

Isaiah

Intro: Historical Context

1. The Geography and Terms

- a. Israel's kings: Saul, David, Solomon... then the split – 1 Kings 11:11
- b. North = Israel, 10 tribes, Samaria, Ephraim. South = Judah, 2 tribes, Jerusalem.
- c. Assyria/Damascus to the north. Babylon/Media/Persia to the east. Egypt to the south.
- d. Israel's exile scattered through Assyria – Judah's exile to Babylon.

2. History of Kings

- a. Isaiah lived in the center of certain histories: 240yrs since the split, 700 yrs til Christ.
- b. Isa 1:1 – “in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah”, kings of Judah
- c. Uzziah ruled over 50 yrs of peace. In the next 50 Israel would be gone, in 75 Judah
- d. Israel's kings: Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekah, Hoshea.
- e. Gentile rulers (enemies/neighbors): Assyrian, Damascus, Egypt, Babylon, Persia.

3. Dispensational Context

- a. The glory of the Lord had left Israel and Judah – (i.e Ichabod)
- b. The fifth curse of punishment: God walking in fury against them - Lev 26:27-40
- c. The written prophets are taking record of these most severe punishments.
- d. He lives during the fall of kings and nations but writes about a future glory.
- e. Israel's captivity – 1st 2 Ki 15:14-20, 16:5-9, 2nd 2 Ki 17:5-6, 18:9-11, 1Chr 5:26
- f. Judah's captivity – 2 Chron 36:4-7, 17-20... ends with hope – 2Chr 36:21-23

4. Prophecies and History

- a. A big part of the study of prophecy is understanding the time, history, context.
- b. Prophecy is not merely prediction, guess, history, it is speaking for God.
- c. Moses (Pentateuch), Isaiah, Daniel attacked greatly because of their clear prophecies.
- d. He foretold the Messiah in detail: Isa 7:14, 9:6-7, 53
- e. Major prophecies also include:
 - i. Fall of nations - Samaria, Judah, Damascus, Tyre, Assyria, Babylon
 - ii. Rise of nations – Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Israel
 - iii. Names of kings – Immanuel, Cyrus (45:1-4) – (cf 1Ki 13:1, Acts 9)
 - iv. Return of Israel – and their future til Jesus and beyond.
- f. Prophecy causes problems for people who do not accept divine inspiration.

5. Authorship Doubts

- a. Denial due to the history so well recorded, and the prophecies so well detailed
- b. They say, “at least 2 authors” because of writing style and the author's perspective
- c. Isaiah is the sole author for many reasons, but most important
 - i. Common themes throughout: Holy One 12x/14x, highway/remnant, and more
 - ii. NT: John 12:28-41 (Isa 53:1, 6:9); Lk 4:17, Isa 61:1-2; Rom 10:20, Isa 65:1,2
 - iii. If he is not, then the Bible is untrue and God a liar – Isa 1:1, Rom 3:4

Isaiah's Timeline

Isaiah	Judah's Kings	Israel's Kings	Gentile Kings	Event	Dates?																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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The dates column is given to reference span of time between events. The dates themselves are the mainstream dates for these events in part from non-Biblical sources. The true dates may be different.

Map of Palestine in the Time of Isaiah

