

ISAIAH

AN OVERVIEW

Purpose

To call the southern kingdom of Judah back to Yahweh and to tell of His salvation through the promised Messiah.

Author

Isaiah, son of Amoz.

Date

Isaiah was written c.700-680 BC.

Audience

The people of Judah.

Setting

Isaiah is speaking and writing mainly in Jerusalem.

Special Features

The central theme of the book of Isaiah is God himself, who does all things for his own sake. Isaiah defines everything else by its relation to God. The book contains both prose and poetry and uses personification (i.e., attributing personal qualities to divine beings or inanimate objects). The overall genre of the book is prophecy and many of the prophecies in Isaiah contain predictions that foretell a soon-to-occur event and a distant event at the same time.



Key Verses

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (7:14 ESV)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (9:6 ESV)

“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.” (53:5 ESV)

Key People

Isaiah, his sons Shear-Jashub and Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.

Key Place

Jerusalem.