

BIBLE READING FOR 2023

WEEK #34

ISAIAH 1-23

08-20-23

Monday - Isaiah 1-4

Wednesday - Isaiah 9-13

Friday - Isaiah 19-23

Tuesday - Isaiah 5-8

Thursday - Isaiah 14-18

Isaiah is the first book in the section of Old Testament writings known as the Major Prophets. They are referred to in this way simply because, for the most part, they are longer than the books called the Minor Prophets. The Major Prophets include Isaiah through Daniel. Isaiah appears to have been a well-educated man that was a skilled orator and writer. His ministry is thought to have lasted from about 740 B.C. to at least 700 B.C.. This period covered the reigns of four kings of Judah (Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah). He was very familiar in the courts of these kings and well aware of circumstances on both the national and international scene.

The author is recognized by most conservative scholars to be Isaiah. There is a group that believes chapters 1-39 were written by Isaiah but chapters 40-66 were written by someone else years later, and that several people may have been involved in authoring this part of scripture. One of the main reasons they feel this to be the case is because of the change in tone between the two major sections of the book. However, the tone of the book changes because the nature of the writer's message changes and to keep the same tone throughout would be inappropriate. When all the evidence is considered the most convincing case is made for Isaiah's authorship with the book being written about 700 B.C., or perhaps shortly thereafter.

The purpose of the book primarily focuses on the condemnation of Judah and God's efforts to prepare her citizens for the good and difficult times they will face. Other nations are also addressed but most of the book relates to Judah's needs and her future.

Some of the biggest problems that Isaiah had to deal with concerning Judah involved insincerity in religious service and dedication to their own traditions instead of the things they had received from God. Isaiah 29:13 is an excellent example of this and is quoted by Christ in Matthew 23:17-18 as He dealt with a similar problem in His day.

A critically important part of Isaiah is that portion of prophecy dealing with the Christ and the blessings to be found in His coming kingdom. Isaiah 53 describes the agony He would endure as God's suffering Servant, and tells the value of what He would accomplish for those who were faithful to God.

An outline for Isaiah:

- 1.) Prophecies against Judah and other nations 1-35
- 2.) Historical material concerning Hezekiah 36-39
- 3.) Prophecies of the deliverance and glorious future of God's people 40-66

Questions for Isaiah 1-23:

- 1.) What does the Lord invite Judah to do in 1:18?
- 2.) In 5:13, why did God say His people would go into exile?
- 3.) What nation was God going to use to punish Israel in 10:5-7?
- 4.) What is going to be provided for the remnant of Israel according to 11:16?
- 5.) In 16:13-14, how long did God say Moab had until she would be punished?

Answers to questions for Week #33 – Ecclesiastes and the Song of Solomon:

- 1.) He was a preacher, a son of David and a king.
- 2.) Pleasure.
- 3.) Rejoice and do good in one's lifetime.
- 4.) Sleep.
- 5.) King Solomon and his wedding day