

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 114

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?

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There are relatively few historical references in chapters 40-66.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.

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.

I finish this overview of chapters 44-66 with a paragraph from the Keil and Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament:

“Second Half of the Collection”, page 2

And when we turn to the contents of his trilogy, it is more incomparable still.

It commences with a prophecy, which gave to John the Baptist the great theme of his preaching. It closes with the prediction of the creation of a new heaven and new earth, beyond which even the last page of the New Testament Apocalypse cannot go.

And in the centre (Isa 52:13 - 53) the sufferings and exaltation of Christ are proclaimed as clearly, as if the prophet had stood beneath the cross itself, and had seen the Risen Saviour. He is transported to the very commencement of the New Testament times, and begins just like the New Testament evangelists.

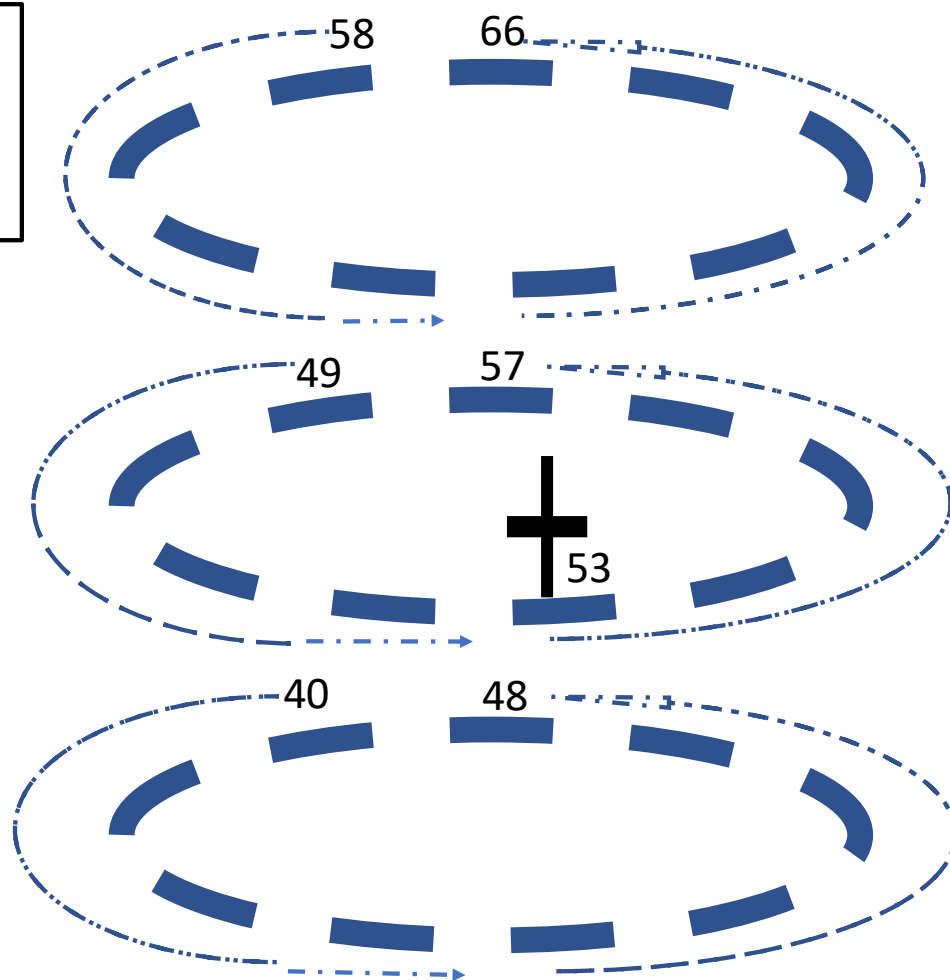
He afterwards describes the death and resurrection of Christ as completed events, with all the clearness of a Pauline discourse.

And lastly, he clings to the heavenly world beyond, like John in the Apocalypse. Yet the Old Testament limits are not disturbed; but within those limits, evangelist, apostle, and apocalyptist are all condensed into one.

(from Keil and Delitzsch Commentary on the Old Testament: New Updated Edition, Electronic Database. Copyright © 1996 by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.)

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

The 3 orbits
of
Isaiah 40-66

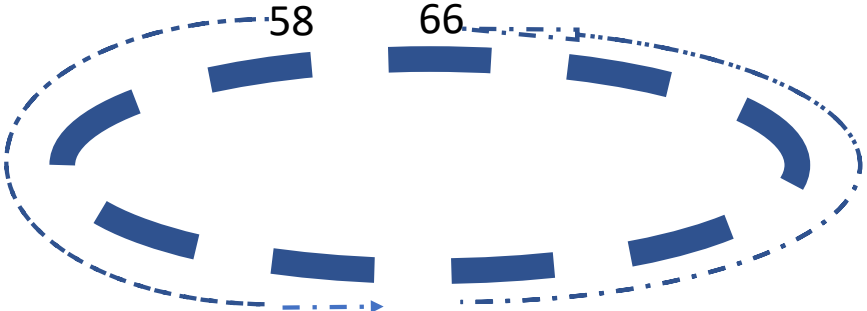


Establishing
the Messianic
Kingdom

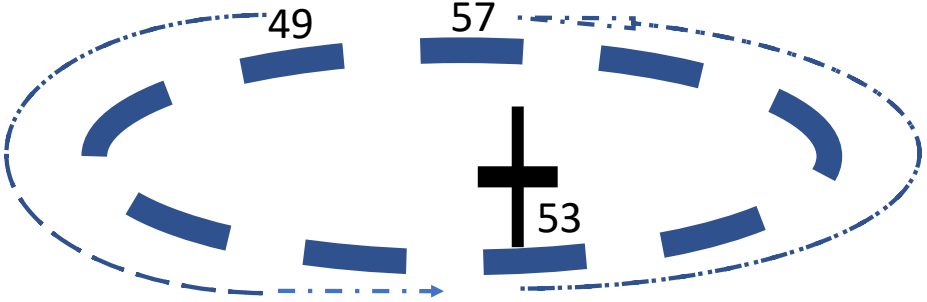
Redeeming the
human race
from sin

Delivering
Israel from
Babylon

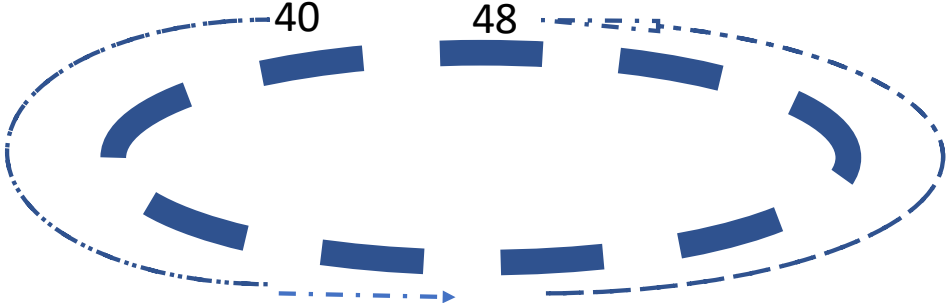
The 3 orbits
of
Isaiah 40-66



The program
of God for
peace



The salvation
of the Servant-
Messiah



The greatness
of God