

study of these chapters makes it apparent that in them the prophet has turned his attention away from the sad condition of Judah under Manasseh, and is looking forward to the redemption which God has promised. He sees the people so steeped in sin and wickedness that the exile is absolutely certain. Just how soon it will come he does not know, but he is not looking in that direction. He is looking rather at the glorious redemption which God has promised will come after the exile. He is no longer speaking to the people of Israel as a whole, but rather to the godly portion among them. He is addressing those who are believers in the Lord and who are anxiously listening to Isaiah's words and hoping for better days in the future. In addressing them and giving them words of hope he is also giving them a book which is to be treasured and passed on, in order that it may help in restoring the courage and comforting the hearts of their descendants in the exile, when the judgment of God has fallen and His redemption is approaching.

One important fact about these chapters should be noticed. They contain a high point or climax toward which everything previous looks, and from which everything subsequent is derived. This high point is the central chapter of the twenty-seven, the much beloved 53rd chapter, which so clearly and vividly portrays the suffering of Jesus Christ on the cross for the salvation of those who shall believe on his name.

Chapters 1 to 6

The first six chapters of Isaiah are rather general in nature, instead of being connected to a specific historical situation, like most of those which follow. This section may be compared to the book of Micah with its three-fold structure, since in both books each of the three large passages proclaiming God's wrath upon the wicked nation is followed by one declaring His blessing