

Isaiah

Synthetic Reading October 2016
(edited June 2020)

There is a noticeable distinction between chapters 1-39 & chapters 40-66. The 1st 39 chapters reflect on the waywardness and wickedness of the nation of Israel in spite of the goodness of God. Chapters 40-66 highlight the work that the Sovereign God is up to both in comforting and restoring those who will respond to the promise of God. God repeatedly reminds Judah that God has a calling on both the life of the nation and also on the individuals in the nation. God furthermore reminds the people of the issues with which God is most concerned, especially the issues of Justice!

Moreover, God again demonstrates in the prophetic book of Isaiah, as in other books, that God is not only the God of merely the nation of Judah or of solely the children of Israel; rather, God is the God of all creation! Other gods are not gods. Other gods are not God! There is no one like God (Isaiah 45:20-23)! Other gods are idols but only God is the Sovereign Creator, the Maker and the Mover of all of creation! He does this in a couple of fascinating ways.

1. God chooses nations and uses nations to execute divine judgement in the life of the nations of Israel and Judah.
2. God not only brings judgement to Judah and Israel through the unusual choices of Assyria and Babylon, but God also judges Assyria, Babylon, and others for their own arrogance and their own waywardness.

When one nation conquered or overcame another nation militarily, both nations often seemed to conclude that this victory

**Rev. White's reading notes
based on synthetic reading of the book**

came not only because of the might of their military but also because of the power of their god. Similarly, military defeats were often seen as a sign that the god of the vanquished was weak or impotent compared to the god of the victorious.

However, God declared that military defeat in the lives of the people of God was not a sign of any inferiority on the part of God's person or of God's power. Instead, these unfortunate military outcomes for the children of Israel could be seen as evidence that the people of God were not properly or suitably aligned in their lives with the Person of God. Consequently, they were not the beneficiaries of the power of God in their international interactions or their military exercises. It is in living in obedience to God that we enjoy success and engage with the world victoriously.

Consequently, the book of Isaiah illustrates God's unfailing love and God's undeterred willingness to bring about victory again at God's appointed time when the assigned season of judgement and period of punishment had concluded. God is sovereign!