

IN
OUT

Isaiah

Part 2

COMFORT MY PEOPLE

IN AND OUT®
ISAIAH PART 2
COMFORT MY PEOPLE

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Comfort, O Comfort My People

What a privilege—to be called by God to comfort His people, especially when you’ve also been the messenger of His displeasure and His forthcoming judgment.

If you studied Isaiah Part 1 (chapters 1–39), you sensed its stern tone—like a father’s lecture before discipline.

The tone of the second segment which we are about to study, chapters 40–66, is entirely different. It is more like *after*—when your Father takes you in His everlasting arms drawing you so close you can feel the beat of His heart as your head rises and falls with His every eternal breath.

TAKING IT IN

1. First, let’s make sure you know the essential who and when of the book of Isaiah.
 - a. Read Isaiah 1:1-2. Note below the answers to these Ws.
 - 1) Who is speaking and for whom?
 - 2) To whom? Who does this vision concern?
 - 3) When is it given?
 - b. Look at the “The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah” in the Appendix of this book.
 - 1) Note where the kings mentioned in Isaiah 1 appear on the historical chart.
 - 2) Read Isaiah 6:1 and 14:28. Who among those mentioned in Isaiah 1:1 dies? Write their names.

- 3) Now read Isaiah 39:1-8. Write the name of the king of Judah at this time and the name of the foreign power who visits him. Also note what Isaiah says is going to happen with respect to this foreign power and Israel. (By the way, Isaiah 36–39 focuses on a portion of this king's reign.)

 - 4) Finally look at the historical chart again and list the dates of the three stages of Judah's captivity.

 - 5) Does Isaiah prophesy before or after the captivity?
2. Before observing Isaiah 40, make a Key Word Bookmark with the following key words and color-code them the way you want to mark them. Cut out the bookmark on the back cover of this workbook and use the blank side.

Throughout this study, an asterisk [*] denotes a key word frequently used throughout the Bible which has a suggested marking on the reverse side of the bookmark.

- a. *Jerusalem, * Zion*
- b. *nations**
- c. *iniquity, sin**
- d. *comfort* (You might use a pink cloud).
- e. *glory* (Do not mark *glorious, glorified, etc.*)
- f. references to *the coming of the Lord**
- g. *idol* (You might use a big **I** in black over the I of idol)
- h. references to *God**—Seeing what you learn from each occurrence helps you develop your systematic theology on the person of God.
- i. *fear* (Watch for the phrase “Do not fear.”)

- j. references to time*
 - k. geographical locations*
3. Now observe Isaiah 40. In the Appendix you'll find Observation Worksheets to use—the Bible text printed with space between the lines and wide margins, so you can “work” on them.

Mark the key words on your bookmark including synonyms and pronouns. If you've done this before, you know marking key words helps you focus on and retain what God is saying.

4. Let's evaluate this chapter's contents.
- a. Look at what you learn from marking “comfort.”
 - 1) Who is to be comforted?
 - 2) Who is giving the order? Who says they need to be comforted?
 - 3) What brought or created the need for comfort?
 - 4) How are they to be comforted?
 - 5) Now look at the other words you marked and see what you observe about them.
 - b. Read Isaiah 40:1-11.
 - 1) What is to be spoken in 40:1-2?

- 2) What is the voice calling out in Isaiah 40:3-5? Or to put it another way, what is it saying?

 - 3) What is the call, the message of Isaiah 40:6-8?

 - 4) Now who is to speak in Isaiah 40:9-11, what is the message and to whom is it to be spoken?

 - 5) Think through your observations regarding these voices (messages). Do any of them have anything in common? If so, what?
- c. What do you learn from marking references to the revelation of the Lord's glory, the Lord God coming in Isaiah 40:1-11?
- d. Now read Isaiah 40:12-31. Record below what is dealt with in each paragraph. You want to see what God is doing at this point. Consider who God is speaking to and what He has said so far in this chapter.

- 1) 12-17


- 2) 18-20 (watch the contrast in this paragraph)

- 3) 21-26

- e. In Isaiah 40:12-26, through a set of questions and statements, God causes His people to think about who He is. Then comes Isaiah 40:27-31. What is God bottom-lining and for whom?

- f. Record the main theme of Isaiah 40 on the “Isaiah at a Glance” chart in the Appendix under chapter themes. This will become an invaluable chart helping you to see the content and flow of material in Isaiah. To do this, use a few words from the text that indicate the main subject or event in the chapter.

5. Now we’re moving on to Isaiah 41, so observe this chapter using your Observation Worksheets.
 - a. Add the following to your Key Word Bookmark and mark them along with those words already on your bookmark:
 - 1) *servant*—Note who the servant is and what you learn about him.
 - 2) *Redeemer, redemption, redeemed* (see *redeem**)

- 3) *righteousness* (*righteous*, * *righteously*)
 - 4) *chosen*
 - 5) *declare* (in any form when it is a declaration of God)
 - 6) *listening*, * *hearing* or *not hearing*. For *deaf* or *not hearing/listening*, also put a slash through the word.
 - 7) *water(s)* (*rivers*, *springs*, *thirst*, *thirsty*) Some mark it with a blue line like waves above the word: 
- b. Record the theme of Isaiah 41 on the At a Glance chart.
6. Now think “context,” the setting of Isaiah 41. Let’s see what is happening—what God is doing. Note what happens in the following verses:
- a. 1
 - b. 2-4
 - c. 5-7
 - d. 8-16
 - e. Isaiah 41:17-20—Answer the following questions:
 - 1) 17—What is the condition?
 - 2) 18-19—the answer?

3) 20—the end result?

f. 21-24

g. 25-29

LIVING IT OUT

Let's think "application." What has God done in your mind and in your heart? Has He spoken to you to any way? Brought questions to your mind? Stirred your heart? What have you heard (learned) from listening to His voice? And what difference might it make if you live in light of it? Would it change anything? Would it please God? Talk to God about it.

You have just completed your first lesson! We're proud of you. Press on!

ISAIAH 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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.

- 2 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth;
For the LORD speaks,
“Sons I have reared and brought up,
But they have revolted against Me.
- 3 “An ox knows its owner,
And a donkey its master’s manger,
But Israel does not know,
My people do not understand.”
- 4 Alas, sinful nation,
People weighed down with iniquity,
Offspring of evildoers,
Sons who act corruptly!
They have abandoned the LORD,
They have despised the Holy One of Israel,
They have turned away from Him.
- 5 Where will you be stricken again,
As you continue in *your* rebellion?
The whole head is sick
And the whole heart is faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head
There is nothing sound in it,
Only bruises, welts and raw wounds,
Not pressed out or bandaged,
Nor softened with oil.

- 7 Your land is desolate,
Your cities are burned with fire,
Your fields—strangers are devouring them in your presence;
It is desolation, as overthrown by strangers.
- 8 The daughter of Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard,
Like a watchman’s hut in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.
- 9 Unless the LORD of hosts
Had left us a few survivors,
We would be like Sodom,
We would be like Gomorrah.
- 10 Hear the word of the LORD,
You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the instruction of our God,
You people of Gomorrah.
- 11 “What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?”
Says the LORD.
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle;
And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.
- 12 “When you come to appear before Me,
Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?
- 13 “Bring your worthless offerings no longer,
Incense is an abomination to Me.
New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies—
I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.
- 14 “I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts,
They have become a burden to Me;
I am weary of bearing *them*.
- 15 “So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Yes, even though you multiply prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.

- 16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.
Cease to do evil,
- 17 Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow.
- 18 “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the LORD,
“Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool.
- 19 “If you consent and obey,
You will eat the best of the land;
- 20 “But if you refuse and rebel,
You will be devoured by the sword.”
Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
- 21 How the faithful city has become a harlot,
She *who* was full of justice!
Righteousness once lodged in her,
But now murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become dross,
Your drink diluted with water.
- 23 Your rulers are rebels
And companions of thieves;
Everyone loves a bribe
And chases after rewards.
They do not defend the orphan,
Nor does the widow’s plea come before them.

- 24 Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts,
The Mighty One of Israel, declares,
“Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries
And avenge Myself on My foes.
- 25 “I will also turn My hand against you,
And will smelt away your dross as with lye
And will remove all your alloy.
- 26 “Then I will restore your judges as at the first,
And your counselors as at the beginning;
After that you will be called the city of righteousness,
A faithful city.”
- 27 Zion will be redeemed with justice
And her repentant ones with righteousness.
- 28 But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together,
And those who forsake the LORD will come to an end.
- 29 Surely you will be ashamed of the oaks which you have desired,
And you will be embarrassed at the gardens which you have
chosen.
- 30 For you will be like an oak whose leaf fades away
Or as a garden that has no water.
- 31 The strong man will become tinder,
His work also a spark.
Thus they shall both burn together
And there will be none to quench *them*.

ISAIAH 40

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“COMFORT, O comfort My people,” says your God.

- 2 “Speak kindly to Jerusalem;
And call out to her, that her warfare has ended,
That her iniquity has been removed,
That she has received of the LORD’S hand
Double for all her sins.”
- 3 A voice is calling,
“Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 “Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the rough ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
- 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
And all flesh will see *it* together;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
- 6 A voice says, “Call out.”
Then he answered, “What shall I call out?”
All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the
field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
When the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
Surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

- 9 Get yourself up on a high mountain,
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!”
- 10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,
With His arm ruling for Him.
Behold, His reward is with Him
And His recompense before Him.
- 11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs
And carry *them* in His bosom;
He will gently lead the nursing *ewes*.
- 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
And marked off the heavens by the span,
And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,
And weighed the mountains in a balance
And the hills in a pair of scales?
- 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,
Or as His counselor has informed Him?
- 14 With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding?
And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him
knowledge
And informed Him of the way of understanding?
- 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.
- 16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,
Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

- 17 All the nations are as nothing before Him,
They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and
meaningless.
- 18 To whom then will you liken God?
Or what likeness will you compare with Him?
- 19 *As for* the idol, a craftsman casts it,
A goldsmith plates it with gold,
And a silversmith *fashions* chains of silver.
- 20 He who is too impoverished for *such* an offering
Selects a tree that does not rot;
He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman
To prepare an idol that will not totter.
- 21 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- 22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth,
And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.
- 23 He *it is* who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
- 24 Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.
- 25 “To whom then will you liken Me
That I would be *his* equal?” says the Holy One.
- 26 Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these *stars*,
The One who leads forth their host by number,

He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His*
power,
Not one *of them* is missing.

- 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”?
- 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the
earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.
- 29 He gives strength to the weary,
And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.
- 30 Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
- 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

ISAIAH 41

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- “COASTLANDS, listen to Me in silence,
And let the peoples gain new strength;
Let them come forward, then let them speak;
Let us come together for judgment.
- 2 “Who has aroused one from the east
Whom He calls in righteousness to His feet?
He delivers up nations before him
And subdues kings.
He makes them like dust with his sword,
As the wind-driven chaff with his bow.
- 3 “He pursues them, passing on in safety,
By a way he had not been traversing with his feet.
- 4 “Who has performed and accomplished *it*,
Calling forth the generations from the beginning?
‘I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He.’ ”
- 5 The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
The ends of the earth tremble;
They have drawn near and have come.
- 6 Each one helps his neighbor
And says to his brother, “Be strong!”
- 7 So the craftsman encourages the smelter,
And he who smooths *metal* with the hammer *encourages* him
who beats the anvil,
Saying of the soldering, “It is good”;
And he fastens it with nails,
So that it will not totter.

- 8 “But you, Israel, My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
Descendant of Abraham My friend,
9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth,
And called from its remotest parts
And said to you, ‘You are My servant,
I have chosen you and not rejected you.
10 ‘Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’
11 “Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and
dishonored;
Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish.
12 “You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find
them,
Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent.
13 “For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand,
Who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’
14 “Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel;
I will help you,” declares the LORD, “and your Redeemer is the
Holy One of Israel.
15 “Behold, I have made you a new, sharp threshing sledge with
double edges;
You will thresh the mountains and pulverize *them*,
And will make the hills like chaff.
16 “You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away,
And the storm will scatter them;
But you will rejoice in the LORD,
You will glory in the Holy One of Israel.

- 17 “The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none,
And their tongue is parched with thirst;
I, the LORD, will answer them Myself,
As the God of Israel I will not forsake them.
- 18 “I will open rivers on the bare heights
And springs in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water
And the dry land fountains of water.
- 19 “I will put the cedar in the wilderness,
The acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree;
I will place the juniper in the desert
Together with the box tree and the cypress,
- 20 That they may see and recognize,
And consider and gain insight as well,
That the hand of the LORD has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.
- 21 “Present your case,” the LORD says.
“Bring forward your strong *arguments*,”
The King of Jacob says.
- 22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take
place;
As for the former *events*, declare what they *were*,
That we may consider them and know their outcome.
Or announce to us what is coming;
- 23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward,
That we may know that you are gods;
Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us
and fear together.
- 24 Behold, you are of no account,
And your work amounts to nothing;
He who chooses you is an abomination.

- 25 “I have aroused one from the north, and he has come;
From the rising of the sun he will call on My name;
And he will come upon rulers as *upon* mortar,
Even as the potter treads clay.”
- 26 Who has declared *this* from the beginning, that we might
know?
Or from former times, that we may say, “*He is right!*”?
Surely there was no one who declared,
Surely there was no one who proclaimed,
Surely there was no one who heard your words.
- 27 “Formerly *I said* to Zion, ‘Behold, here they are.’
And to Jerusalem, ‘I will give a messenger of good news.’
- 28 “But when I look, there is no one,
And there is no counselor among them
Who, if I ask, can give an answer.
- 29 “Behold, all of them are false;
Their works are worthless,
Their molten images are wind and emptiness.

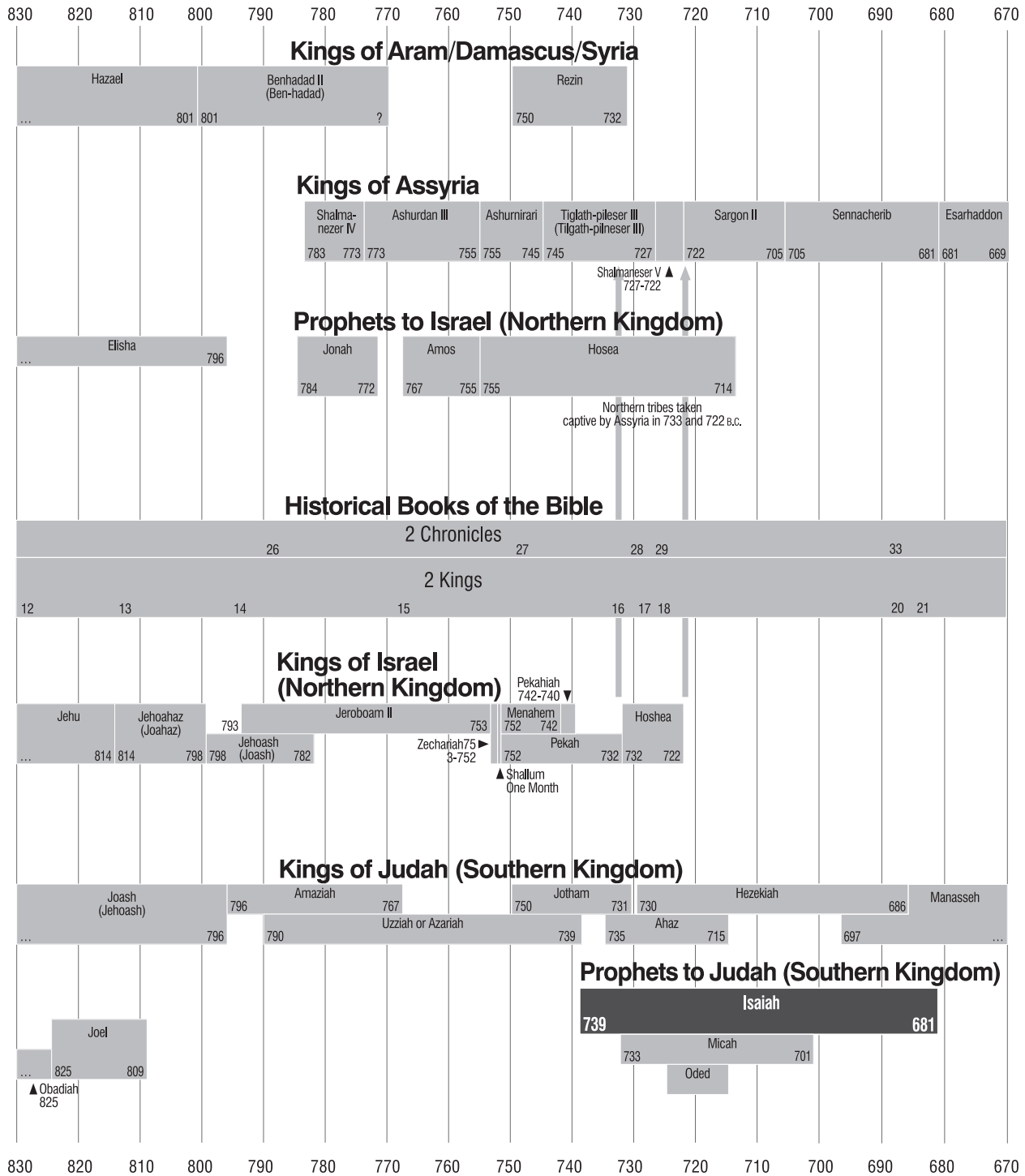
ISAIAH AT A GLANCE

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes	
Judah and Jerusalem's sin, coming judgment, and restoration	DISCOURSES REGARDING JERUSALEM	GOD'S CHARACTER AND JUDGMENT	1 You've despised the Holy One of Israel
Isaiah's vision and calling			2 In the last days the nations come to Zion
Judgment of Ephraim, then Assyria/Israel's restoration			3 God's pending judgment on Jerusalem
Oracles of judgment against nations			4 The branch of the Lord will be beautiful
			5 Woe to the vineyard of the Lord
			6 Isaiah's vision, confession, and commission
	7 Ahaz told of Assyrian attack and Immanuel		
	8 Swift is the booty but God is with us		
	9 Light for those in darkness—a Child is born/His anger		
	10 Woe to Assyria/A remnant will return		
	11 A shoot from Jesse/A highway for the remnant		
	12 God is my salvation: The Holy One is in our midst		
	13 Oracle re: Babylon—used and destroyed by God		
	14 Taunt against king of Babylon (Oracle against Philistia)		
	15 Oracle re: Moab		
DISCOURSES REGARDING THAT DAY	16 Moab's wailing		
	17 Oracle re: Damascus/Events in that day		
	18 Word to Cush (Ethiopia)		
	19 Oracle re: Egypt and its future faith		
	20 Assyria will lead away captives of Egypt and Cush		
	21 Oracles re: wilderness of sea, Edom, and Arabia		
Destruction of earth/Lord will reign on Mount Zion	22 Oracle re: Valley of Vision/Key of David		
	23 Oracle re: Tyre		
	24 When the Lord lays the earth waste		
	25 When the Lord's hand rests on the mountain		
	26 The way of the righteous		
	27 The day He punishes the Leviathan		

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes	
Woes/the coming King and Kingdom	WOES	GOD'S CHARACTER AND JUDGMENT	28 Woe to the proud/Cornerstone to be laid in Zion
	Promises for the future re: the King, Edom, the Arabah		GOD'S RANSOM
30 Woe to rebellious who follow their own plan			
31 Woe to those who go to Egypt—Return to Him			
32 When the King reigns righteously			
33 Those who live with the consuming fire, who see the King in His beauty			
34 God's judgment on the nations and Edom			
35 God's recompense comes/Ransomed walk Highway of Holiness			
36 Rabshakeh asks Hezekiah to surrender Jerusalem			
37 Hezekiah's prayers and God's promise			
38 Hezekiah's illness, prayer, and deliverance			
HISTORICAL INTERLUDE	DISCOURSES REGARDING:	39 Hezekiah receives Babylonians/Isaiah prophesies Babylon's conquest of Judah	
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Isaiah Part 2

The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah



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