BIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTE

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Isaiah

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Introduction to the Minor Prophets

- ✓ Obadiah
- ✓ Joel
- ✓ Jonah
- ✓ Amos
- ✓ Hosea
- ✓ Micah
- ✓ (Isaiah)
- ✓ Nahum

- ✓ Zephaniah
- ✓ Habakkuk
- ✓ (Jeremiah)
- ✓ (Ezekiel)
- ✓ Haggai
- ✓ Zechariah
- ✓ Malachi

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Introduction to Isaiah

Title

- ✓ Hebrew = *Yishayahu* (ישעיהו; "Isaiah; Yahweh saves"; e.g., 25:9)
- ✓ Greek = *Eh-sa-ee-as* (ΗΣΑΙΑΣ; "Isaiah")

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Introduction to Isaiah

WHO—Authorship

- ✓ Isaiah, son of Amoz
- ✓ Multiple authors?
- ✓ Isaiah 44:28; 45:1
- ✓ Isaiah 42:9—former things (1:1 – 39:8) and new things (40:1 – 66:24)

WHO—Audience

- ✓ Judah and Jerusalem (southern kingdom of Israel; 1:1)

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Introduction to Isaiah

WHEN

- ✓ Isaiah's prophetic ministry spanned from 739 BC to 681 BC
- ✓ Assyria exiles the Northern tribes of Israel
- ✓ 36:1 – 39:8 provides a historical narrative of God's salvation of Jerusalem from Assyria
- ✓ Assyria is on the doorstep of Jerusalem and has taken many of the people in the surrounding cities captive

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Introduction to Isaiah

WHERE

- ✓ Probably Jerusalem
- ✓ 36:1 – 39:8 is set in Jerusalem
- ✓ Judah has acted unfaithfully to God, but Hezekiah demonstrates great faith in the early days of his reign
- ✓ Babylon is on the horizon—the nation already exists and is growing in power

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Introduction to Isaiah

WHY

Though Israel has forsaken Yahweh for other gods, Yahweh will prove that He is set apart as the only God by saving His people through His Servant—who will be what Israel was supposed to be—and will gather all the nations in worship to His kingdom on His holy mountain in Jerusalem.

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Introduction to Isaiah

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Holy (or Holiness, Holy One; 1:4; 4:3; 5:16 (2x), 19; 5:24; 6:3 (3x); 6:13; 8:13, 14; 11:9; 12:6; 13:3; 16:12; 29:23 (3x); 30:11, 12, 15, 29; 31:1; 35:8; 37:23; 40:25; 41:14, 16, 20; 43:3, 14, 15, 28; etc.)
- ✓ Salvation (or Saving, Savior; 25:9 (2x); 26:1, 18; 30:15; 33:2, 6, 22; 35:4; 37:20, 35; 38:20; 43:3, 11, 12; 45:8, 15, 17 (2x), 20, 21; 46:7, 13 (2x); 47:13, 15; 49:6, 8, 25, 26; 51:5, 6, 8; 52:7, 10; 56:1; 59:1, 11, 16, 17; 60:16, 18; 61:10; 62:1, 11; 63:1, 5, 8, 9; 64:5)
- ✓ Blind (or Blindness; 6:10; 29:9 (2x), 18; 31:1 (pun—"gaze at; regard"); 32:3 (pun—"blinded; turned away; gazing") 35:5; 42:7, 16, 18, 19 (3x); 43:8; 56:10; 59:10)
- ✓ Servant (or Slave, Serve; 14:2, 3 (2x); 19:21, 23; 20:3; 22:20; 24:2; 36:9, 11; 37:5, 24, 35; 41:8, 9; 42:1, 19 (2x); 43:10, 23, 24; 44:1, 2, 21 (2x), 26; 45:4; 48:20; 49:3, 5, 6, 7; 50:10; 52:13; 53:11; 54:17; 56:6; 60:12; 64:17; 65:8, 9, 13 (3x), 14, 15; 66:14)

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Introduction to Isaiah

HOW—Terminology

- ✓ Trust *(batach*; 12:2; 14:30; 26:4; 30:12, 15; 31:1; 32:17; 36:4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 15; 42:17; 47:8, 10; 50:10; 59:4)
- ✓ Faith *(aman*; 1:21, 26; 7:9; 8:2; 28:16; 43:10; 49:7; 53:1; 55:3)
- ✓ Covenant (24:5; 28:15, 18; 33:8; 42:6; 49:8; 54:10; 55:3; 56:4, 6; 59:21; 61:8)
- ✓ The Spirit (11:2; 32:15; 34:16; 40:7, 13; 42:1; 44:3; 48:16; 59:19; 61:1; 63:10, 14)

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Introduction to Isaiah

HOW—Themes

- ✓ Sin and Indictment in Court, both Israel and the nations
- ✓ Sovereignty of God (41:21–23; 42:9; 43:9–10; 44:6–8; 45:21; 46:9–11; 48:3)
- ✓ The Light (9:2; 42:16; 49:6; 58:8–11; 60:1, 19, 20); The Child (7:14; 9:6–7); The Shoot, Branch (11:1); The Stone (28:16–17; 32:1–2); The Redeemer of Israel (41:14; 43:14; 44:16, 24; 47:4; 48:17; 49:7, 26; 54:5, 8; 59:20; 60:16; 63:16)
- ✓ Care for the Nations as God's people

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Introduction to Isaiah

HOW—Rhetorical Strategy

- ✓ Puns (5:7; 7:11; 24:17–18; 28:15, 18; 29:6; 32:7; 57:6; 64:8; 65:11–12)
- ✓ Rhyming (23:3)

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Introduction to Isaiah

HOW—Literary Structure

- ✓ Why God Must Save (1:1 – 39:8)
  - ❖ Courtroom Scene (1:1 – 5:30)
  - ❖ Throne Room Scene (6:1–13)
  - ❖ Messianic Scene (7:1 – 12:6)
  - ❖ International Scene (13:1 – 27:13)
  - ❖ Immediate Scene (28:1 – 39:8)
- ✓ How God Will Save (40:1 – 66:24)
  - ❖ The Precedence of Salvation—Theology (40:1 – 48:22)
  - ❖ The Means of Salvation—Soteriology (49:1 – 57:21)
  - ❖ The Kingdom of Salvation—Eschatology (58:1 – 66:24)

Isaiah 40:1 – 66:24 is demarcated into three distinct sections with the phrase, " 'There is no peace,' says Yahweh, 'for the wicked' " (48:22; 57:21) and concluded with 66:24, "Their worm shall not die, and their fire shall not be quenched."

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