



Provided by the Church of the Lutheran Confession - Board of Missions

## Old Testament Survey

### Lesson 33 – Good King Hezekiah and the Prophet Isaiah (Second Kings 18-20; Second Chronicles 29-32; Isaiah 36-66)

#### Two Outstanding Men of Faith

After Assyria conquered Israel in 722 BC, it seemed as though Judah would be the next nation to fall to Assyria's power. But God raised up a prophet (Isaiah) and a king (Hezekiah) to work and pray for Judah's deliverance. Although Sennacherib of Assyria conquered much of Judah and surrounded Jerusalem, he was not able to take the city. In his ungodly pride he made fun of Judah's weakness and Hezekiah's trust in the LORD. After all, he had defeated all the other nations, and their gods were unable to save them. But the LORD God of Judah proved that He was not like other so-called gods. God sent just one of His many angels, and this one angel destroyed Sennacherib's army, so Sennacherib returned to his own land. By God's grace and powerful intervention Judah remained a free nation. The strength of Hezekiah and Isaiah was that they trusted in the LORD God and His promises.

Read the three historical chapters in 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles given below, and at least Isaiah 38, 39, 53, and 55. Make it your goal to read all of the chapters of the book of Isaiah within the next year. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask them.

#### Hezekiah of Judah (728-698 BC)

1. Hezekiah has a godly reign (2 Kings 18:1-3; 2 Chronicles 29:1-2).

The Bible says that in his trust in the LORD there was none like him before him or after him.

2. Hezekiah and the Levites remove the unclean idolatry from the Temple (2 Chronicles 29:3-19).
3. The Temple is rededicated by the offering of sacrifices and music (2 Chronicles 29:20-36).

Psalms were sung to the accompaniment of trumpets, cymbals, harps, and lyres.

4. Israel is carried off to Assyria in 722 BC during the reign of Hezekiah (2 Kings 18:9-12).
5. Hezekiah prepares to celebrate the Passover according to the Law (2 Chronicles 30:1-4).
6. Hezekiah invites those left in Israel to celebrate with Judah (2 Chronicles 30:5-12).

The majority in Israel did not accept this invitation, but some did.

7. Hezekiah, Judah, and some in Israel celebrate a huge Passover (2 Chronicles 30:13-27).

The Passover had not been celebrated like this since the days of King Solomon.

8. Hezekiah breaks down false altars and wipes out idolatry (2 Kings 18:4-6; 2 Chronicles 31:1).

Hezekiah destroyed the bronze serpent, which had become an object of worship.

**"Until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan"** (2 Kings 18:\_\_\_

9. Hezekiah restores order in the Temple worship and contributions (2 Chronicles 31:2-21).
10. Hezekiah becomes fatally sick and prays for recovery (2 Kings 20:1-3; 2 Chronicles 32:24; Isaiah 38:1-3).

**"Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live"** (2 Kings 20:\_\_\_ Isaiah 38:\_\_\_

**“Hezekiah wept bitterly”** (2 Kings 20: \_\_ Isaiah 38: \_\_)

11. Isaiah says God will give Hezekiah 15 more years in answer to his prayer (2 Kings 20:4-7; Isaiah 38:4-6, 21).

God also said: **“I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria”** (2 Kings 20: \_\_ Isaiah 38: \_\_)

12. Isaiah gives Hezekiah the sign of the sun dial (2 Kings 20:8-11; 2 Chronicles 32:24; Isaiah 38:7-8, 22).

This miracle was accomplished either by a change in the movement of the heavenly bodies or by a change in the shadow itself apart from the planetary system.

13. Hezekiah writes a hymn to God on his recovery (Isaiah 38:9-20).

**“You have cast all my sins behind Your back”** (v. \_\_\_\_)

14. In his pride Hezekiah shows Merodach-Baladan of Babylon all his treasures (2 Kings 20:12-13; Isaiah 39:1-2)

15. Isaiah prophesies the Babylonian Captivity of Judah (2 Kings 20:14-18; Isaiah 39:3-7).

16. Hezekiah rebels against Assyrian domination and defeats the Philistines (2 Kings 18:7-8).

17. Sennacherib of Assyria attacks Judah and takes many cities and captives (2 Kings 18:13; 2 Chronicles 32:1; Isaiah 36:1).

From Assyrian records: “As for Hezekiah, the Jew, who did not submit to my yoke, 46 of his cities I took, 200 150 people I brought away, and himself, like a caged bird, I shut up in Jerusalem, his royal city.”

18. Hezekiah prepares to defend Jerusalem and encourages his men to trust in the LORD (2 Chronicles 32:2-8).

He cuts off the supply of water outside the city.

19. Hezekiah tries to buy off Sennacherib with money (2 Kings 18:14-16).

20. Sennacherib sends three officials from Lachish to Jerusalem to frighten Hezekiah and the people (2 Kings 18:17-25; 2 Chronicles 32:9-17; Isaiah 36:2-10).

21. The Rabshakeh repeats his blasphemy in loud Aramaic words to frighten the people (2 Kings 18:26-37; 2 Chronicles 32:9-17; Isaiah 36:11-22).

**“Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, ‘The LORD will deliver us.’”** (Isaiah 36: \_\_)

22. Hezekiah prays and sends messengers to Isaiah (2 Kings 19:1-5; Isaiah 37:1-5).

23. Isaiah says Sennacherib will return home and die (2 Kings 19:6-7; Isaiah 37:6-7).

**“He shall hear a rumor and return to his own land; and I will cause him to fall”** (2 Kings 19: \_\_ Isaiah 37: \_\_)

24. Sennacherib’s messengers deliver a threatening letter to Hezekiah (2 Kings 19:8-13; Isaiah 37:8-13).

**“Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you”** (2 Kings 19: \_\_ Isaiah 37: \_\_)

25. Hezekiah takes Sennacherib’s letter to the Temple (2 Kings 19:14; Isaiah 37:14).

26. Hezekiah asks God to show His power (2 Kings 19:15-19; 2 Chronicles 32:20; Isaiah 37:15-20).

**“Save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD, You alone”** (2 Kings 19: \_\_ Isaiah 37: \_\_)

27. Isaiah prophesies that Jerusalem will escape (2 Kings 19:20-34; Isaiah 37:21-35).

**“I will defend this city, to save it, for My own sake and for My servant David’s sake”** (2 Kings 19:\_\_\_ Isaiah 37:\_\_\_)

28. The angel of the LORD destroys 185 000 Assyrians in one night, and Sennacherib goes home and later dies (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chronicles 32:21-23; Isaiah 37:36-38).
29. God blesses Hezekiah, and Hezekiah becomes proud (2 Chronicles 32:21, 23, 25, 27-30).
30. Hezekiah humbles himself and dies in peace (2 Kings 20:19-21; 2 Chronicles 32:26, 32-33; Isaiah 39:8).

Note: The great water conduit of Hezekiah was discovered in 1838. The Siloam Tunnel was cut through rock for 533 meters (1750 feet); construction started at each end. In 1880 an inscription was found in the Tunnel explaining how the work was done. This aqueduct was built to make sure the city had a good supply of water.

### **The Amazing Prophecies of Isaiah**

In Chapter 39 Isaiah prophesied the Babylonian Captivity. This Captivity took place in several stages in 606, 597, and 586 BC – about 100 years after Isaiah foretold it. This is like someone today prophesying events that will take place 100 years from now.

In Chapters 40-66 Isaiah pictured the Jewish people as captives in Babylonia, and he prophesied their deliverance from Babylonia through God’s servant, a king from the East named Cyrus. This took place in 536 BC, about 150 years after the prophesy, when Cyrus the Great of Persia conquered Babylon and permitted the Jews to return to their homeland. This is like someone today prophesying events 150 years from now and even revealing the names of the leaders who will be involved in the history of the future.

As Isaiah prophesied these future events in the history of Israel, he mixed in prophecies of a greater deliverance for all people – a deliverance from sin and all evil through a special Servant of the LORD. He referred to this Person’s birth, His suffering, His death, and His final victory, together with the significance of all these events. Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ, fulfilled these prophecies 700 years or so after Isaiah spoke the words. This is like someone today giving an exact prophecy of events 700 years from now.

This kind of prophecy is possible only because Isaiah was speaking as he was moved by the Holy Spirit. God knows all things before they happen. In fact, God makes them happen exactly as He has prophesied. Therefore, it is easy for Him to reveal future events whenever He wants to do so. He chose prophets like Isaiah to be His messengers.

### **The Servant of the LORD**

In chapters 40-66 of Isaiah’s prophecy a Servant of the LORD is often mentioned. In some of these passages, the Servant of the LORD is the nation of Israel. In others, Cyrus of Persia, the future deliverer of the people of Israel, is called God’s Servant. But in most passages, the Servant of the LORD is none other than the Savior of the whole world, Jesus Christ.

#### **Isaiah 42:1-9**

**“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold... I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles... A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench”**  
(vv. \_\_\_)

#### **Isaiah 49:1-6**

**“I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth”** (v. \_\_\_)

## Isaiah 50:4-9

**“I did not hide My face from shame and spitting” (v. \_\_\_**

## Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12

This section in particular describes the Servant of the LORD as a Suffering Servant. It is as though Isaiah himself were at the foot of Calvary’s cross. He sees the Servant of the LORD suffering innocently for the sin of the world.

There can be no doubt that this prophecy was fulfilled by our Lord Jesus Christ. When the eunuch of Ethiopia was reading this passage while riding in his chariot, the Holy Spirit sent Philip to him to explain the meaning of what he was reading. **“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him”** (Acts 8:35).

**“My Servant shall...be exalted and extolled and be very high”** (Isaiah 52:\_\_\_

**“He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”** (Isaiah 53:\_\_\_

**“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities”** (Isaiah 53:\_\_\_

**“The LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”** (Isaiah 53:\_\_\_

**“For the transgressions of My people He was stricken”** (Isaiah 53:\_\_\_

**“It pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief”** (Isaiah 53:\_\_\_

**“He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors”**  
(Isaiah 53:\_\_\_

**“I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong”**  
(Isaiah 53:\_\_\_

## Isaiah 61

**“The LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor”** (v. \_\_\_

**“He has covered me with the robe of righteousness”** (v. \_\_\_

## Isaiah 62

**“You shall be called Hephzibah (“My Delight is in Her”), and your name Beulah (“Married”); for the LORD delights in you”** (v. \_\_\_

## The Main Themes of Isaiah 40-66

At least five great subjects are treated in this section:

- A description of the sinful nation of Israel (Judah)
- The spiritual Israel (the true believers in Israel), though weak in faith, are still the objects of God’s love and mercy
- Israel will be delivered from the Babylonian Captivity through a future king named Cyrus
- The Messiah will come, the Suffering Servant of the LORD, and He will deliver the entire world from the guilt of its sin by becoming the world’s Substitute
- God promises to glorify His Church of true believers in the New Testament age of the Messiah and even to eternity

In form, Isaiah 40-66 consists of three cycles of poems after an introduction (Isaiah 40:1-11).

**“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that ... her iniquity is pardoned”** (v. \_\_\_

The three cycles of poems all end with a word of judgment.

**“There is no peace,’ says the LORD, ‘for the wicked’”** (Isaiah 48:\_\_\_)

**“There is no peace,’ says my God, ‘for the wicked’”** (Isaiah 57:\_\_\_)

**“Their worm does not die, and their fire is not quenched. They shall be an abhorrence to all flesh”** (Isaiah 66:\_\_\_)

### Questions

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1. Why did God allow the Assyrians to conquer the northern kingdom of Israel?
2. Why did God prevent the Assyrians from conquering Judah and Jerusalem?
3. How did King Hezekiah show his devotion to the Lord in his early years?
4. Why did Hezekiah destroy the bronze serpent?
5. What unusual thing did God do for Hezekiah when he was sick?
6. What did the prophet Isaiah tell Hezekiah after the Babylonian visitors left?
7. What blasphemy was spoken by the messenger from Sennacherib?
8. How did God rescue His people in Jerusalem from the Assyrians?
9. What amazing prophecies did God speak through His prophet Isaiah?
10. What role did Cyrus the Great of Persia play in Judah’s history?
11. Who is meant by the suffering servant in Isaiah’s prophecies?
12. List four of Isaiah’s prophecies concerning Jesus and show how these prophecies were fulfilled.
13. Find examples of both law and Gospel in the writings of Isaiah.