

THE PROPHET ISAIAH

[Isaiah 1](#)

Served as a prophet to Judah from 740–681 B.C.

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| Climate of the times | Society was in a great upheaval. Under King Ahaz and King Manasseh, the people reverted to idolatry, and there was even child sacrifice. |
| Main message | Although judgment from other nations was inevitable, the people could still have a special relationship with God. |
| Importance of message | Sometimes we must suffer judgment and discipline before we are restored to God. |
| Contemporary prophets | Hosea (753–715 B.C.), Micah (742–687 B.C.) |

ALLIANCES TODAY

[Isaiah 21](#)

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|--------------------------|--|
| Government | We rely on government legislation to protect the moral decisions we want made, but legislation cannot change people's hearts. |
| Science | We enjoy the benefits of science and technology. We look to scientific predictions and analysis before we look to the Bible. |
| Education | We act as though education and degrees can guarantee our future and success without considering God's plans for our future |
| Medical care | We regard medicine as the way to prolong life and preserve the quality—quite apart from faith and moral living. |
| Financial systems | We place our faith in financial “security”—making as much money as we can for ourselves—forgetting that, while being wise with our money, we must trust God for our needs. |

Isaiah warned Judah not to ally with Egypt ([20:5](#); [30:1-2](#); [31:1](#)). He knew that trust in any nation or any military might was futile. Judah's only hope was to trust in God. Although we don't consciously put our hope for deliverance in political alliances in quite the same way, we often put our hope in other forces.

ASSYRIA ADVANCES



[Isaiah 36:1–37:38](#)

As Sennacherib beautified his capital city, Nineveh, Hezekiah withheld tribute and prepared for battle. The Assyrians advanced toward their rebellious western border, attacking swiftly down the Mediterranean coast. From Lachish, Sennacherib threatened to take Jerusalem, but Isaiah knew his threats would die with him on his return to Nineveh.

THE SERVANT IN ISAIAH

[Isaiah 42:19](#)

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| The nation Israel is called the servant: | 41:8 ; 42:19 ; 43:10 ; 44:1-2 , 21 ; 45:4 ; 48:20 |
| The Messiah is called the Servant: | 42:1-17 ; 49:3 , 5-7 ; 50:10 ; 52:13 ; 53:11 |

The nation was given a mission to serve God, to be custodian of his word, and to be a light to the Gentile nations. Because of sin and rebellion, they failed. God sent his Son, Christ, as Messiah to fulfill his mission on earth.

TODAY'S IDOLATRY

[Isaiah 44](#)

Isaiah tells us, "Who but a fool would make his own god—an idol that cannot help him one bit!" We think of idols as statues of wood or stone, but in reality an idol is anything natural that is given sacred value and power. If your answer to any of the following questions is anything or anyone other than God, you may need to check out who or what you are worshiping.

Who created me?
Whom do I ultimately trust?
Whom do I look to for ultimate truth?
Whom do I look to for security and happiness?
Who is in charge of my future?

MAJOR IDOLS MENTIONED IN THE BIBLE

[Isaiah 46](#)

| Name | Where they were worshiped | What they stood for | What the worship included |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Bel (Marduk) | Babylon | Weather, war, sun god | Prostitution, child sacrifice |
| Nebo (son of Marduk) | Babylon | Learning, astronomy, science | |
| Ashtoreth (Asherah) | Canaan | Goddess of love, childbirth, and fertility | Prostitution |
| Chemosh | Moab | | Child sacrifice |
| Molech | Ammon | National god | Child sacrifice |
| Baal | Canaan | Rain, harvest, symbolized strength and fertility | Prostitution |
| Dagon | Philistia | Harvest, grain, success in farming | Child sacrifice |

THE SPIRIT IN ISAIAH

[Isaiah 63:10-11](#)

| Reference | Main Teaching |
|--------------------------|--|
| 11:2 | The Spirit of the Lord brings wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord. |
| 32:15 | The Spirit of the Lord brings abundance. |
| 34:16 | The Spirit of the Lord carries out God's word. |
| 40:13 | The Spirit of the Lord is the Master Counselor. |
| 42:1 | The Messiah, God's Servant, will be given the Spirit. |
| 44:3-5 | Through the Spirit, God's true children will thrive. |
| 48:16 | The Spirit of the Lord sent Isaiah to prophesy. |
| 61:1 | God's servants (Isaiah and then Jesus) were appointed by the Spirit to proclaim the Good News. |
| 63:10-11 | The Spirit of the Lord was grieved because of God's people. |
| 63:14 | The Spirit of the Lord gives rest. |