

# Introduction to Isaiah

## Background

Time frame: latter half 8<sup>th</sup> century BC

Regionally / Internationally: Assyrian Empire dominant

Domestically: Israel's two kingdoms

Two Major Events

- 1) Assyrian invasion of Israel
- 2) Assyrian invasion of Judah

## Isaiah himself

Son of Amoz

Tradition: nephew of King Amaziah (brother of Amoz) and cousin of King Uzziah

Married, at least two sons:

Shear-jashub \***7:3** “a remnant will return”

Maher-Shalal-Hash-Bas \***8:1, 3** “quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil”

cf. **Is. 8:18**

Isaiah's name symbolic of his message: “Yahweh is Salvation”

cf. **45:17**

Ministry primarily to Judah

but also to Northern Kingdom (**9:8-10:4**; **27:1-11**; **28:1-6**) & to nations (**13-23**)

Prophetic ministry at least 60 yrs

Apocryphal *Assumption of Isaiah* → sawn in half during reign of Manasseh

→ **Heb.11:37** ??

## Reputation

“King of the Prophets”

“Evangelist of the Old Covenant”

“The Apostle Paul of the OT”

Statesman, Prophet, Poet

Faithful man of deep conviction & unwavering trust in God

## Chronological Place among Prophets

Earlier Prophets: Joel, Amos, Hosea, Micah

All others later

## Isaiah's Prophecy

Judgment & Hope

... but hope so dominant: “The 5<sup>th</sup> Gospel” / “The 5<sup>th</sup> Evangelist” /  
“The Evangelical Prophet”

**Is.1-39** - Book of Woe / Judgment / Warning

**Is.40-66** - Book of Comfort / Salvation