

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 115

Isaiah Chapters 40-66

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

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.)

Isaiah Chapters 49 -57

Overview

The theme of these chapters is the Person and work of God's Servant who will bring salvation to Israel and the nations.

There are **three Servant Songs in chapters 49-53**. A Servant Song is a poem dedicated to an aspect of the Servant of the Lord. Each Servant Song is followed by a proclamation of salvation. All told, there are four Servant Songs in the book of Isaiah. We saw the first one in chapter 42.

Here are all four Servant Songs:

Isaiah 42:1-7	Isaiah 49:1-9	Isaiah 50:4-9	Isaiah 52:13-53:12
The righteous Servant chosen to bring forth justice to the nations	The Servant named in the womb to restore Israel to the LORD and bring the light of salvation to the ends of the earth	The obedient Servant even to the point of suffering	The suffering Servant who dies for the sins of the people and is raised from the dead.

Chapter 54 is the *call for the Jewish remnant to rejoice and sing* of their salvation. This call is directed to the remnant of Israel in the last days. After the call to sing, the Lord gives promises to that remnant. They refer to the blessings of Israel at the Second Coming of Christ. Let's read **Isaiah 54:1-8**.

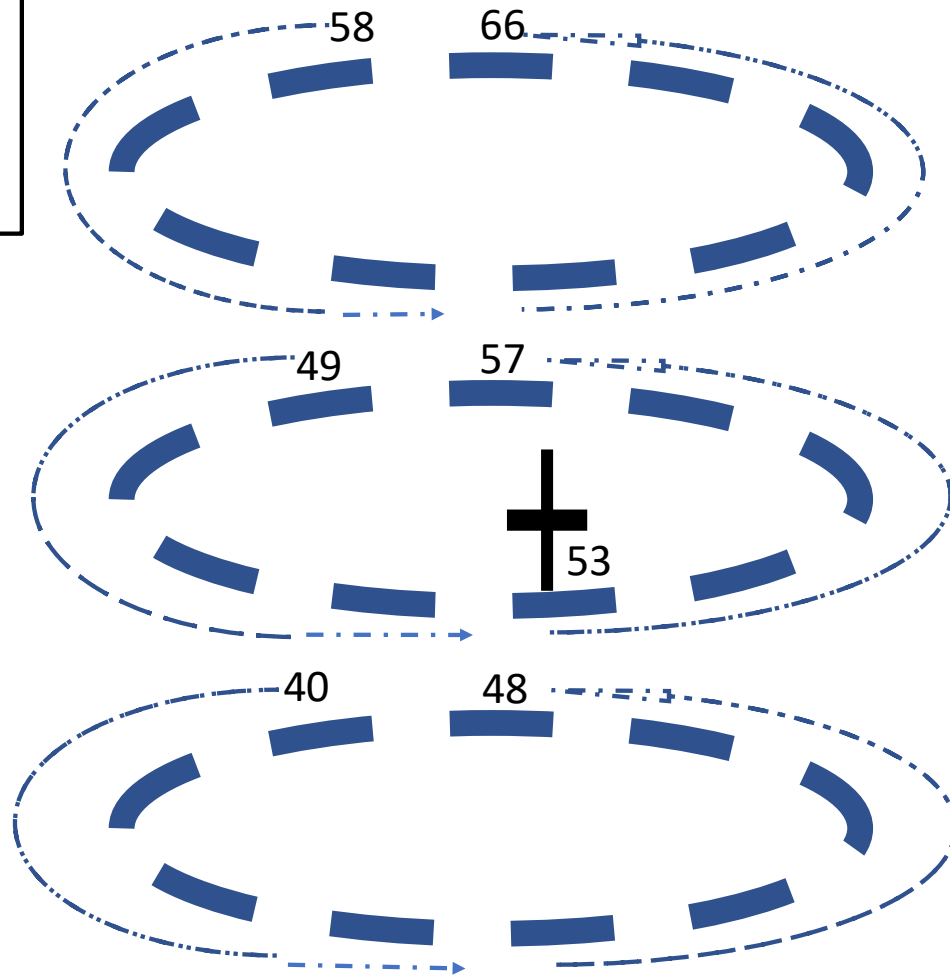
Chapter 55 is the *glorious invitation* for all men everywhere to partake of the salvation which the Servant – the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ – accomplished by His death on the cross. This salvation is received as a gracious gift through faith. Let's read **Isaiah 55:1-5**.

Isaiah 56:1-8 is practical. It calls the redeemed, both Jew and Gentile, to *live righteous lives* in response to their redemption. It anticipates the millennial blessings being extended to the Gentiles. Let's read **Isaiah 56:1-8**.

Isaiah 56:9-57:21 issues a *rebuke* to those who refuse this salvation but gives *comfort* to the lowly and contrite who seek to be faithful to the Lord. Let's read **Isaiah 57:11-15**.

Next week, we will begin our chapter by chapter, verse by verse study in **chapter 49**.

The 3 orbits
of
Isaiah 40-66

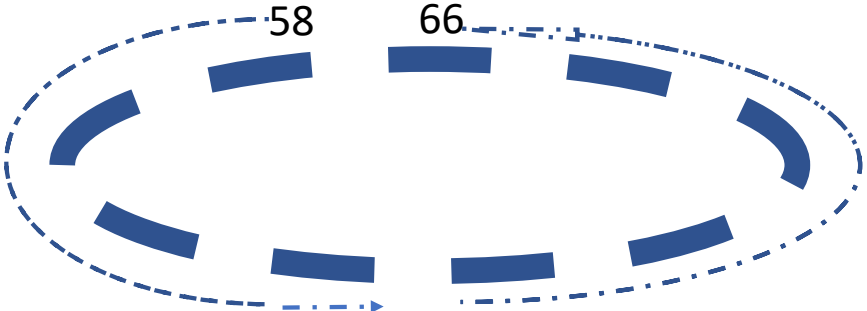


Establishing
the Messianic
Kingdom

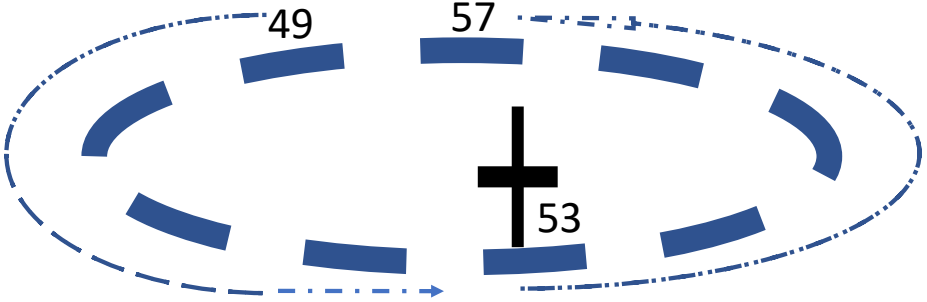
Redeeming the
human race
from sin

Delivering
Israel from
Babylon

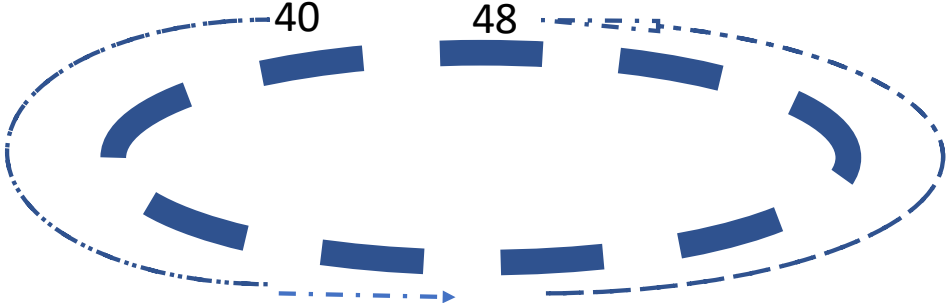
The 3 orbits
of
Isaiah 40-66



The program
of God for
peace



The salvation
of the Servant-
Messiah



The greatness
of God