

Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations

Isaiah

Author: Isaiah 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Isaiah as the Prophet _____.

Date of Writing: The Book of Isaiah was likely written between 740 and 680 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: The Prophet Isaiah was primarily called to prophesy to the Kingdom of Judah. Judah was going through times of revival and times of rebellion. Judah was threatened with destruction by Assyria and Egypt, but was spared because of God's mercy. Isaiah proclaimed a message of repentance from sin and hopeful expectation of God's deliverance in the future.

Key Verses: Isaiah 6:8; 7:14; 9:6; 14:12-13; 53:5-6; 65:25

Brief Summary: The Book of Isaiah reveals God's judgment and salvation. God is "holy, holy, holy" (Isaiah 6:3) and therefore He cannot allow sin to go unpunished (Isaiah 1:2; 2:11-20; 5:30; 34:1-2; 42:25). Isaiah portrays God's oncoming judgment as a "consuming fire" (Isaiah 1:31; 30:33). At the same time, Isaiah understands that God is also a God of mercy, grace, and compassion (Isaiah 5:25; 11:16; 14:1-2; 32:2; 40:3; 41:14-16). The nation of Israel (both Judah and Israel) is blind and deaf to God's commands (Isaiah 6:9-10; 42:7). Judah is compared to a vineyard that should be, and will be, trampled on (Isaiah 5:1-7). Only because of His mercy and His promises to Israel, God will not allow Israel or Judah to be completely destroyed. He will bring both restoration, forgiveness, and healing (43:2; 43:16-19; 52:10-12).

More than any other book in the Old Testament, Isaiah focuses on the salvation that will come through the _____. The Messiah will one day rule in justice and righteousness (Isaiah 9:7; 32:1). The reign of the Messiah will bring peace and safety to Israel (Isaiah 11:6-9). Through the Messiah, Israel will be a light to all the nations (Isaiah 42:6; 55:4-5). The Messiah's kingdom on earth (Isaiah chapter 65-66) is the goal towards which all of the Book of Isaiah points. It is during the reign of the Messiah that God's righteousness will be fully revealed to the world.

In a seeming paradox, the Book of Isaiah also presents the Messiah as one who will suffer. Isaiah chapter 53 vividly describes the Messiah suffering for sin. It is through His wounds that healing is achieved. It is through His suffering that our iniquities are taken away. This apparent contradiction is solved in the Person of Jesus Christ. In His first advent, Jesus was the suffering servant of Isaiah chapter 53. In His second advent, Jesus will be the conquering and ruling King, the Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Practical Application: Do you know people who claim to be believers in Christ who are two-faced, who are hypocrites? That is perhaps the best summary of how Isaiah viewed the nation of Israel. Israel had an appearance of righteousness, but it was a facade. In the Book of Isaiah, the prophet Isaiah challenges Israel to obey God with all of their heart, not just on the outside. Isaiah's desire was that those who heard and read his words would be convicted to turn from wickedness and turn to God for forgiveness and healing.

Brief Outline of Isaiah

I. PROPHECIES OF JUDGEMENT (CH. 1-35)

- A. Judah and Jerusalem (Ch. 1-12)
- B. Gentile Nations (Ch. 13-24)
- C. Israel (Ch. 25-27)
- D. Judah and Assyria (Ch. 28-35)

II. HISTORICAL SECTION (CH. 36-39)

- A. Jerusalem Preserved (Ch. 36-37)
- B. Hezekiah's Life Prolonged (Ch. 38)

C. Babylonian Exile Predicted (Ch. 39)

III. PROPHECIES OF COMFORT (Ch. 40-66)

A. The Comfort of Israel (Ch. 40-48)

B. The Suffering Servant (Ch. 49-57)

C. Thy Kingdom Come (Ch. 58-66)

Extended Outline

I. Superscription (1:1)

II. Model Sermon Illustrating Isaiah's Thoughts (1:2-2:4)

A. Summons to hear (1:2-3)

B. His Charge (1:4)

C. Judah's incredible rebellion (1:5-6)

D. Judah's future (or present) destruction (1:7-9)

E. Against sacrifices (1:10-17)

F. Summons to court (1:18-20)

G. Judah's sin (1:21-23)

H. Judgment (1:24-31)

I. Future recognition of God (2:1-4)

III. Prophecy Concerning Judah (2:5-5:30)

A. Sin and judgment of Judah (2:5-3:12)

B. Summons to a court case (3:13-15)

C. Judgment against the women of Jerusalem (3:16-4:1)

D. Return of holiness after judgment (4:2-6)

E. Song of the Vineyard (5:1-10)

F. Judah's sin (5:11-24)

G. God's judgment (5:25)

H. A foreign army will invade (5:26-30)

IV. Isaiah's Call from God (6:1-13)

V. Further Prophecy Concerning Judah (7:1-12:6)

A. The Sign of Immanuel (7:1-25)

B. Isaiah and his family are signs for Judah (8:1-9:1)

C. The light of a child who would one day rule and reign (9:2-7)

D. Judah's sin and punishment (9:8-10:4)

E. Arrogant Assyria is God's instrument of judgment (10:5-19)

F. Hope for Israel (10:20-32)

G. Hope from the stump of Jesse (10:33-11:16)

H. Faith will be renewed in the future (12:1-6)

VI. Prophecies Concerning Foreign Nations (13:1-24:23)

A. Babylon (13:1-14:27)

B. Philistia (14:28-32)

C. Moab (15:1-16:14)

D. Damascus (17:1-14)

E. Ethiopia (18:1-7)

F. Egypt - Isaiah prophesies nude (19:1-20:6)

G. Babylon (21:1-17)

H. Judah is warned of destruction to come (22:1-14)

I. Against Shebna, the steward (22:15-25)

J. Tyre (23:1-18)

K. Judgment on the earth (24:1-23)

VII. Restoration for Judah (25:1-35:10)

- A. Songs of victory (25:1-26:21)
 - 1. Song of thanksgiving (25:1-12)
 - 2. Hymn (26:1-15)
 - 3. Song of thanksgiving (26:16-21)
 - B. Death of Leviathan (27:1)
 - C. Another Song of the Vineyard (27:2-6)
 - D. Judgment (27:7-11)
 - E. Remnant will return (27:12-13)
 - F. Judgment on evil rulers (28:1-29)
 - G. Jerusalem besieged, then saved (29:1-10)
 - H. A sealed vision (29:11-12)
 - I. God meets unbelief with miracles (29:13-21)
 - J. Israel believes (29:22-24)
 - K. Do not trust in Egypt (30:1-18)
 - L. Salvation from God (30:19-33)
 - M. Turn to God, not Egypt (31:1-5)
 - N. Fall of Assyria (31:6-9)
 - O. Salvation will follow judgment (32:1-35:10)
- VIII. Historical Interlude - parallel to 2 Kings 18:13, 18:17-20:19 (36:1-39:8)
- A. God delivers Hezekiah and Judah from Sennacherib (36:1-37:38)
 - B. Hezekiah's illness (38:1-22)
 - C. Hezekiah and the Babylonian envoys (39:1-8)
- IX. The Second Isaiah Section (40:1-55:13) – this matches the New Testament!
- A. Salvation for Israel (40:1-41:29)
 - 1. Comfort (40:1-2)
 - 2. Prepare the way of the Lord (40:3-5)
 - 3. Majesty and power of God (40:6-41:1)
 - 4. God will care for Israel (41:2-29)
 - B. First Servant Song (42:1-4)
 - C. Majesty of God (42:5-48:22)
 - 1. God speaks of His power (42:5-9)
 - 2. Hymn (42:10-13)
 - 3. God proclaims His divinity and salvation for Israel (42:14-44:8)
 - 4. Impotence of idols (44:9-20)
 - 5. Summons for Israel to return (44:21-22)
 - 6. Hymn (44:23)
 - 7. Power of God (44:24-28)
 - 8. Cyrus, God's "anointed" (45:1-7)
 - 9. Hymn (45:8)
 - 10. God's omnipotence vs. idols' impotence (45:9-46:13)
 - 11. Judgment of Babylon (47:1-15)
 - 12. New opportunity to obey (48:1-22)
 - D. Second Servant Song (49:1-6)
 - E. Return to the land (49:7-50:3)
 - 1. God will bring His people home (49:7-12)
 - 2. Hymn (49:13)
 - 3. Glorious return to the land (49:14-26)
 - 4. Judgment was due to sin (50:1-3)
 - F. Third Servant Song (50:4-9)
 - G. Summons to trust in God (50:10-52:12)

1. Trust in God's power and guidance (50:10-52:2)
 2. Israel will know power of God (52:3-6)
 3. A messenger brings good news (52:7-10)
 4. God will lead a holy people (52:11-12)
- H. Fourth Servant Song (52:13-53:12)
- I. God's eternal covenant of peace with Israel (54:1-17)
- J. Seek God and live (55:1-13)
- X. The Third Isaiah Section (56:1-66:24)
- A. All people invited to serve God (56:1-8)
- B. Israel's continued sin (56:9-59:21)
1. Poor leadership (56:9-12)
 2. Idolatry (57:1-13)
 3. God will save those who repent but destroy the wicked (57:14-21)
 4. Proper fasting (58:1-14)
 5. God's charge against the people (59:1-8)
 6. The people's confession (59:9-15a)
 7. God will punish (59:15b-19)
 8. Redemption will come (59:20-21)
- C. Salvation is Coming (60:1-63:6)
1. Incredible salvation to come (60:1-22)
 2. Good news of salvation (61:1-11)
 3. Israel and Zion to be restored (62:1-12)
 4. Judgment of Edom (63:1-6)
- D. Proper worship (63:7-66:5)
1. Community lament (63:7-64:12)
 2. God's righteous judgment of Israel (65:1-16)
 3. New heavens and new earth (65:17-25)
 4. True worship (66:1-5)
- E. Salvation of the Whole Earth (66:6-24) – in the Millennium
1. Jerusalem will be restored (66:6-16)
 2. Those who follow idols will be destroyed (66:17)
 3. All nations will be invited to participate (66:18-21)
 4. All will worship God (66:22-23)
 5. All who disobey God will be destroyed (66:24)

Jeremiah

Author: Jeremiah 1:1 identifies the Prophet _____ as the author of the Book of Jeremiah.

Date of Writing: The Book of Jeremiah was written between 630 and 580 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: The Book of Jeremiah records the final prophecies to Judah, warning of oncoming destruction if the nation does not repent. Jeremiah calls out for the nation to turn back to God. At the same time, Jeremiah recognizes the inevitability of Judah's destruction – due to its unrepentant idolatry and immorality.

Key Verses: Jeremiah 1:5; 17:9; 29:10-11; 52:12-13

Brief Summary: The Book of Jeremiah is primarily a message of judgment on Judah for rampant **idolatry** (Jeremiah 7:30-34; 16:10-13; 22:9; 32:29; 44:2-3). After the death of King _____, the last righteous king, the nation of Judah had almost completely abandoned God and His commandments. Jeremiah compares Judah to a prostitute (Jeremiah 2:20; 3:1-3). God had promised that He would judge idolatry most severely (Leviticus 26:31-33; Deuteronomy 28:49-68). Jeremiah was warning Judah that God's judgment was at hand. God had delivered Judah from destruction on countless occasions, but His mercy was at its end. Jeremiah records King _____ conquering Judah and making it subject to him (Jeremiah 24:1). After further rebellion, God brought Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian armies back to destroy and desolate Judah and Jerusalem (Jeremiah chapter 52). Even in this most severe judgment, God promises restoration of Judah back into the land God has given them (Jeremiah 29:10).

Practical Application: The Prophet Jeremiah had a most difficult message to deliver. Jeremiah loved Judah...but he loved God much more. As painful as it was for Jeremiah to deliver a consistent message of judgment, Jeremiah was obedient to what God told him to do and say. Jeremiah hoped and prayed for mercy from God for Judah, but more so trusted that God was good, just, and righteous. We too must obey God even when it is difficult. We too must recognize God's will as more important than our own desires.

Basic Outline of Jeremiah

- I. JEREMIAH'S CALL TO OFFICE (CH. 1)
- II. PROPHECIES DURING JOSIAH'S REIGN (CH. 2-20)
 - A. Israel's Sin (Ch. 2)
 - B. Call to Repentance (Ch. 3)
 - C. Approaching Judgment (Ch. 4-6)
 - D. Temple Discourse (Ch. 7-10)
 - E. Broken Covenant (Ch. 11-12)
 - F. Five Warnings (Ch. 13)
 - G. Judah's Punishment (Ch. 14-17)
 - H. The Potters lessons (Ch. 18-20)
- III. PROPHECIES DURING ZEDEKIAH'S REIGN (CH. 21-24)
 - A. Zedekiah's Oracles (Ch. 21)
 - B. Oracle against Kings (Ch. 22)
 - C. Oracle against Prophets (Ch. 23)
 - D. Baskets of Figs (Ch. 24)
- IV. PROPHECIES OF THE BABYLONIAN EXILE (CH. 25-29)

- V. RESTORATION PROMISED (CH. 30-33)
- VI. HISTORICAL SECTION (CH. 34-35)
- VII. JEREMIAH'S PERSECUTION (CH. 36-38)
- VIII. FALL OF JERUSALEM AND EXILE (CH. 39-45)
 - A. Fall of Jerusalem (Ch. 39)
 - B. Gedaliah (Ch. 40-41)
 - C. Flight to Egypt (Ch. 42-43)
 - D. Jeremiah's Last Words (Ch. 44)
 - E. Word to Baruch (Ch. 45)
- IX. PROPHECIES AGAINST THE NATIONS (Ch. 46-52)
 - A. Against Egypt (Ch. 46)
 - B. Against Philistia (Ch. 47)
 - C. Against Moab (Ch. 48)
 - D. Against Ammon (Ch. 49:1-6)
 - E. Against Edom (Ch. 49:7-22)
 - F. Against Damascus (Ch. 49:23-27)
 - G. Against Kedar and Hazor (Ch. 49:28-33)
 - H. Against Elam (Ch. 49:34-39)
 - I. Against Babylon (Ch. 50-51)
- X. HISTORICAL APPENDIX (CH. 52)

Lamentations

Author: The Book of Lamentations was written by the prophet _____ (2 Chron 35:25; 36:21-22).

Date of Writing: The Book of Lamentations was likely written between 586 and 575 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: As a result of Judah's continued and unrepentant idolatry, God allowed the Babylonians to besiege, plunder, burn, and destroy the city of Jerusalem. Solomon's Temple, which had stood for approximately 400 years was burned to the ground. The Prophet Jeremiah, and eyewitness to these events, wrote the Book of Lamentations as a _____ (grieve, mourn, cry over) for what occurred to Judah and Jerusalem.

Key Verses: Lamentations 2:17; 3:22-23; 5:19-22

Brief Summary: The Book of Lamentations is divided into five chapters. Each chapter represents a separate poem. In the original Hebrew, the verses are acrostic, which each verse starting with a succeeding letter of the Hebrew alphabet. In the Book of Lamentations, the Prophet Jeremiah understands that the Babylonians were God's tool for bringing judgment on Jerusalem (Lamentations 1:12-15; 2:1-8; 4:11). Lamentations makes it clear that _____ and _____ were the causes of God's wrath being poured out (1:8-9; 4:13; 5:16). Lamenting is appropriate in a time of distress, but it should quickly give way to contrition and repentance (Lamentations 3:40-42; 5:21-22).

Practical Application: Even in terrible judgment, God is a God of hope (Lamentations 3:24-25), love (Lamentations 3:22), faithfulness (Lamentations 3:23), and deliverance (Lamentations 3:26). It is only because of the Lord's mercy that we are all not consumed (Lamentations 3:22).

Ezekiel, Daniel

Ezekiel

Author: Ezekiel chapter 1 verse 3 identifies the Prophet Ezekiel as the author of the Book of Ezekiel.

Date of Writing: The Book of Ezekiel was likely written between 593 and 565 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: Ezekiel ministered to his generation who were both exceedingly sinful and thoroughly hopeless. By means of his prophetic ministry he attempted to bring them to immediate repentance and to confidence in the distant future. He taught that: (1) God works through human messengers; (2) Even in defeat and despair God's people need to affirm that God is sovereign; (3) God's Word never fails; (4) God is present and can be worshiped anywhere; (5) People must obey God as they expect to receive blessings; and (6) God's Kingdom will come.

Key Verses: Ezekiel 2:3-6; 18:4; 28:12-14; 33:11; 48:35

Brief Summary: How can you cope with a world gone away from God? Ezekiel, destined to begin his life's ministry as a priest at age thirty, was uprooted from his homeland and marched off to Babylon at age of twenty-five. For five years he languished in despair. At age thirty a majestic vision of Jehovah's glory captivated his being in Babylon. The priest/prophet discovered God was not confined to the narrow strip of land called Canaan. Instead, He is a universal God who commands and controls persons and nations. In Babylon, God gave to Ezekiel His Word for the people. His call transformed Ezekiel. He became totally devoted to God's Word. He realized he had nothing personally to assist the captives in their bitter situation, but he was convinced God's Word spoke to their condition and could give them victory in the midst of it. Ezekiel used various methods to convey God's Word to his people. He used art in drawing a depiction of Jerusalem, symbolic actions and unusual conduct to secure attention. He cut his hair and beard to demonstrate what God would do to Jerusalem and its inhabitants.

Practical Application: The Book of Ezekiel calls us to overcome or we will be overcome. Ezekiel challenges us to: experience a life changing vision of God's power, knowledge, eternal presence and holiness; let God direct us; comprehend the depth of and commitment to evil that lodges in each human heart; to recognize that God holds his servants responsible for warning wicked men of their peril; to experience a living relationship with Jesus Christ, who said that the new covenant is to be found in His blood.

Brief Outline of Ezekiel

- I. **PROPHECIES OF JUDGEMENT ON JUDAH** Ch. 1-24
 - A. Ezekiel's First Vision – in the 5th year (Ch. 1-3)
 - B. Symbols of the Fall of Jerusalem - 5th year (Ch. 4-5)
 - C. Oracles of Judgment - 5th year (Ch. 6-7)
 - D. Vision of the Temple - 6th year (Ch. 8-11)
 - E. Symbols of the Exile - 6th year (Ch. 12)
 - F. Oracles of Judgment 6-9th year (Ch. 13-24)

- II. **PROPHECIES OF JUDGMENT ON SURROUNDING NATIONS** Ch. 25-32, 35
 - A. Ammon (Ch. 25:1-7)
 - B. Moab (Ch. 25:8-11)
 - C. Edom (Ch. 25:12-14)

- D. Philistia (Ch. 25:15-17)
- E. Ammon (Ch. 25:1-7)
- F. Tyre (Ch. 26-28:19)
- G. Sidon (Ch. 28:20-24)
- H. Egypt (Ch. 29-32)
- I. Edom (Ch. 35)

III. **PROPHECIES OF RESTORATION** Ch. 33-34; 36-48

- A. The Watchman (Ch. 33) and His responsibilities
- B. The Good Shepherd (Ch. 34)
- C. Hope for the Mountains of Israel (Ch. 36)
- D. The Valley of Dry Bones (Ch. 37) – resurrection of the nation of Israel
- E. God and Magog (Ch. 38-39) – the last battle!
- F. Vision of Temple Worship (Ch. 40-48) in the Millennium

Daniel

Author: The Book of Daniel identifies the Prophet Daniel as its author (Daniel 9:2; 10:2). Jesus considered the Prophet Daniel to be the author as well (Matthew 24:15).

Date of Writing: The Book of Daniel was likely written between 540 and 530 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: In 605 B.C., Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon had conquered Judah and deported many of its inhabitants to Babylon – Daniel included. Daniel served in the royal court of Nebuchadnezzar and several rulers who followed Nebuchadnezzar. The Book of Daniel records the actions, prophecies, and visions of the Prophet Daniel.

Key Verses: Daniel 1:8; 19-20; 2:31; 3:17-18; 4:34-35; 9:25-27; 12:2

Brief Summary of Daniel

Chapter 1	Describes Daniel and his three friends being deported to Babylon and being “promoted” in the king’s service because God was with them.
Chapter 2	Nebuchadnezzar having a dream that only Daniel could correctly interpret. Nebuchadnezzar’s dream of a great statue represented the kingdoms that would arise in the future.
Chapter 3	Nebuchadnezzar makes a great statue and forces everyone to worship it. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused and were miraculously spared by God despite being thrown into a fiery furnace. A “fourth Man” appears in the fire with them!
Chapter 4	Nebuchadnezzar is warned and then judged by God for his pride, but later is restored once he recognized and admitted God’s sovereignty over his life and over the whole world.
Chapter 5	Nebuchadnezzar’s son (grandson) Beshazzar misuses the items taken from the Temple in Jerusalem and receives a message from God, written into the wall, in response. Only Daniel could interpret the writing... it was a message of oncoming judgment from God.
Chapter 6	Daniel is thrown into the lions’ den for refusing to pray to the emperor. Daniel was miraculously spared.
Chapter 7	A vision God gave Daniel of four beasts. The four beasts represented the Kingdoms of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome. It describes in incredible detail how each kingdom would arise and take over the preceding empire.
Chapter 8	Contains a vision involving a ram, a goat, and several horns – also referring to future kingdoms and their rulers, but also specifically to the coming antichrist.
Chapter 9	Daniel’s “seventy weeks” prophesy. God gave Daniel the precise timeline of when the Messiah would come and be cut off. The prophesy also mentions a future ruler who will make a seven year covenant with Israel, break it after 3 ½ years, followed shortly thereafter by the great judgment and consummation of all things.
Chapter 10	Records Daniel being visited and strengthened by an angel after a great vision. This chapter shows the ongoing battles of spiritual warfare.
Chapter 11	The angel explaining the vision to Daniel in great detail.
Chapter 12	Final explanations of the vision, especially of the final judgment to eternal life and to eternal damnation.

Practical Application: We should always stand for what we know is right. God is greater than any punishment that could come upon us. Whether God delivers us or not, He is worthy of our trust and obedience. God knows what is best, and He honours those who trust and obey Him. God has a plan – and His plan is down to the intricate detail. God knows the future and is in control of the future. Everything that God has predicted has come true exactly as He predicted. Therefore, we should believe and trust that the things God has predicted (and promised) which have not yet occurred – will one day occur exactly as God has declared.