

## Isaiah Notes

### 3 Main sections

1: First Isaiah, chapters 1-39. An 8th century Jerusalemite, a counsellor to the King. A priest, maybe high priest?

2: Second Isaiah: Chapters 40-55. Unknown prophet, written during the Babylonian exile. Monotheist, fan of Cyrus.

3: Trito-Isaiah: Chapters 56-66. Unknown prophet, written during Babylonian exile/Persian restoration/rebuilding of Temple. More universalist, idealist.

6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I beheld my Lord seated on a high and lofty throne; and the skirts of His robe filled the Temple.

6:2 Seraphs stood in attendance on Him. Each of them had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his legs, and with two he would fly.

6:3 And one would call to the other, "Holy, holy, holy! The LORD of Hosts! His presence fills all the earth!"

6:4 The doorposts would shake at the sound of the one who called, and the House kept filling with smoke.

6:5 I cried, "Woe is me; I am lost! For I am a man of unclean lips And I live among a people Of unclean lips; Yet my own eyes have beheld The King LORD of Hosts."

6:6 Then one of the seraphs flew over to me with a live coal, which he had taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.

6:7 He touched it to my lips and declared, "Now that this has touched your lips, Your guilt shall depart And your sin be purged away."

6:8 Then I heard the voice of my Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me."

6:9 And He said, "Go, say to that people: 'Hear, indeed, but do not understand; See, indeed, but do not grasp.'

6:10 Dull that people's mind, Stop its ears, And seal its eyes -- Lest, seeing with its eyes And hearing with its ears, It also grasp with its mind, And repent and save itself."

6:11 I asked, "How long, my Lord?" And He replied: "Till towns lie waste without inhabitants And houses without people, And the ground lies waste and desolate --

6:12 For the LORD will banish the population -- And deserted sites are many In the midst of the land.

6:13 "But while a tenth part yet remains in it, it shall repent. It shall be ravaged like the terebinth and the oak, of which stumps are left even when they are felled: its stump shall be a holy seed."

7:1 In the reign of Ahaz son of Jotham son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Aram and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel marched upon Jerusalem to attack it; but they were not able to attack it.

7:2 Now, when it was reported to the House of David that Aram had allied itself with Ephraim, their hearts and the hearts of their people trembled as trees of the forest sway before a wind.

7:3 But the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out with your son Shear-jashub to meet Ahaz at the end of the conduit of the Upper Pool, by the road of the Fuller's Field.

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7:4 And say to him: Be firm and be calm. Do not be afraid and do not lose heart on account of those two smoking stubs of firebrands, on account of the raging of Rezin and his Arameans and the son of Remaliah.

7:5 Because the Arameans -- with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah -- have plotted against you, saying,

7:6 'We will march against Judah and invade and conquer it, and we will set up as king in it the son of Tabeel,'

7:7 thus said my Lord GOD: It shall not succeed, It shall not come to pass.

7:8 For the chief city of Aram is Damascus, And the chief of Damascus is Rezin;

7:9 The chief city of Ephraim is Samaria, And the chief of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. And in another sixty-five years, Ephraim shall be shattered as a people. If you will not believe, for you cannot be trusted..."

7:10 The LORD spoke further to Ahaz:

7:11 "Ask for a sign from the LORD your God, anywhere down to Sheol or up to the sky."

7:12 But Ahaz replied, "I will not ask, and I will not test the LORD."

7:13 "Listen, House of David," [Isaiah] retorted, "is it not enough for you to treat men as helpless that you also treat my God as helpless?"

7:14 Assuredly, my Lord will give you a sign of His own accord! Look, the young woman is with child and about to give birth to a son. Let her name him Immanuel.

7:15 (By the time he learns to reject the bad and choose the good, people will be feeding on curds and honey.)

7:16 For before the lad knows to reject the bad and choose the good, the ground whose two kings you dread shall be abandoned.

7:17 The LORD will cause to come upon you and your people and your ancestral house such days as never have come since Ephraim turned away from Judah -- that selfsame king of Assyria!

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7:18 "In that day, the LORD will whistle to the flies at the ends of the water channels of Egypt and to the bees in the land of Assyria;

7:19 and they shall all come and alight in the rugged wadis, and in the clefts of the rocks, and in all the thornbrakes, and in all the watering places.

7:20 "In that day, my Lord will cut away with the razor that is hired beyond the Euphrates -- with the king of Assyria -- the hair of the head and the hair of the legs, and it shall clip off the beard as well.

7:21 And in that day, each man shall save alive a heifer of the herd and two animals of the flock.

7:22 (And he shall obtain so much milk that he shall eat curds.) Thus everyone who is left in the land shall feed on curds and honey.

7:23 "For in that day, every spot where there could stand a thousand vines worth a thousand shekels of silver shall become a wilderness of thornbush and thistle.

7:24 One will have to go there with bow and arrows, for the country shall be all thornbushes and thistles.

7:25 But the perils of thornbush and thistle shall not spread to any of the hills that could only be tilled with a hoe; and here cattle shall be let loose, and sheep and goats shall tramp about."

## DEUTERO-ISAIAH

40:1 Comfort, oh comfort My people, Says your God.

40:2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, And declare to her That her term of service is over, That her iniquity is expiated; For she has received at the hand of the LORD Double for all her sins.

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40:3 A voice rings out: "Clear in the desert A road for the LORD! Level in the wilderness  
A highway for our God!

40:4 Let every valley be raised, Every hill and mount made low. Let the rugged ground  
become level And the ridges become a plain.

40:5 The Presence of the LORD shall appear, And all flesh, as one, shall behold -- For the  
LORD Himself has spoken."

40:6 A voice rings out: "Proclaim!" Another asks, "What shall I proclaim?" "All flesh is  
grass, All its goodness like flowers of the field:

40:7 Grass withers, flowers fade When the breath of the LORD blows on them. Indeed,  
man is but grass:

40:8 Grass withers, flowers fade -- But the word of our God is always fulfilled!"

40:9 Ascend a lofty mountain, O herald of joy to Zion; Raise your voice with power, O  
herald of joy to Jerusalem -- Raise it, have no fear; Announce to the cities of Judah:  
Behold your God!

40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes in might, And His arm wins triumph for Him; See, His  
reward is with Him, His recompense before Him.

40:11 Like a shepherd He pastures His flock: He gathers the lambs in His arms And  
carries them in His bosom; Gently He drives the mother sheep.

40:12 Who measured the waters with the hollow of His hand, And gauged the skies with  
a span, And meted earth's dust with a measure, And weighed the mountains with a scale  
And the hills with a balance?

40:13 Who has plumbed the mind of the LORD, What man could tell Him His plan?

40:14 Whom did He consult, and who taught Him, Guided Him in the way of right? Who  
guided Him in knowledge And showed Him the path of wisdom?

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40:15 The nations are but a drop in a bucket, Reckoned as dust on a balance; The very coastlands He lifts like motes.

40:16 Lebanon is not fuel enough, Nor its beasts enough for sacrifice.

40:17 All nations are as naught in His sight; He accounts them as less than nothing.

40:18 To whom, then, can you liken God, What form compare to Him?

40:19 The idol? A woodworker shaped it, And a smith overlaid it with gold, Forging links of silver.

40:20 As a gift, he chooses the mulberry -- A wood that does not rot -- Then seeks a skillful woodworker To make a firm idol, That will not topple.

40:21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Have you not been told From the very first? Have you not discerned How the earth was founded?

40:22 It is He who is enthroned above the vault of the earth, So that its inhabitants seem as grasshoppers; Who spread out the skies like gauze, Stretched them out like a tent to dwell in.

40:23 He brings potentates to naught, Makes rulers of the earth as nothing.

40:24 Hardly are they planted, Hardly are they sown, Hardly has their stem Taken root in earth, When He blows upon them and they dry up, And the storm bears them off like straw.

40:25 To whom, then, can you liken Me, To whom can I be compared? -- says the Holy One.

40:26 Lift high your eyes and see: Who created these? He who sends out their host by count, Who calls them each by name: Because of His great might and vast power, Not one fails to appear.

40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, Why declare, O Israel, "My way is hid from the LORD, My cause is ignored by my God"?

40:28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is God from of old, Creator of the earth from end to end, He never grows faint or weary, His wisdom cannot be fathomed.

40:29 He gives strength to the weary, Fresh vigor to the spent.

40:30 Youths may grow faint and weary, And young men stumble and fall;

40:31 But they who trust in the LORD shall renew their strength As eagles grow new plumes: They shall run and not grow weary, They shall march and not grow faint.

45:1 Thus said the LORD to Cyrus, His anointed one -- Whose right hand He has grasped, Treading down nations before him, Ungirding the loins of kings, Opening doors before him And letting no gate stay shut:

45:2 I will march before you And level the hills that loom up; I will shatter doors of bronze And cut down iron bars.

45:3 I will give you treasures concealed in the dark And secret hoards -- So that you may know that it is I the LORD, The God of Israel, who call you by name.

45:4 For the sake of My servant Jacob, Israel My chosen one, I call you by name, I hail you by title, though you have not known Me.

45:5 I am the LORD and there is none else; Beside Me, there is no god. I engird you, though you have not known Me,

45:6 So that they may know, from east to west, That there is none but Me. I am the LORD and there is none else,

45:7 I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe -- I the LORD do all these things.

45:8 Pour down, O skies, from above! Let the heavens rain down victory! Let the earth open up and triumph sprout, Yes, let vindication spring up: I the LORD have created it.

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45:9 Shame on him who argues with his Maker, Though naught but a potsherd of earth!  
Shall the clay say to the potter, "What are you doing? Your work has no handles"?

45:10 Shame on him who asks his father, "What are you begetting?" Or a woman, "What are you bearing?"

45:11 Thus said the LORD, Israel's Holy One and Maker: Will you question Me on the destiny of My children, Will you instruct Me about the work of My hands?

45:12 It was I who made the earth And created man upon it; My own hands stretched out the heavens, And I marshaled all their host.

45:13 It was I who roused him for victory And who level all roads for him. He shall rebuild My city And let My exiled people go Without price and without payment -- said the LORD of Hosts.

#### Trito-Isaiah

56:1 Thus said the LORD: Observe what is right and do what is just; For soon My salvation shall come, And my deliverance be revealed.

56:2 Happy is the man who does this, The man who holds fast to it: Who keeps the sabbath and does not profane it, And stays his hand from doing any evil.

56:3 Let not the foreigner say, Who has attached himself to the LORD, "The LORD will keep me apart from His people"; And let not the eunuch say, "I am a withered tree."

56:4 For thus said the LORD: "As for the eunuchs who keep My sabbaths, Who have chosen what I desire And hold fast to My covenant --

56:5 I will give them, in My House And within My walls, A monument and a name Better than sons or daughters. I will give them an everlasting name Which shall not perish.

56:6 As for the foreigners Who attach themselves to the LORD, To minister to Him, And to love the name of the LORD, To be His servants -- All who keep the sabbath and do not profane it, And who hold fast to My covenant --

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56:7 I will bring them to My sacred mount And let them rejoice in My house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices Shall be welcome on My altar; For My House shall be called A house of prayer for all peoples."

56:8 Thus declares the Lord GOD, Who gathers the dispersed of Israel: "I will gather still more to those already gathered."

65:17 For behold! I am creating A new heaven and a new earth; The former things shall not be remembered, They shall never come to mind.

65:18 Be glad, then, and rejoice forever In what I am creating. For I shall create Jerusalem as a joy, And her people as a delight;

65:19 And I will rejoice in Jerusalem And delight in her people. Never again shall be heard there The sounds of weeping and wailing.

65:20 No more shall there be an infant or graybeard Who does not live out his days. He who dies at a hundred years Shall be reckoned a youth, And he who fails to reach a hundred Shall be reckoned accursed.

65:21 They shall build houses and dwell in them, They shall plant vineyards and enjoy their fruit.

65:22 They shall not build for others to dwell in, Or plant for others to enjoy. For the days of My people shall be As long as the days of a tree, My chosen ones shall outlive The work of their hands.

65:23 They shall not toil to no purpose; They shall not bear children for terror, But they shall be a people blessed by the LORD, And their offspring shall remain with them.

65:24 Before they pray, I will answer; While they are still speaking, I will respond.

65:25 The wolf and the lamb shall graze together, And the lion shall eat straw like the ox, And the serpent's food shall be earth. In all My sacred mount Nothing evil or vile shall be done -- said the LORD.

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