

Did Two Different People Write the Book of Isaiah?

Question: Is it true that two different people wrote the Book of Isaiah?

Answer: No, the entire book was written by one person—Isaiah the prophet. Until about the middle of the 18th century, the view that the prophet Isaiah wrote the book alone was almost universally held. The idea that two different people wrote the book was first proposed by J. C. Doederlein in 1775. He claimed that one Isaiah wrote chapters 1-39 and a “second Isaiah” wrote chapters 40-66 before the end of the Babylonian captivity (550-539 BC). There are several reasons why the entire book was written by Isaiah the prophet.

1. All quotes from Isaiah in the gospels, primarily quoted by Jesus, specifically state there was only one “prophet Isaiah.” These quotes come from Isaiah chapters 4,6,9,29,40,42,53,61. This alone is solid proof that there were not two Isaiahs.

New Testament	Phase used for Isaiah	Verses from Book of Isaiah
Matt. 1:23	“through the prophet”	Isaiah 4:14
Matt. 3:3	“Isaiah the prophet”	Isaiah 40:3
Matt. 4:15-16	“Isaiah the prophet”	Isaiah 9:1-2
Matt. 12:18-20	“Isaiah the prophet”	Isaiah 42:18-20
Matt. 13:14-15	“Prophecy of Isaiah”	Isaiah 6:9-10
Matt. 15:7-9	“Prophecy of Isaiah”	Isaiah 29:13
Mark 1:2-3	“Isaiah the prophet”	Isaiah 40:3
Mark 7:6-7	“Rightly did Isaiah prophesy”	Isaiah 29:13
Luke 3:4-6	“Isaiah the prophet”	Isaiah 40:3-5
Luke 4:18	“the prophet Isaiah”	Isaiah 61:1-2
John 12:38	“Isaiah the prophet”	Isaiah 53:1
John 12:39-40	“Isaiah”	Isaiah 6:10

2. The Dead Sea Scrolls, the Septuagint, Jewish tradition, the Jewish historian Josephus, the Apocrypha, the Church fathers, and Christian theologians through the middle of the 18th century all support the fact that Isaiah wrote the entire book.
3. In Romans 9:27-33, the apostle Paul quotes Isaiah 10:22-23, 1:9, 13:19, 28:16 and calls the writer “Isaiah.” In Romans 10:10, the apostle Paul quotes Isaiah 65:1 and calls the writer “Isaiah.” Paul quotes from both disputed sections of the Book of Isaiah and attributes the authorship to the same person.

Making Life Count Ministries
P.O. Box 680174
Prattville, Alabama 36068
www.makinglifecount.net