

The Life and Times of Isaiah

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Assyrian Kings:

Ashur-dan III (771-754)
Ashur-nirari V (753-746)

Tiglath-pileser III (745-727)

Shalmaneser V (726-722)

Sargon II (721-705)

Sennacherib (704-681)

Esarhaddon (680-669)

Babylonian Kings:

Nabonassar (747-734)

Pulu (Pul, Tiglath-pileser III) (728-727)

Merodach-baladin (721-710, again 703)

Belibni (702-700)

Ashur-nadin-shumi (699-694) son of Sennacherib

Nergel-ushezib (693)

Mushezib-marduk (692-689)

Egyptian Kings: Dynasty 22, 23, & 24 many concurrent Pharaohs - before 716

Dynasty 25 (Nubian): Piankhi (747-716)

Shabaqo (716-702)

Shabitoqo (702-690)

Tirhakah (690-664)

North Israelite Kings:

Jehoahaz (750-746)
Jeroboam II (781-753)
Zechariah (752)
Shallum (752)
Menahem (752-741)
Pekahiah (741-739)
Pekah (739-731)
Hoshea (731-724)

South Israelite Kings:

Jotham (739-730)
Uzziah (767-739)
Ahaz (730-715)
Uzziah from 750)
Hezekiah (715-686)
(co-regent with Ahaz from 728)
Manasseh (686-643)
(co-regent with Hezekiah from 697)

Assyria weak until Tiglath-pileser
Egypt weak until Piankhi
Makes Golden Age possible

Born in Jerusalem ~765

732 - 2Kg15:29 Tiglath-pileser destroys Damascus, reduces North Israel, takes Gilead and Galilee, takes many captives
735 - 2Chr28:5-8
2Kg15:37,16:5-6 'Syrio-Ephraimite War' - Rezin of Aram and Pekah of North Israel attack South Israel

731 - 2Kg15:30 Hoshea kills Pekah, Tiglath-pileser establishes Hoshea as vassal king

725 - 2K17:3-6 Hoshea withholds tribute; seeks support from Egypt; Shalmaneser lays siege

721 - Sargon completes siege, takes many captives

714 - alliance led by Ashdod, including Edom, Moab, and Israel plans rebellion against Sargon

711 - Is20:1-6 Sargon takes Ashdod, crushes the rebellion

701 - 2Kg18:13-16, Is36:1 first invasion of Sennacherib: Egyptian army comes to support Ekron (defeated at Eltekeh), many cities and towns destroyed, Hezekiah besieged in Jerusalem (Jerusalem NOT taken); many captives taken

689 - Sennacherib sacks Babylon

688 - 2Kg18:17-36, 19:1-35//Is36:2-22, 37:1-36 second invasion of Sennacherib; Tirhakah approaches to support Hezekiah, but is defeated

686 - 2Kg21:2-16, 2Chr33:2-9 Manasseh becomes a willing Assyrian vassal - reverts to idolatry of Ahaz

681 - 2Kg19:36-37 //Is37:37-38 death of Sennacherib
Died in Jerusalem ~675

Nothing is known of early life - may have been a cousin of Uzziah

740 - calling by 'The Holy One of Israel' Is6:1-13

735 - Isaiah counsels Ahaz to trust YHWH
Is7:1-25

734 - Ahaz requests help from Tiglath-pileser
2Kg16:7-8
2Chr28:16-21

730 - Ahaz established as vassal of Tiglath-pileser
2Kg16:10-18
2Chr28:22-25

715 - Hezekiah commences reform; cleanses temple; restores temple service; holds passover; extends control into North Israel
2Chr29:3-36, 30:1-37, 31:1; 'Egypt Party' pressures Hezekiah to seek support from Egypt and rebel against Assyria; Isaiah preaches trust in YHWH

705 - at the death of Sargon, Hezekiah withholds tribute
2Kg18:7

701 - Isaiah opposes rebellion; Hezekiah strips palace and temple to pay tribute to Assyria

703 - Hezekiah's illness; Babylonian envoys
2Kg20:1-9, Is38:1-8,21-22, 39:1-8, 2Chr32:24,31

688 - Isaiah counsels Hezekiah to trust YHWH and resist Sennacherib; God destroys the Assyrian army

686 - Isaiah out of favour with Manasseh due to his reversion to idolatry; denounces idolatry in Is40:-66: perhaps killed by Manasseh

Golden Age:

After 753, in full decline in North Israel

Continued until Ahaz in South Israel

Is1: is an introduction to the entire book - likely assembled at the time the book as a whole was assembled

Is2:-5: early preaching - perhaps largely during the time of Jotham; may have originally circulated as an independent document; Is5:13 alludes to Tiglath-pileser in 732

Is7:-12: generally applies to the time of Ahaz
Is7:1-9 735
Is8:1-10 before 732
Is9:1-21 after 732 but before 721
Is11:1-16 around 730

Is13:-23: not individually datable with the exception of 14:29-32 which is 715 and 20:1-6 which is 711; this is the general time frame to which the entire section applies: Hezekiah is commencing reform in rebellion against Assyria; there are 'parties' urging coalition with both Babylon and Egypt; Isaiah demonstrates clearly God is in total control of history - trust in Assyria, Babylon, or Egypt is futile; only YHWH can provide deliverance

Is24:-29: not individually datable; it is the conclusion of 13:-23: (therefore, it applies to the period 715-711); God is in total control - his plan is inexorable; 'world city' will be destroyed, the messianic kingdom (World Tomorrow) will be inaugurated; the New Israel will be created; and salvation will be taken to all humanity

Is30:-35: the same message as 24:-29; it applies to the period around 705; 32:10 is most likely dated to 702; Hezekiah has declared rebellion against Assyria; the 'Egypt party' has the upper hand; Isaiah preaches trust in YHWH not Egypt; Hezekiah seems to have capitulated and leaned on Egypt (2Kg18:21, Is36:6); Isaiah shows the fate of Egypt by YHWH - the one in control of history

Is36:-39: transition to post-Assyria; Assyria's fate is sealed (Is37:22-29,33-35); Babylon is on the horizon as the next representative of 'world city'; Hezekiah's strengths and weaknesses are laid bare; God proceeds at full speed with his plan in spite of the failure of Israel

Is40:-66: the greatest outpouring of prophetic revelation in the Bible; the next phase of God's plan after Babylon - Persia (Cyrus) the next representative of 'world city'; Cyrus will initiate the contemporary return which is a type of the ultimate return creating the New Israel; the 'suffering servant' - the work of Israel, the Messiah, and the New Testament Church; the Kingdom of God

Before his death, Isaiah with help from his disciples (Is8:16, 30:8, 34:16) assembles his book; Is40:-66: perhaps never presented orally, written down only