

## *Isaianic Motifs #1*

### *Isaiah's Symbolic Imagery of Nations*

#### **I. Anthropomorphic/animal imagery**

- A. Israel=a sick man      1:5-6 (a nation vs.4,7)  
A leper being “shaved” 7:20 (cf., Lev.14:8)
- B. “Up to the neck”      8:8 / 30:28 (Zech.10:3 with Rev,14:20)  
“Head and tail”      9:14-15 / 19:15
- C. Gentiles= wild beasts      5:5 / 56:9 (Ezek.34:28; Dan.7)  
Israel=domestic animals      11:6-7 / 65:25 (Mal.4:2) / 63:13-14

#### **II. Wicked, or Gentiles, like the “waters,” “rivers” or “sea”**

- A. River 8:7
- B. Sea 17:12-13 / 27:20 / 57:20 / 60:5 / 24:14-15 (Jude 13; Rev.17:15)

#### **III. One nation (or a few nations) representative of all** (cf., Amos 9:11-12 / Acts 15:17)

- A. Nations from whom the church is drawn 11:10-12 (Rom.15:10) / 66:19-20 (Rom.15:16) / 60:1-5 (Luke 1:78-79 / Matt.4:16), 6-7, 9, 13
- B. Messiah's conquests 11:14-16 (Ps.2:8) / 19:23-25 (Assyria, Egypt, highway)

#### **IV. “Jerusalem” or “Zion” = the Church** (Heb. 12:18-24 / Rev.21:1-2, 9-10 / Gal.4:25-26)

- A. The “Zion of the Holy One” 60:11, 19 (Rev.21:23, 25-26), 14 (Gal.6:16; Rev.3:9), 18
- B. Zion built upon Christ 28:16 (1 Pet.2:6 / Rom.9:33 / 10:11 / 1 Cor.3:11 / Eph.2:20)
- C. Restoration of “Zion” = the Church 52:1-3, 7-9 (Rom.10:15)
- D. All nations flow into “Zion” 2:2-3 (the “Banner”: 11:10, 12 / 62:10)
- E. The Tabernacle 33:20 / 54:1-3; 4:5-6

## *Isaianic Motifs #2*

### *Isaiah's Symbolic Imagery of Warfare, Judgment and Redemption*

#### **I. The arm of the Lord (9 times )**

- A. Judgment 30:30 / 48:14 (cf., "hand" in 5:25 / 9:12, 17, 21 / 10:4 / 14:26-27)
- B. Which brings salvation to His people 52:10 / 59:15-17 / 63:5
- C. Which is personified in Jesus? 51:5 / 53:1-2 / 40:10-11 (John 10:16); 62:8 (Heb.6:13)

#### **II. Spiritual victories cast in imagery of natural warfare**

- A. Messiah fights (paralleled in Rev.12:7-9) 27:1 / 59:16-19 / 9:4-5 / 63:1-6 (John 16:33)
- B. The warfare of the church (paralleled in Rev.12:15-17) 11:14-16 / 54:15-17

#### **III. God's Redemption**

- A. From Egypt: Ex.15:13 / Ps. 106:9-11 / Isa.43:2-3, 16-17
- B. From Exile: Ps.107:2-3 / Isa.48:17 / 49:24-26
- C. Both combined: Isa. 27:12-13 / 48:20-21
- D. From Sin: Isa.59:20-21 (Rom.11:26) / 52:3 (1 Pet.1:18-19), 9 / 61:1-2 w/ 63:4 / 1:27

### *Isaianic Motifs #3*

## *From Bondage to Nationhood*

### **I. Exodus motif:**

A. A New Exodus: 11:15-16 (Micah 7:15, 19 / Luke 9:31 / 1 Cor.10:1-6) / 51:9-11 (35:10)

B. A New “Passover” Memorial: 43:1-2, 16-19 (1 Cor.11:24-26)

1. *The Tabernacle and the Glory:* 33:20 / 8:12-14 / 32:1-2 / 4:5-6 (John 14:1-2)

2. *The New Marriage Covenant:*

a. Old Covenant broken: 24:5

b. Jesus is the Covenant: 42:1-6 (Matt.12:18-21 / Jer.31:31-32 / Rom.7:1-4) 49:8-9

c. Everlasting: 55:3 (Acts 13:34) / 59:20-21 / 61:8 (Heb.13:20) / 59:20-21 (Rom.11:26)

d. Covenant of Peace: 54:1-2 (Gal.4:27), 9-10 (Ezek.34:25 / 37:26 / Eph.2:11-18)

### **II. Return from Exile motif:**

A. Return=Gathered to God 10:21-22 (Rom.9:27) / 53:6 (1 Pet.2:25) / 40:11 (John 10:16)

B. Gathered from the four corners of the earth 11:12 / 43:5-6 (Luke 13:29) / 49:12 (Eph.2:17)

C. Returning ones are Gentiles 49:18-23 / 56:6-8 / 60:4-6 / 66:18-20 (Zech.2:6, 11)

D. Coming to Zion 27:13 / 35:10 / 51:11 / 2:2-4

E. *The Highway:* 40:3-5 (Luke 3:4-6) / 62:10 / 11:6 / 19:23 / 35:8

## *Isaianic Motifs #4*

### *Barrenness and Fruitfulness*

#### **I. Men likened to plants**

- A. Trees 7:2/ 10:19, 33-34/ 14:8/ 55:12/ 61:3
- B. Fruit-producing plants 5:7 (Matt.3:10/ 7:17-19/ 12:33/ 13:23, 26)
- C. Evil men like thorns and briars: 9:18/ 10:17

#### **II. Men likened to women**

- A. Generally: 19:16 (3:12?)
- B. In terms of bearing children: 13:8/ 21:3/ 23:4/ 26:17/ 42:14 (Ps.48:6; Jer.30:6)

#### **III. God seeks fruit (imagery of agriculture and of childbirth)**

- A. Israel established to bear fruit 5:1-2, 7
- B. Israel fails to produce fruit 5:2, 7/ 26:18
- C. God will receive fruit from elsewhere 4:2/ 37:31/ 61:3, 11 (Matt.21:43)

#### **IV. Wilderness becomes fruitful**

- A. Former cities and cultivated land become wilderness 5:5-6/ 10:18/ 14:17/ 27:10/ 32:12-14/ 34:13-17/ 64:10
- B. God pours out His Spirit like waters in the desert 32:2, 15-16/ 35:6/ 41:18/ 43:19-20
- C. Wilderness becomes lush and fruitful 27:6/ 29:17/ 35:1/ 41:19/ 51:3 (Jer.31:12)

#### **IV. Birth of a nation**

- A. God gave birth to Israel 46:3 (49:15)
- B. Birth of the Church 53:11/ 54:1 (Gal.4:26)/ 66:7-8

## *Isaianic Motifs #5*

### *The Servant of Yahweh*

#### **I. Four (generally recognized) “Servant Songs” ?**

- A. 42:1-7
- B. 49:1-9
- C. 50:4-9
- D. 52:13—53:12
- E. A fifth Song? 61:1-3

#### **II. Israel as the Chosen Servant**

- A. Forgiven, redeemed, and drawn back from Babylon (44:1-2, 21-23 / 41:8-9 / 48:20)
- B. Called to be a witness (43:10-11)

#### **III. Israel’s failure as “Servant”**

- A. Blind (42:18-20)
- B. Transition (49:1-9)

#### **IV. The suffering Servant** (“What began as a *personification* has become a *person*”—Rowley)

- A. Unlike Israel, not rebellious (50:4-5; 53:7)
- B. Servant rejected by Israel (49:7 / 50:6 / 53:2-3)
- C. Will atone for Israel’s sins (53:4-6, 10-11) and for many nations (52:15)
- D. Will gather Israel and Gentiles (49:5-6 / 53:4-6, 8)
- E. Will establish justice and liberty worldwide, through God’s Spirit (42:1-4 / 61:1-3)

#### **V. Analysis of the Final Song (52:13—53:12)**

- A. Servant’s career summarized—52:13-15 (Eph.4:9f / Phil.2:8-10 / 1 Pet. 1:1f / Rom.15:21)
- B. Servant rejected—53:1-3 (John 12:38 / Rom.10:16 / John 1:11)
- C. Servant healing the rift—53:4-6 (Matt.8:16-17 / 1 Pet. 2:24-25)
- D. Servant’s suffering—53:7-9 (Matt.27:12-14 / Acts 8:32-33 / 1 Pet. 2:22)
- E. Servant vindicated—53:10-12 (Rom.3:24-26 / 2 Cor.5:21 / Psalm 2:8 / Luke 23:34)

## *Isaianic Motifs #6*

### *The King and His Kingdom*

#### **I. The Kingdom of God outside Isaiah**

- A. Relation to the Kingdom of Israel (Ex.19:5-6/ Matt.21:43)
- B. Relation to God's global goals (Ps.2:7-12/ 72:1-14/ Dan.2:44)
- C. Future or present? Matt.12:28/ Luke 17:20-21/ Acts 3:24/ Col.1:13/ Rom.14:17

#### **II. The Character of the King**

- A. God is Israel's King — 6:1, 5/ 41:21/ 43:15/ 44:6
- B. A king is born who is God — 9:6 (Matt.4:15-16);
- C. Born of "the virgin" 7:14 (Matt.1:23; see 37:22)
- D. Jesse's (David's) seed on "David's throne" — 9:7/ 11:1-2, 10 (2 Sam.7:12, 16/ Matt.1:1/ Luke 1:32-33/ Acts 2:30-36/ 13:34)/ 16:5
- E. The Ideal Ruler — 32:1-2
- F. The Savior — 33:22

#### **III. The Character of the Kingdom**

2:1-4 International peace, justice and submission to God's laws

4:2-6 God dwelling among His people

9:7 Peace and justice forever

11:1-16 Justice, reconciliation, ingathering

32:1-5 Justice, security, revelation

35:1-10 Transformation, healing, holy living, everlasting joy

40:9-11 The Lord's direct rule over, and care for, His flock

See also Chs 54-56/ 59:16-21/ Chs. 60-62/ 65:17-66:2/ 66:5-14, 18-24