

An Introduction To Isaiah

Pastor Eric Douma
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Is Isaiah The Only Author?

Author: Isaiah, son of Amoz (Isaiah 1:1)

1. The N.T. writers affirm that Isaiah was the author:

Luke 3:4-5 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His paths straight Every ravine will be filled, And every mountain and hill will be brought low; The crooked will become straight, And the rough roads smooth'"

Evidence For Isaianic Authorship

Luke 4:17-19 And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord" (cf. John 12:38-40).

Evidence For Isaianic Authorship

2. Common terminology throughout the book:

1:15b Your hands are full of blood

59:3 For your hands are defiled with blood.

28:5 ...the Lord Almighty will be a glorious crown, a beautiful wreath for the remnant...

62:3 You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand...

Evidence For Isaianic Authorship

3. David's name spelled with "pre-exilic" spelling throughout Isaiah:

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David. (Davith)

Zechariah 12:10a I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, (Daveeth)

The Time of Isaiah

Isaiah 1:1 The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz concerning Judah and Jerusalem, which he saw during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

Date: 740 – 686 B.C.

Uzziah died 740 B.C.

Jotham 750 - 732 B.C.

Ahaz 735 - 715 B.C.

Hezekiah 715 - 686 B.C.

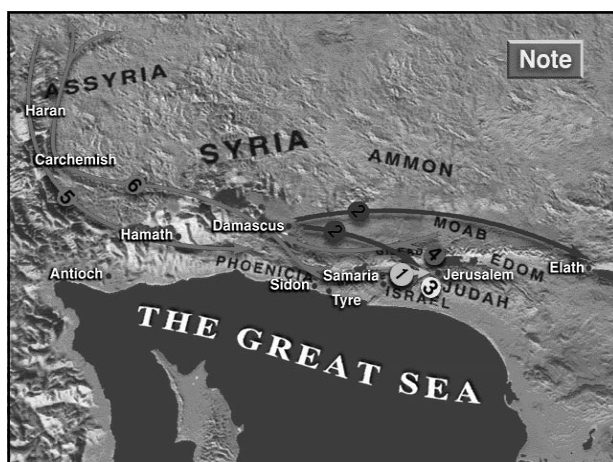
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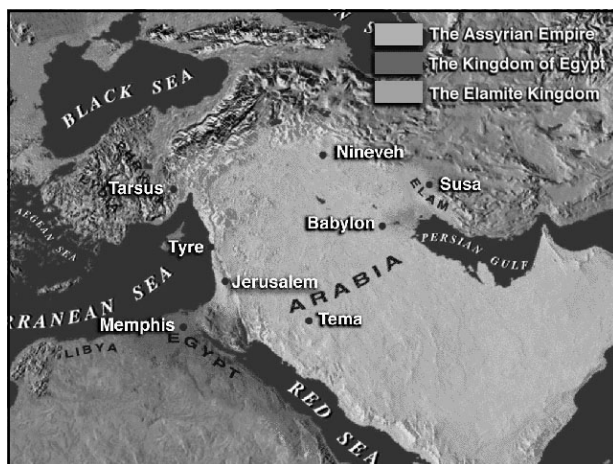
Ammonites

Ammonites

Syria/Samaria

Assyria





In Whom Will God's People Trust?

Ahaz trusted in an alliance with Assyria!

Isaiah 7:11-13 Then the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!" Then he said, "Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well?"

In Whom Will God's People Trust?

Hezekiah trusted in Egypt and Babylon!

Isaiah 38:5-6 Go and say to Hezekiah, 'Thus says the Lord, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will add fifteen years to your life. "I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city" (cf. Isaiah 39 for Hezekiah's trust in Babylon instead!).

God Is Faithful To His Covenant

Isaiah 37:35 'For I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.' "

Isaiah 54:10 For the mountains may be removed and the hills may shake, But My lovingkindness will not be removed from you, And My covenant of peace will not be shaken," Says the Lord who has compassion on you.

The Messianic "Portraits"

1-37 - The King

38-55 – The Servant

56-66 – The Conqueror

1. The Messiah is endowed with Spirit and word in all three portraits: Isaiah 11:1-2, 4b Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse... The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him... And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked (cf. 42:1; 49:1-3; 50:4; 59:21; 61:1-3).

Common Themes

2. The concept of righteousness occurs in all three portraits:

Throne: Isaiah 9:7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.

(cf. righteous work of the Servant 53:11; 54:17; character of the Anointed Conqueror (61:10; 63:1).

Common Themes

3. Each portrait reveals the descendant of David who rules and conquers:

Isaiah 9:7... There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom...

Isaiah 55:3 Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you, According to the faithful mercies shown to David (cf. destruction of Edom 63:1).

Common Themes

4. Each Messianic portrait fully embraces both Israel and the Gentiles into the plan of God:

Isaiah 1:27 Zion will be redeemed with justice And her repentant ones with righteousness.

Isaiah 2:3a, 4a And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways... And He will judge between the nations (cf. 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 54; 55, 56).

Common Themes

5. All three portraits depict the Messiah as fully God and fully man:

Isaiah 11:1 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse...

Isaiah 11:10 Then in that day The nations will resort to the root of Jesse...

Isaiah 53:1 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

Isaiah 53:2 A man of sorrows...

Jerusalem: The City of God

Genesis 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Psalms 76:2 His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion.

2 Samuel 7:10,a, 11c I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them...The Lord also declares to you that the Lord will make a house for you.

The City of God Versus The City of Man

Isaiah 14:32 How then will one answer the messengers of the nation? That the Lord has founded Zion, And the afflicted of His people will seek refuge in it."

Isaiah 24:10a, 11, 13a The city of chaos is broken down...There is an outcry in the streets concerning the wine; All joy turns to gloom. The gaiety of the earth is banished... For thus it will be in the midst of the earth among the peoples...

The Holy One Of Israel

- The adjective qathosh (holy) occurs 33 times in Isaiah as compared to 26 times in the rest of the O.T.
- "The Holy One of Israel" – 25 of 32 O.T. usages
- "The focal point of the call of Isaiah is the holiness of God. It is the only thing capable of filling all the earth and the only quality in the whole O.T. which has to be 'cubed' in order to adequately express its worth and magnitude" (J. Alec Motyer, The Prophecy of Isaiah, 17).

Our Response To Isaiah's Message

- We must remember that we also are prone to mere ritualism and straying from God just as those in Judah did.
- We must remember that saving faith isn't just a Sunday concept, but a Monday action (cf. Ahaz in Isaiah 7)!

Isaiah 45:22 Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.
