

The Book of Isaiah—Study Guide (Chapters 11-17)

The Bible always takes precedence in our study of God's Word. (II Tim. 3:16-17; II Pet. 1:20-21) This guide, therefore, is just a "help" and is compiled from Ambassador classes, the Soncino commentary & personal study.

Chapter 11: The Messianic age to come.

1: This prophecy is also found in Jeremiah 23:5-6. Notice that the specificity of this prophecy refers to Christ in Matt. 22:41-45, Luke 1:32-33, and Revelation 22:16.

2: The Spirit of God consists of wisdom, might, counsel, knowledge, etc.

3: Christ delights in the fear of God. He will not judge by outward appearances. Christ mentions this as a requirement in judging--John 7:24.

4: Christ will judge with equity, and He will not tolerate the wicked. The poor will be finally judged rightly—with compassion and fairness, not with oppression. Notice Revelation 19:11-15.

5: Righteousness and faithfulness will be His belt. He girds these traits. Notice Ephesians 6:14.

6-8: The nature of animals will be changed so that a little child will lead them, and will not be harmed. Notice Hosea 2:18 and Isaiah 65:25. Another similar prophecy is found in Ezekiel 34:25-27.

9: No hurt or destruction will occur in the Kingdom, because the knowledge of God will be in all the earth.

10: Christ will be a banner for all peoples—Gentiles included. Notice this in Romans 15:8-12.

11: A second exodus will occur from Egypt, and Assyria, and the nations allied with them. Notice this prophecy in Zechariah 10:8-10 and Jeremiah 16:14-15. Pathros was known as lower Egypt, or Thebes. Cush was further south, now known as Ethiopia. Elam was beyond the Tigris river—east of Babylon, now part of the area of southern Iran. Shinar is now part of the area of southern Iraq. Hamath was north in the area of Syria, and the islands of the sea could mean toward the west.

12: Outcasts of Judah and Israel will be gathered together—showing that they will have been exiles.

13: Israel and Judah will cooperate, and their enemies will be cut off. Notice the same prophecy in Jer.3:17-18

14: The shoulder of the Philistines was along the Mediterranean coast. Edom, Moab, and Ammon are toward the east of Jerusalem, known today as the nation of Jordan and the Palestinian strongholds within.

15: The Euphrates will dry up, and other rivers as well so that the remnant can return. (Note: The Euphrates will have dried up earlier to allow armies to march against Christ—Rev. 16:12)

16: A highway coming out of Assyria will be likened to the highway that Israel took coming out of Egypt.

Chapter 12: A hymn of praise toward God.

1: This is a hymn with words of praise and song offered by Israel to God in that day.

2: YAH is the covenant name for God. "I am who I am". See Exodus 3:13-15. These words of the hymn are also found in Exodus 15:2. Notice this as well in Rev. 15:3-4.

3: Water will be drawn from the wells of salvation. Refers to the receiving of the Holy Spirit. John 4:10, 14.

4-6: Again we read of the praises that will be said in that day. Notice Zephaniah 3:14-17 & Psalm 105:1-6.

Chapter 13: Prophecy against Babylon

1: A “burden” in Hebrew literally means a heavy load. In context, it means a “full load or full message” It also means to, “lift the voice”—as to a repeated theme or message, in this case, God’s utterance against Babylon.

2: Notice Jeremiah 51:24-25. This is a reference to Babylon’s destruction.

3: God’s sanctified ones, and His mighty ones could be referring to the angels and to the resurrected saints.

4-5: This great battle is discussed in Joel 3:9-17.

6-8: Description of the Day of the Lord. This is quoted again in Joel 1:15. Also note I Thess. 5:1-4.

9-10: A disruption in the universe will take place. Notice this again in Joel 2:30-31.

11: The whole world will be punished. Arrogance and pride will be destroyed. Notice Jeremiah 50:31-32.

12: Few survivors will be left. Ophir was a well-known gold mining area in Arabia, located in modern Yemen. Solomon more than likely used gold from this mine for the temple. Notice Psalm 45:9, I Kings 10:11, 14-15.

13: A description once again of the Day of the Lord. This is also noted in Haggai 2:6-8.

14-18: This section seems to focus on Babylon’s first destruction in 539 BC and is a type of the destruction to come upon Babylon in the future. The Medes (located in the area south of the Caspian Sea, in modern Iran) are noted as coming against Babylon. (Daniel 5:28,31.

19-22: The following verses seem to focus on the end time events against Babylon. It will be as Sodom. Notice the phraseology in Revelation 18:6-10.

Chapter 14: Continuation of prophecy against Babylon. The fall of Lucifer is noted.

1-2: After the destruction of Babylon, Israel will return to the land. Strangers will cling to Israel for hope. The captors will now be the captives of Israel. Notice a similar prophecy in Isaiah 49:22-23.

3-4: After Israel is rescued from captivity; Israel will sing the contents of the following verses against Babylon.

5-8: The whole earth will be at peace. Notice a similar prophecy in Psalm 125:1-4.

9-11: This section is a prophecy of the death of the Babylonian system.

12: A new section describing Satan’s downfall—similar to what will have occurred to physical Babylon.

13-15: Incredible section showing what happened prior to Adam and Eve. Satan was determined to kick God out of heaven, but was cast down instead. Notice similar statements in Ezekiel 28:12-16. Christ mentions that He saw Satan’s overthrow. Luke 10:17-20. (“Farthest sides of the north” has been speculated as to the location of God’s throne).

16-17: These verses revert back to the description of the physical king of Babylon. Revelation 18:15-18.

18-21: Unlike the kings of the earth who are dead and buried, the king of this Babylonian system will receive a greater consequence for his evils. He will be thrown into the Lake of Fire as it says in Revelation 19:19-21.

22-23: Destruction of Babylon emphasized again. No name, remnant, offspring, or posterity will be left.

24: Whatever God thinks or purposes it will come to pass.

25-27: Instead of Babylon, God now indicts Assyria. This section of scripture also indicates that end time events will affect the whole earth—not just something taking place in the area of Jerusalem.

28: King Ahaz of Judah died in about 720 BC. (About 1 year after Israel went into captivity) His son, Hezekiah reigned in his stead. Ahaz's reign is described in II Kings 16.

29-31: This is a prophecy against Philistia. (This is the area of land in modern Israel along the Mediterranean coast—especially along the Gaza strip). Philistia had grown in power during the reign of Ahaz, and was later subdued by Hezekiah. (II Kings 18:1,5-8). But, this is also a warning of the coming destruction by Assyria.

32: The chapter concludes with a millennial setting. Zion will be established. So, the above verses are also describing events that will take place during the Day of the Lord. Future Zion will include the lands of the Philistines—the Gaza strip and along the Mediterranean coast.

Chapter 15: Prophecy against Moab.

1: Moab is located just east of the Dead Sea—in the area of southern Jordan. Ar was a major city on the Arnon river. Kir was also a fortified city known as Kir-Haraseth. It was infamously known for the sacrifice that took place on its walls. Notice II Kings 3:24-27.

2-3: Destruction of the cities of Moab. Dibon was a pastoral type area just east of the Jordan river. Nebo was located in the mountains—near the mountain from which Moses viewed the Promised Land. Medeba was a sanctuary for the Moabites. It was a city of antiquity, and had extensive cisterns—hence the origin of the name, Medeba meaning “water of quiet”.

4: Heshbon and Jahaz were once chosen as Levitical cities during the time of Joshua. See Josh. 21:36-39. Elealeh was a small town near Heshbon. The destruction of those two cities would be heard in Jahaz which was located near Dibon about 20 miles south.

5: Zoar was the city located in the plains, and was the place to which Lot and his daughters fled. A heifer of three years old referred to the idea of being full of strength and health. The ascent of Luhith was a group of mountains to which the Moabites would flee. Horonaim is located on the mountains of Luhith.

6-7: The waters of Nimrim were located just southeast of the Dead Sea—they were the waters in a fertile part of Moab. The Brook of the Willows was apparently on the southern border of Moab.

8: Eglaim was located on the northern border and Beer Elim was on the southern border of Moab.

9: Dimon was the river in the area of Dibon—just east of the Jordan river. (Read Jeremiah 48: Jeremiah's account gives more background about the happenings in Moab, which helps us understand the next chapter).

Chapter 16: Continued prophecy against Moab.

1: The burden of Moab follows from the above verse. Advice is given to Moab to send a lamb, which represented the usual tribute, to Zion. Notice what the regular tribute to Judah was in II Kings 3:4. Sela means rock, or Petra, a city of Moab. Notice II Kings 14:7.

2: The River Arnon was the border between Moab and Israel. The modern Moabites are described as being thrown out of their nest—or territory. The remnant of Moab seems to be small and feeble.

3-4: Yet, Moab is to hide God's outcasts. Much speculation exists that this area of the wilderness in Moab, including Petra, may be the place in which God's people are protected. (Revelation 12:14)

5: The time period of these events is noted by this verse—the return of Christ as King is prophesied.

6-7: The pride of Moab will be removed. See Jeremiah 48:29. Kir Hareseth was noted in the last chapter as the city which was infamously known for the sacrifice that occurred on its walls.

8-9: A repeat of what we read in the last chapter as to what will happen to the fertile areas of Moab. Sibmah was a well-known wine producing area. Its wines were found at king's tables.

10-12: The vineyards will be destroyed. Their prayers to their gods will not prevail in saving them.

13-14: The prophecies against Moab have been stated, "But now"—refers to the current situation. Moab would be destroyed within three years from the time of this prophecy. The years of a hireling were fixed—so too was Moab's destruction. It would happen "sooner than later".

Chapter 17: Prophecies concerning Damascus and the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

1: This first verse deals with a prophecy about Damascus. It is the capital of Syria: Notice Isaiah 7:8.

2: The city of Aroer was near the Arnon river in the country of Moab. (See Deut. 2:36). Apparently, this prophecy shows that Damascus will become as those cities—which became grazing lands instead of cities.

3: A description concerning the fall of Ephraim and Damascus—the remnant will be as the glory of the children of Israel. This indicates something yet to occur in the future. Remnants from both countries will be brought down low.

4-6: The prophecy now changes to Israel. In that day, the glory of Jacob will wane. The produce will be limited. The valley of Rephaim was just south of Jerusalem towards Bethlehem. It was a noted grain producing area. Yet, the prophecy shows that the remnant of Jacob will be few—as only a few berries in the trees.

7-9: In that day, the Israelite remnant will look to God, and not to the idols. At the beginning of the Millennium, the strong cities of Israel will be desolate.

10-11: The reason all this has taken place is because Israel has forsaken God. The crops won't yield their fruits. It's interesting to note that the farmers are depicted as planting different types of seeds—natural and foreign. We see them spending lots of time helping the plants grow—but they won't produce as expected.

12-14: Woe to those that combine together with a deafening roar to make for war. Apparently this is a warning to Damascus and the other nations including Assyria who plundered Israel. God will intervene, and make them all as whirring dust or chaff in the wind.