

# Isaiah

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St. Rose Community Church EQUIP

# Introduction to Biblical Prophecy

- **Forthtelling** - Describing the present in light of what was promised or warned in the past.
- **Foretelling** - Declaring the future, and promise one of two things: salvation or judgment.
- Can have multiple fulfillments

# Tips for Interpreting Biblical Prophecy

1. Discern the immediate context – the structure & flow
2. Discern the kind of oracle/prophecy  
(judgment, salvation, or something else)
3. Study the balance between the historical (forthtelling) and the predictive (foretelling)
4. Determine what kind of language is being used  
(poetic, narrative, etc.)

# Tips for Interpreting Biblical Prophecy

5. Place these texts in their overall place in redemptive-history. Be careful not to make wrong associations between Israel and your nation or church.
6. Be alert for certain recurring and sweeping themes, especially those which bear on the relationships between the testaments.
7. Consider how the New Testament authors employ your passage, or at least your book.

## Isaiah 1:1-4

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. The Wickedness of Judah Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the Lord has spoken, “Children have I reared and brought up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows its owner, and the donkey its master's crib, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.”

Ah, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, offspring of evildoers, children who deal corruptly! They have forsaken the Lord, they have despised the Holy One of Israel, they are utterly estranged.

Isaiah 1:1-4

## Isaiah 2:1-4

The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations, and shall decide disputes for many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

Isaiah 2:1-4

# Principle 1: Know the Structure

Chapters 1-39: Judgement for Historical Jerusalem and its failed Kings (the OT Davidic kings).

Chapters 40-66: Salvation for the Eschatological (future) Jerusalem and its future King (Jesus).

# Principle 2: Be Alert for Recurring & Sweeping Themes

## 1. **Pride**

Isaiah 2:11 - The eyes of the arrogant man will be humbled and the pride of men brought low

Isaiah 5:21 - Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight

# Principle 2: Be Alert for Recurring & Sweeping Themes

## 2. Trust

Chapters 1-39

Isaiah 31:1 “Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses, who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, **but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the Lord.**”

## 2. Trust

Isaiah 36:14-20 The Assyrian army commander shouts, “Do not let Hezekiah deceive you. He cannot deliver you! Do not let Hezekiah persuade you to trust in the Lord when he says, 'The Lord will surely deliver us; this city will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria!...Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the Lord deliver Jerusalem from my hand?'”

## Principle 2: Be Alert for Recurring & Sweeping Themes

### 3. God as the Holy One

Isaiah 6:3 - And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

## Principle 2: Be Alert for Recurring & Sweeping Themes

### 3. God as the Holy One

Isaiah 48:9 “For my name's sake I defer my anger, for the sake of my praise I restrain it for you ...

v. 11 For my own sake, for my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another.”

## 4. God as the Sole and Incomparable Ruler of Creation and History

Isaiah 40:25 - To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One

Isaiah 45:5-6a - I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me;

## 4. God as the Sole and Incomparable Ruler of Creation and History

Isaiah 45:21b-22 - Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. “Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

## 5. God as the Sole Redeemer

Isaiah 54:5 - For your Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is his name; and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called.

Isaiah 54:8 - In overflowing anger for a moment I hid my face from you, but with everlasting love I will have compassion on you," says the Lord, your Redeemer.

## 6. The Remnant

Isaiah 10:20-21 - In that day the remnant of Israel and the survivors of the house of Jacob will no more lean on him who struck them, but will lean on the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

See also Isaiah 28:5.

## 6. The Remnant

Isaiah 11:1-2 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him.

# 7. The Servant

## Servant Songs in Isaiah

Song 1: Isaiah 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

Song 2: See Isaiah 49:1-6

Song 3: See Isaiah 50:4-9

# 7. The Servant

## Servant Songs in Isaiah

### Song 4: Isaiah 52:13-53:12

Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted. As many were astonished at you—his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance, and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—so shall he sprinkle many nations; kings shall shut their mouths because of him....

# 8. The Conqueror

## Conqueror Songs in Isaiah

First Conqueror Song: Isaiah 59:15-21

The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak....

## Conqueror Songs in Isaiah

**2nd Conqueror Song:** 61:1-4. “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor” (v. 1)

**3rd Conqueror Song:** 61:10 - 62:7. The conqueror comes as a bridegroom to take his bride away, to rescue her.

**4th Conqueror Song:** 63:1-6. There is a horrible image of judgment. When the Conqueror comes, he is coming to judge.

## 9. New Jerusalem - The Bride

Isaiah 62:3-5 - You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate...for the Lord delights in you...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

## Principle 3 - Consider the New Testament's Authoritative Interpretation

### 1. Jesus is the Promised Messiah

Romans 15:12 - And again Isaiah says, “The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope.”

# Principle 3 - Consider the New Testament's Authoritative Interpretation

## 2. Jesus is the Holy One

John 12:41 - Isaiah said these things because he saw *his* glory and spoke of him.

### 3. Jesus is the Promised Redeemer

Luke 3:4-6 - As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

## 4. Jesus as the Suffering Servant

Matthew 12:17-18 - This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

## 5. Jesus as Conqueror

Revelation 22:12 - “Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.”

# To Do

Watch the Bible Project Overview of Hosea and Joel

Memorize Joel 2:32

No EQUIP next week on Mardi Gras