

Answers to tough questions in Isaiah

1. Does Isaiah indicate God's permanent abandonment of the chosen people?

Isaiah's prophecies provide a long view of history, and thus support the future role of Israel in God's plan. God, according to Isaiah, may arrange for harsh punishment of His people, but He has not replaced ethnic Israel with an alleged "new Israel." The imagery in the NT confirms Isaiah's views. Passages like Romans 11 certainly picture Gentiles being grafted into the tree of God's salvation plan, but the message does not imply complete replacement. God does not forget those who belong to Him.

2. In what ways are Isaiah's prophecies still open to fulfillment, and how?

The literal fulfillment of many of Isaiah's prophecies makes up part of the ancient historical record. Manuscripts like the complete copy of Isaiah found among the Dead Sea scrolls were already well worn when the events of Jesus' life were taking place. The trustworthiness of Isaiah's prophetic statements about the intervening events strongly suggests that his prophecies for the future will also be accurate. To argue that those yet unfulfilled can only be fulfilled figuratively is biblically and historically shortsighted. God's Word remains steadfast. The case for proposing that the church receives some of the promises made originally to Israel rests on shaky ground. The kingdom promised to David still belongs to Israel, not the church. The future exaltation of Jerusalem will be on earth, not in heaven. Christ will reign personally on this earth as we know it, as well as in the new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 22:1, 3).

<https://sites.google.com/a/indubiblia.org/inductive-bible-study/isaiah-1>