

Isaiah Discussion Qs

1. What is the time of Isaiah in relation to the northern and southern captivities, and how does Isaiah fit temporally with the other books of the Divided Kingdom leading up to the Assyrian exile in 722?

Amos - anticipates destruction by Assyria about 40 years before it occurs
Jonah - about the same time as Amos, Jonah preaches in the Assyrian capital
Isaiah - lived through the Assyrian captivity and anticipates Babylon
Hosea - anticipates and overlaps the destruction of Samaria by the Assyrians
Micah - contemporaneous with Isaiah, Micah prophesies both captivities

These temporal notes form the basis for placing these five books together in reading through the OT; all these prophets lived before and anticipated the Assyrian captivity. They are all prophets of the Divided Kingdom.

2. What is the message of Isaiah for us?

1) Our comfort is that God is saving a remnant today in this time between the comings of Christ. Yes, He judges, but He saves Israel and the nations in remnant (cf. His sword, Mat 10).

Paul repeats Isaiah in Romans 10:21 on the sinfulness of Israel and on God's hardening (Rom. 11:7-8; He passed over them in judgment leaving them as clay in the sunlight of his holiness and thus hardened them). However, He will deliver them in covenant fulfillment (11:26-27 quoting Isa. 59.10) in the remnant (Rom. 9:29 quoting Isa. 1.9). The remnant is how all Israel is saved (Rom. 11:26).

2) How does God save Israel and the nations in remnant?

It is through the coming king who is the suffering servant of Isaiah 53. He was stricken smitten and afflicted (v. 7) but the deepest stroke that pierced him was the stroke that justice gave (v. 10a). His death is efficacious (10b-11; He will have an offspring; 1 Peter 2:24, "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree").