

I. Scale of Isaiah

- colossal
 - :length
 - :concept
- from fallen creation to new creation
- from earthly Jerusalem to new Jerusalem
- from 8th century BC Judah to the future of the whole world
- greatness and holiness of the LORD

II. Significance Of Isaiah

- NT quotation
- Jesus
 - :birth
 - :life and ministry
 - :death
 - :resurrection

III. Glory Of Isaiah

Exercise 1: making sense of Isaiah 1-6

Read Isaiah 1 & 2 noting the main themes & any unexpected twists

Main themes of Isaiah 1-5

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

Isaiah 6

Passage context

Book context

Bible context

Rev 4, Matt 13:13-15, Mark 4:11-12, Luke 8:10, John 12:37-41, Acts 28:24-28

1) Isaiah 6:1-8

2) Isaiah 6:9-13

Isaiah: Introduction 2 Getting Our Bearings

I. The Historical Situation Of Isaiah

- 1) **Context**

- 2) **Crisis 1** Chapter 7 Ahaz and the coalition of Aram and Israel against Judah

- 3) **Crisis 2** Chapters 36-37 Hezekiah and the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem

- 4) **Crisis 3** Chapters 40-55 The Babylonian invasion and the Exile

II. The Unity Of Isaiah

1) **Three Isaiahs?**

Chapters 1-39 First Isaiah 1 in 8th century BC

Chapters 40-55 Second Isaiah in mid 6th century BC

Chapters 56-66 Third Isaiah in later 6th century BC

2) **One Isaiah?**

- Presupposition about predictive prophecy

- Argument from style overstated

- Manuscript evidence
- Unity of thought
- Credibility of a 'secret' writer & 'school of Isaiah'
- Later section answers issues of the earlier section

III. The Structure Of Isaiah

Barry Webb's analysis:

Jerusalem	Part 1	1-12	Assyria
	Part 2	13-27	
	Part 3	28-35	
	Part 4	36-39	-----
	Part 5	40-51:11	Babylon
	Part 6	51:11-55	
New Jerusalem	Part 7	56-66	

Alec Motyer's structure:

The King 1-37

The Servant 38-55

The Anointed Conqueror 56-66

1) The Big Picture

Chapters 36-37

Chapters 38-39

A book of two halves

2) **An Outline Of Isaiah**

I have followed Webb largely: he identifies sections all of which, except for middle prose section, end with praise and joy.

I. Chapters 1-12

- 1-6 Introduction setting the themes and describing Isaiah's call
- 7-12 Historical incident in Ahaz's day: with extraordinary promises of a future deliverance. Ends in praise in the beautiful chapter 12.

II. Chapters 13-27

- 13-23 sequence of prophecies against the nations but with a theme of hope for Israel and hope for Gentiles
- 24-27 'The Isaiah Apocalypse': judgement on all the earth, yet song of praise & scene of final worship.

III. Chapters 28-35

- Key issue who do you trust: woes over Judah
- Ends with judgement on all earth for those who ignore God chapter 34 and final joys of the redeemed chapter 35.

IV. Chapters 36-39

- 36-37 Deliverance from Assyria
- 38-39 Warnings of Babylonian conquest

V. Chapters 40-51:11

- 40 Fresh revelation of God & new emphasis on comfort and hope.
- The God who foretells the future promises deliverance from Babylon and return from exile under Cyrus. Ends with gladness & joy.

VI. Chapter 51:12-55

- 51:12-55 The heart of the ministry of the Servant of God: suffering to redeem. Ends in joy. [Oswalt would begin this section in 49, so that the sequence of Servant passages are grouped together.]

VII. Chapters 56-66

- Israel restored but still failing: tension between the now & the not yet.
- Promises of a final renewal: new heavens and a new earth chapters 65 & 66.

Very Short Bibliography

E.J. Young *The Book Of Isaiah*, 3 vols (Eerdmans 1965, 1969, 1972)

G.W. Grogan *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, vol. 6*, Isaiah (Zondervan 1986)

J.A. Motyer *The Prophecy Of Isaiah* (IVP 1993)

J.N. Oswalt *The Book Of Isaiah*, 2 vols, New International Commentary On The Old Testament (Eerdmans 1986, 1998)

B. Webb *The Message Of Isaiah* (IVP 1996)

Exercise 2: Making sense of Isaiah 40

Read Isaiah 39 & 40

1. Summarise the message/the 'big idea' of chapter 39 in a sentence:
2. What would be the natural feelings of an Israelite to the message of chapter 39?
3. Summarise the message/the 'big idea' of chapter 40 in a sentence
4. Pick out as many aspects as you can in chapter 40 that relate to and reflect what is found in chapter 39.