The Heart of the Matter
The final decades of the eighth century BC produced several great men, but perhaps the most significant of these was a blue-blooded prophet named Isaiah. That’s quite a statement when you consider his contemporaries were Amos, Hosea, and Micah. Politically and socially, the Hebrews were in terrible shape. World forces were girding for a battle for supremacy. Following Uzziah’s godly fifty-two-year reign as king over Judah, many of the people enjoyed peace and extravagant prosperity, which led to two distinct classes of people: the very rich and the very poor. Abuses, landgrabbing, extortion, idleness, indifference, a corrupt city government, and excessive drinking marked those times. Religiously, the Hebrews lost their distinctiveness and fell under the sway of idolatry, superstition, customs, and cults from the East.

Discovering the Way
1. An Introduction to Isaiah’s Day
To get a handle on the book of Isaiah’s sixty-six chapters, we need to get a handle on the geography, society, and religion of Isaiah’s day.

2. Isaiah’s Call and Style
Before the very throne of God, Isaiah was given a unique and holy calling. God sent the prophet to pronounce both judgment and peace upon Judah.

3. Insights from Isaiah’s Journal
We can learn important things from the book as a whole as well as gain great value from some specific sections.

Starting Your Journey
We can glean four practical and lasting lessons from Isaiah. First, greatness is often found in misunderstood people. Second, loneliness is the price we pay for having convictions. Third, our conception of sin is molded by our idea of God. And fourth, when everything else fades and fails, God’s Word stands firm.
**Isaiah**

**The Judgment of God**
- The law and judgment for disobedience
- Chapters 1–39

**The Deliverance of God**
- God’s grace and deliverance
- Chapters 40–48

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<td><strong>Christ in Isaiah</strong></td>
<td>His first and second advents are prophesied throughout the book (child of a virgin in 7:14, the shoot from the stem of Jesse in chapter 11, the Suffering Servant in chapter 53).</td>
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### Key Verses
- 2:3–5; 6:1–3; 53:1–12

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**Chronological Chart of Hebrew History**

*From Abraham to Captivity*

- **Northern: Israel**
  - About 200 years, 19 kings. All wicked.
  - About 60-year ministry of the prophet Isaiah: 740–680 BC

- **Southern: Judah**
  - About 350 years, 20 monarchs. 12 wicked, 8 good.

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