

HADDON CHURCH OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Meet Isaiah the Prophet & Poet

Isaiah was of the Judean royal family who lived and prophesied in Judah. He was born in the 8th century BCE, most likely in Jerusalem and his father's name was Amoz. In Hebrew, his name would have been Isaiah ben Amoz (Isaiah the son of Amoz). He was married and his wife is simply denoted in the text as "The Prophetess" (Isaiah 8:3), either because she was endowed with the same prophetic gift as **Deborah** (Judges 4:4) and **Huldah** (2 Kings 22:14–20), or simply because she was the "wife of the prophet".

Isaiah and the Prophetess had two children whom they named **Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz** whose name means "swift are the spoils, speedy is the plunder" – a fitting name given the Lord spoke to Isaiah at the time the following: "*for before the child knows how to call 'My father' or 'My mother,' the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away by the king of Assyria*" (Isa. 8:3-4) & **Shear-Jashub** whose name in Hebrew meant "The remnant shall return."

The Times of Isaiah and beyond

The ministry of Isaiah extended across some 40 years and included At the time of Isaiah, the Kingdom was split and at war with one another. The northern Kingdom was known as Samaria which was made up of ten tribes (*Asher, Dan, Ephraim, Gad, Issachar, Manasseh, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun*), the capital city being Shechem. The southern Kingdom was known as Judah and was made up of two tribes (*Judah and Benjamin*), the capital city being Yerushalayim (Jerusalem).

Isaiah prophesied in troubled and difficult times of spiritual declension in both Samaria and Judah. During Isaiah's life Judah was essentially a vassal state subservient to the Assyrians who attacked Jerusalem twice while Hezekiah was king (II Kings 18.9-16 & II Kings 18.17-19.35). The first attack resulted in a financial settlement in silver and gold taken from the Temple and the Kings' treasuries while the second attack ended unsuccessfully due to the intervention of YHWH which was predicted by Isaiah (II Kings 19.1-7).

Meanwhile, the Assyrians spread westward towards Samaria and indeed invaded there when Hoshea was King of Israel (northern kingdom) in 722-721 BCE, finally being victorious and carrying away captive most of the people of the northern Kingdom. They subsequently repopulated the area with gentiles from various nations who over time intermarried with the remaining Jews creating a very racially mixed population. This is the basis upon which the Jews of Jesus' day had such vehement hatred for Samaritans whom they considered not to be Israelites at all.

Isaiah prophesied warnings to the people of Judah, as did Jeremiah who followed him that their fate would be the same if they did not turn back to the worship of YHWH. They did not, and approximately 100 years later, while Jeremiah and Ezekiel were prophets in the land, the Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar attacked Jerusalem when Jehoiachin was King in 605 BCE. Jehoiachin was taken captive and carried away with thousands of other captives to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar set up Zedekiah as a vassal King over what remained of Jerusalem and he was required to pay tribute annually to Nebuchadnezzar which he did for a few years and then he rebelled. This resulted in the Babylonians returning to Jerusalem and ransacking the city and the Temple and carrying away even more of the Israelites. A third deportation occurred later.

The cause of all this misery?

They rebelled and did evil in the sight of the Lord

The Message of Isaiah

The Judgement of God	The Deliverance of God		
	Supremacy of the LORD	The servant of the LORD Servant songs: 42.9-1 49.1-13 50.4-11 52.13-53.12	The future plan of the LORD
Chapters 1-39	Chapters 40-48	Chapters 49-53	Chapters 54-66
Emphasis The Law & judgement for disobedience	God's grace and deliverance		
	Comfort	Promise	Hope
"Bible within the Bible"			
Old Testament	New Testament		
Theme The Justice and mercy of God			
Key Verses 2.3-5; 6.1-3; 53.1-12			

Adapted from Swindoll CR. Book of Isaiah. Insight for Living

The Messiah in Isaiah

The book of Isaiah provides us with the most comprehensive prophetic picture of Jesus Christ in the entire Old Testament. It includes the full scope of His life:

- The announcement of His coming (Isaiah 40:3-5)
- His virgin birth (7:14)
- His proclamation of the good news (61:1)
- His sacrificial death (52:13-53:12)
- His return to claim His own (60:2-3).

Because of these and numerous other christological texts (ie texts relating to the Messiah) in Isaiah, the book stands as a testament of comfort, promise and hope in the Lord, the One who saves His people from themselves. No less than 50 times do we see "He is" Look for yourself at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NschCa395-M&t=260s> (From 2.55 to 4.06)

Four Types of Messianic Prophecies in Isaiah

The first type of Messianic prophecy deals only with the first coming of Christ. A brief selection of scriptures that apply to this category of prophecy are as follows;

Deuteronomy 18.15-19; Psalm 16.8-11; 40.6-10; 69.13-28;

Isaiah 7.14; Zechariah 13.7

The second type of Messianic prophecy deals only with the second coming of Christ. A brief selection of scriptures that apply to this category of prophecy are as follows;

Psalms 2, 48, 72 & 132; Isaiah 2.1-4, 24, 32, 33, 35, 60 & 63; Jeremiah 3.11-18 & 23.1-8; Ezekiel 34; Amos 9.11-15; Habakkuk 3; Zechariah 2

The third type of Messianic prophecy is a blend of both the first and second comings of Christ into a single picture. In other words, the prophecy contains both the first and second coming but with nothing in the text to indicate a gap of time between the two events. Only when applying the agreement and gap principles of hermeneutics can an accurate interpretation be rendered. There are many examples of this (Genesis 49.10; Psalm 22; Isaiah 9.5-7 & 11.1-12. However, perhaps the best single example of this type of Messianic prophecy is to be found in Zechariah 9.9-10 where verse 9 clearly speaks of the first coming of Christ and verse 10 the second but there is absolutely nothing in the passage to indicate a time gap.

The fourth type of Messianic prophecy is the type that gives His whole redemptive career. This type of prophecy includes four elements;

- His first coming
- The interval between His first and second comings
- His second coming
- The Messianic (Millennial) kingdom

This fourth type of Messianic prophecy is seen in Psalms 45 & 110