

THE EPIC OF EDEN: ISAIAH

Session 7 Video Notes – The Message of the Latter Things

1. The Literary (and Theological!) Structure of the Book
 - a. Isaiah 1-39: the former things ... Israel's deserved judgment
 - b. Isaiah 40-66: the latter things ... Israel's hope of restoration after judgment
 - c. Who is the audience of the "latter things"?
 - i. The exile (chapters 40-55), 605-539 BC
 - ii. The return (chapters 56-66), 539-400 BC
2. The Message of Isaiah 40
 - a. Comfort from what? The exile
 - b. Restoration of what? King and country
 - c. How? Yahweh is marching on Babylon
 - d. The incomplete return of the exiles
 - i. Where is the restoration of king and country?
 - ii. Why hasn't everyone come home?
 - iii. The message of the intertestamental period
3. The New Testament Use of Isaiah 40:3
 - a. The Gospels and the "voice crying out in the wilderness"
 - b. Who does this make John the Baptist?
 - c. Ultimately the "latter things" are the Christ and the "New Israel"
 - d. "Be Ye Glad"

Isaiah 43:10, 12 *"You are My witnesses," declares Yahweh, "and My servant whom I have chosen, in order that you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, and there will be none after Me ... It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, and there was no strange one [i.e., god] among you. So you are My witnesses!" (author's translation)*

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

"Behold, the former things have come to pass, now I declare new things, before they spring forth I declare them to you!" 42:9

ISAIAH 1-39		ISAIAH 40-66	
Former things . . . Israel's sin and impending judgment		Latter things . . . Israel's hope of restoration after judgment	
1-6	Introduction: The Problem: Judah's Sin	40-43	Transition: The Solution: Yahweh's Transformation and Restoration of Israel
7-12	Ahaz: A Faithless King	44-53	"Who Will You Serve?"
13-23	Oracles against the Nations	54-63	The Restoration of Israel and the Nations
24-27	The "Little Apocalypse"	64-66	Summary of All: "Can a Land Be Born in a Single Day?"
28-35	A Series of Woes against Israel		
36-39	Hezekiah: An (Almost) Faithful King		
1	Introduction of lawsuit		
2-4	Summary oracles		
5	Poetic reiteration		
6	Denouement: the introduction of Isaiah		
7-9:7	The children-name-signs		
9:8-10:4	"His anger does not turn away"		
10:5-34	Judgment against Assyria		
11:1-12:6	Salvation for Israel and a hymn of praise		
13-14	Babylon and "The Day of Yahweh"		
15-17	Philistia, Moab, Damascus		
18-20	Egypt		
21-22	Babylon and Judah		
23	Tyre		
24	Cosmological judgment and coming kingdom		
25	Hymn of praise for new order		
26	Resurrection after death		
27	"In that day" Leviathan slain; Jacob exonerated		
28-31	Drunken Ephraim; sinful Ariel; rebellious children		
32-34	Resolution: a righteous king and judgment		
35	Hymn of redemption		
36-37	Hezekiah, Sennacherib and Isaiah		
38	Hezekiah [and Israel's] temporary reprieve		
39	Hezekiah's foolishness: Babylon is coming		
40-41	The restoration begins!		
42	The new servant		
43	The new thing [The exiles come home!]		
44	The servant vs. the idol		
45-48	The idols and those who serve them humiliated; Yahweh delivers [cf. Cyrus]		
49-53	Yahweh reclaims his people by the work of his servant		
54	Judgment has its limits; there is a script		
55-56	Come to the waters		
57-58	The fate of the wicked		
59-62	The fate of the righteous		
63	The winepress of Yahweh		
64	Israel finally understands, "Our Father"		
65	Yahweh will restore: a new heaven and earth		
66	"I extend peace like a river"		

"For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind!" 65:17 (NRSV, emphasis mine)