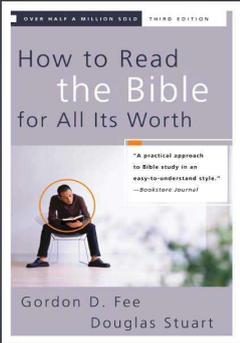


Isaiah

SESSION 1 – THE WIDE-ANGLED LENS



Recommended...



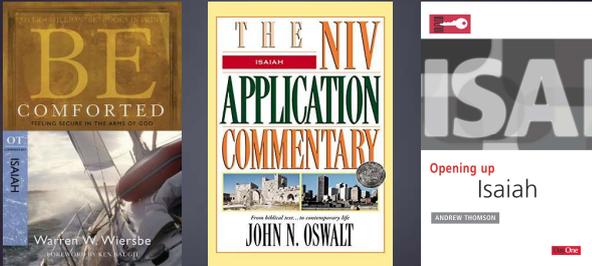
OVER HALF A MILLION SOLD THIRD EDITION

How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth

"A practical approach to Bible study in an easy-to-understand style."
—*Evangelical Journal*

Gordon D. Fee
Douglas Stuart

Recommended...



BE COMFORTED
FEELING SECURE IN THE ARMS OF GOD
Warren W. Wiersbe

THE NIV APPLICATION COMMENTARY
ISAIAH
From biblical text... to contemporary life
JOHN N. OSWALT

Opening up Isaiah
ANDREW THOMPSON

Online resources



Logos Bible Software 6

▶ www.logos.com

Asking good questions

- Who?
- What?
- When?
- Where?
- How?
- Why?

3 Levels of Scripture

Top Level – what is God doing? What's the universal plan?

Middle Level – what is happening with the people, the nation of Israel?

Bottom Level – what is happening with the individual?

Who are the prophets?

How many prophets are in the Bible?

A: 81 named male and female prophets + references to groups/schools of prophets

"...of the hundreds of prophets in ancient Israel in Old testament times, only 16 were chosen to speak oracles (messages from God) that would be collected and written up into books." G. Fee & D. Stuart

Out of place and time

- ▶ Much of the major and minor prophets are written in a way which doesn't make clear the context in which they're written
- ▶ Some extra work is needed to place the words of the prophets and get the most of their writings

Function of OT Prophecy

"Throughout the OT the prophet's basic message remained the same: recalling Israel to her covenant faith."

W. Dyrness

Who is Isaiah?

Isaiah – some facts

Name means – The Lord saves

Contemporary Prophets:

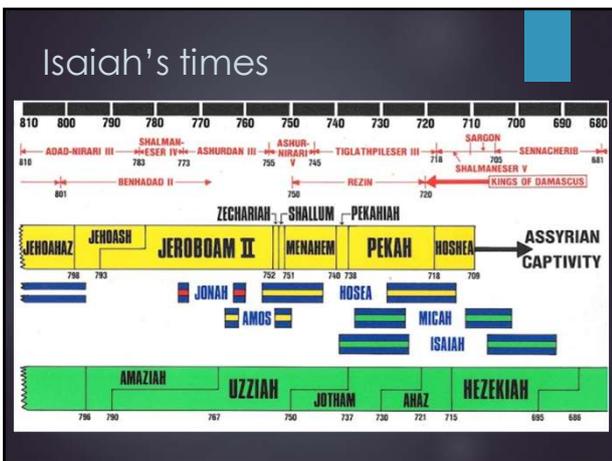
- Hosea – Israel
- Micah – Judah
- Amos (Possibly) – Israel

Married – (8:3) to 'the prophetess'

Sons - Shear-Jashub means "a remnant shall return" (7:3)
 Maher-shalal-hash-baz means "Swift to the booty, speedy to the prey" (8:1-3)

Parallel books:

- 2 Kings 19-20
- 2 Chronicles 26 and 32



Isaiah's monarchy ministry periods

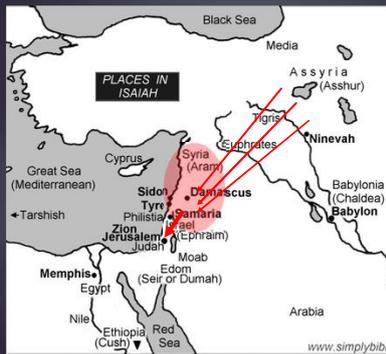
Uzziah (1-4 years) faithful for the most till the end

Jotham (16-20 Years) did what was right before God

Ahaz (16 Years) unfaithful from the outset

Hezekiah (25 Years) There was no other like him
(2 Kings 18:5)

Isaiah's times - Ahaz



Syria (Aram) and Israel attempt to conquer Judah

Ahaz defiles the temple and enters into paid protection with Assyria who conquer and deport Israel

Though Judah are spared, they are under a vassal status

Isaiah's monarchy ministry periods

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Pause for discussion

- ▶ Isaiah lived and prophesied in times of great instability and also great prosperity. What factors led to both of those ends?
- ▶ How does our context today compare with Isaiah's?

Isaiah's Book

- ▶ Isaiah is referred to over 90 times in the New Testament
- ▶ Isaiah can be viewed as a Bible in miniature
- ▶ Part 1 – The Book of Judgement (39 Chapters)
- ▶ Part 2 – The Book of Comfort (27 Chapters)

Judgement (in broad sections)

- ▶ Against Judah and Israel (1-12)
- ▶ Against Assyria and surrounding nations (13-23)
- ▶ Judgement and promise of future restoration (24-27)
- ▶ Woes on the people and Assyria (28-33)
- ▶ Judgement and promise (34-35)
- ▶ Historical transition (36-38)
- ▶ Babylonian captivity predicted (39)

Comfort (in broad sections)

- ▶ Deliverance from captivity (40-48)
- ▶ God's authority and power over Babylon's gods (40-46)
- ▶ The fall of Babylon (47)
- ▶ The servant that would obey, suffer and bring glory (49-57)
- ▶ Promise of everlasting deliverance and judgement (58-66)

Poetry

"The language of poetry is imagery. It is designed to stir the emotions and create vivid mental pictures, not feed the intellect. Consequently, poetry uses devices such as simile, metaphor, personification, and hyperbole to create images that evoke a sensory experience in our imagination. It is therefore important that we be able to identify and interpret the devices of poetic language. Poetry must be read, understood, and interpreted as poetry."

Question for discussion

- ▶ The prophets called the nation back to covenant relationship; since your salvation, how has God spoken into your life in ways which have kept you or called you back into the faith?

Isaiah is the prophet we need to hear today as he cries out God's message above the din of world upheaval, "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" ...

When Isaiah says to us, "Be comforted!" it is not a word of pity but of power. God's comfort does not weaken us; it strengthens us. God is not indulging us but empowering us. "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength."

W. Wiersbe
