

ISAIAH

Who Takes the Hit

Isaiah 1:2–7 • 5:5–6 • 53:10–11 • 65:8–9

BOOK 1: JUDGMENT — CHAPTERS 1–39

1. SIN-LIFE: ISRAEL *Isaiah 1:2–4, 7*

2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth; for the LORD has spoken... it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.

- A button is a powerful object. Press it and something happens — a door opens, a rocket launches. The question hanging over these thirty-nine chapters is what has to happen before God presses His.
- The north answers it. A concubine shoved out the door to a mob (Judges 19). A man killed so a king could have a vegetable garden (1 Kings 21). Mothers eating their own children inside besieged Samaria (2 Kings 6:28–29).

722 BC — Assyria destroys Israel, the northern kingdom. It never comes back.

2. SIN-LIFE: JUDAH *Jeremiah 7:31 • Isaiah 5:5–6*

Jeremiah 7:31

“And they have built the high places of Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire, which I did not command, nor did it come into my mind.”

Isaiah 5:5–6

5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.

6 I will make it a waste.

- God does not press the button on Judah. He disciplines her. *There is a difference between final judgment and discipline.*

701 BC — Sennacherib invades Judah and takes forty-six cities. Exile is coming.

BOOK 2: THE SUFFERING SERVANT — CHAPTERS 40–55

3. THE SUFFERING SERVANT: JUDAH *Isaiah 53:10–11*

10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him... and he shall bear their iniquities.

- The title is ironic. A servant gives himself away for others. He should be rewarded. What he gets is suffering.
- Instead of crushing Judah, instead of crushing us, God crushes Him. The grief is the payment, and justice is satisfied by it.

BOOK 3: THE SERVANTS — CHAPTERS 56–66

4. THE SERVANT LIFE *Isaiah 65:8–9 • 58:10 • 60:1–3*

Isaiah 58:10

“If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday.”

- They are a minority, not a population. Cast out by their own brothers (66:5), dying unnoticed (57:1), holding a promise that has visibly not landed.
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