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Key themes at the end of ...

ISAIAH



How OT Texts End

Some OT texts end with ...

- The **death** of a key "figure"
- Genesis - the death of **Jacob/Israel**
- Deuteronomy - the death of **Moses**
- Joshua - the death of **Joshua**
- 1 Samuel - the death of **Saul and his sons**
- Kings/Chronicles - the "death" of **Israel/Judah**



How OT Texts End

Some OT texts start off *and* end with ...

- Facts, figures, principles, history, narrative, directives/commands ...
- Leviticus - the role of **priests** and **sacrifices**
- Numbers - the history/narrative of Israel's **journey from Sinai to Canaan**
- Ezra, Nehemiah - the history/narrative of **Israel's restoration**
- Proverbs - an ongoing series of live-this-way-not-that-way **principles/practices**



How OT Texts End

Some OT texts start and maintain a bleak perspective ...

- Right up to the very **end** of the text
- Job - his losses, suffering, doubts, friends' challenges -> **and then** God speaks
- Psalms - many chapters start with laments -> **end with** thanksgiving/deliverance
- Ecclesiastes - all is vanity/chasing the wind -> **except for this**, love/serve God
- Isaiah **starts** w/Judah's & Jerusalem's sins • **repeatedly** emphasizes failures
- **points out** national sins • Edom, Moab, Syria, Assyria, Ethiopia, Egypt, etal.
- **addresses the consequences** of Judah's and other nations' sins
- and then **closes** with an incredible glimpse of future glory*



Isaiah Starts

With God's Sovereignty and Israel's sins ...

- Animals recognize their masters • Judah/Jerusalem does **not** recognize God
- Judah/Jerusalem look/act like they *descended* from **evildoers** rather than from **God**
- They have **forsaken** God • **provoked** God • **turned away** from God
- They look like **a body sick** in all of its parts • head, heart, feet • filled with sores
- They look like **a country overtaken** by strangers • desolate, overthrown, besieged
- They **worshiped** God in vain • They **failed** to do good, defend the helpless
- They were harlots, rebellious, impure ... ready to be **punished**



Isaiah Continues

With God's Sovereignty, Israel's sins, the sins of nations & coming judgment ...

- **Judah/Jerusalem** would be judged for their unfaithfulness
- **Babylon** would be judged for their arrogance
- **Assyria** would be judged to fulfill God's purpose, not their's
- **Philistia** would be destroyed for their wickedness
- **Moab** would be destroyed for their pride and their sins
- Syria, Ethiopia, Egypt, Tyre — **the whole earth** — would be judged for ...
 - transgressing • changing • breaking God's laws



Isaiah Ends

With incredible glimpses of promise and glory for Israel *and* the world ...

- New **people** • New **hearts** for new people
- New **kingdom** • New **heavens** and a New **earth**
- New **wine** for God's people • New **blessings** for faithfulness
- New **Jerusalem** • New **priests** • New **worship**

All fulfilled in **Christ** and his **kingdom!**



Isaiah Ends

With incredible glimpses of promise and glory for Israel *and* the world ...

- New **people** • New **hearts** for new people
- Not restricted to Jews • Gentiles — the nations — included
- New attitudes • greater emphasis on “from-the-inside-out” devotion to God
- Fulfillment of the God-to-Abram covenant-promise
- To be fulfilled in Jesus-kingdom-disciples

All fulfilled in **Christ and his **kingdom!****



Isaiah Ends

With incredible glimpses of promise and glory for Israel *and* the world ...

- New **kingdom** • New **heavens** and a New **earth**
- **Not** a physical kingdom but a **spiritual** kingdom, where spiritual souls **prosper**
- **Not** a reference to a physical place but to a **radical change** in God's order
- Reflected in the focus on spiritual dimensions **rather** than physical ones
- Entails the **promise** of the coming King of Kings

All fulfilled in **Christ** and his **kingdom!**



Isaiah Ends

With incredible glimpses of promise and glory for Israel *and* the world ...

- New **wine** for God's people • New **blessings** for faithfulness
- They are filled with a new message
 - A message of hope — new hope — grounded in God's promises • fulfilled in the perfect Son of God • Who provides the greatest blessings possible in Him
- They have new blessings for service and devotion to God

All fulfilled in **Christ and his **kingdom!****



Isaiah Ends

With incredible glimpses of promise and glory for Israel *and* the world ...

- New **Jerusalem** • New **priests** • New **worship**
- The physical worship system from Sinai to Pentecost ...
 - Has been **changed** • Has been **improved** • **Heart** oriented first, then action
- There's a new **priesthood**
 - Made up of people from **all** nations • **Not** just Jews, but Gentiles too • **Not** rooted in genealogy, but in **faith** • Worshiping God **weekly** and **everywhere**

All fulfilled in Christ and his kingdom!

