

An Outline to the Book of Isaiah

Judgment and Salvation for God's People (1-12)	Judgment and Salvation for the Nations (13-27)	A King Will Reign In Righteousness (28-39)
<p>Yahweh's Complaint with Judah, and Isaiah's Call (1-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (1.1-2.5) • The Coming Day of the Lord (2.6-5.30) • Isaiah's Vision and Commission (6.1-13) <p>A Crisis of Trust: Ahaz and the Syro-Ephraimite Coalition (7-12)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failed Kingship in Judah (7.1-8.22) • Future Kingship in Judah (9.1-12.6) 	<p>Concerning the Nations (13-23)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Against Babylon and Assyria (13.1-14.27) • Against Judah's Neighbors: Philistia, Moab, and Damascus (14.28-17.14) • Against Cush and Egypt (18.1-20.6) • Against Babylon and its Allies (21.1-23.18) <p>The Distress of the Nations, and Feasting on Yhwh's Holy Mountain (24-27)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judgment and Blessing (24-25) • The Righteous and the Vineyard (26-27) 	<p>Six woes to Ephraim and Judah, who trust in Egypt (28.1-33.24)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strange and Alien is Yhwh's work (28-31) • A King Will Reign (32) • Woe to the Destroyer (33) <p>The Ransomed of the Lord Shall Return (34.1-35.10)</p> <p>A Crisis of Trust: Hezekiah and the Babylonian Threat (36.1-39.8)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerusalem is Preserved (36-37) • Hezekiah is Preserved (38) • The Exile Predicted (39)

Consolation and Confrontation (40-48)	Yhwh's Servant (49-55)	The Present Failure and a Glorious Future (56-66)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction (40.1-11) • The Consolation of Israel (40.12-41.29) • Israel as God's Reluctant Servant to the Nations (42.1-44.23) • Yhwh's Chosen Deliverer, Cyrus (44.24-45.25) • Yhwh's Disputation with Stubborn Israel (46.1-48.22) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yhwh's Servant and the Salvation of Israel (49.1-50.11) • Glorious Prospects for the Remnant (51.1-52.12) • The Servant Atones for Israel's Sins (52.13-53.12) • The Glorious Future of Zion (54.1-17) • Yhwh's Invitation to Israel and the Nations (55.1-13) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True Sabbath and Fasting (56.1-59.21) • The Future of Zion and the Lord's Messiah (60.1-63.6) • The People of Yhwh Pray (63.7-64.12) • Judgment and Salvation (65.1-16) • A New Heaven and New Earth (65.17-66.24)

Helpful Hints for Reading Entire Books of the Bible

1) Read the *entire* book in one sitting. If this proves too difficult, read it in the least amount of sittings as possible.

Why? It is easy to forget what happens near the beginning of a book if you take a month to finish it. The main goal in this first reading of the book is to gain a general idea of what the book is about, its key ideas and themes, and what message the book has *as a whole book*. Here are some things you will want to do as you go through this first reading: 1) Write down common words and themes. 2) If you read through a passage that is very confusing, read over it again, but also make note of it. What you will begin to find is that later passages in a book often help to clarify an earlier, confusing passage. 3) Does a passage raise a question? If so, make note of it so that you can see if any later passages help to answer that question. 4) When finished, come up with a one or two sentence summary of what you think the whole book is about.

2) Develop your own personal outline of the book.

Why? Following an outline will make it much easier to trace an author's argument or storyline, especially for longer books (like Isaiah!). It will also make it much easier to see when an author is comparing or contrasting different elements within a storyline. Preparing an outline may be very difficult to do when you first start out. However, by the time you get to the end of a book, it is usually much easier to see how the book divides into different sections. The more you practice it, the better you will get at it. At the outset, it might be helpful to check with a few resources and use their outlines. You may end up making some adjustments to them, which is perfectly alright. These are to help you better see how the book is shaped.

3) Reread the introduction and conclusion sections.

Why? These sections often hold important clues about the message of the book. What words and themes are common to both sections? These will be the key issues that the author wanted to communicate about in writing his book. Be sure to note how any themes or ideas have changed or developed from the introduction to the conclusion. The author will most likely track this progression throughout the book.

4) Reread each section of the outline.

Why? Re-reading is crucial for understanding a book properly. Here are some good questions to ask while reading for a second time (and beyond): 1) Do any of this section's key word or themes have anything to do with the introduction or conclusion? If so, try to explain the connections. 2) How are the themes and ideas of the introduction and conclusion developed in this section? 3) How does this section build off of and relate to the preceding sections?

5) Reformulate what you think the book as a whole is about. You will often find that your first reading was insightful, but upon reading the book again you will be able to refine it.

As you reformulate your understanding of the message of the book, think through these questions: 1) What subjects keep popping up? 2) How do key subjects develop over the entire book? 3) Do any sections contrast/compare with other sections? What does this have to do with the message of the book? After doing this, rewrite your initial summary and then expand it into a paragraph. When you do, ask what about the message of the book addresses you? How should you respond?