

ISAIAH 40–66 INTRODUCTION

Why Isaiah? Why Now



WHY ISAIAH?

Isaiah 40-66



WHY ISAIAH? GENERAL REASONS

1. *The New Testament and the Hebrew Bible are both needed to comprehend the whole, unified biblical drama.*

A handwritten table on lined paper listing biblical books and their durations. The table is organized into columns for days of the week and categories of books. The entries are as follows:

Day	Category	Book(s)	Duration
11	W	JOB	1:52
12	R	EZEKIEL	0:25
13	F	HOSEA - MICAH	0:50
14	S	NAHUM - ZEPHANIAH	0:50
15	S	HAGGAI - MALACHI	4:26
16	M	PSALMS	1:31
17	T	PROVERBS	1:48
18	W	JOB	1:48
19	R	SONG OF SOLOMON / RUTH / LAMENTATIONS / ECCLESIASTES / EST	1:02
20	F	SONG OF SOLOMON DANIEL	1:42
21	S	EZRA / NEMEMIAH	4:38
22	S	CHRONICLES	1:03
		HEBREWS / JAMES	1:48
		PETER	2:21

WHY ISAIAH? GENERAL REASONS

2. Jesus messianic self-understanding and teachings, rely on Isaiah more than any other Torah text, besides the Psalms. (Jesus' inaugural sermon Lk. 4:16-19 cf. Is. 61:1,2; 58;60)



WHY ISAIAH? GENERAL REASONS

3. *In the history of Christian interpretation, Isaiah's suffering servant foreshadows Jesus, as the messianic saviour.*



WHY ISAIAH? GENERAL REASONS

4. The Christian tradition identifies Isaiah as a Fifth Gospel. “If the other four gospels ever were lost, it would not matter, as long as we still have Isaiah.”





WHY NOW ? WHY WATERSHED?

Isaiah 40-66

WHY ISAIAH? NOW AT WATERSHED

1. Watershed and Isaiah's faith community reflect similar patterns of: covenant obedience (orientation); covenant failure and exile (disorientation) and covenant renewal (reorientation). This is a helpful model to track our spiritual progress.



**ORIENTATION,
DISORIENTATION,
REORIENTATION**

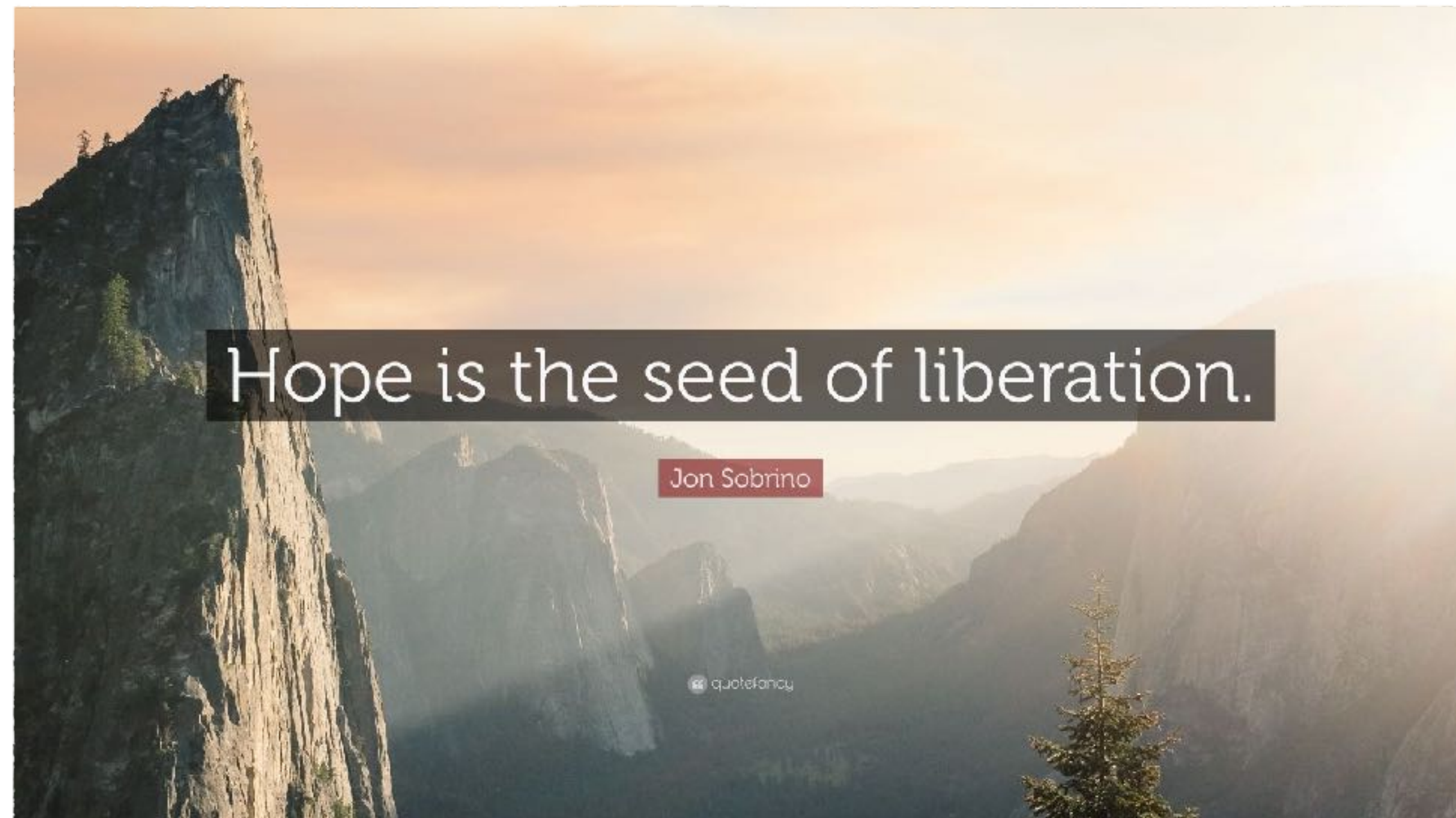
WHY ISAIAH? NOW AT WATERSHED

2. Supposing Watershed is approaching a time of covenant renewal and an end to the exilic suffering, What is the new song we are to sing alongside the prophet Isaiah and the returning community?



WHY ISAIAH? NOW AT WATERSHED

3. We start at Second-Isaiah (40-60) since it connects with the covenant stage of renewal, and with a song of liberation and hope.



WHY ISAIAH? NOW AT WATERSHED

4. Isaiah's theme of the God's creational sovereignty (monotheism) over all other pretenders (ideologies, political empires) is a corrective to the irrelevance of our traditional and mythic god images.,



WHY ISAIAH? NOW AT WATERSHED

5. Isaiah's emphasis that God initiates the return to Jerusalem with his faithful remnant trailing behind, suggests that God, not our efforts - will restore and reorient our Watershed community.

