

ISAIAH

ORDER IN OLD TESTAMENT

23

NUMBER OF CHAPTERS

66

TYPE

PROPHECY, MAJOR



OVERVIEW

Isaiah was a prophet who served under four Judean kings. It is likely he met his death as a martyr under the evil King Manasseh, being sawn in half. His prophecies contain events concerning his day as well as the future, and foretold of Jesus Christ. Isaiah's writings focus on the consequence of those who have turned their backs on the Lord and the restoration of Israel. Although later prophets quote Isaiah frequently, his writings may be often difficult to understand due to the use of symbolism and literary style.



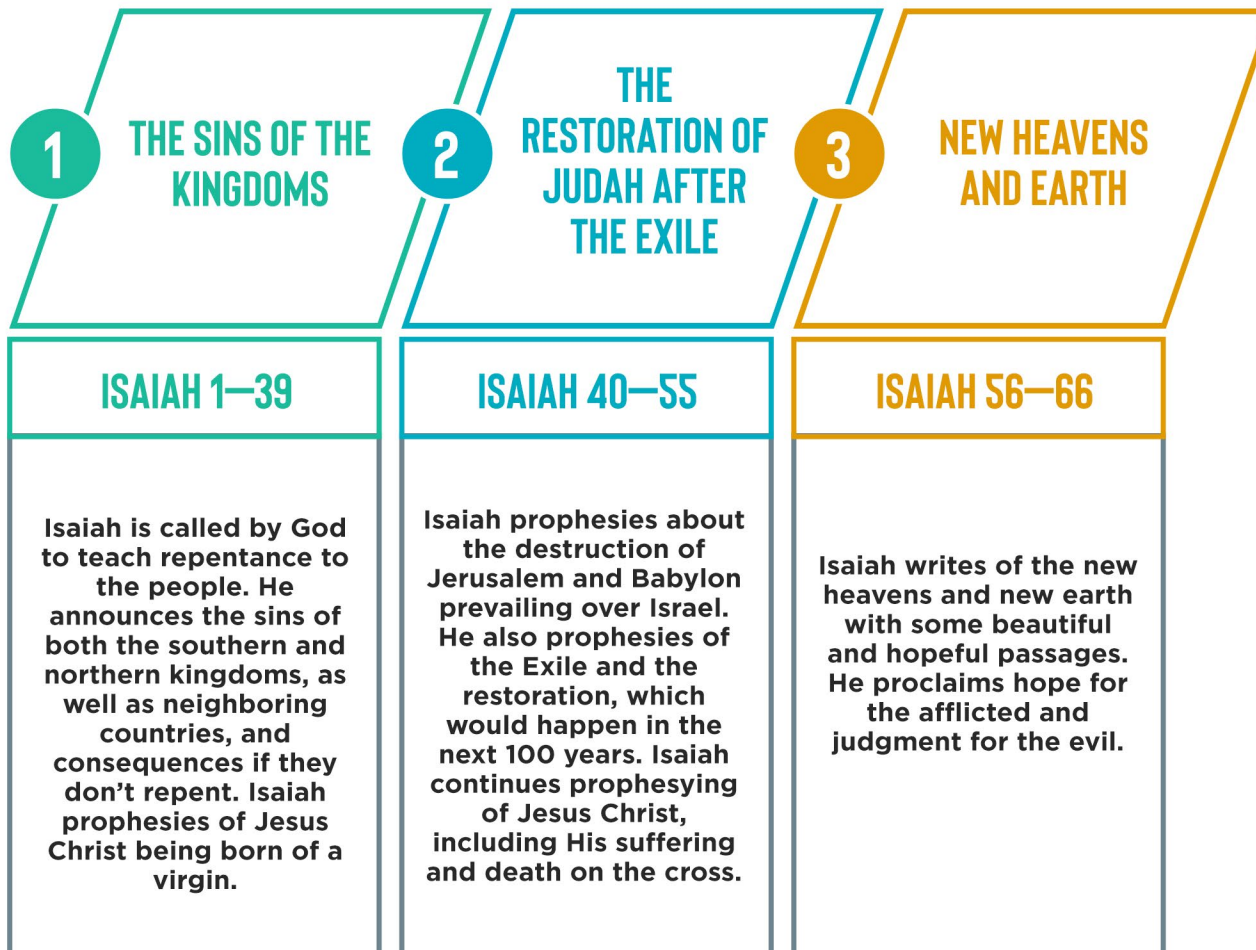
WRITTEN
700-680 BC



TIME PERIOD COVERED
700 BC-25 AD (some prophecies concern the life of Christ)



AUTHOR
Isaiah the Prophet



ISAIAH

AT-A-GLANCE

BOOK(S) WRITTEN:

Book of Isaiah

TYPE OF BOOK(S):

Major Prophecy; Isaiah is the first of four major prophets (including Daniel, Ezekiel, and Jeremiah)

PROBABLE DATES OF WRITING:

Around 685 BC



AUTHOR BACKGROUND:

It is likely that Isaiah lived in Jerusalem. He was married to a prophetess, and they had two sons.

Isaiah prophesied during the reign of four kings of Judah—Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah. He likely was killed by a fifth, Manasseh, considered one of the most evil kings in all of Judah and Israel. Christian scholars as early as the second century identified Isaiah as one of the prophets whose death is described in Hebrews 11:37. He is thought to be the prophet who was “sawn in two.”



UNUSUAL PLACES THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

None; this prophet most likely wrote from Jerusalem



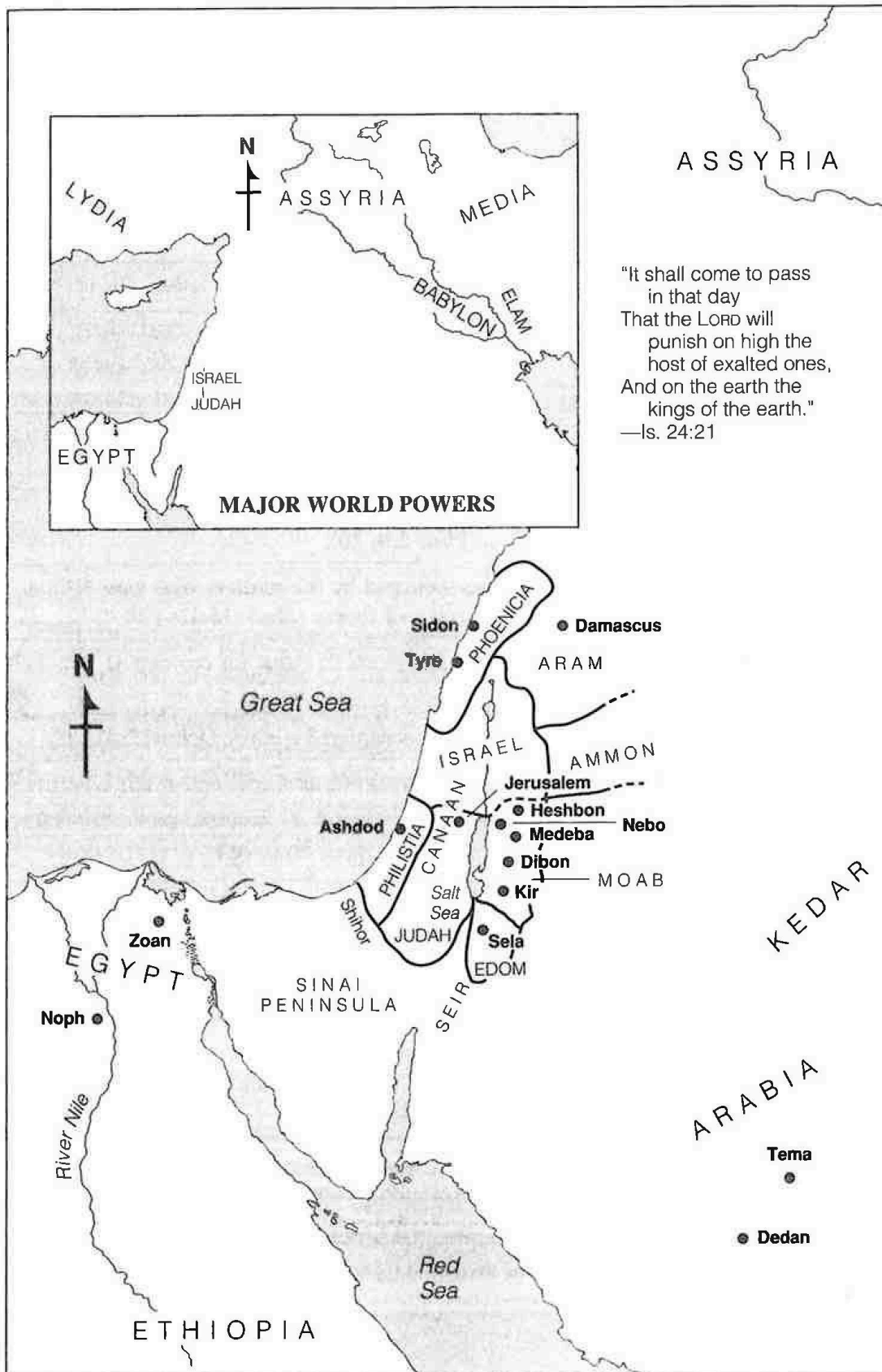
UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THIS AUTHOR WROTE:

Isaiah was the first of the Major or Minor Prophets to prophesy about the coming Babylonian invasion, preceded only by the prophet Amos. (Jonah is a second prophet to write before Isaiah, but his prophecies were not about Israel, but rather, the city of Nineveh.)

The people of Judah had turned their backs on God, which created the need for Isaiah's judgmental prophecies and his words of hope that God's chosen people would come back to him. He was all but ignored. The reason is that the southern kingdom of Israel was resplendent with prosperity when Isaiah wrote, and they would not believe the condition was temporary.

Isaiah wrote 100 years before the Babylonian invasion, but foretold the fall of the kingdom in great detail. His writing is also known as the Old Testament prophetic book to contain the most prophecy related to the life of Christ.

Judgment on the Nations



Fulfilled Prophecies from Isaiah

The Prophecy	The Fulfillment
The Messiah . . .	Jesus Christ . . .
will be born of a virgin (Is. 7:14).	was born of a virgin named Mary (Luke 1:26–31).
will have a Galilean ministry (Is. 9:1, 2).	ministered in Galilee of the Gentiles (Matt. 4:13–16).
will be an heir to the throne of David (Is. 9:7).	was given the throne of His father David (Luke 1:32, 33).
will have His way prepared (Is. 40:3–5).	was announced by John the Baptist (John 1:19–28).
will be spat on and struck (Is. 50:6).	was spat on and beaten (Matt. 26:67).
will be exalted (Is. 52:13).	was highly exalted by God and the people (Phil. 2:9, 10).
will be disfigured by suffering (Is. 52:14; 53:2).	was scourged by the soldiers who gave Him a crown of thorns (Mark 15:15–19).
will make a blood atonement (Is. 53:5).	shed His blood to atone for our sins (1 Pet. 1:2).
will be widely rejected (Is. 53:1, 3).	was not accepted by many (John 12:37, 38).
will bear our sins and sorrows (Is. 53:4, 5).	died because of our sins (Rom. 4:25; 1 Pet. 2:24, 25).
will be our substitute (Is. 53:6, 8).	died in our place (Rom. 5:6, 8; 2 Cor. 5:21).
will voluntarily accept our guilt and punishment (Is. 53:7, 8).	was silent about our sin (Mark 15:4, 5; John 10:11; 19:30).
will be buried in a rich man's tomb (Is. 53:9).	was buried in the tomb of Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea (Matt. 27:57–60; John 19:38–42).
will save us who believe in Him (Is. 53:10, 11).	provided salvation for all who believe (John 3:16; Acts 16:31).
will die with transgressors (Is. 53:12).	was numbered with the transgressors (Mark 15:27, 28; Luke 22:37).
will heal the brokenhearted (Is. 61:1, 2).	healed the brokenhearted (Luke 4:18, 19).