

I recall attending a conference with Campus Crusade for Christ when I was 20.

The speaker was finishing a message with the following remark, which for me was remarkable.

“Your life with God is like a line going on forever into eternity...

This life now, between your physical birth and death, is but a dot on that line, a moment in eternity.

What are you going to do with your moment?”

Isaiah concludes his prophetic message by presenting before us two different destinies... that result from two different ways of answering that question.

1. You can choose to live your life for yourself, obeying your own desires, and forging your own path.
 - This is how most people live. They make up their own morality.
 - They use their money and stuff for themselves and their own pleasures.
 - They want power over others and retribution upon those who have hurt them.
 - They think mostly about serving themselves and their families.
 - They worry. They fret. They fear. They seek pleasures and entertainment. They die.
2. You can choose to live your life for the Lord, obeying Him, and walking the path he sets before you.
 - This is how God’s people live. They are not perfect but live seeking to please God.
 - They use their money and stuff for their needs and in the service of God and His Kingdom.
 - They want to serve others and forgive those who hurt them.
 - They think mostly about what the Lord is doing in their lives, in their community, and in the world.
 - They are in the Word and in prayer and experience the Lord’s peace and joy as they head to eternity.

You choose which way you will go.

Isaiah tells us here about the end result of either way.

The Lord will slay the wicked and save the righteous, forever.

And He will do all this by sending His Mighty Warrior Servant Messiah King.

This is not only the conclusion of the book, but it is its overarching theme as well.

Let us take a little time to go back through the book and see how Isaiah develops this message.

Isaiah 1-5 Isaiah’s introduction to his prophetic message.

Isaiah 1:1-4 The three main ideas in the sin vocabulary of the Old Testament.

Isaiah 1:10-15 “Sodom and Gomorrah” God is sick of their fake worship. It does not impress Him.

Isaiah 1:18-20 The choice set before them: consent and obey – refuse and rebel

Isaiah 2:1-4 The Lord is someday going to restore and redeem Jerusalem.

But how does God feel about His rebellious people? **Isaiah 5:1-7** “Stinkfruit”

Isaiah 6-39 The Book of the King

Isaiah 6:1-13 The call of Isaiah to be a prophet to Israel, his mission to a resistant people, and the promise of a “seed” which is the Messiah.

In chapter 7 Isaiah speaks to the disobedient king Ahaz in the face of looming war. **Isaiah 7:9**

Isaiah 7:10-14 God offers a sign to Ahaz, a sign of God’s presence.

Then the Lord begins to warn about judgment coming in the form of the bloodthirsty Assyrians.

But that will not be the end of the promises of God. Anguish is coming, yes, but then the Messiah.

Isaiah 9:1-7 The Kingdom of the Messiah forever.

And what will this Messianic King be like? **Isaiah 11:1-10** A King from the line of David will come.

He will rule over all the earth forever and ever. **Isaiah 12:5-6**

In Isaiah 13 and following we read of God’s sovereign control over all the nations on earth.

These emperors and kings with their armies and wars...

These presidents and congress-people and government officials and CEOs...

They think they run the place. They imagine themselves to be in control.

But the Lord is in control, even over them. He will make all their plans come crashing down.

By the time we get to chapter 30, Hezekiah is king in Jerusalem and Assyria is on its way. Hezekiah is tempted to trust in an alliance with Egypt for salvation from Assyria. God warns him not to. **Isaiah 31:6-8** God is in control over even mighty Assyria.

And soon His mighty King is coming to judge the entire world and save his people.

In Isaiah 36-37 we read an amazing story of what God did.

Assyria has destroyed nearly all the land and they are at the gates of Jerusalem.

They are taunting Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem and demanding their surrender.

Hezekiah comes to Isaiah and asks for help. He has nowhere left to turn. Egypt has been no help.

Isaiah 37:5-7 So Hezekiah brings the demand for surrender into the Temple of the Lord.

He spreads it out before God and prays. God answers.

The next morning the armies of the Assyrians are destroyed and the survivors go back to Nineveh.

But then Hezekiah makes an unwise alliance with the rising power Babylon.

Years later Babylon comes and wipes out Jerusalem and carries everyone off into captivity.

Isaiah 40-55 The Book of the Servant

Isaiah is now writing to a people in captivity in Babylon. He will be long dead when they read it.

This is why he begins with the words found in **Isaiah 40:1-5**.

These are the words used by John the Baptist to announce his ministry preparing for the Messiah.

And what will the glory of the Lord look like when He comes? **Isaiah 42:1-4** The Spirit-filled Servant

What will He do for His people? **Isaiah 43:1-3ab**

How will He do it? **Isaiah 52:13-53:6** The Servant Messiah will suffer and die bearing our sins.

So what are we to do? **Isaiah 55:6-12** The Lord will accomplish His Word.

Isaiah 56-66 The Book of the Conqueror

In this last part of Isaiah's prophesy, the people of God recognize their sins.

A remnant has remained faithful to the Lord, but they cannot save themselves. **Isaiah 59:15cd-60:3**
Salvation is coming... but judgment as well. **Isaiah 63:1-6**

All through these final eleven chapters of Isaiah we find these two destinies,

these two responses from the Lord are laid side by side so that we can clearly see what is coming.

On the one hand, salvation. On the other, judgment.

I. The Lord will judge all the earth.

Isaiah 66:15-17

When the Lord Jesus finally returns, He will not be happy with the state of things in his world.

"Fire, anger, fury, rebuke, judgment, a sword" The words used in this passage are terrifying.

People in this world often find ways to bend justice to do their bidding. But not when He arrives.

And, all in their efforts of self-purification and finding their own truth, they will be seen as colossal fools.

II. The Lord will deliver a new people.

Isaiah 66:18-21

He is going to gather people from all nations and tongues to come and see His glory.

We will be perfected finally by Him, and we will all then declare the glory of the Lord.

No one will complain. No one will say, "Be quiet. Any path to God that I desire is just as good as another."

No one will try to keep you from praying in public or singing loud and proud to Jesus.

Because we will be His and then be transformed by Him and everyone will see the King of Kings enthroned.

III. The Lord will make all things new.

Isaiah 66:22-24

The eternal state of all creation, and all mankind, will look like what we read in these three verses.

The new creation on the one hand, eternal suffering and torment on the other.

Where do you want to be? Your decisions in this life will be determinative.

I, for one, want to be with the Lord in the new heavens and new earth. **Revelation 21:1-4**

Some people might think that sounds boring. I don't think that, though I do not know all the details.

The Lord is planning a glorious future forever, better than this life, better than you can imagine.

Compared to eternity, all of this present life is but a moment. What are you going to do with your moment?