

Syllabus for Exposition of Isaiah (OTL 811)

Front Range Bible Institute

Instructor Peter Wise (Spring 2025)

I. Class Goals

This course is designed to provide a thorough exposition of the Book of Isaiah, equipping students with a deeper understanding of its historical context, theological themes, and prophetic significance. By the end of the course, students should be able to:

1. Understand the overall message of Isaiah in both its historical context and its broader theological application.
2. Identify and explain the major themes in the book.
3. Recognize and interpret figures of speech and poetic devices used in Isaiah.
4. Understand the typological and prophetic elements within Isaiah and their significance for biblical prophecy.
5. See how Isaiah foretold the earthly ministry and sufferings of Christ.
6. Recognize how Isaiah foreshadows the gospel message of the New Testament.
7. Understand how Isaiah presents the deity of Christ and how this serves as a strong apologetic against false teachings.
8. Analyze Isaiah's vivid descriptions of eschatological events, including the salvation of Israel's remnant, the defeat of Israel's enemies, the return of Christ, and the establishment of His kingdom on earth.

II. Textbooks

- A. Unger, Merrill. *Unger's Commentary on the Old Testament*. (Free pdf.)
- B. Optional, but recommended: Wolf, Herbert. *Interpreting Isaiah: The Suffering and Glory of the Messiah*.

III. Class Requirements

- A. Read/skim the entire Book of Isaiah.
- B. Complete study questions for each section of Isaiah and review the provided notes.
- C. Choice:
 - a. Either read the class textbook, *Interpreting Isaiah*, by Herbert Wolf or
 - b. Develop one long study or two shorter ones. It could be a presentation, or project based on Isaiah. Possible topics include:
 - i. A Bible study lesson on a theme or section of Isaiah.
 - ii. An apologetics study on God's nature and attributes from Isaiah 40–48.
 - iii. A study of eschatology in Isaiah.
 - iv. An examination of select Messianic prophecies.
 - v. A study of practical aspects of Isaiah's message
 - vi. Any other Isaiah-related project, subject to instructor approval

IV. Grading

- A. 70% - Study questions
- B. 30% - Class project or Reading from *Interpreting Isaiah*, by Herbert Wolf

This class is designed to be a practical study of Isaiah that will strengthen your faith, increase your sense of God's majesty, help you in your walk with the Lord, enable you to see more of God's plan and purpose, and maximize your witness effectiveness.

V. Class Schedule

Week 1	Introduction, course requirements, hermeneutics, authorship, biography of Isaiah, key chapters, historical background, overview of the book, things to look for in the book of Isaiah, Dead Sea Scrolls & Isaiah, recommended books on Isaiah. Overview, bibliography outline, begin chapters 1-6.
Week 2	Chapters 1-6 (continued) – Future glory of Zion and judgment against the proud and against Judah's leadership, Parable of the Vineyard, Isaiah's vision and call.
Week 3	Chapters 7-12 – Book of Emmanuel: Birth of the Messianic ruler, judgment upon both Israel and Assyria, the righteous branch and His kingdom in the new heavens and earth, the great song of salvation in chapter 12.
Week 4	Chapters 13-24 – Judgment of the nations in both near and far aspects, followed by Christ's return in judgment and glory.
Week 5	Chapters 25-30 – Messianic banquet following Christ's Return in Triumph, Isaiah's Song of Salvation, the hope of the resurrection, Israel's restoration, gathering of the remnant.
Week 6	Chapters 32-39 – The coming reign of righteousness, fall of Assyria, judgment against the nations in rebellion, Day of the Lord, Future restoration of God's people, Hezekiah's illness and healing.
Week 7	Chapters 40-48 – Uniqueness of the One True God, folly of false gods, Servant passages, pt. 1, Cyrus as a type of Christ, fall of Babylon.
Week 8	Chapters 49-52 – 2 nd & 3 rd Servant passages—His mission and obedience, the summons for Zion to be restored and redeemed,
Week 9	Chapters 53-59 – Christ's redemptive death and its benefits (52:13-53:12 is likely the most astounding chapter in the entire Bible), the numerical growth of God's people, Isaiah as evangelist, contrasts between true and false worship, sin as a separation, Christ as judge, elements of the Christian armor that God 'wears'.
Week 10	Chapters 60-66 – The glorious future of Israel and the nations, the new heavens and new earth, the return of Christ and His judgment upon the earth, Christ's millennial reign and eternal kingdom.

VI. Assignment Schedule for textbook reading of *Interpreting Isaiah*, by Wolf (for those who choose this option)

Class #	Introductory Matters
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 1 – The World of Isaiah • Ch. 2 – The Authorship of Isaiah • Ch. 3 – The Structure of Isaiah • Ch. 5 – Opening Messages and the Call of Isaiah (1:1-6:13)
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 4 – The Poetry of Isaiah • Ch. 6 – The Rule of Assyria and the Messiah (7:1-12:6)
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 7 – Oracles Against the Nations (Oracles Against the Nations)
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 8 – The Apocalypse (24:1-27:13)
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 9 – Book of Woes and Restoration (28:1-35:10)
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 10 – Historical Interlude (36:1-39:8) • Ch. 14 – Christology (34pp)
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 11 – Deliverance from Babylon (40:1-48:22)
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 12 – The Ministry of the Servant of the Lord (49:1-57:21)
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 13 – Ultimate Blessing for God’s People (58:1-66:24)
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 14 – Eschatology (24pp)