

Isaiah: The Fifth Gospel — Week 5: “Third” Isaiah (56–66)

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Summary/Overview

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| c. 740s–680s BC | Isaiah 1–35 Warnings and promises of restoration |
| c. 715–700 | Isaiah 36–39: Hezekiah: Salvation AND exile |
| 605–587 | (Babylonian invasion) |
| c. 540s | Isaiah 40–55 (links to 35 and 39) End of exile is coming soon! New Exodus! YHWH will do what he promised! Hopeful conclusion |
| 539–c. 500 | (Persian conquest; Cyrus decree; returnees; temple rebuilt) |
| c. 500–450 | Isaiah 56–66 If the “New Exodus” meant only return from exile, it was disappointing. Thus, future deliverance is necessary (fully “eschatologized”). “Universalizing”: deliverance is for all nations! |

Isaiah 56–66

- 56:1–8 Foreigners and eunuchs can be part of YHWH’s people by loyalty — “holding fast to his covenant” and keeping Sabbaths — “house of prayer for all the nations” (cf. Mk 11:17)
 - 56:9–59:8 Challenges about Israel’s immoral life — cf. 2 Chr 28, the Good Samaritans! — Eph 2:13, 17, peace to those who are far off and those who are near
- 59:9–15a Prayer for forgiveness and restoration
 - 59:15b–21 Vision of Yahweh in judgment — cf. Eph 6:10–20, Armor of God
- 60:1–62:12 Visions of Jerusalem restored — cf. Matt 2:1–12; Luke 4:18–19
 - 63:1–6 Vision of Yahweh in Judgment
- 63:7–64:12 Prayer for forgiveness and restoration — Ezr 9; Neh 1; 9; Dan 9; Mark 5
 - 65:1–66:16 Challenges about Israel’s life; inclusion of chosen Gentiles; NHNE — cf. Mark 5 ([Giffone & Wile 2023](#))
- 66:17–24 Foreigners become even Levites and priests before YHWH!

Resonances of Isaiah in the New Testament

- Isaiah: David-king (1–39), Servant (40–55), YHWH (56–66). Gospels: Jesus is fully human, fully YHWH
- Matthew: Jesus is Immanuel, the Son of David, Light to the Nations
- Mark: Jesus leads Isaiah’s New Exodus (Watts 2000)
 - Mark 1:10 – Isa 64:1 (MT 63:19b)
 - Mark 12:1 – Isa 5:1–2
- Luke: Jesus is Consoler and Healer of Israel and the Nations. Lk 4:16–21 – Isa 61:1–2
- Isa 6:9–10 – cited in Mt 13:14–15; Mk 4:12; Lk 8:10; Jn 12:40; Acts 28:23–28; Rom 11:8
- Romans 9–11: Isaiah’s light to the nations, YHWH’s sovereignty
 - Rom 9:27–29 – Isa 10:22–23; Isa 1:9
 - Rom 10:20–21 – Isa 65:1–2
- 1 Cor 14:21–22 – Isa 28:11 – Tongues and judgment
- Ephesians: Peace to those far and near (2:17 – Isa 57:19); armor of God (6:14–17 – Isa 11:5; 59:17; 52:7)
- 1 Peter: be prepared to suffer like the Servant suffered
- Revelation: Holy is YHWH, worthy is the Lamb that was slain (Rev 4:8 – Isa 6:2)! Fallen is Babylon (14:8; 18:2 – Isa 21:9)