

# ISAIAH

## Introduction

-How many times have you started reading the Book of Mormon without finishing?  
Where did you stop? *THE BULLET*

1. What do you know about Isaiah?
  - a. prophet, poet, statesmen, royalty
  - b. 740-697 B.C.-prophet
  - c. quoted more than any other prophet
    - quoted by Jesus, Paul, Peter, John, Nephi, Jacob, Moroni
    - quoted at least 57 times in the New Testament
    - one-third of the Book of Isaiah is quoted in the Book of Mormon
2. How did the Savior feel about Isaiah? 3 Nephi 20:11-12, 3 Nephi 23:1
3. How did Nephi feel? Why did he quote so much of Isaiah when there was such limited room on the plates? 2 Nephi 11:2
4. Yet even Nephi admitted it was hard to understand 2 Nephi 25:1-2  
Why was it hard to understand? Jacob 4:14

### THE BULLET

Shortly after being transferred to Vietnam, a young private, a Mormon from Idaho, experienced a symbolic premonition of death. A month later, in a surprise attack by the Vietcong, his life was literally saved by a Book of Mormon he had in his breast pocket.

"I had a dream six nights in a row before it happened," he explained. "In the dream I was in the jungle on patrol. I became hungry. As we turned the corner, I saw a Taco Bell stand in a clearing ahead. Then a "VC" on rollerskates handed me a taco. I ate it and the next thing I knew I was in heaven talking to St. Peter and white angels about earthlife in the last days."

Even though the same dream occurred repeatedly, he passed it off as insignificant, probably the result of something spicy he ate.

Then the fateful day came. As he later wrote to his mother, "Do you know that paperback Book of Mormon that Grandma gave me? That's what stopped the bullet. I was in the jungle on patrol when I got hungry. As I turned the corner, I saw a wooden shack shaped like a Taco Bell stand in a clearing ahead and I knew that I was a goner. Just then a bullet hit me in the chest."

"My sarge said it was the wërdest thing he'd ever seen, because a 7.92mm steel pocketed bullet can pierce through five inches of steel, but the bullet only went through 88 pages of the Book of Mormon, stopping at 2 Nephi 18 where Isaiah 8 is quoted."

The relieved mother wrote back: "I'm thankful you're okay son, but it doesn't surprise me that the bullet stopped where it did. I never can get through the Isaiah sections either."

(Author of original idea unknown; adapted and modified by Victor L. Ludlow, 12-82)

# ***GREAT ARE THE WORDS OF ISAIAH***

## **12 REASONS WHY ISAIAH WROTE.**

1. 2 Nephi 6:3-for the welfare of your souls.
2. 2 Nephi 6:4-concerning things which are, and which are to come;
3. 2 Nephi 6:4-that ye may learn and glorify the name of your God.
4. 2 Nephi 6:5-concerning all the House of Israel:
5. 2 Nephi 6:5-which may be likened unto you,
6. 2 Nephi 6:6-set up my standard
7. 2 Nephi 9:1-that ye might know concerning the covenants of the Lord that he has  
covenanted with all the House of Israel
8. 2 Nephi 9:3-that ye may rejoice, and lift up your heads forever,
9. 2 Nephi 11:3-God sendeth more witnesses, and proveth all his words.
10. 2 Nephi 11:4-proving unto my people the truth of the coming of Christ,
11. 2 Nephi 25:3-that they may know the judgements of God,
12. 2 Nephi 25:8-for I know that they shall be of great worth unto them in the last days; for  
in that day shall they understand them; wherefore for their good have I  
written them.

*SWB*

## SOME MAIN THEMES RUNNING THROUGH THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

1. The greatness of the God of Israel. He excels all others in every good way.
2. Israel's enemies are God's enemies and they shall be destroyed.
3. Israel's oppressor's shall become their servants.
4. The Restoration of Israel and of Judah.
5. The barren wilderness and parched land shall be restored and become a garden and fruitful field.
6. Righteous Israel will eventually have peace and be restored to their own land.
7. The Holy One of Israel is God, and he shall come and save Israel, and be their Messiah forever.
8. All the world will someday acknowledge the God of Israel as the only true God.
9. As many of the Gentiles (non-Israel) as will accept the covenant of Abraham, will be joined with Israel in peace and glory.
10. In the end, the righteous will be rewarded, and the unrepentant punished.
11. The Lord has been angry with Israel, his covenant people, but will remember the covenant and show them mercy when they repent.
12. The Lord does not need the advice and wisdom of evil men in order to do his work.

## BOOK OF MORMON USE OF ISAIAH

RJM

The book of Mormon is the greatest source for interpreting Isaiah. Some of the more prominent passages are listed in the table below. Book of Mormon prophets have quoted 414 verses and paraphrased at least another 34 verses from Isaiah. This is about one-third of the 1292 verses in Isaiah. They not only quoted, they interpreted these passages.

Whole chapters of the Book of Mormon give us the interpretation of many passages of Isaiah. For example:

1 Nephi 22 is an explanation by Nephi of Isaiah 48–49. Nephi says these can be likened to any branch of Israel, that is, Nephites, Jews, Lost Tribes.

2 Nephi 9–11 contain Jacob's teachings from Isaiah 49–52:2, about the gathering of Israel.

2 Nephi 25–30 contain Nephi's predictions and explanations of Isaiah 2–14, 29.

Mosiah 15 contains an explanation of Isaiah 53 by Abinadi, dealing with the atonement.

3 Nephi 21 and 23 contain the Savior's explanation of parts of Isaiah 52 and 54.

Major Quotations of Isaiah in the Book of Mormon

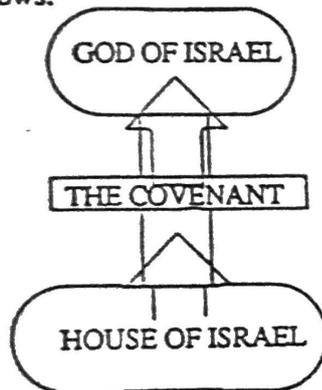
Isaiah	Book of Mormon	Quoted by
2–14	2 Nephi 12–24	Nephi
29	2 Nephi 27	"
48	1 Nephi 20	"
49	1 Nephi 21	"
49:26	2 Nephi 6:18	Jacob
50	2 Nephi 7	"
51	2 Nephi 8	"
52	3 Nephi 20	Jesus Christ
52:1–2	Moroni 10:31	Moroni
53	Mosiah 14	Abinadi
54	3 Nephi 22	Jesus Christ
55:1	2 Nephi 26:25	Nephi

# Isaiah

"IT JUST MAY BE THAT MY SALVATION [AND YOURS ALSO!] DOES IN FACT DEPEND UPON OUR ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND THE WRITINGS OF ISAIAH AS FULLY AND TRULY AS NEPHI UNDERSTOOD THEM." (Bruce R. McConkie, Oct 1973 Ensign, p 78)

## Some important facts about the writings of Isaiah:

- \* The name ISAIAH means "THE LORD IS SALVATION" or "JEHOVAH IS MY SALVATION". It is in the same family of names as Yeshua, Yehoshua, Joshua, Hosea, Jesus [see Strong's].
- \* "ISAIAH is the most quoted of all the prophets, being more frequently quoted by Jesus, Paul, Peter, and John (in his Revelation) than any other O.T. prophet. Likewise the Book of Mormon and the Doctrine and Covenants quote from Isaiah more than any other prophet. The Lord told the Nephites that "great are the words of Isaiah"... [LDS Bible Dictionary, page 707].
- \* In the Book of Mormon we find 21 chapters of Isaiah, with parts of three other chapters [433 verses].
- \* Of the 433 verses of Isaiah quoted in the Book of Mormon, some 390 of them are directly about Christ.
- \* In the Old Testament, Isaiah chapters 1 - 39 are mainly a message of doom, apostasy, destruction, and warning. Chapters 40 - 66 are more Messiah-centered, Millennium-focused, deliverance.
- \* The central theme of Isaiah's writings can be reduced down to three things: (1) The God of Israel; (2) The House of Israel; and (3) The Covenant. There are other related sub-themes which can be illustrated as follows:



Some of the sub themes found in Isaiah are:

- \* Scattering of Israel
- \* Gathering of Israel
- \* Jesus' Second Coming
- \* Restoration of the Gospel
- \* Apostasy of Israel
- \* Jesus' First Coming
- \* The Millennium
- \* Book of Mormon

Can you see how and where each of these sub-themes fits with the three main themes?

Where does the Savior fit in? Well, of course, he is the God of Israel. And he is by birth and by covenant of the House of Israel. He also is "the mediator of the covenant", so he fits in all three places. (See Hebrews 8:6; 9:15; 12:24; D&C 76:69; 107:19). Isaiah's emphasis is that the House of Israel can only be reconciled to the one true God by the Messiah, who is the mediator of the covenant, meaning, Jesus alone serves as the "middle-man" between God and fallen man.

Nephi provides five keys for coming to understand the writings of Isaiah:

- (1) Have the spirit of prophecy (which John tells us is "the testimony of Jesus" [Rev 19:10]).
- (2) Understand the manner of prophesying among the Jews (mainly: understand the Law).
- (3) Be familiar with the local geography of the Holy Land.
- (4) Know the judgments of God. (See 2 Nephi 25:4-8 for these four keys)
- (5) Remember that Isaiah "spake for your sakes, that ye may learn and glorify the name of your God... and...Isaiah spake concerning all the house of Israel." (See 2 Nephi 6:4-5)

This last one - number 5 - is a grand key: **ISAIAH WROTE FOR US!**

THE CHARACTER AND ATTRIBUTES OF THE GOD OF ISRAEL  
AS FOUND IN THE WRITINGS OF ISAIAH

1. **The only true God is Jehovah**
  - a. 43:10-11
  - b. 45:5-6
  - c. 46:9-10
2. **He is Supreme; has all Power**
  - a. 40:10-31
  - b. 42:13-25
  - c. 43:13
  - d. 48:12
3. **He is eternal and everlasting**
  - a. 40:28
  - b. 41:4
4. **He is the Redeemer and Savior**
  - a. 43:3, 11, 14
  - b. 45:15
  - c. 48:17
  - d. 49:26
5. **He is the Creator**
  - a. 40:26-28
  - b. 42:5
  - c. 43:1,7
  - d. 43:15
  - e. 44:24
  - f. 45:12
  - g. 48:13
  - h. 54:16
6. **He is a Holy Being**
  - a. 40:25
7. **He is a Being of Knowledge, and reveals future events**
  - a. 42:9
  - b. 46:10
  - c. 48:5-7