1. **Introduction to Isaiah**

Get yourself up on a high mountain

* The book of Isaiah is *full* of good news!
* The book of Isaiah points *forward* to Jesus

O Zion, bearer of good news

Lift up your voice mightily

O Jerusalem, bearer of good news

Lift [it] up, do not fear

Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

* **Isaiah 40:9** [NASB]

1. **By the Numbers**
   1. Chapters in Isaiah: 66
   2. Number of New Testament quotes or allusions to Isaiah: 66
      1. 25 in the Gospels
      2. 24 in the Acts of the Apostles
      3. 9 in Paul’s letters
      4. 8 scattered among 1 Peter, Hebrews, and Revelation
   3. **Isaiah:** “Even those I will bring to My holy mountain and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on My altar; For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the peoples.” [**Isaiah: 56:7** (NASB)]
   4. **New Testament:** And He said to them, “It is written, MY HOUSE SHALL BE CALLED A HOUSE OF PRAYER; but you are making it a ROBBERS' DEN.” [**Matthew 21:13** (NASB)]
2. **Who is Isaiah?**
   1. “The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz [and] Hezekiah, kings of Judah.” [**Isaiah 1:1** (NASB)]
      1. Isaiah was located in Judah and his prophecies were mainly addressed to Israel (northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom). Isaiah also includes messages to some of the surrounding nations as well
      2. Historical references: **2 Kings 15-21** and **2 Chronicles 26-33**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| KINGS OF JUDAH | YEARS OF REIGN |
| Uzziah (Azariah) | 767–740 B.C. |
| Jotham | 750–735 |
| Ahaz | 735–715 |
| Hezekiah | 715–686 |

Table 1 - Judah's Kings During Isaiah's Ministry

1. **When and where is Isaiah?**
   1. Isaiah was most active in Judah
   2. His prophetic ministry began prior to the end of Uzziah’s reign (~742 – 740 BC)
   3. Judah’s exile to Babylon took place many decades after Isaiah is believed to have died (*opinions conflict on the timing of Isaiah’s death, ranging anywhere from 700 BC to as late as 670 BC*)
2. **Seven reasons to study Isaiah**
   1. **Isaiah enlarges our view of God:** Among other things, the book of Isaiah gives us a rich vision of an eternal God of overwhelming holiness who shapes the course of history, fights for justice, rescues his people without regard for their status as measured by society.
   2. **Isaiah enriches our love for Christ:** Many of our favorite Christmas and Easter readings come from Isaiah because his prophecies present a vivid portrait of Jesus as the spirit-empowered Messiah who will reign in justice but also is the servant who saves us through his suffering.
   3. **Isaiah sharpens our understanding of salvation:** Isaiah provides a clear picture of the saving work of Christ as both an act of liberation and an act of substitution through which Jesus pays the penalty for our sin.
   4. **Isaiah illuminates our Bible reading:** By seeing the exodus from Egypt as a blueprint for the ultimate deliverance of God’s people, Isaiah massively shaped the New Testament understanding of Christ and thereby helps us read the Old Testament story as our story.
   5. **Isaiah comforts our fears and sorrows:** Isaiah brought comfort to people facing major threats and big disappointments, and so points us to the rest and peace that come from entrusting ourselves to God.
   6. **Isaiah excites our vision for the church:** Isaiah gives a delightful vision of the church as a community of justice, clothed in divine splendor, which brings light to the world and draws the nations to the ways of the Lord.
   7. **Isaiah fuels our commitment to mission:** He invites us to lift our eyes from our parochial concerns to see God gathering people from the four corners of the world through the global mission of the church.
3. **Housekeeping**
   1. Submit prayer requests at the beginning of our time together viaprayer slips or in advance via email ([mdunne@outlook.com](mailto:mdunne@outlook.com))
      1. Please note if prayer request should remain unspoken
      2. In addition to our prayers, requests will be forwarded to Pastor Allen for his prayer
4. **Schedule**
   1. Feb 21
   2. Feb 28
   3. Mar 6
   4. Mar 13 (*No Wed. night study – Spring break*)
   5. Mar 20
   6. Mar 27 (*Start after children’s choir transitions*)
   7. Apr 3
   8. Apr 10
   9. Apr 17
   10. Apr 24
   11. May 1
   12. May 8
   13. May 15
   14. May 22
   15. May 29 (*If needed, will be in another campus location*)
5. **Rediscover your enthusiasm for Jesus**
   1. *You have turned for me my mourning into dancing; You have loosed my sackcloth and girded me with gladness, That [my] soul may sing praise to You and not be silent. O LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever*. [**Psalm 30:11-12** (NASB)]
   2. Questions to consider (Video clip from John the Baptist (©2003)
      1. Why does Peter jump out of the boat and swim?
      2. How far would you swim for Jesus?
      3. Is it as far as the day you accepted Christ as your Savior?
6. **Isaiah Chapter 1** 
   1. Condemnation of God’s people (for rebellion (vs. God) & injustice)
      1. **Isaiah 1:1** – Everything’s okay so far
      2. **Isaiah 1:4** – Gee that’s pretty harsh
      3. **Isaiah 1:7** – Are you talking about us?
      4. **Isaiah 1:15** – Oh, no! God! Come back!
7. **Isaiah Chapter 2** 
   1. Jerusalem’s glorious long-term future vs. present reality of her sin and God’s impending judgment
      1. **Isaiah 2:1-4** – Hope for Judah
      2. **Isaiah 2:12** – God’s day of reckoning
      3. **Isaiah 2:20-21** – To the caves!
8. **Resources**
   1. ***ISAIAH FOR YOU***, by Tim Chester ©2021 and published by The Good Book Company.
   2. ***ISAIAH: Here is your God***, by Tim Chester ©2021 and published by The Good Book Company.