

Listening Guide

I. Introduction to the Prophetic Literature

A. The Prophets

[1] How many prophetic books are there?

[2] How many are “major” prophets?

[3] What makes a prophet major?

[4] If you are reading the prophets, what other subject discipline do you need to keep in mind?

[5] What four worlds did Dr. Stuart say the prophets were talking about?

[6] Dr. Stuart said the prophets recognize that there are epochs of history; and he named six different epochs they recognized. List them.

B. Prophetic Patterns

[7] What, in relation to time, can make reading the prophets confusing?

[8] What is the pattern that generally dominates the prophets?

[9] What epoch is the first period of blessing?

[10] What epoch is the period of the curse?

II. Isaiah the Prophet

[11] What are Isaiah's dates?

[12] What four periods or eras does Isaiah address?

[13] What do the terms *weal* and *woe* signify?

III. Prophecies of Condemnation (Isaiah 1:1–35:10)

A. Introduction and the Early Prophets (1:1–5:30)

[14] What is the point of the “Day of the Lord” theme?

[15] What is Isaiah 5 famous for?

[16] What is the story in chapter 5 about?

[17] Why did Isaiah write about social justice?

B. Inaugural Vision (6:1–13)

[18] What was Isaiah's initial response to his vision of God?

[19] What is the point of "eyes that do not see"?

C. Present World Empires and Coming Kingdom of God (7:1–12:6)

[20] What does "Immanuel" mean?

[21] What was happening in Israel during Isaiah's time?

[22] Who was doing those things?

[23] What covenant did the promise of a child fulfill?

[24] Where is that covenant recorded?

[25] What will the promised descendent of David accomplish and uphold?

D. Oracles Against Foreign Nations (13:1–23:18)

[26] What is the purpose of these oracles against foreign nations?

E. Isaiah’s “Little Apocalypse” (24:1–27:13)

[27] What does apocalyptic literature do?

IV. Historical Parenthesis (36:1–39:8)

[28] With what book does Isaiah 36–39 synchronize?

[29] What king of Israel did Isaiah interact with in the historical parenthesis?

[30] What nation was oppressing Judah and causing concern for Hezekiah?

V. Prophecies of Comfort (40:1–66:22)

A. New Exodus (40:1–31)

[31] On what does Isaiah 40 concentrate?

[32] What two kinds of “returns” did Isaiah 40 refer to?

B. Servant Songs (42:1–9; 49:1–13; 50:4–11; 52:13–53:12)

[33] Stop here to read Isaiah 53. Then take ten minutes to meditate on this famous servant song and worship the Servant described there.

[34] Write out the answer to Dr. Stuart’s question, “Who is this figure?” What is an appropriate response we should make to this Servant for what He has done?

C. Zion's Glory and Shame (56:1–66:24)

[35] What is the challenge and choice of these chapters about Zion?

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

Reread Isaiah 6 slowly and meditatively as you reflect on the series of steps in Isaiah's call to be God's prophet. Describe the God Isaiah saw and his response to this vision (vv. 1–5). Explain what the angel did in response to Isaiah (vv. 6–7). Describe what happened to Isaiah next and then describe his final response (v. 8). The NIV (and other translations) introduce each of these movements in the text with the word *then*. If your Bible doesn't include them, reread these eight verses and insert each "then" so you can see the cause/effect relationship between each of the five steps in Isaiah's call. How have you responded to God's call in Acts 1:8? How would a view of God such as Isaiah described influence a person who hears God's call to be His witness?