# Isaiah

## Description

This is a course on Bible Interpretation, demonstrated with the book of Isaiah.

## Course Objectives

By completing this course, the student will:

1. Better understand the process of interpreting a book of the Bible and teaching it to their disciples.
2. Understand the contents and context of Isaiah.
3. Better understand prophetic forms and how they influence the interpretation of Old Testament prophets.
4. Have a greater appreciation for the history of interpretation so that they are better prepared to enter into the ongoing discussion.
5. Have a greater motivation to make disciples.

## Textbooks

1. The Bible
2. Class notes

## Assignments

1. Read Isaiah at least once during the course, marking up the book with questions and associations.
2. Keep folders (3-ring binder, or a computer folder) devoted to Isaiah with a collection of material relevant to its interpretation.
3. Final exam. Completion of the course is dependent on attendance on the final night and passing an exam on the material covered in the class.

## Schedule

Class times are 7:00–7:55 (15 minute break), 8:10–9:00.

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| Date | Session | Content |
| 9/6 | 1  2 | Introduction to Course, and “Why are we Here?”; Bible Interpretation  Author and Audience; Genre, Structure and Primary Themes |
| 9/13 | 3  4 | Isaiah 1:1–6:13  Prophecy and Prophets |
| 9/20 | 5  6 | Isaiah 7:1–12:6  Messianic Prophecy: King |
| 9/27 | 7  8 | Isaiah 13:1–14:27  Isaiah 14:28–21:17 |
| 10/4 | 9  10 | Isaiah 22:1–27:12  Isaiah 28:1–35:10 |
| 10/11 | 11  12 | Isaiah 36:1–39:8  Foreign Dependency |
| 10/18 | 13  14 | Isaiah 40:1–48:11  Supremacy of God |
| 10/25 | 15  16 | Isaiah 49:1–54:17  Messianic Prophecy: Suffering Servant |
| 11/1 | 17  18 | Isaiah 55:1–66:24  Restoration |
| 11/8 | 19  20 | Final Questions and Discussion  Final Exam and Celebration |

## Select Bibliography

Though there are no required textbooks for this course, you may wish to acquire some of the following for your personal study. If you have questions regarding these or other books, please ask.

Adler, Mortimer J., and Charles Van Doren. *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide to Intelligent Reading*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1940.

Alexander, T. D. *The Servant King: The Bible's Portrait of the Messiah*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing, 1998.

Beyer, Bryan E. *Encountering the Book of Isaiah: A Historical and Theological Survey*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2007.

Childs, Brevard S. *Isaiah and the Assyrian Crisis*. Studies in Biblical Theology, ed. C. F. D. Moule et al., vol. 2. Naperville, IL: Alec R. Allenson, 1967.

Childs, Brevard S. *Isaiah*. Old Testament Library, ed. James L. Mays, Carol A. Newsom, and David L. Petersen. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2001.

Clements, Ronald E. “A Light to the Nations: A Central Theme of the Book of Isaiah.” In *Forming Prophetic Literature: Essays on Isaiah and the Twelve in Honor of John D. W. Watts*, ed. James W. Watts and Paul R. House. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament Supplement Series, vol. 235, 57-69. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.

Gitay, Yehoshua. “Reflections on the Study of the Prophetic Discourse: The Question of Isaiah 1:2-20.” *Vetus Testamentum* 33, no. 2 (1983): 207-21.

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Hamborg, G. R. “Reasons for Judgement in the Oracles Against the Nations of the Prophet Isaiah.” *Vetus Testamentum* 31, no. 2 (1981): 145-59.

Kaiser, Walter C. *The Messiah in the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Kim, Hyun Chul Paul. *Reading Isaiah: A Literary and Theological Commentary*. Macon, GA: Smyth and Helwys, 2016.

Liebreich, Leon J. “The Compilation of the Book of Isaiah.” *Jewish Quarterly Review* 47 (1956): 114-38.

Lindblom, Joh. *A Study on the Immanuel Section in Isaiah*. Scripta Minora, vol. 4. Lund: Håkan Ohlssons Boktryckeri, 1957.

Melugin, Roy F. “Israel and the Nations in Isaiah 40–55.” In *Problems in Biblical Theology: Essays in Honor of Rolf Knierim*, ed. Henry T. C. Sun et al. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1997.

O'Connell, Robert H. *Concentricity and Continuity: The Literary Structure of Isaiah*. Journal for the Study of the Old Testament: Supplement Series, ed. David J. A. Clines and Philip R. Davies, vol. 188. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1994.

Oswalt, John N. *The Book of Isaiah: Chapters 1–39*. New International Commentary on the Old Testament, ed. R. K. Harrison and Robert L. Hubbard. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1986.

Smith, Gary V. *Isaiah 1–39*. The New American Commentary, vol. 15A. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2007.

Smith, Gary V. *Isaiah 40–66*. The New American Commentary, ed. E. Ray Clendenen et al., vol. 15B. Nashville, TN: Broadman and Holman, 2009.

Walker, Larry L. “Isaiah.” In *Isaiah–Lamentations*. Cornerstone Biblical Commentary, ed. Philip W. Comfort, vol. 8, 1-292. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005.