

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 113

Isaiah Chapter 48

We will complete our verse-by-verse study of chapter 48 this evening, and consider an application to our Christian lives.

Verse-by-verse

Verses 17-22: The Lord continues to speak. Only now He addresses the **future exiles in Babylon**. First, He laments their past disobedience (in verses 17-19). Then suddenly, the Lord rescues them! He implores them to leave Babylon, and to joyfully declare to the whole world that the Lord has redeemed them!

In **verse 17**, the Lord tells the Jews that He is (1) their Redeemer, (2) the Holy One of Israel, (3) their God, (4) their teacher, and (5) their leader.....NOT their idols! (Isaiah 49:9-10).

In **verses 18 and 19**, the Lord looks back to all of the generations of Israel who rejected His word and disobeyed His commands (Deuteronomy 5:29). If only Psalm 81:8-16. But now, because of their disobedience, their name has been cut off and Jerusalem has been destroyed. The blessings won't come to pass until the Messianic Kingdom comes.

In **verse 20**, we reach the climax of this chapter and all of chapters 40-48. This is a summons beforehand to the Jews who would be captives in 539 BC. The moment has arrived. The Lord's agent, Cyrus, has defeated the Babylonians. The Lord issues the command: move out! See Jeremiah 51:6; Zechariah 2:6-7.

Take advantage of **the edict of Cyrus!** Cyrus issued a decree in 538 allowing the Jews to return to their homeland. But only about 50,000 returned under the leadership of Zerubbabel (Ezra 1:1-4; 2:1-2, 64-67).

In **verse 21**, Isaiah harkens back to the Exodus from Egypt. He is asking the Jews to recall the Lord's mercy and provision then. The Lord provided water in the desert and water out of the rock. He did so in the former times (**Exodus 17:6-7 – Meribah; Psalm 78:15-16,20**; He would do so again. See **Isaiah 35:6-7; 41:17-20; 43:19-20 – the rescue from Babylon; Isaiah 49:10 – Messianic Kingdom.**

Verse 22 is a somewhat surprising ending, until you realize that the disobedience of the Jews would not end with the end of the Babylonian Captivity but would continue unabated. Only a minority would flee to Zion.

Military deliverance is one thing. But they (and all men) need to be redeemed from their sins. This sets the stage for the arrival of the Suffering Servant - our Lord Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Application

1. The Lord freed the Jews from Babylon in 538 BC. Unfortunately, only a minority took advantage of this freedom to return to Zion. We have been freed from condemnation, the burden of the Law, slavery to sin, and the fear of death. How are we to respond? How are we to use our freedom? For help, see Romans 6:6-7,11-14; 7:4,6; 8:1-4; Galatians 3:10-14; 5:1,13-15.

Isaiah Chapters 49 -57

We are now starting the second great section of the second half of the book of Isaiah. We start with the big picture. To do this, we will return to the Orientation material from the beginning of this series on Isaiah.

1. What is the scope of Isaiah's prophetic vision?

His vision is telescopic.

It begins with the period of his lifetime,
extends next to the fall of Jerusalem
and the captivity of the Jews in Babylon,
then to their deliverance by Cyrus the king of Persia,
to the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ the Messiah,
all the way to the Tribulation period,
the Second Coming of Christ,
the Millennial kingdom,
and finally arriving at the eternal state – the New Heavens and the New Earth.

2. What is a good outline to follow?

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| PART ONE: JUDGMENT | Chapters 1-39 |
| Of Judah | Chapters 1-12 |
| Of Gentile nations | Chapters 13-23 |
| Future Tribulation and Kingdom | Chapters 24-27 |
| Of Israel and Judah (woes and blessings) | Chapters 28-35 |
| Deliverance of Hezekiah | Chapters 36-39 |
| | |
| PART TWO: COMFORT | Chapters 40-66 |
| The Greatness of God | Chapters 40-48 |
| The Salvation of the Servant-Messiah | Chapters 49-57 |
| The Program of God for Peace | Chapters 58-66 |

There are relatively few historical references in chapters 40-66. Similarly, there are few direct statements that identify speaker and audience.

God knows and plans the future. These amazing prophecies in chapters 40-66 demonstrate this. These prophecies are supernatural revelations from God about His plans for the future.

One day the Lord will come in glory and power to redeem His people, transform nature, establish justice, and bring people from many nations into His kingdom – which will never end.

There are 3 parts to the last half of Isaiah (chapters 40-66). Each part or subdivision is 9 chapters in length. The three parts are **chapters 40-48, 49-57, and 58-66**.

The three parts are variations of the one major message of the last half of Isaiah: **redemption and comfort for the LORD's people**. Each part or subsection adds its own layer to the grandeur of this redemption:

| | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Isaiah 40-48 | The greatness of God | in delivering Israel from Babylon |
| Isaiah 49-57 | The salvation of the Servant-Messiah | in redeeming the human race from sin |
| Isaiah 58-66 | The program of God for peace | in establishing the Messianic Kingdom |

The first few verses of each subsection give the keynote for that part.

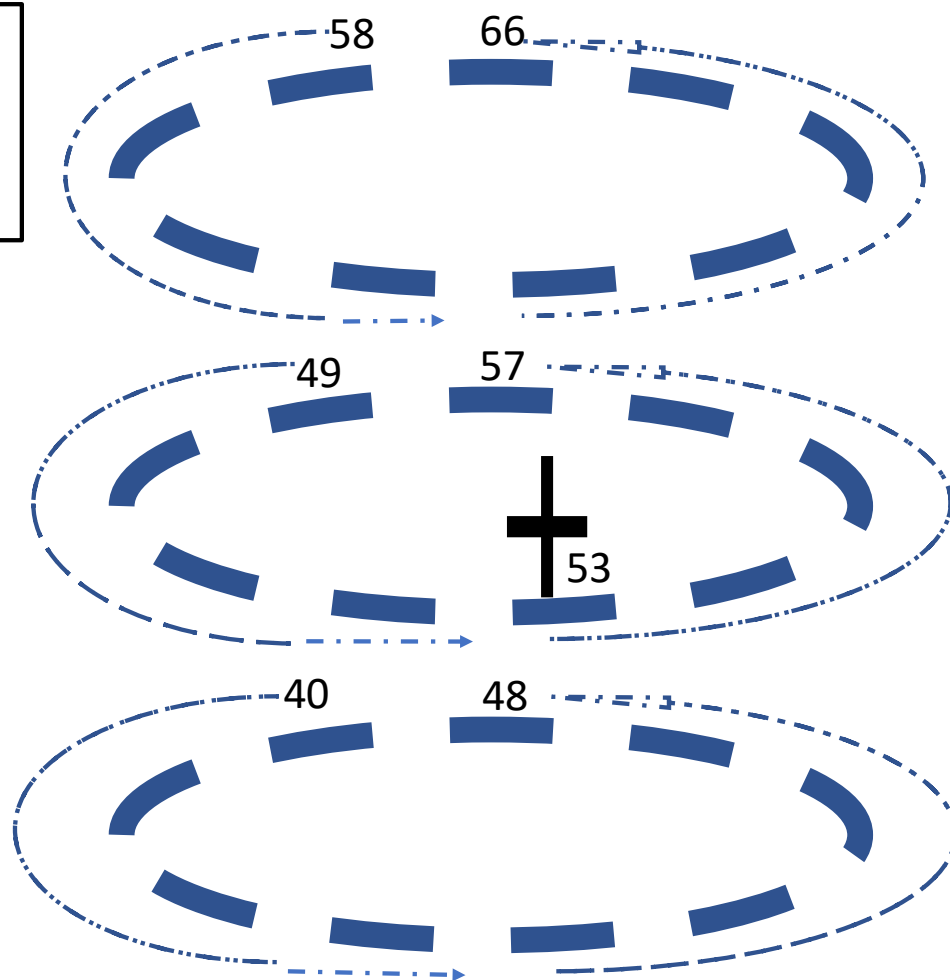
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| Isaiah 40:1-11 | The greatness of God |
| Isaiah 49:1-6 | The salvation of the Servant-Messiah |
| Isaiah 58:1-12 | The program of God for peace |

Each part ends on the same note – one of warning:
Isaiah 48:22; Isaiah 57:21, and Isaiah 66:24.

We have now completed the first subdivision: chapters 40-48.

Next week we will begin in chapter 49, which is the first chapter in the second subdivision.

The 3 orbits
of
Isaiah 40-66

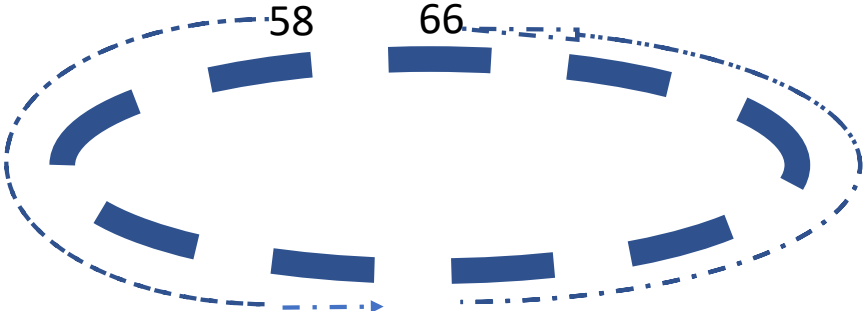


Establishing
the Messianic
Kingdom

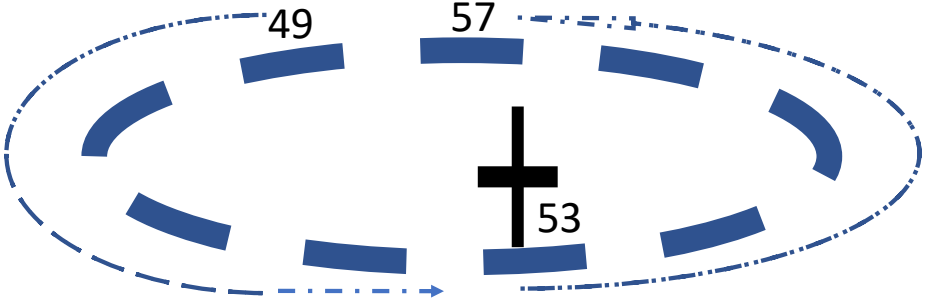
Redeeming the
human race
from sin

Delivering
Israel from
Babylon

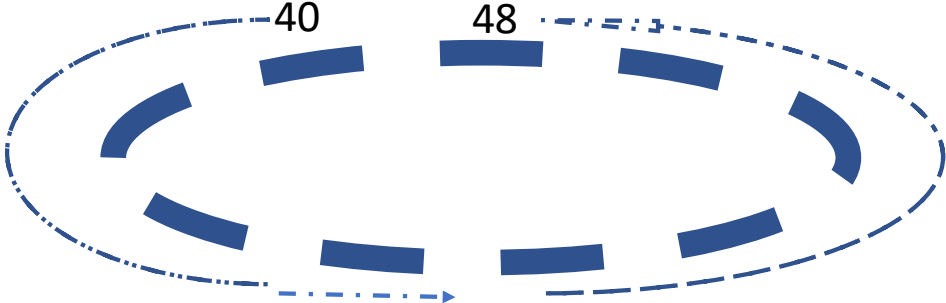
The 3 orbits
of
Isaiah 40-66



The program
of God for
peace



The salvation
of the Servant-
Messiah



The greatness
of God