



GETTING  
TO  
KNOW  
  
ISAIAH

*4/14/2026 By Walter Cates*



# ISAIAH THE PROPHET

Isaiah was born in Jerusalem in the blood line of King Uzziah (sometimes referred to as Azariah). His exact relationship to the king is unknown. In his early years as an adult, he was the scribe of the court and recorded the deeds of King Uzziah (2 chr.25:22). From his years as Scribe of the Court Isaiah became a writer of considerable skill, able to communicate deep passion and strong emotion.

Isaiah was married to a woman who was described as a prophetess. He had two sons. One named Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz which means “Speed the Spoil Hasten the Booty.” The second son was Shear-Jashub which means “A remnant Shall Return”. In an odd sense these two strange names describe God’s message through Isaiah. God is about to bring judgement upon Juda. However, there will follow an outpouring of Grace and Mercy.

## **An interesting corollary:**

Most biblical scholars agree that the book of Isaiah is divided into two distinct sections. The first section, chapters 1 through 39 deal with God’s judgement of Juda and other nations and the history of the fall of Juda. Chapters 40 through 66 are the prophecies of peace, calm and wellbeing. For those who are intrigued by numbers; There are 39 chapters in the Bible’s Old Testament and 27 chapters in the New Testament.

## **A little background is needed here:**

King Uzziah (also known as Azariah) was a wise king who gained much power. He rebuilt Jerusalem and refortified many cities in Judah. He seized several cities of the Philistines to the west and went on to defeat and subjugate the Ammonites to the east. In the south he controlled the land and people of Edom. However, he did not ban the worship of false gods and idols and ignored the “high places of idol worship.” His heart was given over to power and he forsook the Lord. He became full of himself and wanted to be worshiped as a divine king. He went so far as to enter the temple with the intent of burning incense. He was confronted by the high priest Azariah (same name as the king, different guy) and a group of serving priests. Instead of repentance he responded with anger. At that instant the Lord struck him with leprosy. He lived out the rest of his life in seclusion and his son Jotham served as Co-Regent.

On the day of King Uzziah’s death (740BC) Isaiah was drawn to the temple and witnessed a glorious vision of God. There God commissioned him as a Prophet. God told Isaiah his work would be mostly a ministry of judgement of Judah and surrounding nations.

## **Isaiah's tour of duty as Prophet in Juda:**

Isaiah prophesized through the reign of 4 kings; **Jotham** son of Uzziah (2Kings 15:32-38), **Ahaz** son of Jotham (2Kings 16:1-29), **Hezekiah** son of Ahaz (2Kings 18:1 -20:21) and finally 4 to 8 years into the reign of **Manasseh** son of Hezekiah (2Kings 21:1-18).

Jotham did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. Like his father, he did not discourage idle worship or remove the high places.

Ahas did not do what was right with the Lord. He worshiped idles, burned incense at the high places. He even sacrificed one of his sons in the fire.

Hezekiah did what was right with the Lord. He removed the high places of idle worship, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. The people had started burning incense to and worshiping the bronze snake Moses had made. Hezekiah had the bronze snake destroyed.

Manasseh did not do what was right with the Lord. He restored all the pagan rites and places. He went so far as to erect an image of Asherah in the temple. Jewish tradition and non-scriptural Jewish writings state that Manasseh had Isaiah sawn in half.

The book of Isaiah can be divided into 3 distinct sections for study purposes.

### **1, Prophecies of condemnation.**

- A, Prophecies against Juda. 1:1-12:6
- B, Prophecies against other nations. 13:1-23:18
- C, Prophecies of the Day of the Lord. 24:1-27:13
- D, Prophecies of Judgement and Blessing 28:1-35:10

### **2, Historical material**

- A, Hezekiah's deliverance from Assyria. 36:1-37:38
- B, Hezekiah's deliverance from sickness. 38:1-22
- C, Hezekiah's sin. 39:1-8

### **3, Prophecies of comfort.**

- A, Prophecies of Israel's Deliverance. 40:1-48:22
- B, Prophecies of Isreal's Deliverer. 49:1-57:21
- C, Prophecies of Isreal's Glorious future. 58:1-66:24

### **FINAL NOTE:**

There are those who argue the authorship of the book of Isaiah. Most of the arguments can be easily discounted. None of them are definite. I believe that Isaiah was written by Isaiah. This introduction to the person and place in history was written with that belief.

I hope these words have given you some insight into the challenges Isaiah faced.



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