

Introduction on the Prophet Isaiah and the Book of Isaiah

مقدمة عن النبي إشعياء وسفر إشعياء

1. Isaiah, the prophet, is one of the greatest prophets of the Old Testament, and his life and message have had a profound impact on the history of Israel as well as on Christianity. He lived in a very difficult and crisis-filled time, when the kingdom of Judah was threatened by external dangers and the people were at risk of losing their faith.

1. النبي إشعياء يُعدّ من أعظم أنبياء العهد القديم، وكان لحياته ورسالته تأثير عميق في تاريخ إسرائيل وكذلك في المسيحية. عاش في زمن صعب ومليء بالأزمات، حيث كانت مملكة يهوذا مهددة من الخارج، وكان الناس مهددين بفقدان إيمانهم.

2. The book of Isaiah contains 66 chapters, and its messages can be divided into several main areas:

-Warnings and admonitions: Isaiah calls the people to turn back to God and warns that sin and injustice have painful consequences.

-Messages of hope and salvation: Even in the darkest times, Isaiah promises that God will save His people through mercy and power.

2. يتكوّن سفر إشعياء من 66
إصحاحًا، ويمكن تقسيم رسائله إلى عدة
محاوّر رئيسية: التحذير والتنبيه،
حيث يدعو إشعياء الناس إلى التوبة
والرجوع إلى الله، ويحذّر من أن
الخطية والظلم لهما عواقب مؤلمة.
وكذلك رسائل الرجاء والخلاص،
حيث يؤكّد أنه حتى في أحلك
الأوقات، فإن الله سينقذ شعبه برحمته
وقوته.

3. This section also includes the prediction of the Jews' return from captivity and the coming of the Messiah.

-Rich songs and prayers: In parts of the book, Isaiah speaks poetically and inspiringly about God's greatness, His power, and the hope for the future.

-Prophecies about Christ: The book of Isaiah repeatedly speaks of a Savior who will bring justice, peace, and salvation to the world.

3. يشمل هذا الجزء أيضًا التنبؤ بعودة اليهود من السبي، وكذلك مجيء المسيح. كما يحتوي السفر على ترانيم وصلوات غنية بالمعاني، يتحدث فيها إشعياء بأسلوب شعري مؤثر عن عظمة الله وقوته، وعن الرجاء بالمستقبل. ويتضمن أيضًا نبوءات متكررة عن المخلص الذي سيجلب العدل والسلام والخلاص إلى العالم.

4. The book of Isaiah is a mixture of warning, teaching, hope, and divine promises. Its main message is: Even in difficulties, God is present, powerful, and His promises are always fulfilled.

4. يُعدّ سفر إشعياء مزيجًا من التحذير والتعليم والرجاء ووعود الله. والرسالة الأساسية فيه هي أنه حتى في وسط الصعوبات، فإن الله حاضر وقادر، ووعوده تتحقق دائمًا.

ISAIAH 40

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold, Who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number? He calls them all by names by the greatness of His might, for He is strong in power; not one fails.

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and O Israel you speak, "My way is hidden from the Lord and my cause is disregarded by my God?"

إِشْعِيَاءَ 40

26 أَرْفَعُوا إِلَى الْعَلَاءِ عُيُونَكُمْ وَأَنْظُرُوا، مَنْ خَلَقَ هَذِهِ؟ مَنْ الَّذِي يُخْرِجُ بَعْدَ جُنْدَهَا، يَدْعُو كُلَّهَا بِأَسْمَاءٍ؟ لِكثْرَةِ الْقُوَّةِ وَكَوْنِهِ شَدِيدِ الْقُدْرَةِ لَا يُفْقَدُ أَحَدٌ.

27 لِمَاذَا تَقُولُ يَا يَعْقُوبُ وَتَتَكَلَّمُ يَا إِسْرَائِيلُ: «قَدْ أَخْتَفَتْ طَرِيقِي عَنِ الرَّبِّ وَفَاتَ حَقِّي إِلَهِي»؟

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not grow weak nor weary? And His understanding no one can fathom.

28 أَمَا عَرَفْتَ أَمْ لَمْ تَسْمَعْ؟ إِيَّاهُ
الَّذِي خَلَقَ أَطْرَافَ الْأَرْضِ
لَا يَكِلُ وَلَا يَعْْيَا. لَيْسَ عَنْ فَهْمِهِ
فَحْصٌ.

29 He gives power to the weary; and to him with no might, He increases strength.

30 Even the young shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall;

31 But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

29 يُعْطِي الْمُعْيِي قُدْرَةً، وَلِعَدِيمِ الْقُوَّةِ
يُكْثِرُ شِدَّةً. 30 الْغُلَمَانُ يُعْيُونَ

وَيَتَّعِبُونَ، وَالْفِتْيَانُ يَتَعَبُونَ تَعَبًا.

31 وَأَمَّا مُنْتَظِرُو الرَّبِّ فَيَجَدُّونَ

قُوَّةً. يَرْفَعُونَ أَجْنِحَةً كَالنُّسُورِ.

يَرْكُضُونَ وَلَا يَتَّعِبُونَ. يَمْشُونَ وَلَا

يُعْيُونَ.

Sermon by Lector in Training Sajjad
Taghidoust, 10 May 2026, Isaiah 40:26-31

العظة – القارئ المفوض (قيد التدريب) سجاد
تاغيدوست، 10.05.2026، إشعياء 40:26-31

Dear congregation,

1. First, I would like to talk about the historical background of these verses we read together.

This story refers to the year 586 BCE in the city of Jerusalem. This was one of the darkest catastrophes in history. The Babylonian Empire attacked Jerusalem and set the city on fire. Many people were killed, and the survivors were taken into captivity.

عزيزي المجتمع،

١. أولاً أود أن أتحدث عن الخلفية التاريخية لهذه الآيات التي قرأناها معاً، لأن فهم التاريخ يساعدنا على فهم المعنى الروحي بشكل أعمق. هذه القصة تعود إلى سنة 586 قبل الميلاد في مدينة القدس، وهي فترة مفصلية في تاريخ بني إسرائيل.

2. The Jewish people lived in exile for many years. They had been expelled from their homes. They had lost their family members. And their possessions had been taken away. Now, they were very tired and despairing. They had completely lost their faith and had no hope for the future.

2. في تلك السنة، تعرّضت القدس لهجوم عنيف من قبل الإمبراطورية البابلية بقيادة نبوخذ نصر، حيث تم تدمير المدينة بشكل كامل وإحراق الهيكل، الذي كان رمزًا دينيًا عظيمًا للشعب.

3. The prophet Isaiah had foreseen this time well in his writings and brought new hope to these people. He begins to speak with them to strengthen their faith and bring back the hope they had lost. First, he tells them to look to the heavens.

3. خلال هذا الهجوم، قُتل عدد كبير من الناس بطريقة قاسية، أما الذين نجوا فقد تم اقتيادهم كأسرى إلى بابل، بعيدًا عن وطنهم وأرضهم.

4. What do you see? Millions of stars and planets are arranged in order in the sky, and one has control over them all. God is still present. He is powerful; He is the Creator of this world, and He directs the world. There is a distance between God's promise and its fulfillment, and this distance is bridged through faith.

4. عاش الشعب اليهودي بعد ذلك سنوات طويلة في المنفى، بعيدين عن ديارهم، محرومين من حياتهم الطبيعية ومن كل ما اعتادوا عليه.

5. Now, life brings many difficulties, and often we may say that our faith is not enough for all this pressure and these burdens. Perhaps you say: I have faith, but I have grown weary. I cannot go on. I have no hope for my child. My life is in chaos, and it seems nothing will turn out well for me, and I find no peace.

5. لم يقتصر الألم على فقدان الوطن فقط، بل فقدوا أيضاً عائلاتهم وأحبّاءهم، وتعرضوا لخسائر مادية ونفسية كبيرة جدًا.

6. Something always seems to go wrong. My spouse does not understand me. My colleagues are against me, and there are many other problems. For example, people grow weary and turn away from God during times of war. We Iranians have a saying: “A corrupt nature will never become good again.”

6. نتيجة لذلك، دخلوا في حالة من التعب الشديد واليأس، حتى أنهم فقدوا الأمل في أي مستقبل أفضل.

7. But despite all these things, we believe that Christ can rebuild people. Even if your nature is corrupted, Christ can renew you and transform you. Now I bring you a verse from the book of Isaiah, chapter 40, verse 31: “But those who hope in the Lord - who wait for the Lord - renew their strength; they soar on wings like eagles; they run and do not grow weary, they walk and do not faint.”

7. كما تأثر إيمانهم بشدة، فشعروا
أن الله قد تركهم، ولم يعد لديهم
رجاء أو ثقة بما سيأتي.

8. The Lord will take you by the hand in the worst situations and lift you up like an eagle. You know that the eagle flies higher than all other birds. It can soar at heights where no other bird can fly. It flies under the harshest conditions and high air pressure, and at the same time, it can see everything for many kilometers with its very sharp and strong eyes.

8. في هذه الظروف الصعبة، يظهر دور النبي إشعياء، الذي كان قد تنبأ بهذه الأحداث مسبقاً في كتاباته.

9. Here, God tells you that He can lift you up in difficulties and carry you beyond your imagination. In reality, Isaiah tells the people that God fully knows all the suffering they endure. You are meant to be God's chosen people, and for this, you must walk through difficult paths and strengthen your endurance and patience.

9. جاء إشعيا برسالة مختلفة،
رسالة رجاء وتشجيع، ليعيد بناء ما
تهدم داخل نفوسهم.

10. In general, every goal and achievement in life comes at a price. For example, if you want to become a successful doctor, you must study for many years. If you want to become a pastor, you must undergo years of training. If you want to become a sports champion, you must endure years of the toughest training.

10. بدأ حديثه معهم بطريقة بسيطة وعميقة في نفس الوقت، وطلب منهم أن يرفعوا أعينهم إلى السماء.

11. In 1968, the country of Tanzania selected John Stephen Akhwari as its representative for the Olympic Games in Mexico City. During the marathon, Akhwari fell and severely injured his knee and ankle. By 7 p.m., a runner from Ethiopia had won the race, and the other participants had finished and received medical attention.

11. وكأنه يقول لهم: بدل أن تنظروا إلى خراب الأرض، انظروا إلى عظمة السماء.

12. Only a few thousand spectators remained in the large stadium when a police siren at the entrance caught their attention. Akhwari, wearing number 36, came limping through the entrance with a blood-soaked bandage on his leg. The spectators began to applaud as this brave man completed his final lap. Later, a reporter asked Akhwari the question everyone had in mind.

12. عندما ينظر الإنسان إلى السماء، يرى ملايين النجوم والكواكب تتحرك بنظام دقيق، وهذا يدل على وجود قوة عظيمة تدبّر هذا الكون.

13. “Why did you continue the race even though you were severely injured?” He replied: “My country did not send me 7,000 miles to start the race; they sent me to finish it.” You do not necessarily have to be first on the path you walk. But it is important that you finish it.

13. هذه القوة هي الله، الذي لم يختف ولم يترك العالم، بل ما زال موجودًا ويسيطر على كل شيء.

14. If you give up halfway, exhausted and tired, without any result, you will be left with pain that will stay with you forever. Dear friends, everything has its price. Sometimes it is necessary to make sacrifices. If today you can sit freely in church and worship God, you should know that many people have given their blood and sacrificed themselves along the way to make this possible.

14. وهنا تأتي فكرة مهمة: هناك دائماً وقت بين وعد الله وتحقيقه، وهذا الوقت قد يكون صعباً على الإنسان.

15. If you now live in a free and democratic country, know that many people have worked for us to reach this point. And if we now want to walk through the difficulties of life with faith in God, as I spoke about earlier, we must wait on the Lord and trust Him.

15. لكن هذا الفراغ أو الانتظار لا يُملأ إلا بالإيمان، فهو الجسر الذي يربط بين الوعد وتحقيقه.

16. We should only ask Him and remain in prayer. We humans quickly grow weary in difficulties and problems. Even the bravest and strongest people give up. And even the strength of youth eventually fades and cannot continue. But our God never grows weary and is perfectly informed about everything.

16. في حياتنا اليومية، نواجه الكثير من الضغوط والتحديات التي تجعلنا نشعر أن إيماننا ضعيف أو غير كافٍ.

17. During the protests in Iran, one of the young people protesting was killed.

His name was Masoud. He was a champion bodybuilder in Iran. His father had also been a former champion in this sport. On the day of the memorial for this young man, his father was at the grave, looked to the sky, and spoke loudly to God.

17. أحيانًا نقول: نحن نوّمن، لكننا تعبنا، ولم نعد نستطيع الاستمرار في هذا الطريق.

18. He called out with a tired but strong voice: “God, we are exhausted. We cannot go on. Kill me or save us.”

Only a few days later, the war began, and on the first day of the war came the news of the death of the dictator who had given the order to shoot people that day.

18. وقد يصل الأمر إلى فقدان الأمل، سواء لأنفسنا أو لأطفالنا أو لمستقبلنا.

19. I do not want to engage in any political discussion here. And I do not want to say whether this war was right or wrong. Surely there are supporters and opponents. However, I think that perhaps this father found some peace afterward, and God certainly heard his voice.

19. نشعر أن حياتنا فوضوية، وأن الأمور لا تتحسن مهما حاولنا، وأن السلام بعيد عنا.

20. Waiting is an important word. Often we have expectations of life, of ourselves, and of other people to fulfill our desires and needs. Very often, we expect something from people that is wrong. We do not know to whom we should express our wishes or from whom we should expect something. While God tells us in these verses exactly that we should wait for Him.

20. كذلك، قد نواجه مشاكل في العلاقات، مثل عدم التفاهم مع الشريك أو الصعوبات مع الزملاء في العمل.

21. Perhaps you ask me: What do these words mean? I am faithful and go to church regularly. But my problems are big and seem never to be solved.

How should we wait on God? We

Iranians often place a word next to

“waiting”: “cheshm” (eye). We say to

someone who waits for another person:

“cheshm entezar” - literally “waiting

eye”.

21. وفي أوقات الحروب أو
الأزمات الكبرى، يفقد الكثير من
الناس إيمانهم ويتعدون عن الله
بسبب الألم.

22. This means that we watch the path with our eyes on which our companion or friend will come until they reach us. Now I ask you: On whom is your eye fixed? On which path have you set your gaze? In life, we mostly expect people to do something for us - our parents, our spouse, our friends, our boss, and others.

22. هناك أمثال شعبية تعكس هذا اليأس، مثل القول إن الإنسان الفاسد لا يمكن أن يتغير.

23. Our eyes follow the people in our lives, not the Lord. And when we see no result, we complain to God: “Even though I have faith, God has never helped me.” Yet the Bible tells us: If you give your heart fully to Him and ask everything only from Him, He will let you soar like an eagle.

23. لكن الرسالة المسيحية تعارض هذا الفكر، وتؤكد أن التغيير ممكن دائماً.

24. That is why I pray and say: “God, if something is to happen for me this year, let it come from heaven, not from the earth, for my eyes seek You and my expectation is set on You.” So, how should I, a sinner, wait for God? Some say: “I have sinned so much in my life that I do not deserve to ask anything from God.” But this is wrong.

24. فالمسيح قادر أن يجدد
الإنسان من الداخل، مهما كانت
حالته السابقة.

25. We all know the story of Paul. He was a murderer of Christians. Before he found faith, he was the greatest enemy of Christians and persecuted them. But God used him, transformed him, and rebuilt him. Paul himself says at one point: “I do not deserve to be called an apostle, for I am very sinful.” But in the end, he accepts his fate and submits to God’s will. He dedicates himself to God’s path.

25. حتى الإنسان الذي يشعر أنه ضائع أو فاسد، يمكن أن يبدأ من جديد ويتحول إلى شخص مختلف.

26. Just as Paul the Apostle was transformed, anyone can be transformed - if we believe in this faith - that God is almighty and can rebuild anyone He wishes. The promises Isaiah gives to the people, and the hopeful predictions he makes, are fulfilled over two hundred years later.

26. في هذا السياق، يقدم إشعيا
وعدا قويا: الذين ينتظرون الرب
تجدد قوتهم.

27. Namely, at the time when Cyrus the Great attacked Babylon, freed the people of Israel from captivity, and brought them back to their own land. At the same time, Isaiah points out that all this was God's plan for this people, so that they would atone for the sins they had committed and afterward find their path to salvation.

27. هذا يعني أن الانتظار ليس
ضعفًا، بل هو مصدر قوة إذا كان
مبنيًا على الثقة بالله.

28. We have often used the word “exhaustion” in our lives. We often say that we cannot continue. Many of these states of exhaustion may not come from the present. They are events from the past whose burden we carry with us, which have come into the present and brought us to a point where we are tired and cannot go on.

28. يَشْبَهُهُم بِالنَّسْرِ ، وَهُوَ طَائِرٌ
قَوِي يَطِيرُ عَالِيًا جَدًّا ، حَتَّى فَوْقَ
الظُّرُوفِ الصَّعْبَةِ .

29. Perhaps many of these burdens do not even belong to us, and if we let them go, our problem would be completely solved. Perhaps our perspective on life was wrong altogether. If we believe in God's promises, we can receive His miracles at the right time.

29. النسر لا يطير بسهولة فقط، بل يستطيع مواجهة الرياح القوية والضغط العالي.

30. When all doors close and a person is exhausted and cannot continue by their own strength, only one force remains: faith. And here God comes in: He opens the doors, breaks the chains, and saves you.

Amen!

30. وفي النهاية، الرسالة الأساسية هي أنه عندما نصل إلى حدودنا البشرية ونعجز عن الاستمرار، يبدأ دور الله، فيقوّينا ويفتح لنا طرقاً جديدة لم نكن نتوقعها.

PRAYER

1. God, I thank You for giving me authority and for inviting me into Your kingdom. God, I thank You for taking us under Your protection and under Your authority. God, I come into Your presence with a humble heart and a humble soul and ask for Your help. You, who know my sufferings and pains, I need Your healing word today. Speak to me, God, refresh my soul and heal my wounds.

صلاة

1. يا الله، أشكرك لأنك منحني السلطان ودعوتني إلى ملكوتك. أشكرك لأنك أخذتنا تحت حمايتك وتحت سلطانك. آتي إليك اليوم بقلب متواضع ونفس متواضعة، طالبًا منك العون والمساعدة. أنت الذي تعرف آلامي وأوجاعي، وأنا اليوم بحاجة إلى كلمتك الشافية. كلمني يا رب، أنعش نفسي واشفِ جراحي.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, I confess that You are my Savior. You are my Healer. I will not fear, for You are with me. God, I receive strength from You, for those who wait on the Lord renew their strength.

2. يا رب يسوع المسيح، أعتزف
أنك مخلصي وفادي، وأنت شافي.
لن أخاف لأنك معي. يا الله، أتلقى
منك القوة، لأن الذين ينتظرون
الرب يجدون قوتهم وينالون طاقة
جديدة كل يوم.

3. Heavenly Father, I thank You for giving me a new day. Father, Your presence will bring me safety and peace today. My God, I do not know what will come my way today, but I am certain that You go before me and keep evil away from me. I am certain that You strengthen my trembling knees so that I may walk on Your paths with steps of blessing and victory.

3. أيها الآب السماوي، أشكرك لأنك منحتني يومًا جديدًا. حضورك اليوم يمنحني الأمان والسلام. يا إلهي، أنا لا أعرف ماذا سيحمل هذا اليوم، لكنني واثق أنك تسير أمامي وتُبعد عني كل شر. واثق أنك تقوي ركبتي المرتجفتين لكي أسير في طرقك بخطوات مليئة بالبركة والنصر.

4. Everything that troubles me today, I place in Your peaceful hands. All my fears, worries, problems, and weaknesses I lay in Your hands, so that today, through Your good Spirit, You may pour peace into me. Today, I will fear nothing, for You are with me, by my side, and walk with me.

4. كل ما يزعجني اليوم أضعه بين
يديك المملوءتين سلامًا. أضع كل
مخاوفي وهمومي ومشاكلي وضعفي
بين يديك، لكي تفيض عليّ اليوم
بسلامك من خلال روحك الصالح.
لن أخاف من شيء اليوم، لأنك
معي وبجانبي وتسير معي في كل
خطوة.

5. Heavenly Father, help me today to see the world through Your eyes so that nothing can disturb me. God, today I want to serve You and place my time in Your hands - not just with words, but with my whole heart and soul. God, today I lay all my desires, longings, and dreams in Your hands, so that Your will may be done in my life, as it is in heaven. Your good and pleasing will. In the name of Jesus, I ask You with gratitude. Amen.

5. أيها الأب السماوي، ساعدني اليوم أن أرى العالم بعينيك، لكي لا يزعجني شيء. أريد اليوم أن أخدمك وأضع وقتي بين يديك، ليس بالكلام فقط، بل بكل قلبي وكل نفسي. يا الله، أضع كل رغباتي وأحلامي وتطلعاتي بين يديك، لكي تتم مشيئتك الصالحة والمرضية في حياتي كما هي في السماء. باسم يسوع أطلب منك ذلك بكل شكر وامتنان. آمين.