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Dear Associates and Friends,

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The Book of Isaiah is a very sophisticated and even complex book of the Bible. It contains some history that is related in greater detail in portions of the Books of Second Chronicles and Second Kings. However, most of Isaiah is not a history. Isaiah's first 35 chapters are prophetic commentaries on historical events and peoples in his lifetime and several incidents and visions of Isaiah are dated to specific events related to the kings of Judah (for example Isaiah 6:1, 14:28) and other historical events (such as 20:1). Yet those commentaries and prophecies are not meant to be chronological. Later, Isaiah does describe events that contain a historical narrative recitation (chapters 36–39).¹

This month's article is an "[Introduction to Isaiah](#)" by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, with additional information by me that includes a useful chapter-by-chapter outline of the book. This material will acquaint you with essential yet basic information about this very important Old Testament book.

The central message of the Book of Isaiah is that trust must be placed in YHWH alone and not in individual men, nations, or other elohim (other gods).² YHWH is Israel's king, He created Israel, and He is Israel's Elohim. Keep this in mind as you read Isaiah, and as you read Dr. Martin's and my information.

In Isaiah YHWH strives for Israel to change its ways. After telling Israel to wash themselves clean (in a baptism and ritual symbolism in Isaiah 1:16),³ YHWH sets the theme for Isaiah's central message:

“Leave off the evil! Learn to be good! Inquire for judgment! Make happy the wronged! Judge the orphan! Contend for the widow! Go, pray and it shall be corrected,” saying is YHWH. ‘If your sins are coming to be as double dipped scarlet, as snow shall they be white. If they are reddened as crimson, as wool shall they become.’”

• Isaiah 1:17–18, Concordant Version⁴

Isaiah was writing to individuals within Israel and Judah as well as to the two kingdoms or nations. YHWH was pleading with them through Isaiah to make changes in their lives. Individual changes would cause the nation to be changed. Of course, they were incapable of doing so until the Suffering Servant came forth to give them the example and the ability to change their lives (Isaiah chapters 49–54). That Suffering Servant was Jesus Christ, and it did not happen until His resurrection.

¹ Wood, D.R.W. & Marshall, I.H., *New Bible Dictionary*, 3rd ed. (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1996), p. 514:

“Chs. 36–39 are essentially parallel to 2 Ki. 18:13–20:19. In this connection it should be borne in mind that, according to 2 Ch. 26:22; 32:32, Isaiah also figured as a historical writer.”

According to 2 Chronicles 32:32, Isaiah wrote the combined books of First and Second Kings. For Isaiah's role in the canonization of Scripture, see chapter 12, "[The Old Testament Periods of Canonization](#)" in Dr. Martin's *Restoring the Original Bible*.

² These entities, these gods, these elohim, are very real existential nonphysical beings. Isaiah often refers to YHWH as **“your Elohim”** and **“our Elohim.”** These are the **“principalities and powers”** that the apostle Paul mentions in Romans 8:38; Ephesians 1:21, 3:10, 6:12; Colossians 1:16, 2:10, 15; and Titus 3:1. Isaiah talks much about the impotence of the idols, but he acknowledges that the gods that the idols represent are real.

³ **“Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil”** (Isaiah 1:16). See chapter 9, "[The Prophets Division](#)" of Dr. Martin's *Restoring the Original Bible*.

⁴ All the verbs in verse 17 are imperatives. Compare this translation with the King James Version. Our familiarity with this verse may cause us to miss the significance of these two verses.

When Israel and Judah did not repent, God executed judgment upon them according to the Covenant agreement that all Israel agreed to at Sinai. These are the judgment prophecies of Isaiah.

Housekeeping

I have continued to do Byte Shows with GeorgeAnn Hughes. Recent shows have been "[Falsification of Prophecy](#)," "[Does God Have Feelings?](#)," "[Christian in Name Only](#)," and "[Modern Recognition of Universal Salvation](#)." I hope you gain much benefit from listening to these shows. They can be downloaded to several different formats. The entire list of Byte Shows is given at "[The Byte Show Presentations](#)" ASK webpage. The shows are also individually listed and linked with their accompanying articles.

Thank You

The Book of Isaiah alternates between depths of degradation and heights of exaltation. We shall see both in the coming years before Christ returns. A time of exaltation will exist during the millennium when Christ rules the Kingdom of God on earth with the Old and New Covenant saints. Then, at the end of the 1,000 years, comes degradation as many of those still alive will be tempted and enticed to rebel against YHWH, their God, their Father, and King. Then will come the new heavens and new earth, along with the great white throne judgment which will be a time of exaltation. The last and greatest exaltation will be when God becomes all and in all (1 Corinthians 15:28), all are saved without loss, and death is no more.

At all times we should praise and thank God for the good things He has given us at this present moment: knowledge **now** of His existence, access **now** to His Word, recognition **now** of His plan for us as individuals and for all mankind, His faith granted to us **now** by the redemption through His Son Jesus Christ, and His gift **now** of His Holy Spirit. Indeed, He gives us the very quintessence of our Father's composition (in earnest, in down payment form, 2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5; Ephesians 1:14), which will be our future composition.⁵ The entire world will acknowledge God and His righteousness and will praise Him for those gifts:

"For as the earth brings forth her bud, and as the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord YHWH will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before [in the sight of] all the nations."

• *Isaiah 61:11*

We thank God and you for the sustaining help for ASK through your contributions and prayers. While we plod on in our work, God willing (1 Timothy 5:18; 1 Corinthians 9:9), we are grateful to God for you and ask, like Paul, that He continues to increasingly bless you with all spiritual blessings:

"I will greatly rejoice in YHWH, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks [himself] with ornaments, and as a bride adorns [herself] with her jewels."

• *Isaiah 61:10*

"Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ: ... that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will."

• *Ephesians 1:3-5*

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⁵ As Christ is now, we shall be **"For if we have become planted together in the likeness of His *death, but nevertheless we shall be of the resurrection also"** (Romans 6:5, Concordant Version), and 1 John 3:2 (KJV):

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it does not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."