

Isaiah: *The Gospel According to Isaiah*

Introduction

The eighth century B.C. was the “golden age” of the Hebrew prophets. The greatest of the prophets was Isaiah. He’s been called the “Shakespeare of the prophets,” and the “St. Paul of the Old Testament.” Isaiah is often called the “miniature Bible.”

I. The Author—The author identifies himself as “Isaiah, the son of Amoz.” Isaiah means “the Lord saves.” Jewish tradition says Amoz was the brother of King Amaziah (821-767 BC). If this is true, Isaiah was King Uzziah’s cousin. This explains Isaiah’s close relationship to the royal court. Isaiah was married to a prophetess (8:3), and they had two sons: Shear-Jashub (“a remnant will return” 7:3) and Maher-shalal-hash-baz (“quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil” 8:3). He began prophesying the year King Uzziah died in 739 B.C. (6:1). He ministered during the reigns of four kings: Uzziah (790-739), Jotham (750-733), Ahaz (735-715), and Hezekiah (729-686). He outlived the Assyrian King Sennacherib who died in 681 B.C, so Isaiah ministered for almost 60 years.

II. The Audience—The nation of Judah during the time of Assyrian control of the near east.

III. The Aim—Isaiah wrote to his own generation to call them to covenant faithfulness and to the future generation who would experience the exile to comfort and encourage them that God will ultimately restore them to their land in the messianic kingdom.

IV. The Arrangement

ISAIAH AT A GLANCE								
Focus	Prophecies Of Condemnation				Historical Parenthesis	Prophecies Of Comfort		
Reference	1:1 — 13:1 ——— 24:1 ——— 28:1 ——— 36:1 ——— 40:1 ——— 49:1 ——— 58:1 — 66:24							
Division	Prophecies Against		Prophecies Of		Hezekiah's Salvation, Sickness, And Sin	Israel's Deliverance	Israel's Deliverer	Israel's Glorious Future
	Judah	The Nations	Day Of Lord	Judgment & Blessing				
Topic	Prophetic				Historic	Messianic		
	Judgment				Transition	Hope		
Location	Israel And Judah							
Time	c. 740–680 B.C.							

V. The Analysis

I. Retribution of God (1—35)

Judgment on Judah (1—12)

3 repeated cycles of sin, judgment and blessing

Judgment on the Nations (13—23) *11 specific nations*

Judgment on All the Earth (24-35)

II. Historical Hinge (36—39)

Hezekiah and Assyria (36—37) *Looking Back*

Hezekiah and Babylon (38—39) *Looking Ahead*

III. Restoration by God (40—66)

VI. The Application

