



# Isaiah

## Scripture Memory

**Luke 2:3**

“And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.”

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### Key Events in Isaiah

**740-739 B.C.:** Uzziah’s death and Isaiah’s call, Isaiah 6

**C. 735 B.C.:** Days of King Ahaz, Isaiah 7

**722 B.C.:** Fall of Israel to Assyria, Isaiah 28

**701 B.C.:** Assyrian Invasion, Isaiah 36-38

**681 B.C.:** Sennacherib’s death, Isaiah 37-38

**586 B.C.:** Babylonians will destroy Jerusalem, Isaiah 39:6-8

**538 B.C.:** Israel will return from Babylonian exile, Isaiah 40-48

## An Overview of the Life and Times of Isaiah

*The following extended quote is taken from Chapter 22, “Isaiah: The Evangelical Prophet,” of John Phillips’ book, Exploring the Scriptures, pp. 115, 117 and 119.*

“Isaiah lived through a stormy era. He was born during the days of King Uzziah, whose great power and prosperity were marred at last by his becoming a leper for usurping the priest’s office. Isaiah was called to be a prophet “in the year that king Uzziah died.” That year he saw a throne vacated on earth and an eternal throne in Heaven. He lived to see the brief glory of the reign of Jeroboam II of Israel give way to chaos as Assyria increasingly interfered in Israel’s affairs upon the death of that king. He lived through those dark days when, away to the north, Samaria was besieged and sacked, and the ten tribes carried away captive by the Assyrians. He watched and warned as Judah, too, began to feel the ominous influence of Assyria. Amos, Hosea, and Micah were also lifting up their voices during this period, confirming the doom of the unrepentant people.

Despite the passionate entreaties of Isaiah, Ahaz, the grandson of Uzziah, deliberately followed suicidal political moves by seeking Assyrian aid against a threatened attack on Judah by Israel and Syria. Isaiah’s warnings against an Assyrian alliance are

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## About Isaiah

*The Hebrew name of this prophet is...“Yahweh is salvation.” Appropriately enough, the basic theme of Isaiah’s message is that salvation is bestowed only by grace, by the power of God, the Redeemer, rather than by the strength of man or the good works of the flesh...Isaiah sets forth the doctrine of Christ in such full detail that he has rightly been described as “the evangelical prophet.”*

Gleason L. Archer, *A Survey Of Old Testament Introduction* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), p. 363.

*As you study the Book of Isaiah, you will discover that the prophet intersperses messages of hope with words of judgment. God remembers His mercy even when declaring His wrath (Hab. 3:2), and He assures His people that they have a “hope and a future.”*

Warren Wiersbe, *The Bible Exposition Commentary: Old Testament, Volume IV*, p. 12.

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found in chapters 7—9. Once under the Assyrian influence, Ahaz was trapped, and his infatuation for the Assyrians led him to great lengths of apostasy.

When Ahaz died he was succeeded on the throne of Judah by his son Hezekiah, who turned out to be one of the godliest of Judah's kings. Strongly influenced by Isaiah, he introduced sweeping reforms, abolishing idolatry and restoring the pure worship of Jehovah. He threw off the burden of tribute to Assyria and put his trust in the Lord to safeguard Jerusalem. His faith was soon tested, for the Assyrian armies hammered at the gates of Jerusalem, and cunning propagandists sought to subvert the allegiance of the defenders. Isaiah was a bulwark of strength to Hezekiah in those days (Isaiah 36—37). Encouraged by the prophet, Hezekiah held out against the threats and military might of the Assyrians and saw Jerusalem supernaturally delivered from the besieging armies by a direct act of God.

Long before the Babylonians became a world power, Isaiah foretold their rise and their conquest of Jerusalem. When Hezekiah was miraculously delivered from a fatal sickness, the Babylonians sent an embassy to court the goodwill of Hezekiah. Flattered, he foolishly showed the envoys all his treasures. Isaiah clearly foresaw that the [greediness] of the Babylonians would be excited by the sight of such treasure and did not hesitate to roundly reprimand his king for such an exhibition of pride and folly.

Isaiah lived on into the reign of Manasseh, the son born to Hezekiah during the fifteen-year extension of his life. Manasseh reigned longest of all the kings and was one of the very worst to sit on the throne of David. Tradition has it that he murdered Isaiah by having him “sawn asunder.”

...Isaiah is often quoted in the New Testament; indeed his book is one from which the Lord Jesus quoted frequently. It was from Isaiah 53 that Philip the Evangelist was able to lead the traveling Ethiopian chancellor to a saving knowledge of Jesus (Acts 8:32-33). As long as the message of the gospel is preached on earth, as long as there remains a soul to be saved, the great book of Isaiah will be needed. Jew and Gentile alike are caught up in its themes and led with directness and conviction to a consideration of the Person and work of God's beloved Son.”

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### **Some Key Messianic Prophecies in Isaiah**

- 7:14 Christ will have a virgin birth; He will be called Immanuel
- 9:1-2 He will minister in Galilee
- 9:6-7 He will be of the line of David, but His kingship will be eternal and He will be the Son of God
- 40:3 He will have a forerunner
- 42:1 Christ will be the great anointed Servant of Yahweh
- 53:4 Christ will bear all our diseases
- 53:5 He will provide atonement for sin
- 53:9 He will be buried in a rich man's tomb

Glenn W. Barker, “I John” in *The Expositor's Bible Commentary* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981), 12:366.