

## Homiletics: The Name Isaiah Means “Yahweh Saves” (C. Hammond)

Homiletics can serve as a very helpful technique in understanding a biblical passage without losing its context, and how that passage is relevant to our lives. When homiletics is done over consecutive chapters, one may see themes and logical progressions that may not be appreciated when studying a smaller passage.

This is an example of how one can conduct a study exegetically without the risk of eisegesis. While this article will present the resulting **aim** and **application** from the homiletics of each chapter, you can see the steps involved with homiletics which can be printed for your own personal study and lesson.

Today's study will be in Isaiah 41 through 48. Isaiah, son of Amoz, was a prophet in Judah around 700 B.C. He wrote more than any other prophet, and was trying to bring the people of Judah back into a covenantal relationship with God. Mindful of the Mosaic Covenant and its obligations, he confronts his generation of their sins. Aware of the Abrahamic Covenant, he attempts to comfort future generations, who were going to be in exile, that God would restore them to their land and fulfill His promises of blessings.

One sin that Hebrews continually had problems with was idolatry. In the Old Testament, an idol was a physical image or representation that was considered divine and worthy of worship. The Bible records many examples of this (Gen 31:19-35; Ex 32:1-10; 2 Ki 18:4).

Based on the Ten Commandments (Ex 20-4-5), biblical religion is an “imageless” worship.

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul broadens the definition of idolatry when he equates “immorality” (fornication), “impurity” (perversion), “passion” (uncontrollable lust), “evil desire” (illicit cravings) and “greed” (covetousness) with idolatry (Col 3:5). Paul saw idolatry when human beings sought to satisfy the evil desires of their human nature instead of *putting on the new self who was being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him* (Col 3:10).

In this context, the prophet Isaiah denounces idolatry.

### References:

1. Brand C, Draper C and England A, eds., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, (1998).

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	<b>Aim:</b> What is the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life?
<b>41</b>	Cause my audience to know that it is God who has created and called you, so turn from your worthless idols and fear the Lord!
<b>42</b>	Cause my audience to accept the anointed servant, Jesus Christ, rejoice in His glory and be obedient to His ways.
<b>43</b>	Cause my audience to understand the mercy and redemption of God before it is too late.
<b>44</b>	Cause my audience to pursue the one true God rather than chase after worthless idols.
<b>45</b>	Cause my audience to understand the righteousness and sovereignty of God - do not contend with His plans.
<b>46</b>	Cause my audience to know personally the awesome, redeeming power of God.
<b>47</b>	Cause my audience to carefully examine their lives and turn away from any unrighteousness.
<b>48</b>	Cause my audience to listen carefully to God's Word, follow His direction and avoid giving His glory to others.

<b>Applications:</b> Try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.	
<b>41</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. By whom have you been created?</li> <li>2. Who or what do you fear more than you fear the Lord?</li> <li>3. What “enemies” has God helped you to overcome in your life?</li> <li>4. What are some of the ways that God has provided for you?</li> <li>5. What idols do you cling to and what have they ever done for you?</li> </ol>
<b>42</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Have you accepted or rejected God’s anointed servant, Jesus Christ?</li> <li>2. What idols have you been worshiping other than God?</li> <li>3. Is your worship of God with your whole mind, body and spirit, or are you only offering “token” worship before the Lord?</li> <li>4. In what areas of your life are you still disobeying God’s law?</li> </ol>
<b>43</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Who do you believe has created you and for what purpose?</li> <li>2. Do you believe there is any other Savior other than Jesus Christ?</li> <li>3. How have you praised and worshipped God this week?</li> <li>4. By what actions or deeds may you have rejected God recently?</li> </ol>
<b>44</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How should knowing that God goes before you change the way you live?</li> <li>2. Who or what are you pursuing more than you pursue God?</li> <li>3. Can you truly say that you serve the one true God with all your heart?</li> <li>4. In what ways has God restored your life?</li> </ol>
<b>45</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. For what purpose has God raised you up?</li> <li>2. How has the sovereign hand of God been revealed in your life?</li> <li>3. In what ways are you futilely trying to argue with God?</li> <li>4. How can you be found righteous in the eyes of God?</li> </ol>
<b>46</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do you personally know the awesome, redeeming power of God?</li> </ol>
<b>47</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What sin in your life is exposed when compared to the righteousness of Christ?</li> <li>2. How do you plan to repent of your sin?</li> <li>3. Who do you seek for counsel, “wise” men of the world, or humble servants of God?</li> <li>4. Who or what is the biggest influence in your life? Is it a righteous influence?</li> </ol>
<b>48</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How do you listen for God’s leading in your life?</li> <li>2. Who have you glorified this week when the glory really belonged to God?</li> <li>3. What teachings in God’s Word have you failed to obey?</li> <li>4. Can you honestly say that you thirst for God and His Word? If not, how can you correct this in your life?</li> </ol>

## Homiletics example: Isaiah 41

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- 1) Silence before me
- 2-3) Who has raised up?
- 4) Who? – I AM HE
- 5-7) Nations fear/tremble
- 8-9) Israel I have chosen
- 10) I AM your God
- 11-12) Enemies destroyed
- 13-14) Do not fear
- 15-16) I bring victory – rejoice
- 17-19) I will provide
- 20) See and Know I AM creator
- 21-24) See your idols – worthless!
- 25) I have stirred up enemy
- 26) No one else foretold
- 27) I gave messenger
- 28) No one can answer
- 29) All are false

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-7) The Lord has called the generations from the beginning.
- 8-16) I AM has chosen Israel and destroyed her enemies.
- 17-20) I will not forsake and I will provide.
- 21-29) Test your idols and see that they are worthless and silent.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

God has called all generations so fear no one else.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to know that it is God who has created and called you, so turn from your worthless idols and fear the Lord!

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. By whom have you been created?
2. Who or what do you fear more than you fear the Lord?
3. What "enemies" has God helped you to overcome in your life?
4. What are some of the ways that God has provided for you?
5. What idols do you cling to and what have they ever done for you?

## Homiletics example: Isaiah 42

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1-2) my chosen One          | 14) I cry out                           |
| 3) He brings justice        | 15) mountains laid waste                |
| 4) hope in His law          | 16) darkness turns to light             |
| 5) God speaks               | 17) idol worshipers will be turned back |
| 6) will make you a covenant | 18-20) do not be blind                  |
| 7) release from darkness    | 21) Lord pleased to make great law      |
| 8-9) I AM the Lord          | 22) but people plundered                |
| 10) a new song              | 23) who will listen?                    |
| 11) rejoice                 | 24) don't disobey                       |
| 12) glory to the Lord       | 25) God will pour out disobedient       |
| 13) Lord will triumph       |   |

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-9) God raises up his servant and makes a covenant with His people.
- 10-17) Rejoice in the Lord and do not disobey.
- 18-25) Israel has rejected God's message.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

Israel has rejected God's anointed servant.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to accept the anointed servant, Jesus Christ, rejoice in His glory and be obedient to His ways.

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. Have you accepted or rejected God's anointed servant, Jesus Christ?
2. What idols have you been worshipping other than God?
3. Is your worship of God with your whole mind, body and spirit, or are you only offering "token" worship before the Lord?
4. In what areas of your life are you still disobeying God's law?

### Homiletics example: Isaiah 43

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) I have redeemed you                 | 14) I will bring down Babylonians       |
| 2) I will be with you                  | 15) I AM Israel's creator               |
| 3) I am your God                       | 16-19) forget former, I do a new thing  |
| 4) I love you                          | 20) I provide for chosen                |
| 5) I am with you                       | 21) my people formed to praise          |
| 6-7) I will gather you                 | 22) yet, you have not called me         |
| 8) eyes & ears but blind and deaf      | 23-24) no offerings or sacrifices       |
| 9) no one has foretold this            | 25) I blot out sin and remember no more |
| 10) I have chosen you                  | 26) state your case                     |
| 11) I AM the Lord - there is no other! | 27) your first father sinned            |
| 12) revealed, proclaimed & saved       | 28) I will disgrace you                 |
| 13) no one can reverse this            |   |

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-13) God has redeemed and loved Israel.
- 14-21) God has shown mercy to Israel.
- 22-28) Israel has rejected God.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

God has created and redeemed Israel, but Israel rejected Him.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to understand the mercy and redemption of God before it is too late.

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. Who do you believe has created you and for what purpose?
2. Do you believe there is any other Savior other than Jesus Christ?
3. How have you praised and worshipped God this week?
4. By what actions or deeds may you have rejected God recently?

## Homiletics example: Isaiah 44

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- 1-2) Listen Jacob, do not fear
- 3) I'll pour out my Spirit & blessing on descendants
- 4-5) they will be mine
- 6) I AM first and last
- 7) no one like me
- 8) did I not foretell this?
- 9-11) those who create idols will be shamed
- 12-17) their efforts are futile
- 18) they know nothing
- 19) they have no knowledge
- 20) they cannot save themselves
- 21) remember Jacob, you are my servant
- 22) return to me
- 23) shout loud - I have redeemed you
- 24) I AM the Lord - your redeemer
- 25) who turns the wise to nonsense
- 26-27) who fulfills predictions
- 28) Cyrus will decree -rebuild temple

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-5) The Lord has chosen Israel to be His.
- 6-23) Pursue the Lord, not worthless idols.
- 24-28) God will restore the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

God has chosen Israel, but rejected those who build idols.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to pursue the one true God rather than chase after worthless idols.

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. How should knowing that God goes before you change the way you live?
2. Who or what are you pursuing more than you pursue God?
3. Can you truly say that you serve the one true God with all your heart?
4. In what ways has God restored your life?

### Homiletics example: Isaiah 45

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- 1) Cyrus anointed by God
- 2-3) God will bring him victory
- 4) for Jacob's sake
- 5-6) no other God
- 7-8) I have created all things
- 9-10) don't quarrel with maker
- 11-12) God created earth
- 13) He raises up Cyrus
- 14) God will bring victory over Egypt & Sabeans
- 15-16) idol makers put in their place
- 17) Israel will be saved
- 18) God created earth to be inhabited
- 19) God declares truth
- 20-21) What I have declared will happen
- 22) turn to me
- 23) no word revoked
- 24) in the Lord alone is righteousness
- 25) descendants of Israel righteous in the Lord.

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-4) The Lord calls Cyrus as His instrument.
- 5-12) God is the Creator, don't argue with Him.
- 13-25) God will bring victory to Cyrus to prove His righteousness.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

God proves His power and sovereignty by raising up Cyrus.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to understand the righteousness and sovereignty of God - do not contend with His plans.

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. For what purpose has God raised you up?
2. How has the sovereign hand of God been revealed in your life?
3. In what ways are you futility trying to argue with God?
4. How can you be found righteous in the eyes of God?



## Homiletics example: Isaiah 46

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- 1) idols burdensome
- 2) powerless
- 3-4) I AM HE
- 5) to whom to I compare?
- 6-7) other idols powerless
- 8) remember
- 9) I AM God
- 10) I know all
- 11) what I planned, I do
- 12) listen!
- 13) righteousness coming
- 14) I bring salvation to Israel

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-7) Idols have no power.
- 8-13) God is all powerful.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

Idols are powerless and can never compare to Almighty God.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to know personally the awesome, redeeming power of God.

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. Do you personally know the awesome, redeeming power of God?

## Homiletics example: Isaiah 47

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- 1) virgin daughter of Babylon
- 2-3) nakedness exposed, shame
- 4) Redeemer = Holy One
- 5) daughter no longer queen
- 6) I gave my people into your hand
- 7-8) you boast now
- 9) trouble comes - childless & widowhood
- 10) you trusted wickedness
- 11) disaster comes
- 12) keep on
- 13) consult the "wise"
- 14) they can't even save themselves
- 15) they continue on in error

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-4) Unrighteousness of Babylon is exposed.
- 5-11) Disaster will come to the queen.
- 12-15) Those she consults have no power.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

Babylon queen's sin is exposed and her reign ends quickly.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to carefully examine their lives and turn away from any unrighteousness.

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. What sin in your life is exposed when compared to the righteousness of Christ?
2. How do you plan to repent of your sin?
3. Who do you seek for counsel, "wise" men of the world, or humble servants of God?
4. Who or what is the biggest influence in your life? Is it a righteous influence?

## Homiletics example: Isaiah 48

a) **Verses:** List the verses' numbers for this study and begin to write down a short phrase or a single word from each verse that will remind you what is happening in that verse.

- 1-2) listen Israel to Lord Almighty
- 3) I foretold, then acted
- 4-5) you can't credit idols
- 6) admit this
- 7-8) you have not heard or understood
- 9) I delay for Jacob
- 10) I have refined & tested
- 11) for my sake - I will not yield glory
- 12) listen O Jacob
- 13) I formed heaven & earth
- 14) what idols foretold this?
- 15-16) sovereign Lord speaks
- 17) I direct your paths
- 18) If only you paid attention
- 19) offspring would have been greatly blessed
- 20) Flee Babylon - I redeem Jacob
- 21) they did not thirst
- 22) no peace for wicked

b) **Divisions:** For each division, write a short, but complete sentence describing the key action and character in that division. Keep your sentence factual as opposed to spiritual.

- 1-11) God foretold but Israel did not listen nor heed.
- 12-19) Israel's failure to listen cost them many blessings.
- 20-22) Flee Babylon for there is no peace for the wicked.

c) **Subject Sentence:** From your divisions, combine the central thoughts into a subject sentence of 10 words or less. This must be a complete sentence with a subject and verb.

Israel missed God's blessing because of their unrighteousness and stubbornness.

d) **AIM:** Find the compelling motive of this passage that would cause you to change your life.

Cause my audience to listen carefully to God's Word, follow His direction and avoid giving His glory to others.

e) **Applications:** Go back and look at your divisions. Generally, you should try to write at least one application for each of your divisions.

1. How do you listen for God's leading in your life?
2. Who have you glorified this week when the glory really belonged to God?
3. What teachings in God's Word have you failed to obey?
4. Can you honestly say that you thirst for God and His Word? If not, how can you correct this in your life?