

Structure [based on Oswalt, NICOT; adapted labels from Motyer, see p. 352, 383]

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| Superscription (1:1) | |
| The Problem: Israel is not God's Servant (chs. 1-5) | A Preview of the Solution: Isaiah's Call (ch. 6) |
| The LORD is the <i>Only</i> Deliverer (chs. 7-39) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chs. 7-12 = King Ahaz – an example of refusing to trust the LORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chs. 13-23 = oracles against the nations ○ Chs. 24-27 = oracles against the earth ○ Chs. 28-35 = oracles against Israel and Judah • Chs. 36-39 = King Hezekiah – an example of trusting the LORD | |
| Grace, Deliverance and Transformation (chs. 40-55) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chs. 40-44:23 = An Announcement of Grace • Chs. 44:24-48 = The Great Deliverance: Return from Exile for Israel • Chs. 49-53 = The Greatest Deliverance: Atonement for the World • Chs. 54-55 = The Invitation to Deliverance | |
| The New Servants of the LORD (chs. 56-66) | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 56:1-8 – A New People <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 56:9-59:15a – New Character <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 59:15b-21 – The Warrior LORD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60-62 – Salvation in Zion ▪ 63:1-6 – The Warrior LORD ○ 63:7-66:17 – New Character • 66:18-24 – A New People | |

Servant (עֶבֶד) in Isaiah

| Reference | Characterization of the עֶבֶד in context | Identity of the עֶבֶד |
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| 41:1-44:22 – YHWH’s Goals and Motives | | |
| 41:8 | Called Israel, Jacob Descendant of Abraham | Israel |
| 41:9 | Called you from remotest parts Context of v. 10 – “do not fear” | Israel |
| 42:1 | Change to 3 rd person Unidentified; not named here Spirit is upon him (cf. 11:2 – “Spirit upon him”) Will bring forth justice to the nations v. 3 – What is the alternative? (warfare, conquest, domination) v. 4 – high expectations; “his law” | Unkown; not Israel |
| 42:19 | Blind; deaf v. 20 – does not observe v. 22 – “this is a people plundered” | Israel |
| 43:10 | Parallel with “witnesses” = plural Context of YHWH delivering Israel | Israel |
| 44:1 | Names Jacob | Israel |
| 44:2 | Names Jacob | Israel |
| 44:21 | Names Jacob, Israel v. 22 – YHWH has cleansed; redeemed | Israel |
| 44:23-48:22 – YHWH’s Historical Deliverance of Israel (Cyrus and the return from exile) | | |
| 44:26 | Confirming the word of his servant Parallel with “messengers” Ability to tell the future, unlike idols | Cyrus? (see 44:28 – both say Jerusalem will be rebuilt) Isaiah the prophet? (see 44:26b – messengers = prophets) |
| 45:4 | Names Jacob, Israel YHWH has called Cyrus for the sake of | Israel |
| 48:20 | Names Jacob YHWH has redeemed > from exile | Israel |
| 49:1-55:13 – YHWH’s Spiritual Deliverance of Israel | | |
| 49:3 | Names Israel “In whom I will show my glory” | Either an individual called Israel, or this is Israel pictured as an individual (the former makes more sense) |
| 49:5 | Cannot be Jacob/Israel → will redeem them | |
| 49:6 | Will redeem Jacob/Israel “too light a thing” = overqualified “to be salvation” for ends of the earth | Isaiah: Israel will be a vehicle for the nations to come to YHWH → fulfills the function that the nation of Israel could not ≠ regular individual – reach to ends of earth ≠ nation of Israel – will redeem them |
| 49:7 | Despised and abhorred; but kings and princes will bow down v. 8 – “I will make you a covenant” (is a cov.) | |
| 50:10 | Who among you (plural) obeys Servant? Speaks vv. 4-9 – will be mistreated (v. 6) but ultimately vindicated (v. 8-9) | Individual; Israel must obey Suffering and then vindication |
| 52:13 | Unidentified; portrayed as an individual | Individual; redeems |
| 53:11 | Will justify many; bear iniquities | |