

Old Testament Introduction

The Book of Isaiah

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INTRODUCTION

1) There are _____ books of Prophecy in our English Bible. These books are written by _____ different prophets and are classified as either “Major” or “Minor” prophets based primarily on their relative lengths. These prophecies were written over a period of more than four centuries; from about _____ B. C. (*Obadiah*) to _____ B. C. (*Malachi*).

Major Prophetical Books	Minor Prophetical Books		
Isaiah	Hosea	Jonah	Zephaniah
Jeremiah	Joel	Micah	Haggai
Lamentations	Amos	Nahum	Zechariah
Ezekiel	Obadiah	Habakkuk	Malachi
Daniel			

2) The Book of Isaiah gets its name from its author, Isaiah, which means “*Jehovah is _____*.” In reading the book of Isaiah, we can see the divine design in the Isaiah’s name. Whenever someone mentions the name “Isaiah,” they are audibly reiterating the great theme of his message—“save,” “salvation,” or “Savior”—words that Isaiah uses repeatedly throughout the book.

3) Isaiah is counted as the greatest of all the writing prophets. The Book of Isaiah is somewhat of a “*miniature*” Bible. It has _____ chapters as the Bible has 66 books. The first _____ chapters speak largely of Israel before the coming of the Messiah. The last _____ parallel the New Testament, speaking largely about the Messiah and His Messianic Kingdom. This book has been called “*The _____ of Isaiah*” and “*The Romans of the Old Testament*.” Its writer has been called “*The fifth evangelist*,” “*The prophet of redemption*,” and “*The Apostle _____ of the Old Testament*.”

AUTHORSHIP

1) **Traditional:** The prophet Isaiah wrote the entire book.

- The author of this book claims to be Isaiah, the son of Amoz. (**1:1**)
- All Jewish tradition attributes the whole book to Isaiah.
- Both the Lord Jesus Christ and the writers of the New Testament attribute the book to Isaiah.
 - ✓ **Matthew 3:3** *cp. Isaiah 40:3*
 - ✓ **Luke 4:18** *cp. Isaiah 61:1*
 - ✓ **John 12:38 & Romans 10:16** *cp. Isaiah 53:1*
 - ✓ **John 12:40** *cp. Isaiah 6:9-10*
- Isaiah is called by name (*Esaias*) _____ times in the New Testament and his book is quoted at least _____ times—more than any other Old Testament book.

2) **The Critical view:** Critics deny the unity of the Book of Isaiah. They would say that it was written by at least two different people; one person writing chapters 1-39 and another chapters 40-66. Some would even say that there are three writers, the third writing chapters 56-66. They would also say that the book was written at a much later date than the traditional view. The Book of Isaiah is especially attacked by the critics because of their skepticism with regard to supernatural predictive prophecy.

- Isaiah prophesied the virgin birth of Christ. (**Isaiah 7:14**)
- Isaiah prophesied of Cyrus, who became king of Persia, more than _____ years before Cyrus was even born. (**Isaiah 44:28; 45:1**)

RECIPIENTS

As a prophet, Isaiah ministered primarily to the Southern Kingdom of Judah. His message was generally directed toward Judah’s sinful people (**1:1, 4**) and particularly to its evil leaders (**1:23**). However, there are words of warning to the Northern Kingdom (**28:1**) as well as various Gentile nations.

DATE OF WRITING

Isaiah's ministry covered the period from about _____ B. C. to about _____ B. C., during which time the kings Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh, respectively, reigned as kings of Judah.

PURPOSE OF BOOK

To call the nation of Judah back to God and to tell of God's salvation through the _____.

THEME OF THE BOOK

Salvation for both Israel in particular and for all nations in general.

OUTLINE

- I. God's Judgment **1-39**
- II. God's Blessing **40-66**