

Purpose

To call the nation of Judah back to God and to tell of God's salvation through the Messiah

Meaning of Name

"God saves"

Date Written

The events of Chapters 1-39 occurred during Isaiah's ministry (700 BC). Chapters 40-66, however, may have been written near the end of his life (681 BC).

Setting

Jerusalem

Key Verse

"He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped and we were healed."

Isaiah 53:5

Key People

Isaiah and the people of Judah

Special Features

The *Book of Isaiah* has 66 chapters, just like the Bible, with two divisions falling exactly between Chapters 39 and 40, which would be *Malachi* and *Matthew*.

An Overview (66 Chapters)

- Words of Judgment (*1:1-39:8*) that focus on Israel's past sins
- Words of Comfort (*40:1-66:24*) that focus on Israel's redemption

Major Themes

- *Holiness*: God is highly exalted above all His creatures. Because God is without sin, He alone can help us with our sin. Because of His perfection and holiness, we should never treat Him as common or ordinary. He alone deserves our devotion and praise. He is always faithful and just.
- *Punishment*: Because God is holy, He requires His people to treat others justly. He promised to punish Israel and Judah and other nations for faithless immorality and idolatry. Their true faith had degenerated into national pride and empty religious rituals.
- *Salvation*: Because God's judgment is coming, we need a Savior. No man or nation can be saved without God's help. Christ's perfect sacrifice for our sins is foretold and portrayed in *Isaiah*. All who trust God can be freed from their sin and restored to Him.
- *Messiah*: God will send the Messiah to save His people. He will come as sovereign Lord, but He will do so as a servant who will die to take away sins. There is hope in Him.