - (1) Awake, awake--the Lord to remove the cup of His fury from Israel's hand and place it in the hand of her oppressors (51:17-23).
 - (2) Awake, awake--to the glorious deliverance awaiting Jerusalem, (52:1-10).
 - (a) The deliverance to be final (52:1, 2).
 - (b) The deliverance to be in grace (52:3-6).
 - (c) The deliverance to produce peace and abounding joy (52:7-10).
 - (3) Depart ye, depart ye--the deliverance to mean a separation from all that defiles, with the Lord in absolute control (52:11, 12).

3. The humiliation and exaltation of the Servant of the Lord (52:13-53:12).
 - a. The presentation of the Servant and a survey of His work (52:13-15).
 - b. The unbelievable humiliation of the Servant (53:1-3).
 - c. The meaning of the Servant's suffering (53:4-6).
 - d. The description of the Servant's death and burial (53:7-9).
 - e. The divine purpose in the suffering and death of the Servant (53:10-12).
4. The promises connected with the salvation of Israel (54:1-17).
 - a. The increase of Israel's seed and the inclusion of the Gentiles (54:1-3).
 - b. The people of Israel never again to be forsaken (54:4-10).
 - c. The adornment of the redeemed (54:11, 12).
 - d. The preservation of Israel's peace by God's defense against any who would oppress them (54:13-17).
5. The invitation to salvation with assurances that the Lord will save (55:1-13).
6. The instruction to the redeemed to please the Lord, coupled with assurances that the Lord will save all without respect of persons (56:1-8).
7. The warnings and promises of God to Israel (56:9-57:21).
 - a. The condemnation of her leaders (56:9-12).
 - b. The deliverance of the righteous through death--an unheeded warning to the wicked (57:1, 2).
 - c. The condemnation of idolatry (57:3-8).
 - d. The condemnation of courting the approval of the heathen and despising the fear of the Lord (57:9-12).
 - e. The condemnation of the wicked and God's concern for any who will trust Him (57:13-21).
- C. The future glory of Israel (58:1-66:24). "Having described in chapters 40-48 the temporal agent of Israel's salvation, Cyrus, and in chapters 49-57 the spiritual agent of their salvation, the "Servant" of Jehovah, the prophet proceeds in this last section to define the conditions on which salvation may be enjoyed" (ISBE, Vol. III, p. 1502).
 1. The revelation of Israel's sin in fasting (58:1-14).
 - a. The Lord's instructions for the prophet (58:1, 2).
 - b. The Lord's condemnation of Israel's fasting (58:3-5).
 - c. The nature of true spiritual fasting (58:6, 7).
 - d. The blessings promised as the result of proper fasting (58:8-14).
 2. The revelation that Israel's sins have been responsible for her separation from God (59:1-21).
 - a. The enumeration of Israel's sins (59:1-8).
 - b. The recognition and confession of the sins by Israel (59:9-15a).
 - c. The coming of the Lord to redeem the repentant of Israel and to judge their enemies (59:15b-21). This is His covenant with them (v. 21).
 3. The glory of Israel in the last days (60:1-22).
 - a. The salvation of Israel (60:1-3).
 - b. The salvation of the nations and their gifts to Israel (60:4-9).
 - c. The service rendered by the nations to Israel (60:10-14).
 - d. The glory of Israel to be eternal (60:15-22).

4. The anointing of the Servant of the Lord (61:1-11).
 - a. The Servant's mission (61:1-3).
 - b. The Servant's effectiveness in restoring the land and the people of Israel (61:4-9).
 - c. The Servant's joy in the Lord, His God (61:10, 11).
5. The Lord's zeal for the glory of Israel (62:1-12). He will not rest and He has raised up watchmen who will not let Him rest until Israel is redeemed.
6. The day of the Lord's vengeance upon Edom (63:1-6). Edom, evidently, is used here as a symbol of all Gentile power.
7. The prayer of redeemed Israel (63:7-64:12).
 - a. Praise for God's goodness in the past (63:7-9).
 - b. Confession of rebellion against God (63:10).
 - c. Supplication for a return of the past days of blessing (63:11-14).
 - d. Petition for help and the recognition that God is their Father (63:15-64:8).
 - e. Appeal for the mercy of God (64:9-12).
8. The Lord's answer to the prayer of Israel (65:1-25).
 - a. The certainty of judgment upon the nation for its wickedness (65:1-7).
 - b. The mercy of God upon the remnant (65:8-10).
 - c. The contrast of God's dealings with the wicked and the righteous within the nation (65:11-16).
 - d. The promise of new heavens and a new earth (65:17-25).
9. The final separation of the wicked from the true people of God (66:1-24).
 - a. The condemnation of mere outward worship (66:1-4).
 - b. The faithfulness of God to His own (66:5-9).
 - c. The joy of Jerusalem and of the redeemed of the nations in anticipation of the coming glory (66:10-14).
 - d. The coming of the Lord with the judgment and blessing which will follow (66:15-24).