



Isaiah

Retribution, Restoration,
Righteousness

Introduction

- Name: Isaiah, 'YHWH is salvation' (cf. Isa. 8:18)
- Date: late 8th c. –early 7th B.C. (*Isa. 40-66 disputed*)
- Setting: Royal court of Judah during rise of Assyria, demise of Israel (*northern kingdom*)
- Themes: Retribution (1-39), Restoration (40-55), Righteousness (56-66)

Basic Outline

- I. Retribution (1-39): covenant broken, judgment coming... Who will Israel trust?
 - a) On Judah (1-12): Rebuking Judah's disobedience (*idolatry & injustice*) & lack of trust, Isaiah warns of judgment but also gives hope for the ideal David to rule in righteousness & justice!

Trust in Gifts, Goods, Glory (1-4)

- #1: Ultimatum to Unfaithful (1:1-2:5): 'Hear!'
 - *Confront* (2-15): 'They have rebelled against me'
[covenant: broken; curses: begun; confront: blood-*trust*]
 - *Call* (16-20): 'Eat (obedient) or be eaten (rebel)!'
[wash, remove, cease/learn, seek, correct; scarlet/snow]
 - *Caution* (21-31): 'I will turn My hand against you'
[woman/city/silver/wine: God desires Judah's purity!]
 - *Comfort* (26-27; 2:1-4): 'Zion redeemed, lifted up'
[reversal: purity; result: pinnacle, proselytes, peace]
 - *Conclusion* (2:5): 'Let us walk in the light of YHWH'



Yad HaShmonah, watchtower, biblical gardens

Trust in Gifts, Goods, Glory (1-4)

- #2: Judah Judged (2:6-4:6): *You've rejected Jacob!*
 - *Trust in Things* (2:6-22): YHWH alone will be exalted [full (*of things*) but empty; **high** (*on themselves*) but low]
 - *Things Removed* (3:1-15): ...every kind of support [provision/providers; idolatry (*cf.* 2:6-22) and injustice]
 - *Things Replaced* (3:16-4:1): YHWH will lay bare... [female **pride & beauty** turned into exile & emptiness!]
 - *Things Reversed* (4:2-6): YHWH washed their filth [cleansed: bloody-**beauty**, empty-full, **pride** of people; canopy: like exodus, God will be protector of His people !]

Trust in God (5-12)

A: Love Song: Sweet, not Sour (5:1-7)

B: Funeral Song: Devourers Devoured (5:8-24)

C: Justice Coming: God's Outstretched Hand
(5:25-30)

D: Isaiah's Memoir: Trust God? (6:1-9:7)

C: Justice Coming: God's Outstretched Hand
(9:8-10:4)

B: Funeral Song: Assyria Devoured (10:5-11:16)

A: Thanksgiving Song: Trust in God! (12:1-6)

Trust in God (5-12)

- Songs of Judgment (5:1-24): ‘Let me sing ...’
 - *Love* (1-7): God desired good fruit (*justice*); Israel was rotten (*bloodshed*); vineyard destroyed (*cf. Ps 80*)
 - *Funeral* (8-24): “*Woe* (הוי) to those...” (*death/sorrow*)
 - Injustice* (8-10): greedy (houses/fields) left empty
 - Revelry* (11-17): appetite for excess, devoured by death
 - Insensitive* (18-21): morally twisted, wise to self
 - Revelry & Injustice* (22-24): devour wine, devoured by fire
- Justice Coming (25-30): ‘His hand is outstretched’
 - Israel calls light darkness (20), *light darkened by coming judgment*, by YHWH & foreign foes (*Assyria*)

Trust in God (5-12)

- Isaiah's Vision (6): 'Whom shall I send?'
 - **See** (1-4): 'I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne'
[High-superior, Holy-separate & perfect; Rev. 4:8; Jn. 12:41]
'Holy One of Israel' 25x, impact of God's holiness]
 - **Sin** (5-7): 'My eye has seen the King, YHWH of hosts'
[*The more I see God, the more I'm aware of my sin; cf. Paul*]
 - **Service** (8-13): 'Here I am!' (*cleansing leads to calling*)
[don't understand/perceive, dull hearts, heavy ears, blind]
Isaiah's ministry to be completely unfruitful, to the exile!]
 - **Sovereignty & Submission**: Why should Israel trust?
[*points to God's sovereignty, pattern for Israel's response*]

Trust in God (5-12)

- Trust God or Assyria? (7-9): Are you firm in faith?
 - *Syro-Ephraimite war* (1-2): Tiglath-Pileser III (*Assyria*) pushes west; Syria & Israel want Judah's support to stand against Assyria, they join together to pressure Judah (2 Kgs. 16; 2 Chron. 28). *Where's your trust?*
 - *Stumps* (3-9): Don't trust Israel/Syria, soon be gone! "If you're not firm in faith, you will not be firm at all!"
 - *Sign* (10-13): Ask for a sign! Ahaz refuses (*pious*), appeals to Assyria (2 Kgs. 16:7), your/my God (10f), [Syria defeated, Israel annexed, Hoshea rebels, siege/exile]

“The Lord himself will give
you a sign, ‘Behold, the young
woman shall conceive and bear
a son, and shall call
his name Immanuel.’”

(7:14, RSV, NET, TNK)

Trust in God (5-12)

- Isaiah & Immanuel (7-8): 'She will conceive ...'
 - *Son*: This debate is not an issue of liberal/conservative but the meaning of Isaiah's 'sign.' Far, near, or both?
 - (1) Is Hebrew *'almah* a virgin or young woman?
[Gen. 24:43 (14), Song 6:8, Ex. 2:8; *'elem*, 1 Sam. 17:56]
 - (2) If the sign is Jesus (*far*), what is meaning for Ahaz? (*near*)
[before the child matures, Israel & Syria deserted, 15-17]
 - (3) Are Immanuel & Maher-shalal-hash-baz the same?
[birth, son, name, 'before the boy knows,' kings, Assyria]
 - (4) Is the sign the child's birth or name? 'God is with us' now
(7:14, so trust Him), in coming judgment (18-25, 8:8),
and future restoration (8:10)

Trust in God (5-12)

- Isaiah & Ideal David (9, 11): ‘a shoot from Jesse’
 - *Result* (9:1-5): dark-light, future: joy & freedom
 - *Ruler* (6-7):
 - Counsel: spiritual wise, military strategy (14:24)?
 - ‘El gibbor: God, 10:21 or man, Eze. 32:21, Ps. 82:6
 - Eternal Father: Trinity? king as father, Isa. 22:21, eternal reign, Ps. 61:7
 - Peace: spiritual? physical peace and justice (7)
 - *Ruler* (11:1-5): Davidic branch, Spirit-filled, social justice, moral righteousness
 - *Result* (6-16): safety [military/creation? when?] second exodus (Israel too!), reunited and secure

Why highlight the ambiguity
or 'shadows' of Messiah
in Isaiah's message?

“Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed . . .”

(Rom 16:25-26; cf. Matt. 26:65, Jn. 19:7)

Trust in God (5-12)

- Thanksgiving Song (12)

“Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid;

for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song,

and He has become my salvation.” (12:2; cf. Ex. 15:2)

Review

Isaiah rebukes Judah's covenant disobedience (*idolatry & injustice*), specifically highlighting their misplaced trust. He warns of coming retribution but also gives future hope for the ideal David to rule in righteousness & justice!