

# ISAIAH

## STUDY GUIDE

### AUTHOR & DATE

The first chapter of the book provides much information on the author and historical setting of the book. **Isaiah is named** as the one having the following visions, and though he refers to himself in third person, there is no reason to believe he is not the one who wrote the book. Some scholars challenge Isaiah's authorship of chapters 40-66 due to the detailed prophecies of future events, clearly discounting divine inspiration and supernatural revelation. There is no need to doubt Isaiah's authorship of the entire book.

Isaiah, the son of Amoz, means "Yahweh is salvation" and lived during the reign of Judah's kings Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (1:1). Isaiah was likely born in Jerusalem, possibly to a family of royal heritage, but we know from the Bible his early years were as an official of King Uzziah (Azariah) in Judah (2 Chron. 26:22). Tradition holds Isaiah was martyred by Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, by being sawed in two. Therefore, Isaiah must have lived in at least part of Manasseh's reign as well.

Isaiah and his family were physical object lessons and involved in his prophetic ministry. He was married to a "prophetess" (Is. 8:3), his first son was named Shear-Jashub ("a remnant shall return"), and his second son was named after a prophetic word given to Isaiah (Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz – "quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil") describing coming judgment from Assyria, and his second son. Isaiah himself physically demonstrated prophetic messages as he walked naked and barefoot for 3 years at God's command (Is. 20:1-4).

Isaiah is named frequently throughout the Bible:

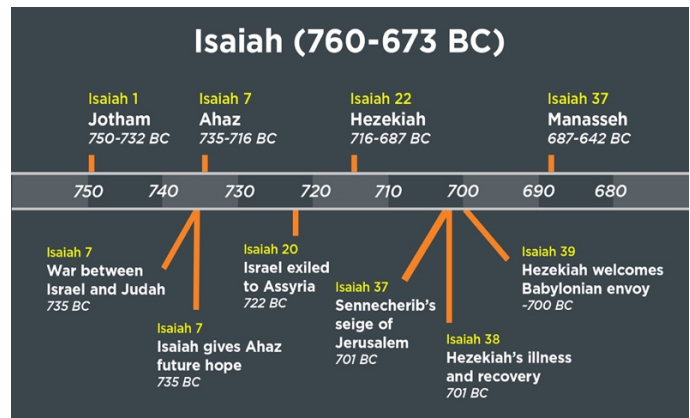
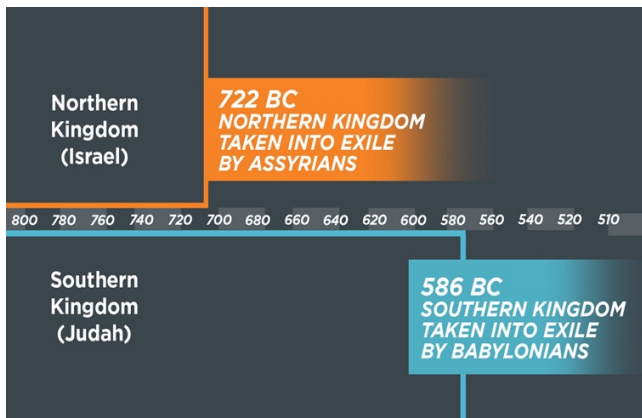
- 12 times in 2 Kings
- 4 times in 2 Chronicles
- 21 times in the New Testament
- Quoted 65 times and alluded to numerous other times in the New Testament

We know from Isaiah ch. 6 that Isaiah was called into prophetic ministry in the year King Uzziah died. Because of the other kings named in the first chapter and mention of Sennacherib's death (Is. 37:37-38), we can narrow down the time of Isaiah's writing to **740-680 B.C.** To give some historical perspective, this is the same timeframe when Rome was being established and the first Olympic games were conducted in Greece.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

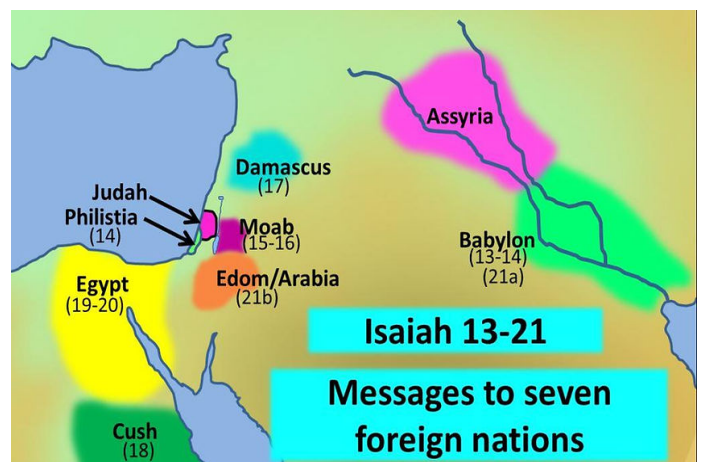
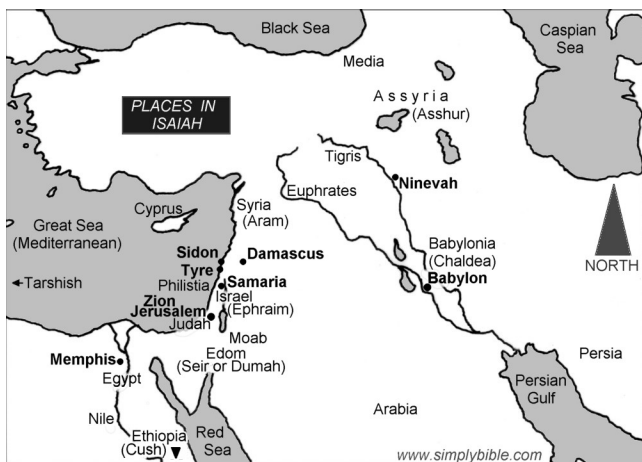
“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” (Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*) After Israel (northern kingdom) and Judah (southern kingdom) had experienced nearly 50 years of prosperity and power, the nations were gripped by idolatry, rebellion, injustice, and political corruption. Israel had been exiled by the Assyrians in 722 B.C., but Judah refused to learn from the mistakes of Israel. Through Isaiah, God warned the remaining nation of Judah to trust in Him alone for protection and reminded them of His promise of a kingdom through Moses and David. However, repentance was necessary or their exile was also to come. Isaiah’s message was largely ignored.

**SOME GEOGRAPHIC & HISTORICAL HELP**



Images from 5 Point Church

Isaiah speaks of many different locations, and often uses synonyms for these locations. The maps and chart below should help you as you read.



**LOCATIONS AND SIMILAR NAMES USED IN ISAIAH**

<b>Assyria</b> <i>Asshur</i> <i>Ninevah</i>	<b>Syria</b> <i>Damascus (capital city)</i> <i>Aram</i> <i>Rezin</i>	<b>Israel</b> <i>Northern Kingdom</i> <i>Samaria (capital city)</i> <i>Ephraim</i> <i>Pekah, son of Remaliah</i>	<b>Judah</b> <i>Southern Kingdom</i> <i>Jerusalem/Zion (capital city)</i> <i>Ahaz</i> <i>Hezekiah</i>
<b>Ethiopia</b> <i>Cush</i>	<b>Edom</b> <i>Seir</i> <i>Dumah</i>	<b>Babylon</b> <i>Chaldea</i>	

**LITERARY STRUCTURE**

There are many structural similarities of Isaiah to the whole Bible.

**BIBLE**

66 books  
 39 Old Testament  
 27 New Testament

**ISAIAH**

66 chapters  
 Ch. 1-39 reveal God’s character & judgment  
 Ch. 40-66 show God’s comfort & redemption

**AN OUTLINE OF ISAIAH**

*(From International Inductive Study Bible)*

<p><b>Part One: God’s Character and Judgment</b></p> <p>Ch. 1-12: Prophecies Regarding Jerusalem                  Ch. 13-23: Prophecies Regarding Other Nations                  Ch. 24-27: Regarding “That Day”                  Ch. 28-33: Six Woes                  Ch. 34-35: God’s Recompense &amp; Ransom for Zion                  Ch. 36-39: Threat of Assyria to Threat of Babylon</p>	<p><b>Part Two: God’s Comfort and Redemption</b></p> <p>Ch. 40-48: Behold the Lord, Your Redeemer                  Ch. 49-57: Your Redeemer Will Save                  Ch. 58-66: Your Redeemer Will Come</p>
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## **OBSERVATION WORDS FOR CHAPTERS 1-39**

Be on the lookout for the following words used throughout the book. Don't just mark them, but note what you learn about them.

- **Lord of hosts / Lord Almighty / Lord of Heaven's Armies**
- **God / Lord (any other names, references of God)**
- **Holy Spirit**
- **Messianic Prophecies (Jesus)**  
*You may want to bracket and put MP next to it in the margin*

- **In that day**

*Note: "In that day" is used in different ways in this book: 1) near future, 2) far future (end times), and 3) near and far future. You might want to mark them differently so you can spot easily what is being spoken about. For example:*

in that day = Near future

in that day = Far future

in that day = Combo of both

- **Remnant**
- **Woe**

## **STUDY QUESTIONS**

### **CHAPTERS 1-39**

- What did the **Lord teach YOU** through what you read & how will you apply it in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What are the sins leading to judgment?

- Why is the Lord justified in using evil nations to judge His own people? And how does He treat the nations He used to judge God’s people?
  
- What do you learn about “in that day?” What will happen? Who is affected? How does this information affect you in your daily life?
  
- Review ch. 28-33 again & complete the following chart:

Woe to...	Why the woe?	Action/Result

- Who is the remnant? What do you learn from them? What does God do for His remnant?
  
- What is at least 1 lesson you can learn from Hezekiah’s story in ch. 36-39?

- List on the back of this sheet messianic prophecies you found & a reminder of what the prophecy is. (Example: 11:1 – stump/shoot)
- How was the **Holy Spirit** represented in the book?

## STUDY QUESTIONS

### CHAPTERS 40-66

#### SYNONYMS

In this portion of Isaiah, there are a few key references with synonyms, which could become confusing if you don't know what they are. So, hopefully this will help keep you on track.

- Jacob = Israel
- Babylon = Chaldeans
- Zion = Jerusalem

#### OBSERVATION WORDS FOR CHAPTERS 40-66

Be on the lookout for the following words used throughout the book. Don't just mark them, but note what you learn about them.

- **Lord of hosts / Lord Almighty / Lord of Heaven's Armies**
- **God / Lord (any other names, references of God)** – *Hint: there are several in this section!*
- **Holy Spirit** – *attributes, workings of, specifically named*
- **Messianic Prophecies (Jesus)**  
*You may want to bracket and put MP next to it in the margin*

(continued on next page)

- **In that day** – *NOT NECESSARILY THIS PHRASE in this section, but descriptions of coming day*  
 Note: “In that day” is used in different ways in this book: 1) near future, 2) far future (end times), and 3) near and far future. You might want to mark them differently so you can spot easily what is being spoken about. For example:

in that day	= Near future
in that day	= Far future
in that day	= Combo of both

- **Remnant / Redeemed** – take note of characteristics
- **Woe**
- **Babylon**
- **Servant** – take note of when it is referring to Israel or Jesus
- **Nations** – in the sense of many nations, all nations, other peoples, etc.
- **Instructive warnings** – such as “Listen,” “Pay attention,” “Fear not,” etc.

#### CHAPTERS 40-66 AND SUMMARY QUESTIONS

- What did the **Lord teach YOU** through what you read & how will you apply it in your life?
  
- What are some of the different names used for the Lord? What do they teach you about His character?
  
- How is Israel as God’s servant described? What does this mean for you?

- Describe the redeemed/remnant described? What are their characteristics? What is their reward? What aspect of the redeemed/remnant do you need to increase in?
  
- List on messianic prophecies you found & a reminder of what the prophecy is. (Example: 11:1 – stump/shoot) You may use a separate sheet or the back of this page. What do these things teach you about Jesus?
  
- How was the **Holy Spirit** represented in the book?
  
- What are some of the instructive warnings given in this book? Why are they important?
  
- What do you learn about the nations through this book? How are they treated?
  
- How has your relationship with the Lord grown through reading this book?



KEY WORD:

KEY VERSE:

KEY CHAPTER:

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