

The Book of Isaiah

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Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we begin reading the book of **Isaiah**. As we have already seen, the Old Testament can be divided into three major sections:

- The Historical Books (**Genesis** to **Esther**)
- The Poetic Books (**Job** to **Song of Songs**)
- The Prophetic Books (**Isaiah** to **Malachi**)

The Prophetic Books themselves can be broken down into two sub-sections:

- The Major Prophets (**Isaiah** to **Daniel**) – 5 books in total
- The Minor Prophets (**Hosea** to **Malachi**) – 12 books in total

Isaiah is the first of the Major Prophets. Isaiah's ministry was to Jerusalem (the capital of Judah, the southern kingdom) and spanned the reigns of Uzziah (also called Azariah), Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and possibly Manasseh. Jewish tradition states that he was martyred during the reign of Manasseh by being placed inside a log and sawed asunder. This may be what the phrase "they were sawed in two" is referring to in **Hebrews 11:37**.

For the purposes of our morning studies, we have divided the book of **Isaiah** into five main sections:

- **Chapters 1-12** – Visions of God's glory and prophecies of the Messiah
- **Chapters 13-23** – Oracles concerning Jerusalem and the nations
- **Chapters 24-39** – Judgment and deliverance in Israel and Judah
- **Chapters 40-48** – The hope of Judah and the fall of Babylon
- **Chapters 49-66** – The promise of the Messiah and the glory of Zion

Today we will read the first section – **chapters 1-12**. This introduces Isaiah himself and describes his commission from the very Throne of God. Its prophecy of the coming deliverer – the One who would be called Immanuel (**7:14**), Wonderful Counselor (**9:6**) and the Root and Branch of Jesse (**11:1-10**) – also set the pace for the prophetic vision of the rest of the book.

Memory Verse

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end...

Isaiah 9:6-7

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is his Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!