

# Isaiah Authorship



***Who wrote Isaiah?***

Dr. Rick Griffith • Jordan Evangelical Theological Seminary  
BibleStudyDownloads.org



**ISAIAH**

**Sistine Chapel**



**Who was  
Isaiah?**





## WHO WAS ISAIAH?



- His name means "the LORD is salvation" or "the LORD saves"
- Son of Amoz and traditionally believed to be a cousin of King Uzziah, and possibly had access to the royal court
- Tradition records that he was martyred by being sawn in two.

# Isaiah wrote during the Assyrian invasions about 700 BC



# Placing the Prophets

342

Key Dates

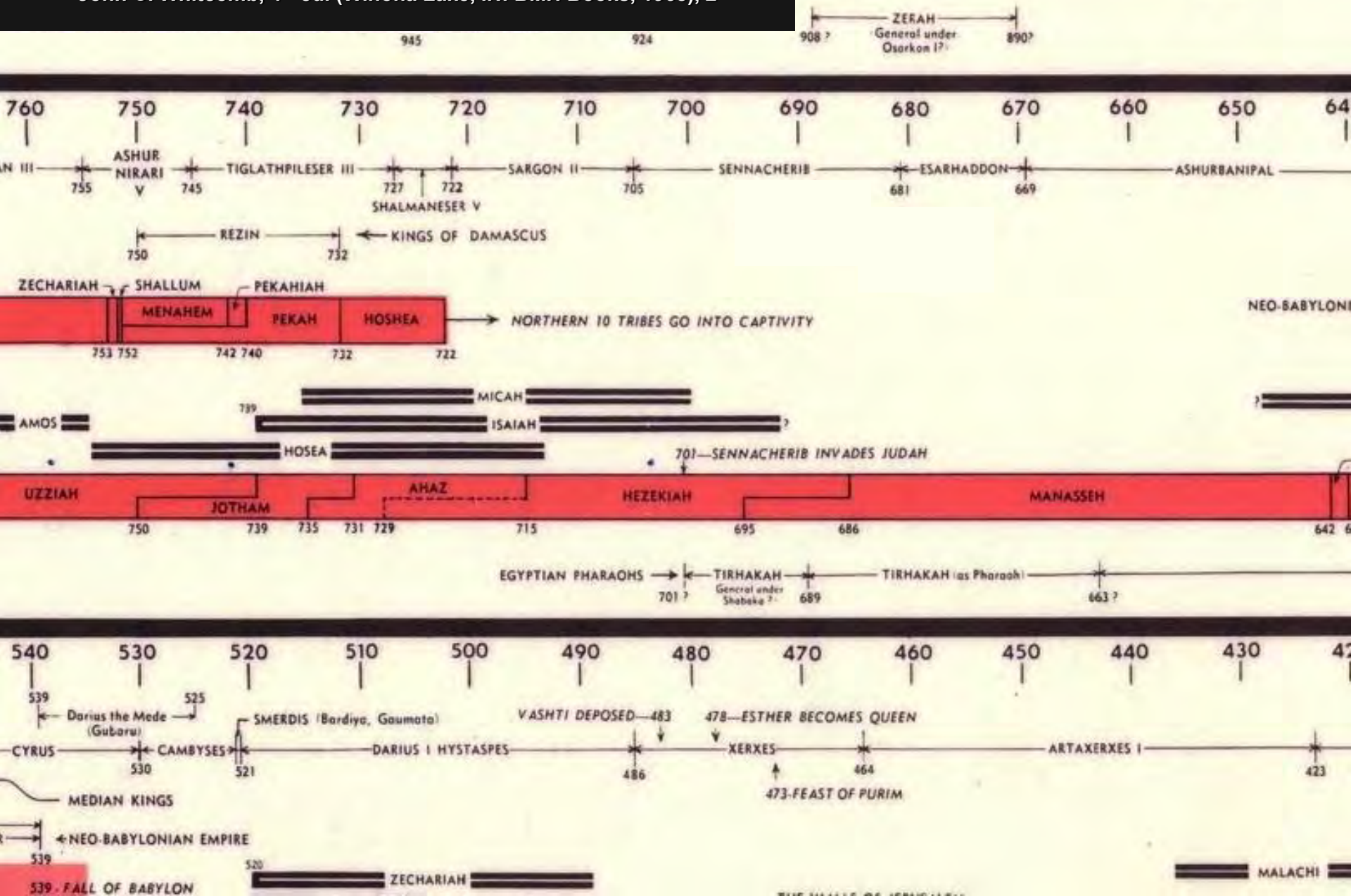




# Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

232 & 342

John C. Whitcomb, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. (Winona Lake, IN: BMH Books, 1968), 2



# The Assyrian Threat





# Assyrians ruined 46 cities of Judah





# When Isaiah Wrote

*End of the  
Kings of Israel*

**Pekah**

**Hoshea**

*Kings of  
Judah*

**Uzziah**

**Jotham**

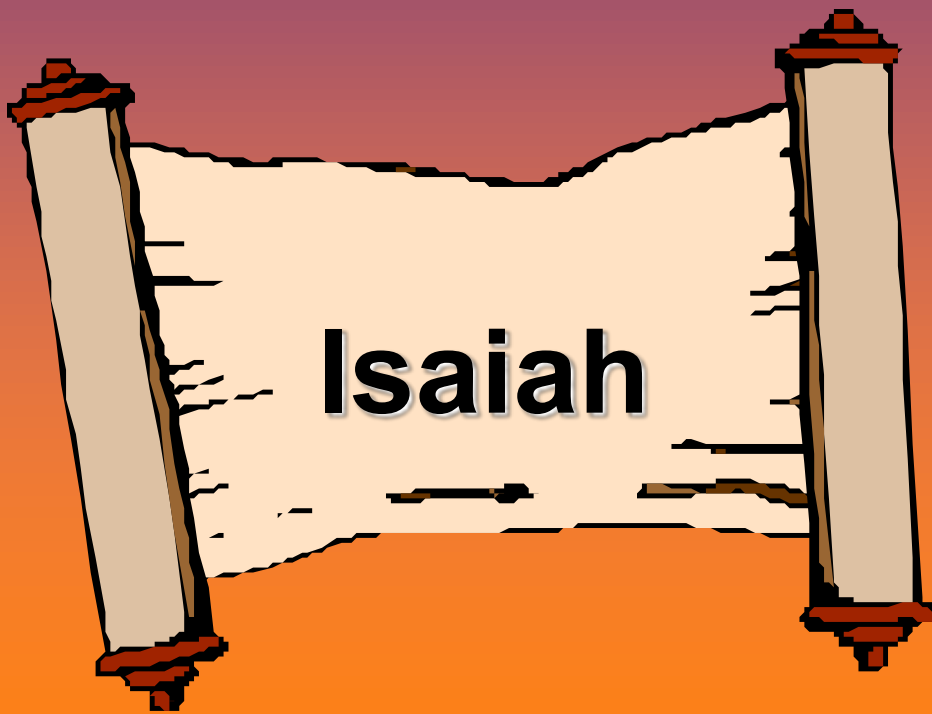
**Ahaz**

**Hezekiah**

**Isaiah's 60-Year Ministry**  
(739-680 BC)



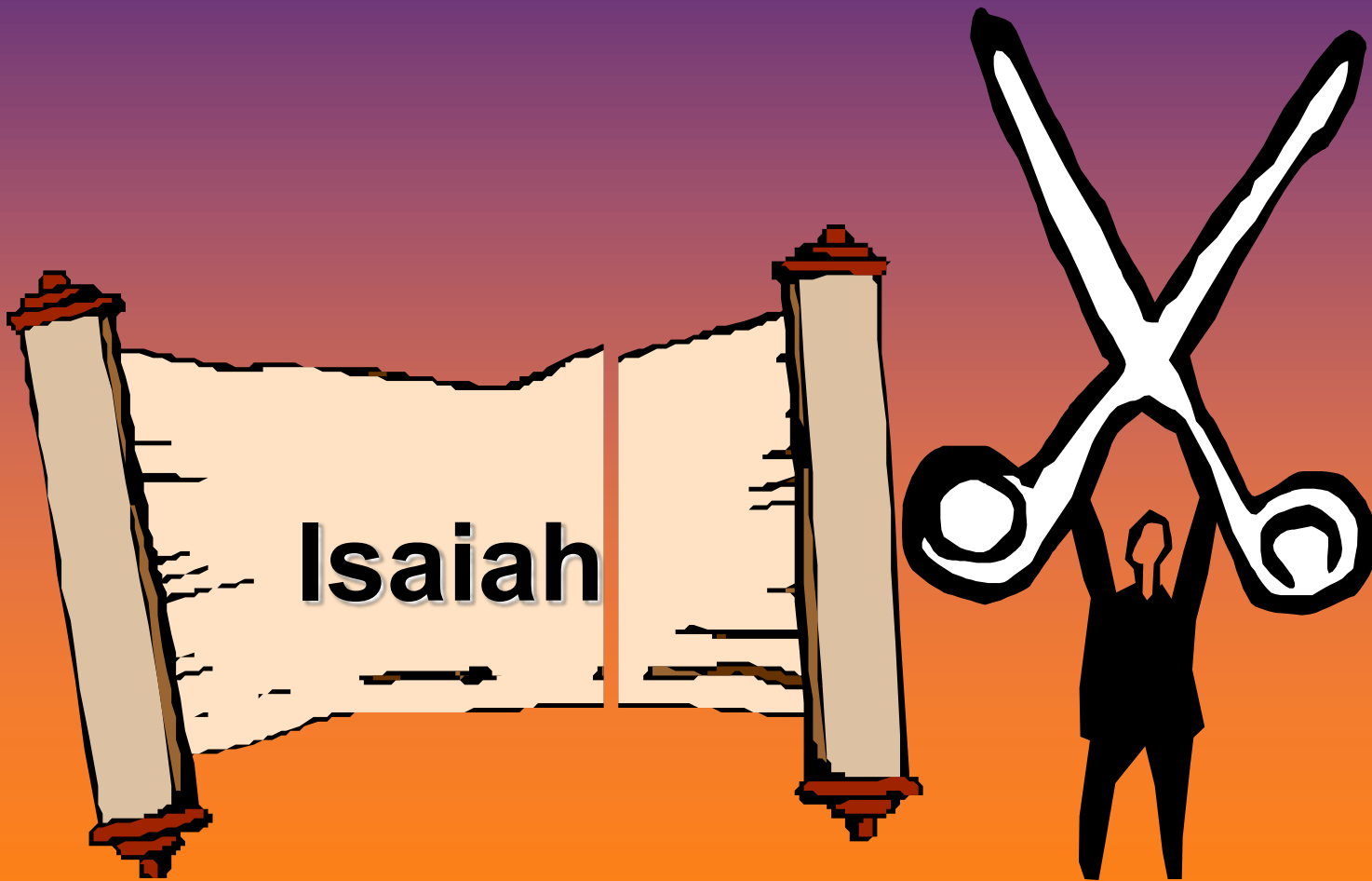
# Who wrote Isaiah?



## Accusations:

1. Background
2. Style & theology
3. Messiah
4. Captivity & Cyrus

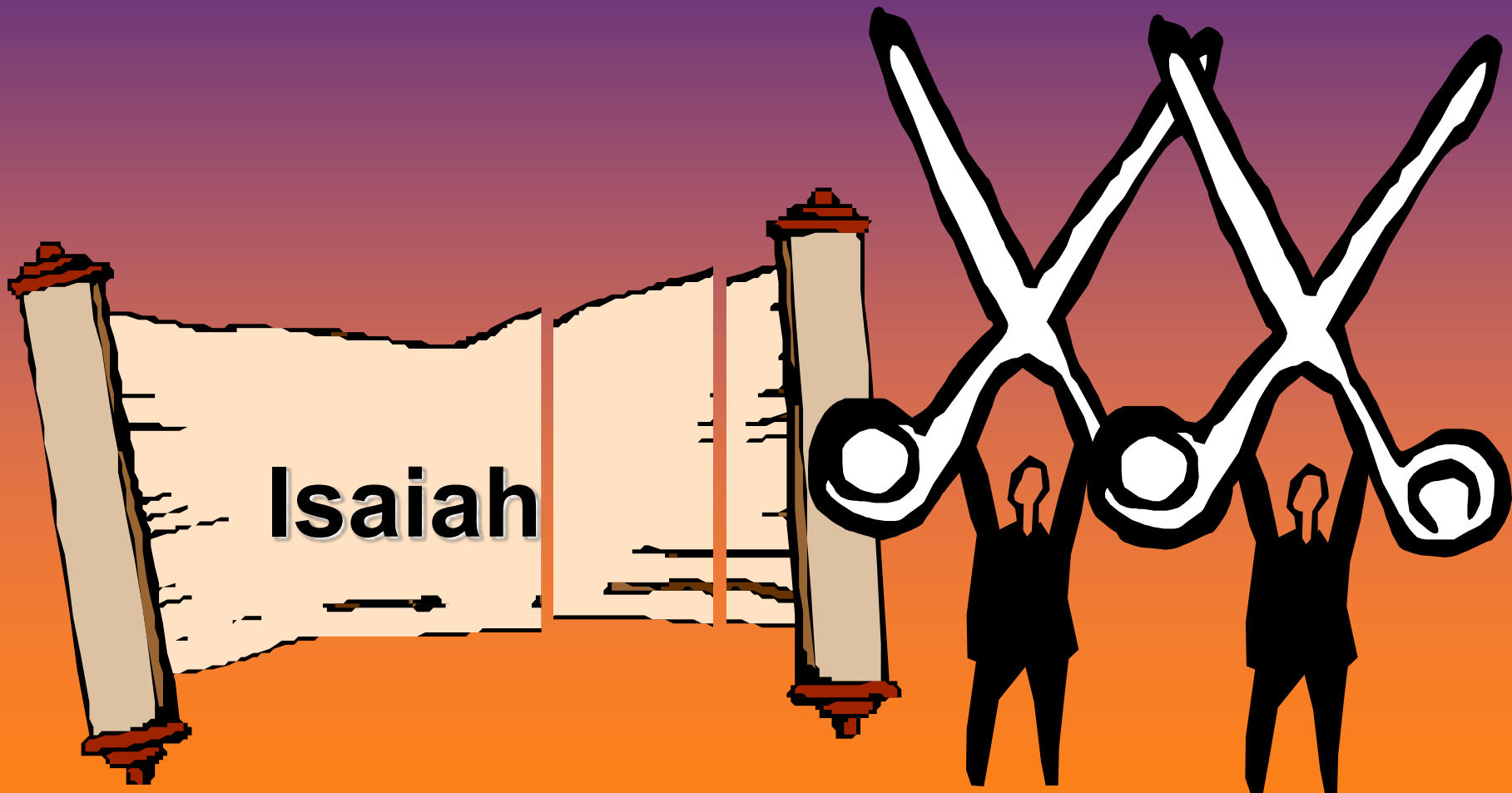
# Deutero-Isaiah? 1–39 40–66





Deutero-Isaiah? 1–39 40–66

Trito-Isaiah? 1–39 40–55 56–66



# What arguments support Isaiah as author of the whole book?





# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship



**Literary  
Arguments**

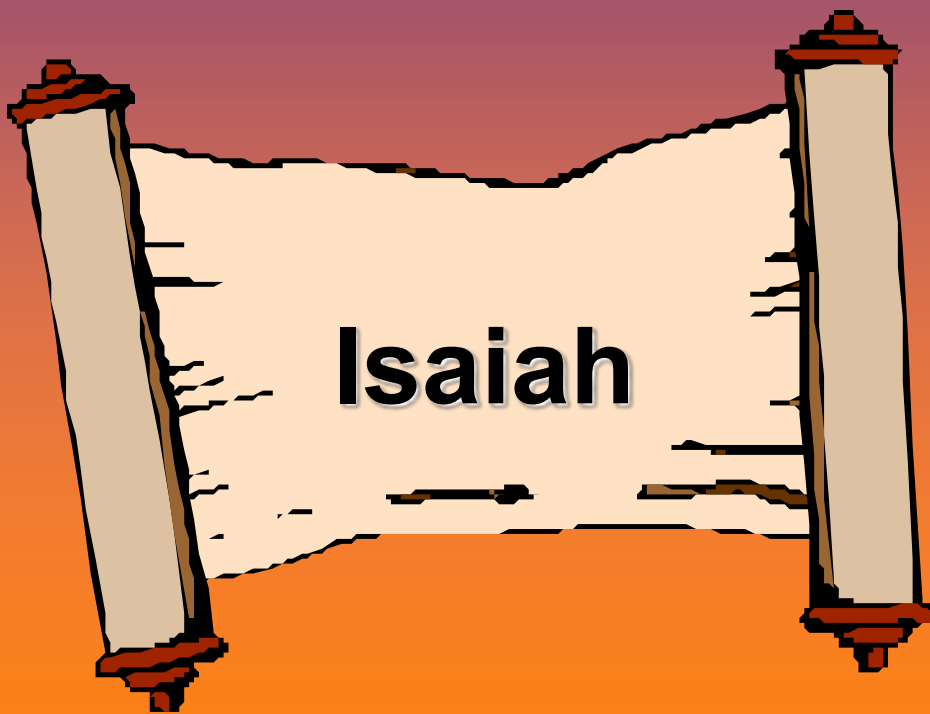
**Deutero-Isaiah? 1–39 40–66**

**Trito-Isaiah? 1–39 40–55 56–66**

**"Uno" Isaiah? 1–66**

**Responses:**

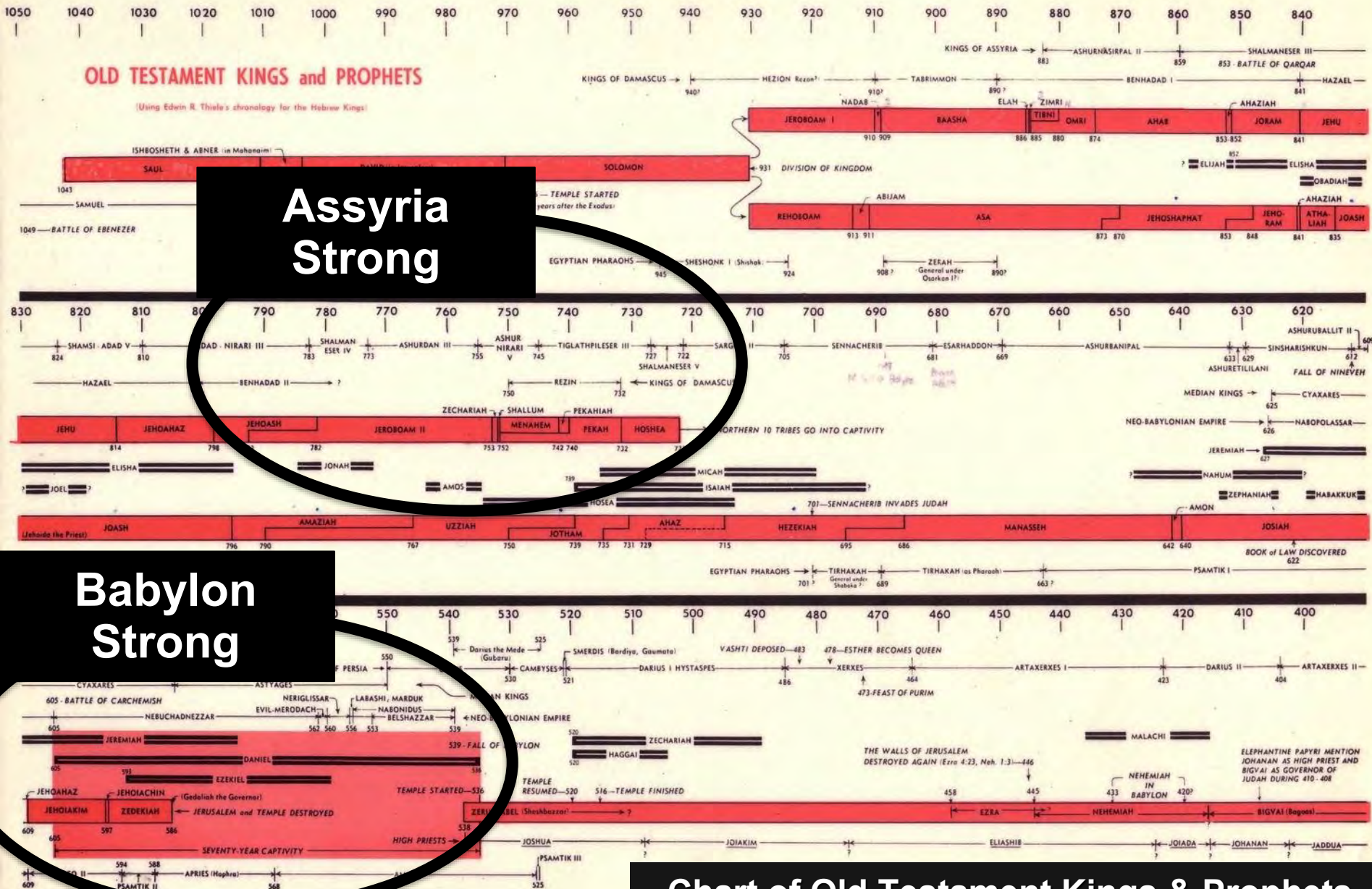
**1. Background**





# Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

232 & 342



# Deutero-Isaiah? 1–39 40–66

## Accusation:

Assyrian  
Background  
(Isa 1–39)

Babylonian  
Background  
(Isa 40–66)

## Responses:

### 1. Background

## Rebuttal:

Babylon  
Noted 9  
Times in  
1–39

Babylon  
Noted Only 4  
Times in  
40–66

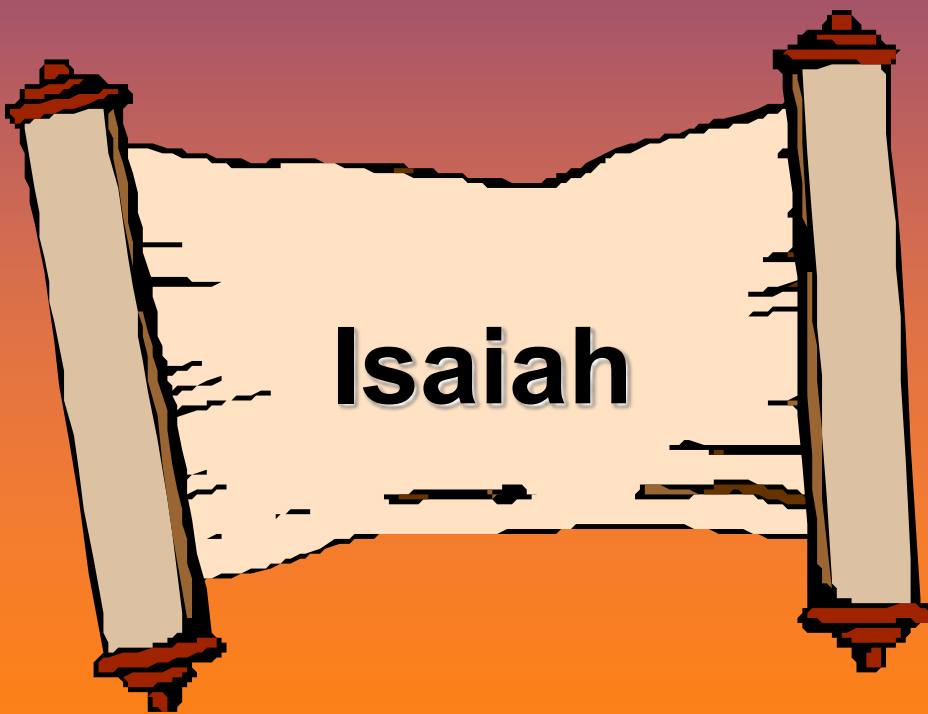
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**"Uno" Isaiah? 1–66**

**Responses:**

- 1. Background**
- 2. Style & theology**





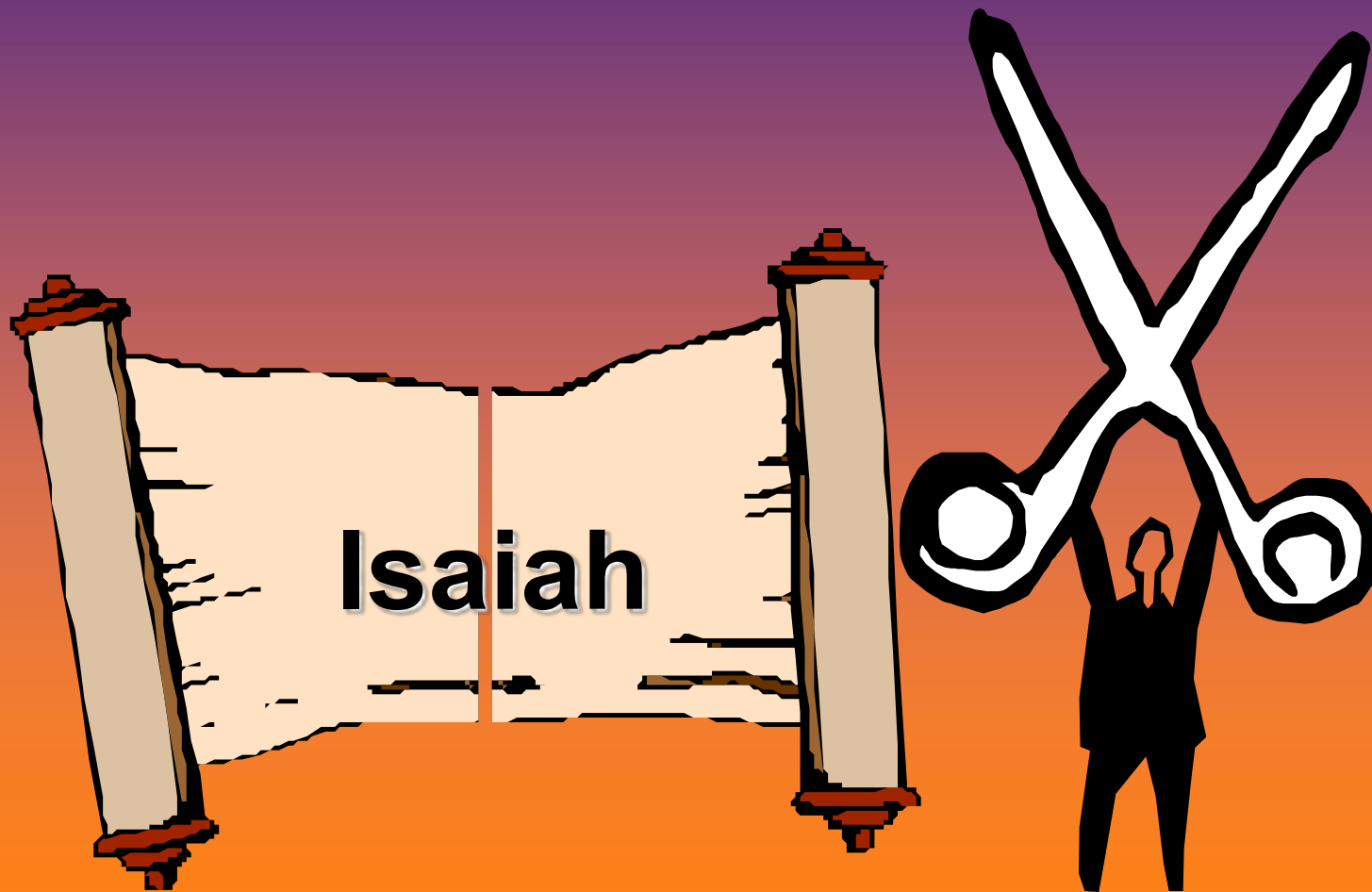
# Isaiah: Restoration of the Created Order

<b>Judgment (and Salvation)</b> <b>"The Holy One of Israel" (12x)</b> <b>Chapters 1–39</b>				<b>Salvation (and Judgment)</b> <b>"The Holy One of Israel" (13x)</b> <b>Chapters 40–66</b>			
<b>"Truly the mouth of the LORD has spoken"</b>				<b>"Truly the mouth of the LORD has spoken" also here</b>			
<b>Prophecy</b> <b>40-50 other phrases</b>			<b>History</b>	<b>Prophecy</b> <b>Same 40-50 other phrases</b>			
<b>Mostly Condemnation</b>			<b>Inter-lude</b>	<b>Mostly Consolation</b>			
<b>Violations &amp; deliverance 1–12</b>	<b>Judgment on the nations 13–23</b>	<b>Worldwide judgment &amp; blessing 24–35</b>	<b>Salvation sickness &amp; sin 36–39</b>	<b>Shepherd of Israel 40–48</b>	<b>Suffering Servant 49–57</b>	<b>God's Initiative 58–59</b>	<b>Restoration under Messiah 60–66</b>
<b>Judah</b>							
<b>739-681 BC</b> <b>(Before, during and after Israel's fall to Assyria in 722 BC)</b>							

**“The supposed three ‘books’ of 1–39, 40–55, and 56–66 have often been alleged to show traces of different periods of composition. There can be little doubt of 1–39 belonging to the later eighth century, having numerous links with that epoch. But that 40–55 is based in Babylon is simply not true. As scholars of various stripes have been compelled to observe, those chapters betray no firsthand knowledge of the metropolis of Babylon (mentioned only four times in these chapters, and only once actually implying a Hebrew exile, 48:20 — contrasted with nine times in 1–39!), but belong in the milieu of the Levant, not least Palestine.”**

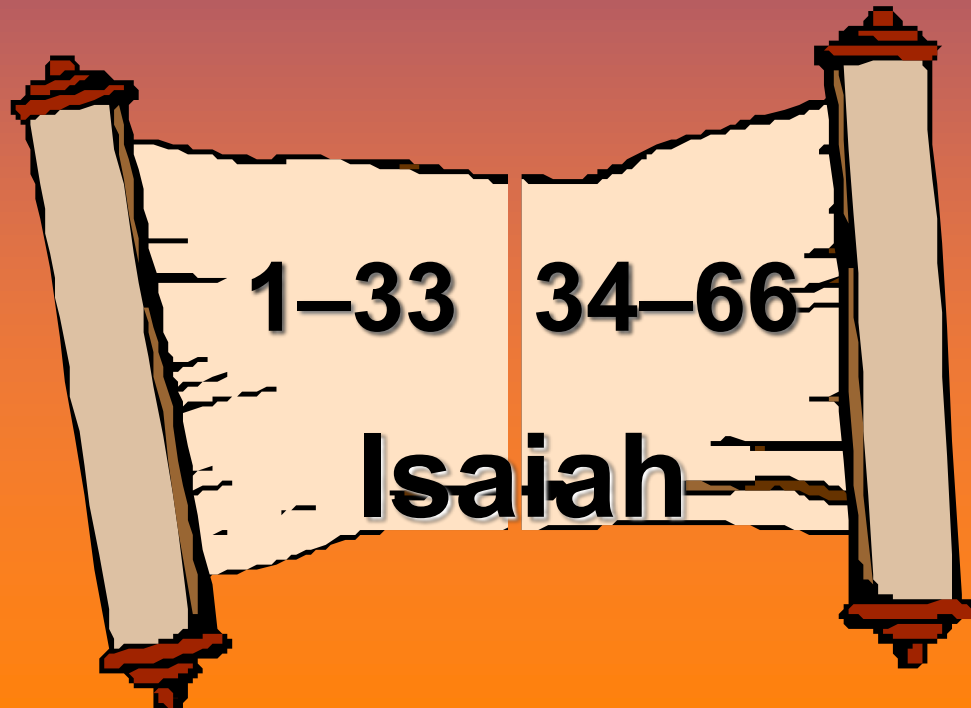
**—K. A. Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the Old Testament* (Eerdmans, 2003), location 8294 of 14432, Kindle Edition.**

# Deutero-Isaiah in 1–33 34–66 the DSS scroll?



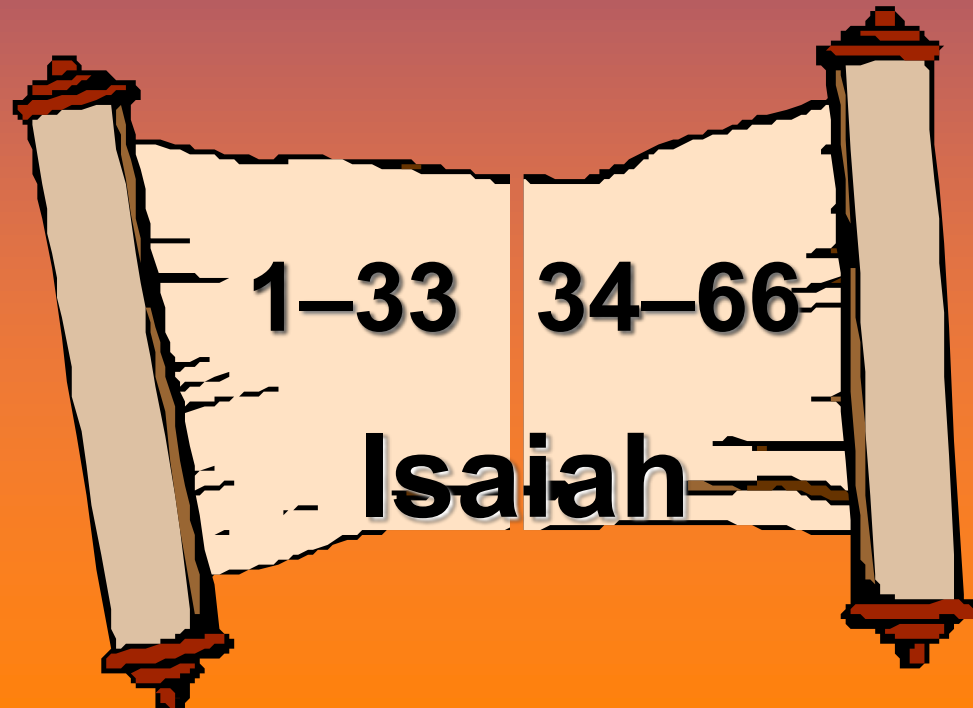


**“In tussles over unity and multiplicity in Isaiah, and supposed divisions at chapters 39/40, 55/56, etc., almost nobody has bothered to look for tangible textual evidence.”**



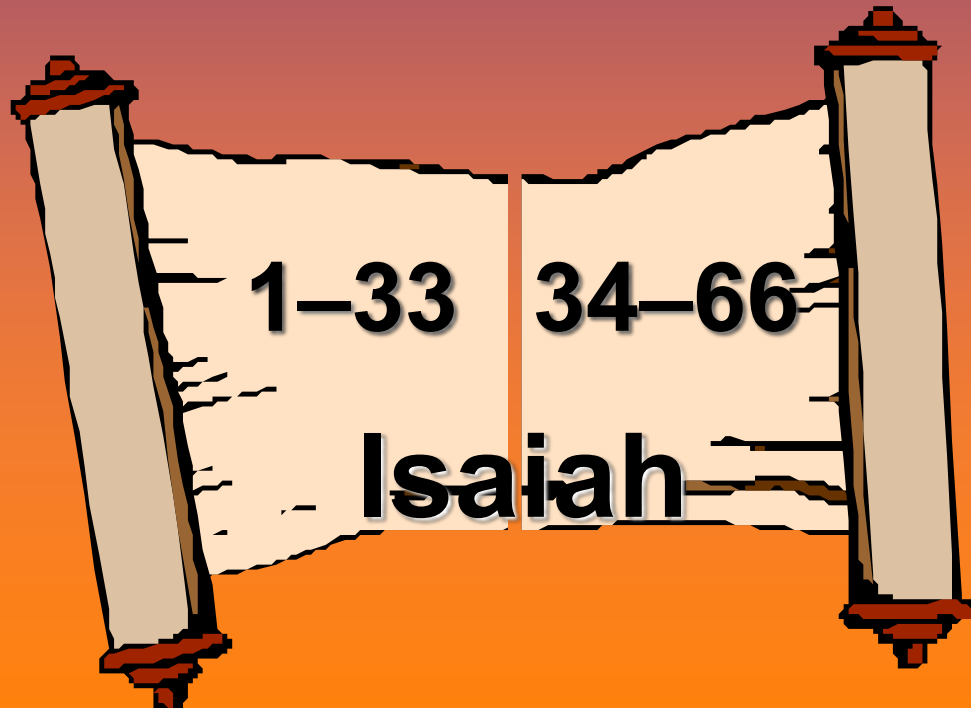
**K. Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the OT*,  
chapter 8, location 8279  
of 14432, Kindle ed.**

**“In the Dead Sea Scrolls there is just one positive indication, in the great, intact scroll of Isaiah, one of the first scrolls published. In this scroll, when he came to the end of what we today call chapter 33 (at 33:24), the ancient scribe deliberately left a blank space (equal to three lines’ depth)”**



**K. Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the OT*, chapter 8, location 8279 of 14432, Kindle ed.**

“...marking a break at the end of his column, before beginning a new column with what is now 34:1. This is very close to the midpoint of the entire book as he had it, and as we have it. The early scribe had some reason to divide here — but saw no reason to divide at either what is now 39/40 or 55/56, we may note.”



K. Kitchen, *On the Reliability of the OT*, chapter 8, location 8279 of 14432, Kindle ed.



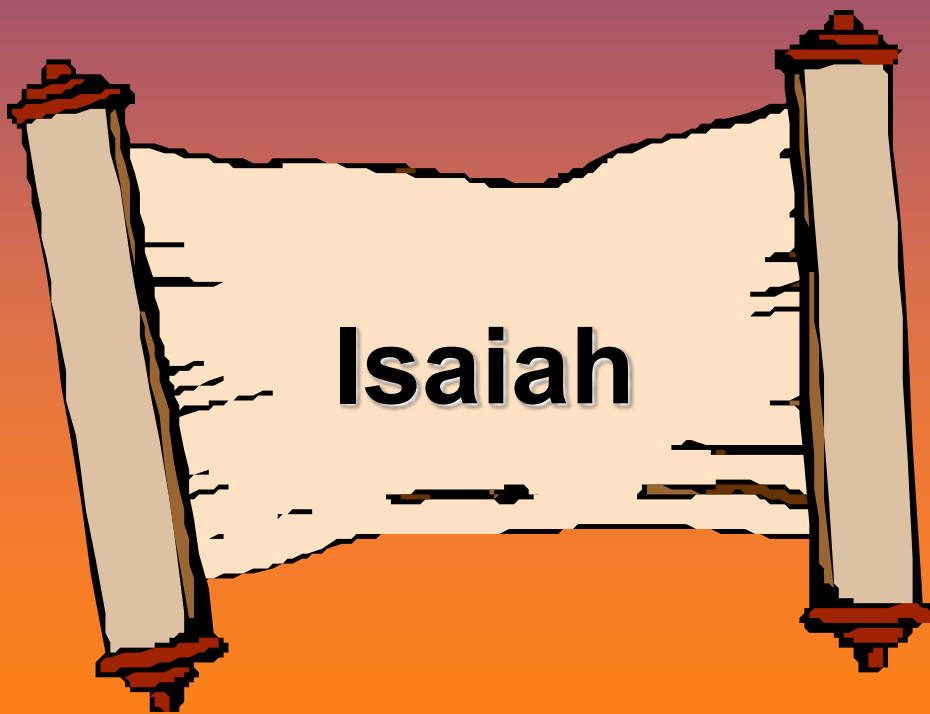
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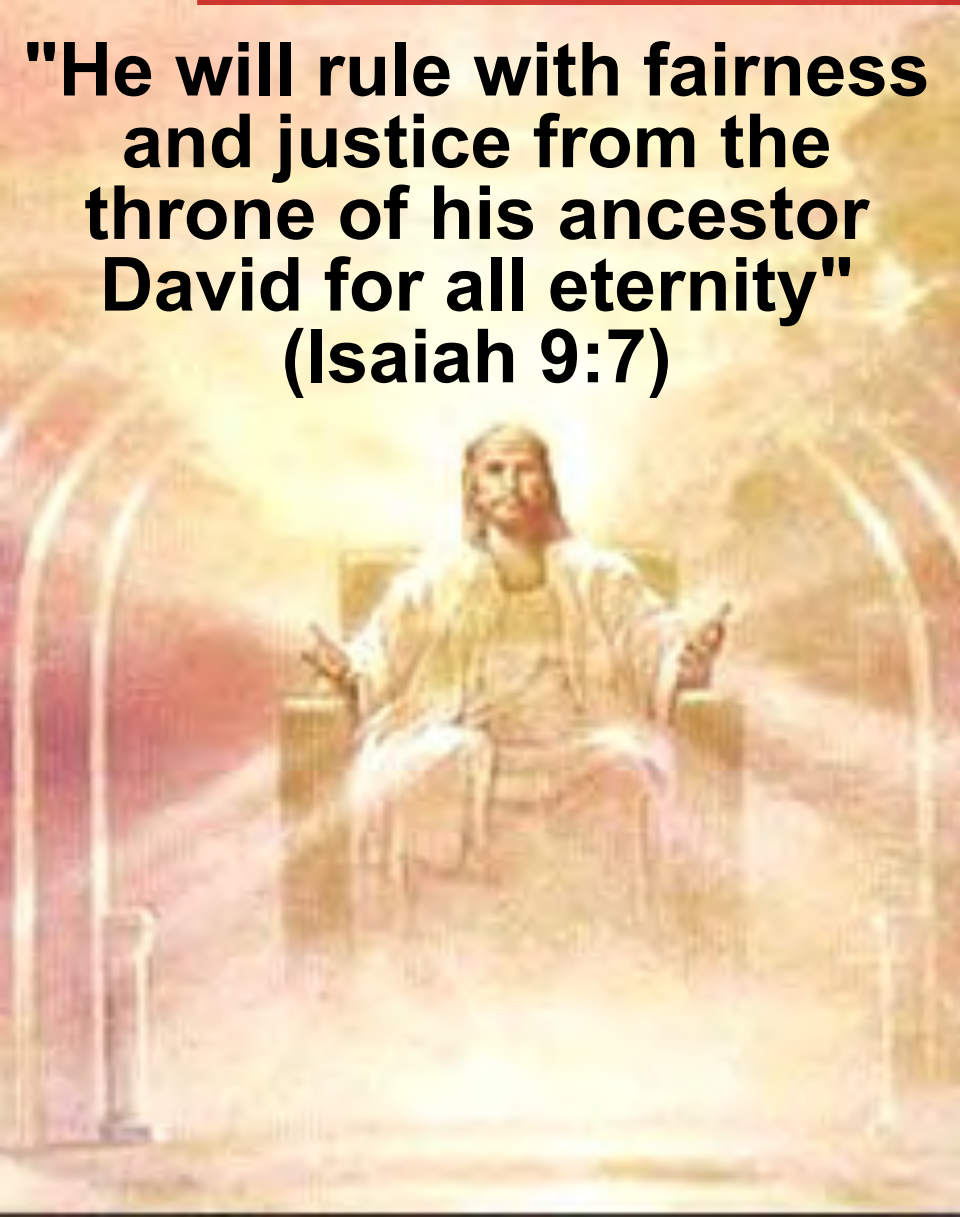
**Responses:**

- 1. Background**
- 2. Style & theology**
- 3. Messiah**



# The Same Messiah?

**"He will rule with fairness  
and justice from the  
throne of his ancestor  
David for all eternity"  
(Isaiah 9:7)**



**"He was despised and  
rejected—a man of  
sorrows, acquainted with  
deepest grief..."  
(Isaiah 53:3)**



# Is Nostradamus a prophet?

Did this predict Hurricane Katrina?

"The cities of Tours, Orleans, Blois, Angers, Reims and Nantes are troubled by sudden change. Tents will be pitched by (people) of foreign tongues; rivers, darts at Rennes, shaking of land and sea."

(Century 1, Quatrain 50)







# **The accuracy of Isaiah's prophecies:**

**"Therefore this is what the LORD says concerning the king of Assyria: 'He will not enter this city or shoot an arrow here. He will not come before it with shield or build a siege ramp against it. By the way that he came he will return; he will not enter this city,' declares the LORD" (Isa. 37:33-34).**



# **The accuracy of Isaiah's prophecies:**

**"Then the angel of the LORD went out and put to death 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning—there were all the dead bodies! So Sennacherib king of Assyria broke camp and withdrew" (Isa. 37:36-37).**

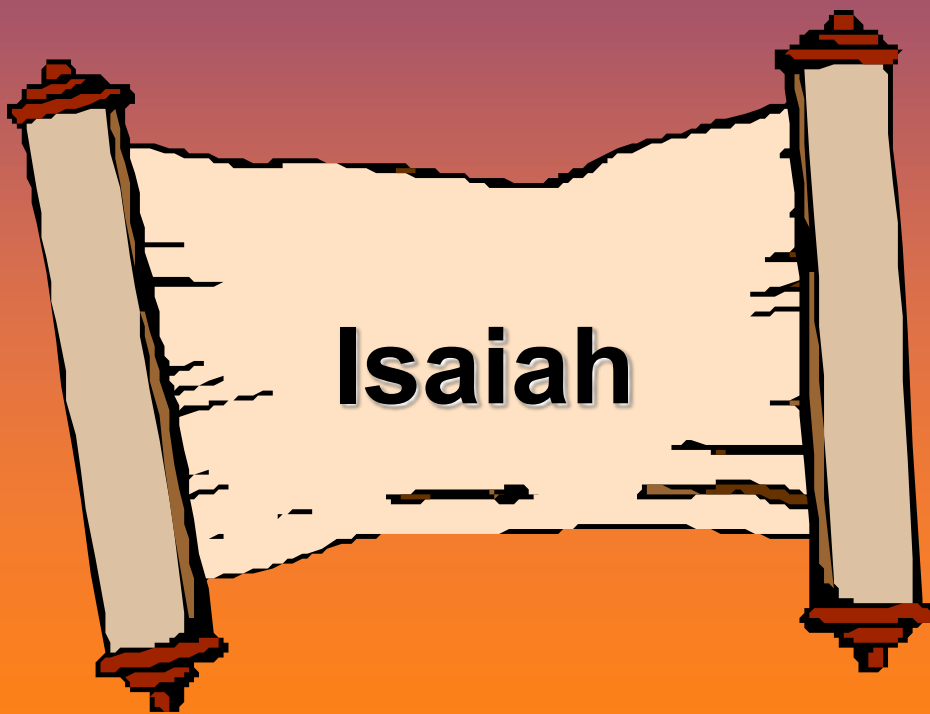
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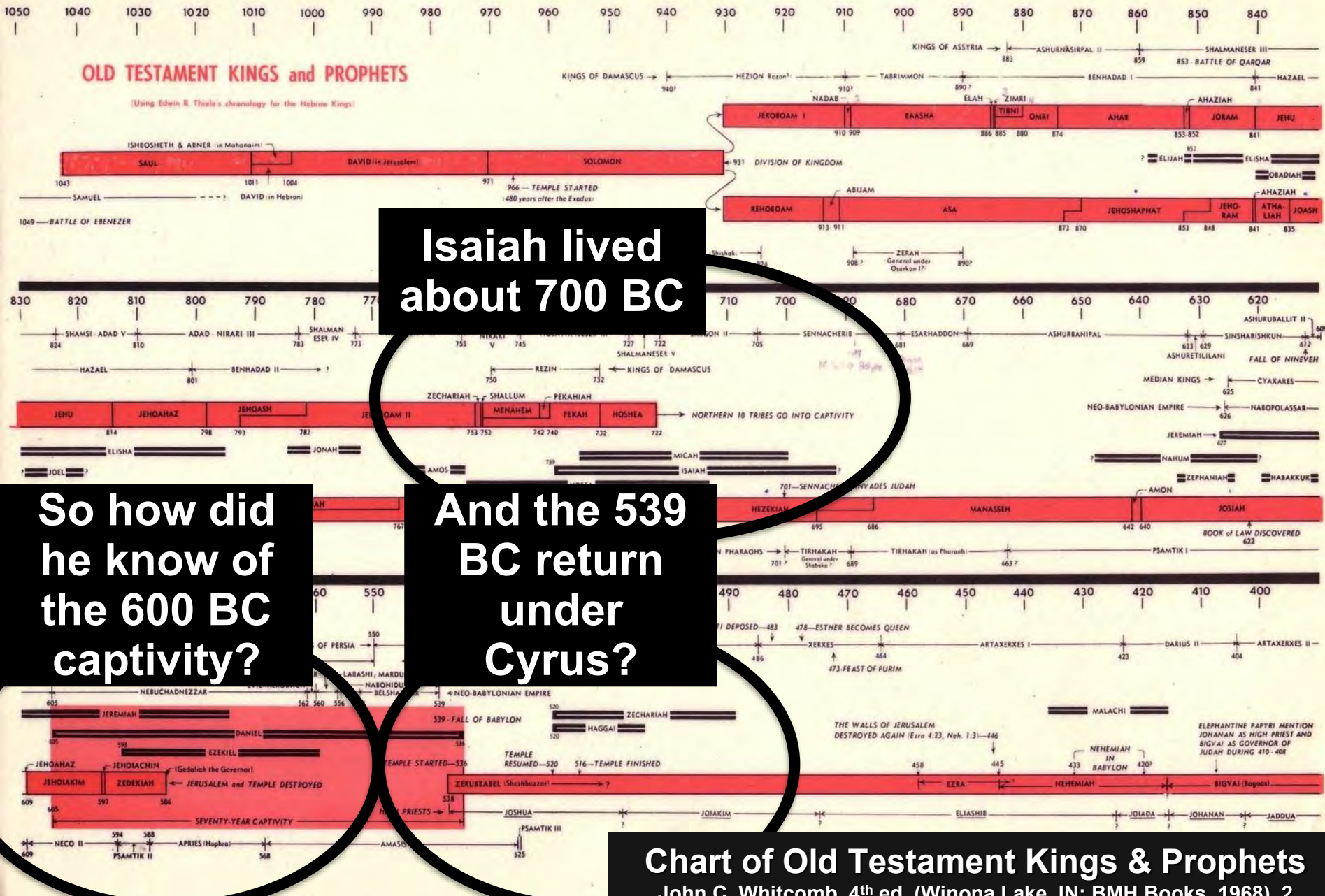
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# Chart of OT Kings & Prophets

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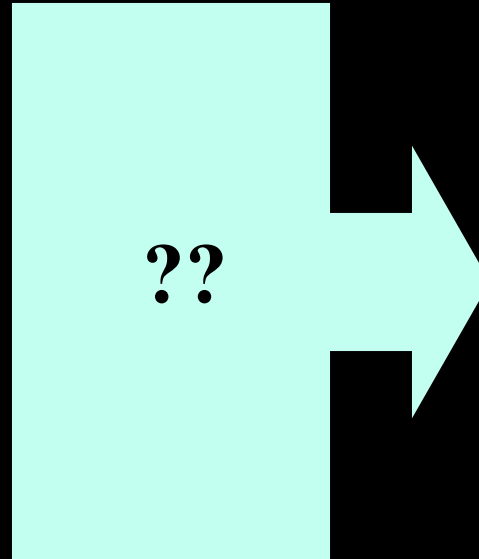


# Amazing Prophecies

460



**Stamford  
Raffles (1819)**



**Lee Kwan Yew  
(1959)**

**Did you hear that Raffles wrote 140 years before Lee Kwan Yew, "Behold, a man named Lee will arise to make Singapore its own country..."?**



# Amazing Prophecies



**Isaiah (700 BC)**

41:2, 25  
44:28  
45:1-2  
45:13-15



**Cyrus (539 BC)**

"When I say of Cyrus, 'He is my shepherd,' he will certainly do as I say. He will command, 'Rebuild Jerusalem'; he will say, 'Restore the Temple' "  
(Isa. 44:28 NLT)



# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship



**Archaeological  
Arguments**

# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship



- **Assyrian records show their king Sennacherib threatening Hezekiah (701 BC)**

# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship

## Three Copies of Sennacherib's Annals



**Taylor Prism,  
London**



**Oriental Institute  
Prism, Chicago**



**Jerusalem Prism,  
Israel**

**Sennacherib's Annals record his military campaign (704-681 BC), including his invasion into the Kingdom of Judah**



# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship

## Three Copies of Sennacherib's Annals



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D.P. Kha - za - ki - a - u

**Hezekiah**

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D.P. Ia - u - da - ai

**of Judah**

𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵 𐎶𐎵𐎶𐎵

D.P. Ur - sa - li - im - mu ali sharru - ti - shu

**Jerusalem**

**his royal city.**

# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship

"As for the king of Judah, **Hezekiah**, who had not submitted to my authority, **I besieged and captured forty-six of his fortified cities**, along with many smaller towns, taken in battle with my battering rams.... I took as plunder 200,150 people, both small and great, male and female, along with a great number of animals including horses, mules, donkeys, camels, oxen, and sheep. **As for Hezekiah, I shut him up like a caged bird in his royal city of Jerusalem.** I then constructed a series of fortresses around him, and I did not allow anyone to come out of the city gates. His weapons which I captured I gave to the kings of Ashod, and Gaza."

—Sennacherib

i.e., Sennacherib could not conquer Jerusalem!

—See Isa 37:36-38;  
2 Kings 19—

# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship



- Hezekiah and Isaiah lived at the same time (701 BC)



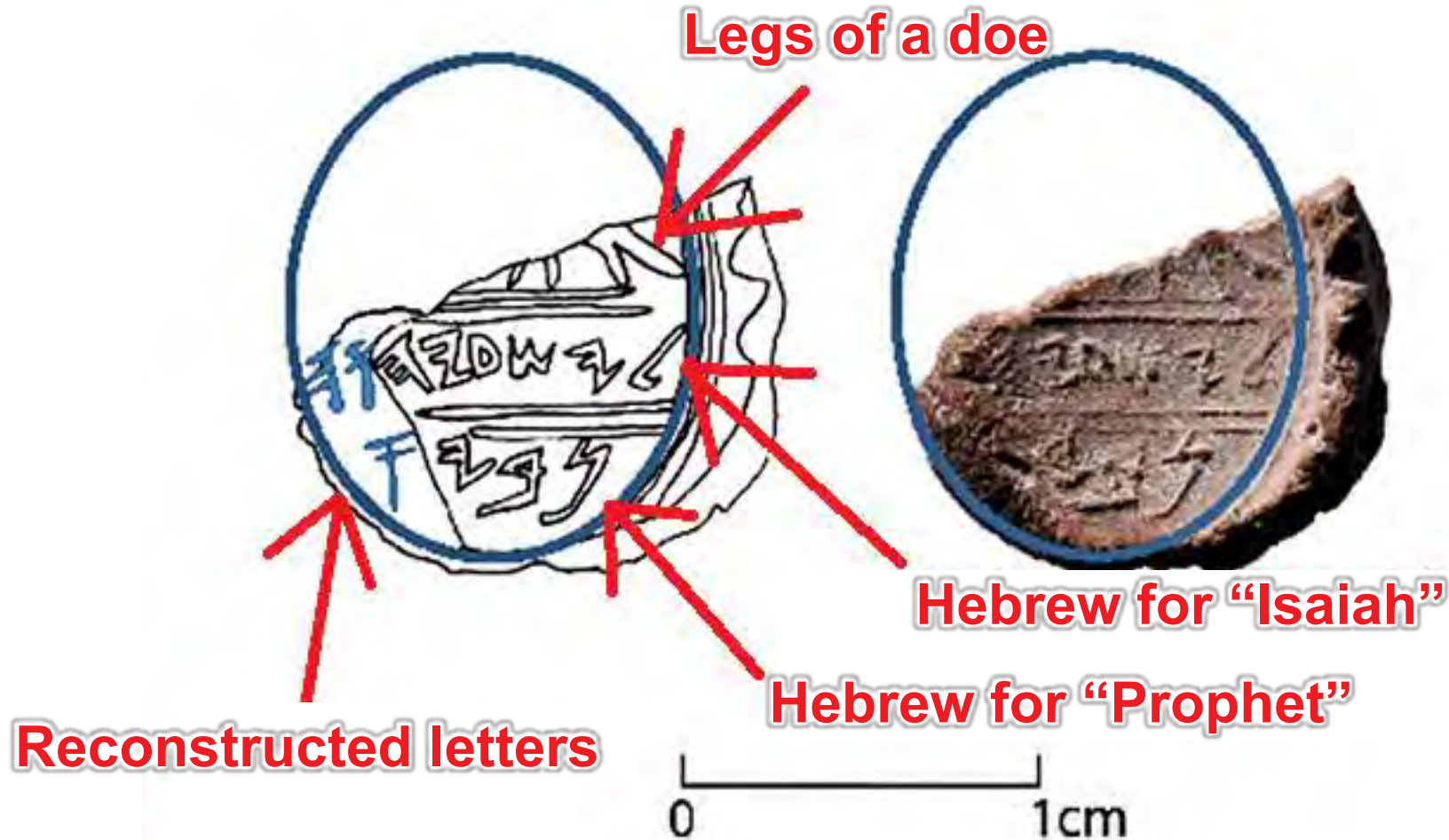
# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship

- Hezekiah and Isaiah artefacts are found in the same strata

The Ophel excavations at the foot of the southern wall of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem  
(courtesy of Andrew Shiva)



# **“In find of biblical proportions, seal of Prophet Isaiah said found in Jerusalem”**



**Chanced upon near a seal identified with King Hezekiah, a tiny clay piece may be the first-ever proof of the prophet, though a missing letter leaves room for doubt**

**By Amanda Borschel-Dan • 22 February 2018, 7:00 am**

# Hezekiah's seal



Same  
strata  
•  
10 feet  
apart!

# Isaiah's seal



**“It was found only 10 feet away from where in 2015 Mazar’s team discovered an important, intact bulla with the inscription ‘of King Hezekiah of Judah.’ The 12th king of the Kingdom of Judah, King Hezekiah, ruled from circa 727 BCE-698 BCE, during the period in which the northern Kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians in 721 BCE. Some 20 years later, Hezekiah successfully fought off the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem, in part due to fortifications and a water channel which can still be seen today.”**

(<https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-find-of-biblical-proportions-proof-of-prophet-isaiah-believed-unearthed/>)



# Evidence for Isaiah's Authorship

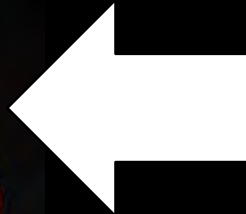


**New Testament  
Quotations**

# Isaiah Identified by Name in the NT



**Isaiah**



**Jesus & NT Writers**

**"He is a voice  
shouting in the  
wilderness,  
'Prepare the way  
for the LORD's  
coming!  
Clear the road for  
him!'"**  
(Matt 3:3b;  
cf. **Isaiah** 40:3  
NLT).

**Matthew:**

**"The prophet **Isaiah**  
was speaking about  
John when he  
said..."**  
(Matt 3:3a NLT).



"He is a voice  
shouting in the  
wilderness,  
'Prepare the way  
for the LORD's  
coming!  
Clear the road for  
him!'"  
(Luke 3:4b;  
cf. **Isaiah** 40:3  
NLT).

Luke:

"**Isaiah** had spoken  
of John when he  
said..."  
(Luke 3:4a NLT).

"LORD, who has  
believed our  
message?  
To whom has  
the LORD  
revealed his  
powerful arm?"  
(John 12:38b; cf.  
**Isaiah** 53:1 NLT).

John attributes  
Isaiah 53 to Isaiah

John:

"But despite all the  
miraculous signs  
Jesus had done,  
most of the people  
still did not believe in  
him. <sup>38</sup>This is exactly  
what **Isaiah** the  
prophet had  
predicted..."  
(John 12:37-38a NLT).

"The Lord has  
blinded their eyes  
and hardened their  
hearts—  
so that their eyes  
cannot see,  
and their hearts  
cannot understand,  
and they cannot  
turn to me  
and have me heal  
them" (John 12:40;  
cf. **Isaiah** 6:10 NLT).

**John:**

"But the people  
couldn't believe, for  
as **Isaiah** also  
said..."  
(John 12:39 NLT).

John attributes  
Isaiah 6 to Isaiah



**"Though the  
people of Israel  
are as numerous  
as the sand of  
the seashore,  
only a remnant  
will be saved"  
(Rom 9:27b;  
cf. **Isaiah** 10:22  
NLT).**

**Paul:**

**"And concerning  
Israel, **Isaiah** the  
prophet cried out..."  
(Rom 9:27a NLT).**

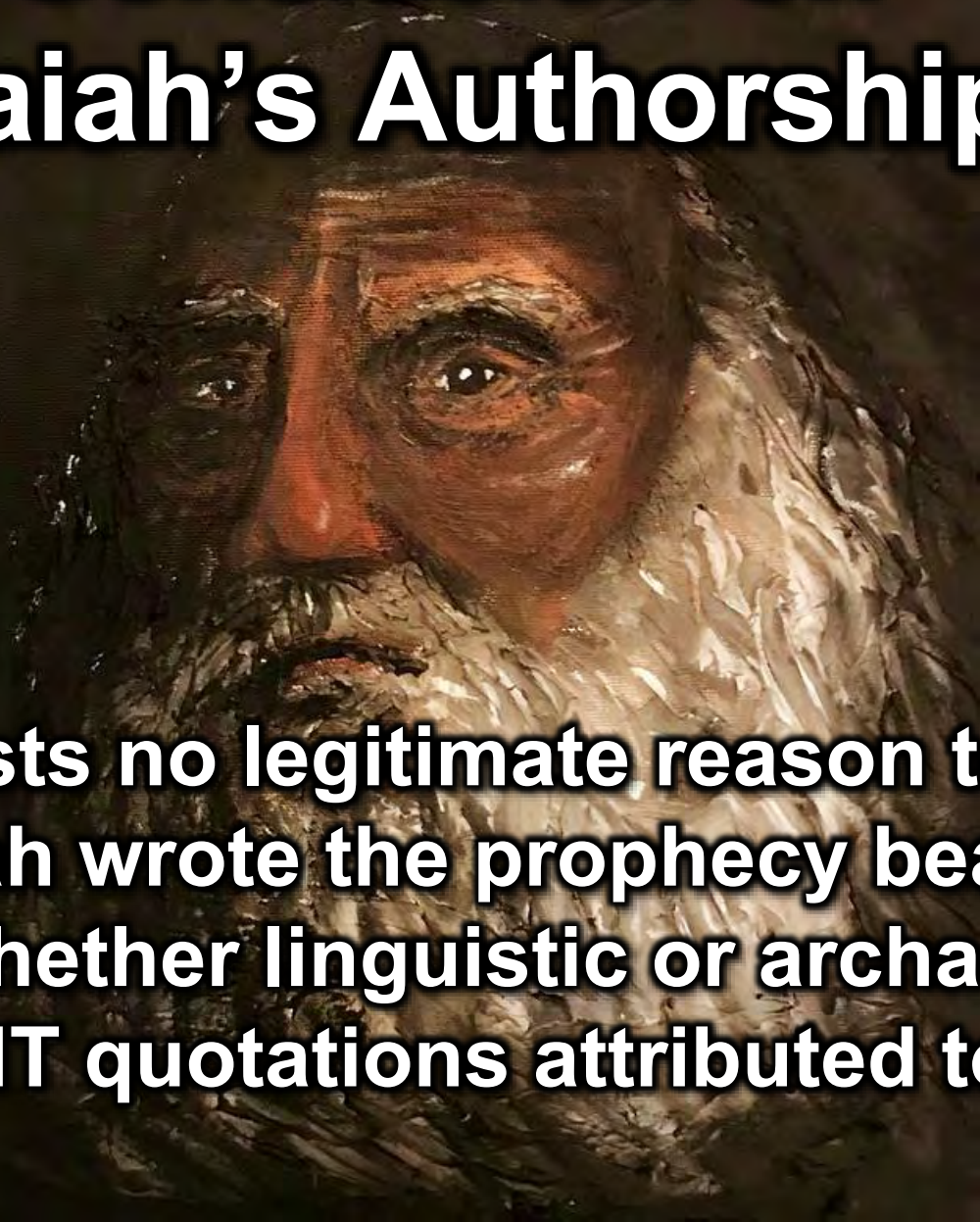
**"When you hear  
what I say,  
you will not  
understand.  
When you see  
what I do,  
you will not  
comprehend"  
(Matt 13:14b;  
cf. **Isaiah** 6:9  
NLT).**

**Jesus:**

**"This fulfills the  
prophecy of **Isaiah**  
that says..."  
(Matt 13:14a NLT).**

# **Conclusion on Isaiah's Authorship**

**There exists no legitimate reason to doubt that Isaiah wrote the prophecy bearing his name—whether linguistic or archaeological or in NT quotations attributed to him.**







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