

The Judgment and Blessing of God – A Study in the Book of Isaiah

1 - THE BOOK OF ISAIAH: AN INTRODUCTION

I. The Author

A. His identity

- The Book identifies the author as Isaiah, the son of Amoz (Isaiah 1:1).
- His name means "Yahweh is salvation."
- More is known of Isaiah than the other prophets, yet the information is limited.
- Isaiah probably lived in the city of Jerusalem.
- He appears to have had access to the royal court.
- Some believe that Isaiah was a priest, but no evidence supports that view.

B. His family

- According to tradition, he was the cousin of King Uzziah, but no evidence supports this.
- Isaiah was married (Isaiah 8:3).
- Isaiah had two sons who he gave significant names (Isaiah 7:3, 8:3).

C. His ministry

- Isaiah was a pre-exile prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah.
- His contemporaries were Micah, Nahum, Hosea, Jonah and Amos.
- The prophet's ministry began sometime in Uzziah's reign (790-739 B.C.).
- He ministered for 58 years (739-681 B.C.).
- He ministered during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, and Manasseh, kings of Judah.

THE REIGNS OF KINGS OF JUDAH (INCLUDING COREGENCIES)

Uzziah	(790-739 B.C.)	2 Kings 15:1-8, 2 Chronicles 26:1-23
Jotham	(750-732 B.C.)	2 Kings 15:32-38, 2 Chronicles 27:1-9
Ahaz	(735-715 B.C.)	2 Kings 16, 2 Chronicles 28, Isaiah 7:10-25
Hezekiah	(715-686 B.C.)	2 Kings 18-20, 2 Chronicles 29-32, Isaiah 36-39
Manasseh	(686-642 B.C.)	2 Kings 21:1-18, 2 Chronicles 33:1-20

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D. His Death

- The date of Isaiah's death is unknown.
- It was probably after Hezekiah's death in the reign of Manasseh (686-642 B.C.).
- According to tradition, Isaiah was martyred by order of Manasseh.
- Tradition states that he was killed by being sawed in two with a saw.

II. The Purpose of the Book

- The book seeks to remind its readers of the special relationship they had with God.
- Isaiah is calling the people of Judah back to a covenantal relationship with God.
- His book was directed at two groups of people.
- It is written to those of his generation who have forsaken their obligations to the Law.
- Isaiah is calling them back to obedience and holiness.
- It was written to a future generation who would be in exile.
- Isaiah is assuring them that God would restore the nation to its land and establish a kingdom of peace.

III. Themes of the Book

- Two primary themes emerge in the Book of Isaiah.
- The first theme is judgment which is evident in the first section (Isaiah 1-39).
- The second theme is salvation and comfort which is evident in the second section (Isaiah 40-66).

IV. Structure of the Book

