

BOOK The of ISAIAH

The Book of Isaiah's general theme is prophecy in the sense of foretelling the future of Judah and Jerusalem, their neighboring countries, God's mercy on His chosen people and God's promised salvation for these people and the gentiles through His son (called the Servant in Isaiah). However, it is also a book of history concerning some of the major events in King Ahaz's and King Hezekiah's reign demonstrating God's promised solution to man's problem of sin and God's supreme power over the nations and rulers of this world. The first five chapters are, in my opinion, a summary of the message of the book covering the failure of the people of God to obey "The Holy One of Israel" (as Isaiah refers to Yahweh) or even to have a proper attitude in worship. In this summary we find impending judgment on Judah, the introduction of the remnant who receive God's mercy mixed in with glimpses of the Messianic age—a time of righteousness and peace when God will wash away the sin of those who remain. It ends with the prediction that Judah and Jerusalem will be laid waste soon by a conquering army (Assyria/Babylon?).

After this introduction or summary the actual story begins with Chapter 6 and Isaiah is commissioned to go to a people who "will hear his message, but not understand, who will see but not perceive". As a result they "will not turn to the Lord to be healed". Then in verse 11 Isaiah asks, "How long is this message to be told?" and the sad answer is in verses 11-13: "Til the land is utterly desolate, the men removed far away and cities laid waste." But there is still pictured a 10th (a remnant) purified, as it were, by fire. Chapters 7-12 deal with historical events—the fall of Israel, (the northern kingdom), and the coming of Assyria to Judah (the southern kingdom). But final redemption is pictured in such familiar verses as 7:14, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and His name shall be called Emmanuel (God with us)"; 9:6, "Unto us a child is born...the government will be on His shoulder and His name will be called, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace".

— BILL WATSON —

The prophecy ends
with the triumph
of Christ's kingdom

In Chapter 11, "There shall come forth a rod from Jesse (David's father) and a branch shall grow...who will stand as a banner to the people, the gentiles shall seek Him and His resting place is glorious". All this woven among judgment on Ahaz for seeking an alliance with Assyria, the punishment on the Northern Kingdom by captivity (722 b.c.). Then judgment on Assyria (701 b.c.) etc.

Chapters 13 – 35 are prophecies of judgment on the other nations, God's judgment on the world's sin, and the redemption of Israel. Chapters 36 – 39 are an historical narration of Isaiah's and Hezekiah's activities while Assyria besieges Jerusalem and God destroys all 185,000 soldiers of Assyria's besieging army in one night. Also other events in King Hezekiah's life. Chapters 40 – 66 are considered by many to be a separate prophecy but, in my opinion they are the heart of the book. Chapters 40 – 53 describe "The Servant" (who is Jesus) and these verses are often quoted in the New Testament. We see in these chapters, that Jesus is God, that the Gentiles too are blessed by Him, that God created for His glory those called by His name, that God alone is the savior that Jesus was sent by the Father and His Spirit, that He is a light to the Gentiles and a blessing to Zion and Israel's hope. And then in 52 :13 to the end of Chapter 53 we clearly see Jesus. The one on whom "the Lord laid the iniquity of us all." But mixed in with these chapters is the clear message that the people of Judah will go to Babylon and specifically a ruler named Cyrus (200 years later) will provide for their return while Babylon will be judged. Also woven throughout this section we are told that Judah's folly of going after other gods will be dealt with. The prophecy ends with the triumph of Christ's kingdom and the universal dominion of the Lord—in blessing His people who receive His mercy and damning all others.

The gospel is clearly presented in many Old Testament books, but none with more clarity and none that reveal Christ so fully. This is a book worth more than just reading—it should be studied.



HAPPY EASTER

GETTING TO KNOW

SHIELA GROSSMAN

Shiela was adopted by the Brooks' family at four months old. She was raised in their Catholic home in San Francisco. When she turned fourteen the family moved to San Mateo, CA. She completed high school there and put herself through college at San Francisco State, majoring in Biology. Shiela has held several jobs through the years in the area of administration and health insurance.

Through the witness of her friends, attending church, and Bible reading, Shiela was led to Christ at age 33. She met Todd through a Christian website, and they were married in 2003. They lived awhile in San Mateo, and later moved to Bend in 2004. After living here a year, they came to Sovereign Grace church. We've been so blessed by their fellowship and ministry.

JAN KROEKER

May 7-8, 2011

Sovereign Grace Church:
Bible Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

ALSO...

Congratulations to Bill and Cathy Watson for 50 years of marriage!

FAVORITE recipes

Apple Crisp

ALLEIGH KROEKER

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 medium, sliced tart cooking apples (Rome Beauty, Golden Delicious),
• Equals about 4 cups
- 2/3 to 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup quick-cooking or old-fashioned oats
- 1/3 cup (stick) margarine or butter, softened
- 3/4 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1. Heat oven to 375. Grease bottom and sides of square pan,(8"x8"x2"), with shortening.

2. Arrange the apples in a pan. Mix the remaining ingredients. Sprinkle over apples.

3. Bake about 30 minutes or until topping is golden brown and apples are tender.

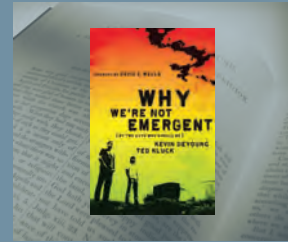
Serve warm and, if desired, with cream or ice cream.

Why We're Not Emergent

RECOMMENDED READING

By, Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck

BRIAN BELL



“What is the emergent church? Is the emergent church biblical? How do I know if a church is emergent or not?” These may be some questions you have pondered recently. For some, you may have never heard of the word “emergent.” Whether you have heard about it or not, the emergent church is spreading and it is causing detriment to evangelical churches all over the world.

In their book, *Why We're Not Emergent: By Two Guys Who Should Be*, Kevin DeYoung and Ted Kluck do a great job of answering the aforementioned questions, along with many others, concerning the emergent church. Using the Bible as their basis, along with church leaders of today and yesterday, DeYoung and Kluck attempt to point out the fallacies with the teachings of the emergent church. These fallacies include the lack of propositional truths in Scripture, a failure to recognize certain behavior as sinful, and a Universalist view of salvation.

People are being drawn to the emergent church because it is non-exclusive, it cares about social issues, and it is the “cool” thing to do. What they are left with is no real truth or understanding of the gospel. If you want to combat this movement, or need help understanding what the emergent church is all about, I recommend reading this book.

HEAVEN

MICHELLE ORTMAN

Heaven, is not fit for only one
Heaven, can carry a ton
It's not just one persons own
It's a place where you're not alone
It is the best place ever
It does not let people die, Never!
You will see Jesus there
Nothing else is so rare
To see Him in heaven
And you will not be seven nor eight
And you won't live in an awful state
Because heaven is so great.