

Isaiah 1

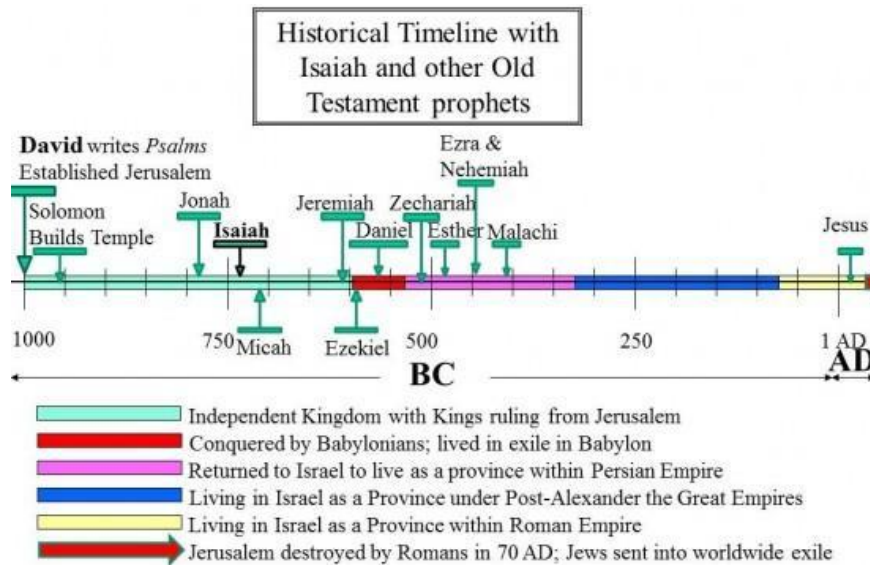
Isaiah has been called the mini-bible; because it has 66 chapters. The 66 books of the bible are divided into 39 Old Testament books of judgement, and 27 New Testament books of grace and hope. Similarly, Isaiah 1-39 is about judgement; and chapters 40-66 are about salvation and redemption. Isaiah is probably my favorite book in the bible. It has everything in it.

Section	Content Focus	Approximate Dating	Historical Context
First Isaiah (Chapters 1–39)	Warnings to Judah and Jerusalem; Assyrian crisis	8th century BCE (around 740–686 BCE)	During the reign of Kings Ahaz and Hezekiah; Assyrian threats to the Kingdom of Judah
Second Isaiah (Chapters 40–55)	Comfort and redemption; Servant songs; Babylon's fall	6th century BCE (around 550–539 BCE)	During the Babylonian exile; addresses exiled Judeans with hope of return
Third Isaiah (Chapters 56–66)	Post-exile restoration; community challenges	5th century BCE (around 520–450 BCE)	After the return from exile; focus on rebuilding and spiritual renewal

Read Isaiah 1:1-9: Isaiah was a prophet to Judah. He served during a number of Judean kings. Some of these Judean kings were somewhat compromised. King Ahaz was definitely an evil doer; but King Hezekiah was a great king. Isaiah's dad, Amoz was a brother to King Amaziah, which makes Isaiah part of the royal family. The book begins with a vision from God.

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.... (Acts 2)

Isaiah began to prophecy in 740 BC and ended in 700 BC. He warned Judah that the Babylonians were going to sack Jerusalem because of their wickedness. Isaiah may have been killed by wicked King Mansseeh after 695 BC. The first Babylonian invasion to Jerusalem was in 597 BC. The final Babylonian invasion to Jerusalem was in 586 BC. In other words, Isaiah warned Jerusalem over 100 years in advance. During Isaiah's term, the Assyrians captured and carried off the northern 10 tribes of Israel.



Isaiah begins in chapter 1 by describing how his own, protected people have ignored God and forgotten about him. The sinfulness of the Judean people is corrupt and resultantly very unhealthy.

Isaiah begins as though he is adjudicating a court case against Judah. He calls upon the heavens and the earth as witnesses to provide corroborating evidence and testimony against Judah’s unfaithfulness and treachery. Why would Isaiah ask the heavens to testify? Legal matters do require 2 or 3 witnesses. Can the moon and the sky keep a record of events on earth? Moses did the same thing:

“Listen, you heavens, and I will speak; And let the earth hear the words of my mouth! ² May my teaching drip as the rain, My speech trickle as the dew, As droplets on the fresh grass, And as the showers on the vegetation. ³ For I proclaim the name of the Lord; Ascribe greatness to our God! (Deuteronomy 32)

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have placed before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, (Deuteronomy 30)

David’s worship leader, Asaph did the same thing:

He summons the heavens above, And the earth, to judge His people: ⁵ “Gather My godly ones to Me, Those who have made a covenant with Me by sacrifice.”
⁶ *And the heavens declare His righteousness, For God Himself is judge. Selah (Psalm 50)*

What does it look like when nature witnesses man’s sins? Can an inanimate object or a non-human system combine forces of corrections against men?

¹⁹ For the eagerly awaiting creation waits for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. (Romans 8)

⁹ Then the Lord said to Cain, “Where is Abel your brother?” And he said, “I do not know. Am I my brother’s keeper?” ¹⁰ Then He said, “What have you done? The voice of your brother’s blood is crying out to Me from the ground. ¹¹ Now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother’s blood from your hand. ¹² When you cultivate the ground, it will no longer yield its strength to you; you will be a wanderer and a drifter on the earth.” (Genesis 4)

What does it look like when nature is no longer recoiling from man’s sins?

³ There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him; (Revelation 22)

I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people; And there will no longer be heard in her The voice of weeping and the sound of crying. ²⁰ No longer will there be in it an infant who lives only a few days, Or an old person who does not live out his days; For the youth will die at the age of a hundred, And the one who does not reach the age of a hundred They will not labor in vain, Or give birth to children for disaster; For they are the descendants of those blessed by the Lord, And their descendants with them. ²⁴ It will also come to pass that before they call, I will answer; while they are still speaking, I will listen. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm on all My holy mountain,” says the Lord. (Isaiah 65 various)

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights!
2 Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His heavenly armies! 3 Praise Him,
sun and moon; Praise Him, all stars of light! 4 Praise Him, highest heavens, And
the waters that are above the heavens! 5 They are to praise the name of the Lord,
For He commanded and they were created. 6 He has also established them forever
and ever; He has made a decree, and it will not pass away. 7 Praise the Lord from
the earth, Sea monsters, and all the ocean depths; 8 Fire and hail, snow
and clouds; Stormy wind, fulfilling His word; 9 Mountains and all hills; Fruit trees
and all cedars; 10 Animals and all cattle; Crawling things and winged fowl;
11 Kings of the earth and all peoples; Rulers and all judges of the earth; 12 Both
young men and virgins; Old men and children. 13 They are to praise the name of
the Lord, For His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven.
14 And He has lifted up a horn for His people, Praise for all His godly ones, For the
sons of Israel, a people near to Him. Praise the Lord! (Psalm 148)*

When you follow your personal desires and ignore God you are going to lose your health and your wealth and your quality of life. Moses said so long beforehand in Deuteronomy, as to what happens to his people when they turn their backs on God. America is getting the awful taste of what kinds of things can come our way.

15 However, if you do not obey the Lord your God and do not carefully follow all his commands and decrees I am giving you today, all these curses will come on you and overtake you: 16 You will be cursed in the city and cursed in the country. 17 Your basket and your kneading trough will be cursed. 18 The fruit of your womb will be cursed, and the crops of your land, and the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks. 19 You will be cursed when you come in and cursed when you go out. The Lord will send on you curses, confusion and rebuke in everything you put your hand to, until you are destroyed and come to sudden ruin because of the evil you have done in forsaking him. 21 The Lord will plague you with diseases until he has destroyed you from the land you are entering to possess. 22 The Lord will strike you with wasting disease, with fever and inflammation, with scorching heat and drought, with blight and mildew, which will plague you until you perish. 23 The sky over your head will be bronze, the ground beneath you iron. 24 The Lord will turn the rain of your country into dust and powder; it will come down from the skies until you are destroyed. (Deuteronomy 28)

Sin makes you stupid. The bible describes a progression into sin like the transformation of a person into something more like an animal. We truly see that in our land amongst unbelievers.

12 But these people blaspheme in matters they do not understand. They are like unreasoning animals, creatures of instinct, born only to be caught and destroyed, and like animals they too will perish. (2 Peter 2)

21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures. (Romans 1)

Sin seeks anonymity. People lie to prevent being exposed. When we lie to preserve an unhealthy lifestyle, they begin to believe their own lies.

13 But evil people and impostors will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. (2 Timothy 3)

In fact, this chapter takes it a step further, by saying that you become less rational than an animal when you sin. We become physically ill, emotionally ill and spiritually ill. The bible uses the imagery of a leper to compare to the way that sin ravages our bodies and our health and our relationships. You almost become inhuman as you sin more and more.



Leprosy may be what is being compared to sin here. You become numb to your sin. That numbness causes you to continuously damage yourself. God has built so many positive and negative reinforcements into obedience that it is completely

illogical and animal-like to keep sinning. We would be walking towards more damage and more pain and less satisfaction. He will make us forgetful and uglier so that our prospects of sin become less and less. Most of us would have become much bigger sinners if we had more opportunity to sin.

Therefore I will block her path with thornbushes; I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way. ⁷ She will chase after her lovers but not catch them; she will look for them but not find them. (Hosea 2)

Our own life becomes devastated by sin. Our friends and family become casualties to our sin. Sin is very infectious. Our assets and careers also become destroyed. I have friend who allowed drug use to take away his wife, kids, home, an owned apartment building, his job and his health.

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. (Romans 6)

What does it mean by calling them the *children of corruptors*? The Strong's Exhaustive Concordance for H2370 (corruptor), is someone who just ruins something. Case in point, are the Democrats in our land. They have not voted on crucial legislation, out of spite against our president. It is also like our beautiful State of California becoming a homeless and fraud capitol. It is the greatest state that has become a failed state in so many ways, because of corruption and sin.

TWOT Reference: 2370

KJV Translation Count — Total: 147x

The KJV translates Strong's H7843 in the following manner: destroy (96x), corrupt (22x), mar (7x), destroyer (3x), corrupters (2x), waster (2x), spoilers (2x), battered (1x), corruptly (1x), *miscellaneous* (11x).

Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I. to destroy, corrupt, go to ruin, decay
 1. (Niphal) to be marred, be spoiled, be corrupted, be corrupt, be injured, be ruined, be rotted
 2. (Piel)
 - A. to spoil, ruin
 - B. to pervert, corrupt, deal corruptly (morally)
 3. (Hiphil)
 - A. to spoil, ruin, destroy
 - B. to pervert, corrupt (morally)
 - C. destroyer (participle)
 4. (Hophal) spoiled, ruined (participle)

Strong's Definitions [?] (Strong's Definitions Legend)

תָּשַׁח *shāchath*, shaw-khath'; a primitive root; to decay, i.e. (causatively) ruin (literally or figuratively):—batter, cast off, corrupt(-er, thing), destroy(-er, -uction), lose, mar, perish, spill, spoiler, ✘ utterly, waste(-r).

What about the agnostic claim that their undecided position has no bearing on anyone? They claim to be uninvolved in religious matters altogether. That is an argument from personal convenience; but is not biblical.

³⁰ *The one who is not with Me is against Me; and the one who does not gather with Me scatters. (Matthew 12)*

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.” (1 Samuel 15)

Consider how the ancient Jews initially merely added idolatry to supplement their traditions to honor God. They did not remove God altogether. That is Satan’s claim. They just added *other options*. It is like us adding Islam to the smorgasbord. The long-term result is always to hate God and literally kill themselves trying to escape his hand on their lives. The long-term effect of not loving God is hating God.

Read Isaiah 1:10-17: It is interesting how God’s representatives can become the scum of the earth...even while participating in the sacrifices, etc... The Pharisees observed every small religious ceremony; and yet were ultimately control freaks

more than true lovers of God. They made life a living hell on many people and cherished their position of privilege.

The Pharisees were formed to re-teach Jews how to be Jews. This tradition started about 100 years before Jesus came. They began teaching the Hebrew language and the Bible to a nation that had lost their identity. The Greeks assimilated the entire world into their language. The Jews were pressured to abandon their faith and accept more fashionable religions.

The Jews were good at keeping old rituals; but not as good embracing the underlying messages. The holy holidays were not so holy. The sacrifices were a mindless exercise and an embarrassment to God. The Jews thought that killing an animal showed your degree of commitment to the faith. In reality, it was supposed to be a revolting abuse of an innocent animal. That is what the blood of the Lamb is all about. It is my fault. That is why blood occasionally splattered on the people. God wanted broken hearts and appreciation and real conversations...not a dress rehearsal.

Isaiah 58 says it pretty well:

...they seek Me day by day and delight to know My ways, As a nation that has done righteousness And has not forsaken the ordinance of their God. They ask Me for just decisions, They delight in the nearness of God. ³ 'Why have we fasted and You do not see? Why have we humbled ourselves and You do not notice?' Behold, on the day of your fast you find your desire, And oppress all your workers. ⁴ Behold, you fast for contention and strife, and to strike with a wicked fist. You do not fast like you have done today to make your voice heard on high! ⁵ Is it a fast like this that I choose, a day for a person to humble himself? Is it for bowing one's head like a reed And for spreading out sackcloth and ashes as a bed? Will you call this a fast, even an acceptable day to the LORD? ⁶ Is this not the fast that I choose: To release the bonds of wickedness, To undo the ropes of the yoke, And to let the oppressed go free, And break every yoke? ⁷ Is it not to break your bread with the hungry And bring the homeless poor into the house; When you see the naked, to cover him; And not to hide yourself from your own flesh? ⁸ Then your light will break out like the dawn, And your recovery will spring up quickly; And your righteousness will go before you; The glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. ⁹ Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; You will cry for help, and He will say, 'Here I am.' If you remove the yoke from your midst, The pointing of the finger and speaking wickedness, ¹⁰ And if you offer yourself to the hungry And satisfy the

need of the afflicted, Then your light will rise in darkness, And your gloom will become like midday. ¹¹ And the LORD will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail. ¹² Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, The restorer of the streets in which to dwell...(Isaiah 58)

True faith is all about helping the people who need help as an act of love for God. It is not about being a religion compliance cop.

Read Isaiah 1:13-17: Do you think that God would rather have you go to church regularly or to meet him privately and help your neighbor? This chapter is telling us that *playing church* is sickening to God. God wants us to live out love and justice according to what our neighbors can actually see. We are surrounded by needy people for a reason.

Read Isaiah 1:18-31: Most people get it all wrong. They want to put on a good front for God and for other Christians. What God is saying here is that he wants intellectual honesty. He wants brutal candor about our weaknesses. That truth is the starting point, or base to build on. If we accept God for who he says he is, then he can accept us for what we know we are. Beyond this, repentance is not just having regrets. It's going in the opposite direction.

When was Jerusalem actually a faithful city? It certainly was not during most of the period of the various Judean kings. It may refer to David's reign. Now it is a pit of treachery and sin.