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Chronological Bible Plan

July



JULY

**“Every day I will bless you and praise
your name forever and ever” (Ps 145:2)**

July 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
July 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
July 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
July 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
July 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
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July 30	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer
July 31	<input type="checkbox"/> Bible Reading	<input type="checkbox"/> Prayer

Elisha Makes an Axhead Float (c. 844–841 BC)

2 Kings 6:1–7

- 1 Some of the prophets said to Elisha, “Look, the place where we meet with you is too cramped for us.
 2 Let’s go to the Jordan. Each of us will get a log from there and we will build a meeting place for ourselves there.” He said, “Go.”
 3 One of them said, “Please come along with your servants.” He replied, “All right, I’ll come.”
 4 So he went with them. When they arrived at the Jordan, they started cutting down trees.
 5 As one of them was felling a log, the ax head dropped into the water. He shouted, “Oh no, my master! It was borrowed!”
 6 The prophet asked, “Where did it drop in?” When he showed him the spot, Elisha cut off a branch, threw it in at that spot, and made the ax head float.
 7 He said, “Lift it out.” So he reached out his hand and grabbed it.

Elisha Traps Syria’s Army (c. 844–841 BC)

2 Kings 6:8–23

- 8 Now the king of Syria was at war with Israel. He consulted his advisers, who said, “Invade at such and such a place.”
 9 But the prophet sent this message to the king of Israel, “Make sure you don’t pass through this place because Syria is invading there.”
 10 So the king of Israel sent a message to the place the prophet had pointed out, warning it to be on its guard. This happened on several occasions.
 11 This made the king of Syria upset. So he summoned his advisers and said to them, “One of us must be helping the king of Israel.”
 12 One of his advisers said, “No, my master, O king. The prophet Elisha who lives in Israel keeps telling the king of Israel the things you say in your bedroom.”
 13 The king ordered, “Go, find out where he is, so I can send some men to capture him.” The king was told, “He is in Dothan.”
 14 So he sent horses and chariots there, along with a good-sized army. They arrived during the night and surrounded the city.
 15 The prophet’s attendant got up early in the morning. When he went outside there was an army surrounding the city, along with horses and chariots. He said to Elisha, “Oh no, my master! What will we do?”
 16 He replied, “Don’t be afraid, for our side outnumbers them.”
 17 Then Elisha prayed, “O LORD, open his eyes so he can see.” The LORD opened the servant’s eyes and he saw that the hill was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.
 18 As they approached him, Elisha prayed to the LORD, “Strike these people with blindness.” The LORD struck them with blindness as Elisha requested.
 19 Then Elisha said to them, “This is not the right road or city. Follow me, and I will lead you to the man you’re looking for.” He led them to Samaria.
 20 When they had entered Samaria, Elisha said, “O LORD, open their eyes, so they can see.” The LORD opened their eyes and they saw that they were in the middle of Samaria.
 21 When the king of Israel saw them, he asked Elisha, “Should I strike them down, my master?”
 22 He replied, “Do not strike them down! You did not capture them with your sword or bow, so what gives you the right to strike them down? Give them some food and water, so they can eat and drink and then go back to their master.”
 23 So he threw a big banquet for them and they ate and drank. Then he sent them back to their master. After that no Syrian raiding parties again invaded the land of Israel.

Ben-Hadad of Syria Besieges Samaria (c. 844–841 BC)

2 Kings 6:24–7:20

Ben-Hadad’s Final Attack on Israel

- 6:24 Later King Ben Hadad of Syria assembled his entire army and attacked and besieged Samaria.
 25 Samaria’s food supply ran out. They laid siege to it so long that a donkey’s head was selling for eighty shekels of silver and a quarter of a kab of dove’s droppings for five shekels of silver.
 26 While the king of Israel was passing by on the city wall, a woman shouted to him, “Help us, my master, O king!”
 27 He replied, “No, let the LORD help you. How can I help you? The threshing floor and winepress are empty.”
 28 Then the king asked her, “What’s your problem?” She answered, “This woman said to me, ‘Hand over your son; we’ll eat him today and then eat my son tomorrow.’
 29 So we boiled my son and ate him. Then I said to her the next day, ‘Hand over your son and we’ll eat him.’ But she hid her son!”
 30 When the king heard what the woman said, he tore his clothes. As he was passing by on the wall, the people could see he was wearing sackcloth under his clothes.
 31 Then he said, “May God judge me severely if Elisha son of Shaphat still has his head by the end of the day!”

Elisha Prophecies Deliverance for Samaria and Disaster for the King's Officer

32 Now Elisha was sitting in his house with the community leaders. The king sent a messenger on ahead, but before he arrived, Elisha said to the leaders, "Do you realize this assassin intends to cut off my head?" Look, when the messenger arrives, shut the door and lean against it. His master will certainly be right behind him."

33 He was still talking to them when the messenger approached and said, "Look, the LORD is responsible for this disaster! Why should I continue to wait for the LORD to help?"

7:1 Elisha replied, "Hear the word of the LORD! This is what the LORD says, 'About this time tomorrow a seah of finely milled flour will sell for a shekel and two seahs of barley for a shekel at the gate of Samaria.'"

2 An officer who was the king's right-hand man responded to the prophet, "Look, even if the LORD made it rain by opening holes in the sky, could this happen so soon?" Elisha said, "Look, you will see it happen with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of the food!"

Four Lepers Take a Desperate Gamble

3 Now four men with a skin disease were sitting at the entrance of the city gate. They said to one another, "Why are we just sitting here waiting to die?

4 If we go into the city, we'll die of starvation, and if we stay here we'll die! So come on, let's defect to the Syrian camp! If they spare us, we'll live; if they kill us—well, we were going to die anyway."

5 So they started toward the Syrian camp at dusk. When they reached the edge of the Syrian camp, there was no one there.

6 The LORD had caused the Syrian camp to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a large army. Then they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has paid the kings of the Hittites and Egypt to attack us!"

7 So they got up and fled at dusk, leaving behind their tents, horses, and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives.

8 When the men with a skin disease reached the edge of the camp, they entered a tent and had a meal. They also took some silver, gold, and clothes and went and hid it all. Then they went back and entered another tent. They looted it and went and hid what they had taken.

Joram Does Not Believe the Lepers

9 Then they said to one another, "It's not right what we're doing! This is a day to celebrate, but we haven't told anyone. If we wait until dawn, we'll be punished. So come on, let's go and inform the royal palace."

10 So they went and called out to the gatekeepers of the city. They told them, "We entered the Syrian camp and there was no one there. We didn't even hear a man's voice. But the horses and donkeys are still tied up, and the tents remain up."

11 The gatekeepers relayed the news to the royal palace.

12 The king got up in the night and said to his advisers, "I will tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know we are starving, so they left the camp and hid in the field, thinking, 'When they come out of the city, we will capture them alive and enter the city.'"

13 One of his advisers replied, "Pick some men and have them take five of the horses that are left in the city. (Even if they are killed, their fate will be no different than that of all the Israelite people—we're all going to die!) Let's send them out so we can know for sure what's going on."

14 So they picked two horsemen and the king sent them out to track the Syrian army. He ordered them, "Go and find out what's going on."

15 So they tracked them as far as the Jordan. The road was filled with clothes and equipment that the Syrians had discarded in their haste. The scouts went back and told the king.

Both of Elisha's Predictions are Fulfilled

16 Then the people went out and looted the Syrian camp. A seah of finely milled flour sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, just as the LORD had said they would.

17 Now the king had placed the officer who was his right-hand man at the city gate. When the people rushed out, they trampled him to death in the gate. This fulfilled the prophet's word which he had spoken when the king tried to arrest him.

18 The prophet told the king, "Two seahs of barley will sell for a shekel, and a seah of finely milled flour for a shekel; this will happen about this time tomorrow in the gate of Samaria."

19 But the officer replied to the prophet, "Look, even if the LORD made it rain by opening holes in the sky, could this happen so soon?" Elisha said, "Look, you will see it happen with your own eyes, but you will not eat any of the food!"

20 This is exactly what happened to him. The people trampled him to death in the city gate.

Jehoram [Judah] Afflicted With Intestinal Disease (843t BC)

2 Chronicles 21:18

18 After all this happened, the LORD afflicted him [Jehoram] with an incurable intestinal disease.

The Death of Jehoram [Judah] (842t BC)

2 Kings 8:23–24	2 Chronicles 21:19–20
<p>23 The rest of the events of Joram’s reign, including a record of his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>24 Joram passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David.</p> <p>His son Ahaziah replaced him as king.</p>	<p>19 After about two years his intestines came out because of the disease, so that he died a very painful death. His people did not make a bonfire to honor him, as they had done for his ancestors.</p> <p>20 Jehoram was thirty-two years old when he became king and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>No one regretted his death; he was buried in the City of David, but not in the royal tombs.</p>

Ahaziah, Jehoram’s Son, Assumes the Throne of Judah (842t BC)

2 Kings 8:25–27	2 Chronicles 22:1–4
<p>25 In the twelfth year [<i>by non-accession reckoning</i>] of the reign of Israel’s King Joram, son of Ahab,</p> <p>Jehoram’s son Ahaziah became king over Judah.</p> <p>26 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. His mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of King Omri of Israel.</p> <p>27 He followed in the footsteps of Ahab’s dynasty and did evil in the sight of the LORD, like Ahab’s dynasty, for he was related to Ahab’s family.</p>	<p>1 The residents of Jerusalem made his youngest son Ahaziah king in his place, for the raiding party that invaded the city with the Arabs had killed all the older sons.</p> <p>So Ahaziah son of Jehoram became king of Judah.</p> <p>2 Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king and he reigned for one year in Jerusalem. His mother was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri.</p> <p>3 He followed in the footsteps of Ahab’s dynasty, for his mother gave him evil advice.</p> <p>4 He did evil in the sight of the LORD like Ahab’s dynasty because, after his father’s death, they gave him advice that led to his destruction.</p>

Elisha Prophesies Hazael as Syria’s Next King (c. 841n BC)

2 Kings 8:7–15
<p>7 Elisha traveled to Damascus while King Ben Hadad of Syria was sick. The king was told, “The prophet has come here.”</p> <p>8 So the king told Hazael, “Take a gift and go visit the prophet. Request from him an oracle from the LORD. Ask him, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’”</p> <p>9 So Hazael went to visit Elisha. He took along a gift, as well as forty camel loads of all the fine things of Damascus. When he arrived, he stood before him and said, “Your son, King Ben Hadad of Syria, has sent me to you with this question, ‘Will I recover from this sickness?’”</p> <p>10 Elisha said to him, “Go and tell him, ‘You will surely recover,’ but the LORD has revealed to me that he will surely die.”</p> <p>11 Elisha just stared at him until Hazael became uncomfortable. Then the prophet started crying.</p> <p>12 Hazael asked, “Why are you crying, my master?” He replied, “Because I know the trouble you will cause the Israelites. You will set fire to their fortresses, kill their young men with the sword, smash their children to bits, and rip open their pregnant women.”</p> <p>13 Hazael said, “How could your servant, who is as insignificant as a dog, accomplish this great military victory?” Elisha answered, “The LORD has revealed to me that you will be the king of Syria.”</p> <p>14 He left Elisha and went to his master. Ben Hadad asked him, “What did Elisha tell you?” Hazael replied, “He told me you would surely recover.”</p> <p>15 The next day Hazael took a piece of cloth, dipped it in water, and spread it over Ben Hadad’s face until he died. Then Hazael replaced him as king.</p>

Joram [Israel], Aided by Ahaziah [Judah], Attacks Hazael (841n BC)

2 Kings 8:28–29	2 Chronicles 22:5–6
<p>28 He joined Ahab's son Joram in a battle against King Hazael of Syria at Ramoth Gilead in which the Syrians defeated Joram.</p> <p>29 King Joram returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he received from the Syrians in Ramah when he fought against King Hazael of Syria. King Ahaziah son of Jehoram of Judah went down to visit Joram son of Ahab in Jezreel, for he was ill.</p>	<p>5 He followed their advice and joined Ahab's son King Joram of Israel in a battle against King Hazael of Syria at Ramoth Gilead in which the Syrians defeated Joram.</p> <p>6 Joram returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he received from the Syrians in Ramah when he fought against King Hazael of Syria. Ahaziah son of King Jehoram of Judah went down to visit Joram son of Ahab in Jezreel, because he had been wounded.</p>

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Elisha Anoints Jehu King of Israel (841n BC)

2 Kings 9:1–13

1 Now Elisha the prophet summoned a member of the prophetic guild and told him, "Tuck your robes into your belt, take this container of olive oil in your hand, and go to Ramoth Gilead.

2 When you arrive there, look for Jehu son of Jehoshaphat son of Nimshi and take him aside into an inner room.

3 Take the container of olive oil, pour it over his head, and say, 'This is what the LORD says, "I have designated you as king over Israel.'" Then open the door and run away quickly!"

4 So the young prophet went to Ramoth Gilead.

5 When he arrived, the officers of the army were sitting there. So he said, "I have a message for you, O officer." Jehu asked, "For which one of us?" He replied, "For you, O officer."

6 So Jehu got up and went inside. Then the prophet poured the olive oil on his head and said to him, "This is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'I have designated you as king over the LORD's people Israel.

7 You will destroy the family of your master Ahab. I will get revenge against Jezebel for the shed blood of my servants the prophets and for the shed blood of all the LORD's servants.

8 Ahab's entire family will die. I will cut off every last male belonging to Ahab in Israel, including even the weak and incapacitated.

9 I will make Ahab's dynasty like those of Jeroboam son of Nebat and Baasha son of Ahijah.

10 Dogs will devour Jezebel on the plot of ground in Jezreel; she will not be buried.'" Then he opened the door and ran away.

11 When Jehu rejoined his master's servants, they asked him, "Is everything all right? Why did this madman visit you?" He replied, "Ah, it's not important. You know what kind of man he is and the kinds of things he says."

12 But they said, "You're lying! Tell us what he said." So he told them what he had said. He also related how he had said, "This is what the LORD says, 'I have designated you as king over Israel.'"

13 Each of them quickly took off his cloak and they spread them out at Jehu's feet on the steps. The trumpet was blown and they shouted, "Jehu is king!"

Jehu Kills Joram [Israel] and Ahaziah [Judah] (841n BC)

2 Kings 9:14–29

2 Chronicles 22:7, 9

Jehu Travels to Jezreel

14 Then Jehu son of Jehoshaphat son of Nimshi conspired against Joram. Now Joram had been in Ramoth Gilead with the whole Israelite army, guarding against an invasion by King Hazael of Syria.

15 But King Joram had returned to Jezreel to recover from the wounds he received from the Syrians when he fought against King Hazael of Syria. Jehu told his supporters, "If you really want me to be king, then don't let anyone escape from the city to go and warn Jezreel."

16 Jehu drove his chariot to Jezreel, for Joram was recuperating there.

(Now King Ahaziah of Judah had come down to visit Joram.)

17 Now the watchman was standing on the tower in Jezreel and saw Jehu's troops approaching. He said, "I see troops!" Jehoram ordered, "Send a rider out to meet them and have him ask, 'Is everything all right?'"

18 So the horseman went to meet him and said, "This is what the king says, 'Is everything all right?'" Jehu replied, "None of your business! Follow me." The watchman reported, "The messenger reached them, but hasn't started back."

19 So he sent a second horseman out to them and he said, "This is what the king says, 'Is everything all right?'" Jehu replied, "None of your business! Follow me."

20 The watchman reported, "He reached them, but hasn't started back. The one who drives the lead chariot drives like Jehu son of Nimshi; he drives recklessly."

Joram and Ahaziah Meet Jehu in Naboth's Vineyard

21 Jehoram ordered, "Hitch up my chariot."

7 God brought about Ahaziah's downfall through his visit to Joram. When Ahaziah arrived,

When his chariot had been hitched up, King Jehoram of Israel and King Ahaziah of Judah went out in their respective chariots to meet Jehu.

They met up with him in the plot of land that had once belonged to Naboth of Jezreel.

22 When Jehoram saw Jehu, he asked, “Is everything all right, Jehu?” He replied, “How can everything be all right as long as your mother Jezebel promotes idolatry and pagan practices?”

23 Jehoram turned his chariot around and took off. He said to Ahaziah, “It’s a trap, Ahaziah!”

Jehu Kills Joram [Israel]

24 Jehu aimed his bow and shot an arrow right between Jehoram’s shoulders. The arrow went through his heart and he fell to his knees in his chariot.

25 Jehu ordered his officer Bidkar, “Pick him up and throw him into the part of the field that once belonged to Naboth of Jezreel. Remember, you and I were riding together behind his father Ahab, when the LORD pronounced this judgment on him,

26 “‘Know for sure that I saw the shed blood of Naboth and his sons yesterday,’” says the LORD, “and that I will give you what you deserve right here in this plot of land,” says the LORD.’ So now pick him up and throw him into this plot of land, just as the LORD said.”

Jehu Kills Ahaziah [Judah]

27 When King Ahaziah of Judah saw what happened, he took off up the road to Beth Haggan. Jehu chased him and ordered, “Shoot him too.” They shot him while he was driving his chariot up the ascent of Gur near Ibleam.

He fled to Megiddo and died there.

28 His servants took his body back to Jerusalem and buried him in his tomb with his ancestors in the city of David.

29 Ahaziah had become king over Judah in the eleventh year [*by accession reckoning*] of Joram son of Ahab.

he went out with Joram to meet Jehu son of Nimshi, whom the LORD had commissioned to wipe out Ahab’s family.

9 He looked for Ahaziah, who was captured while hiding in Samaria. They brought him to Jehu and then executed him. They did give him a burial,

for they reasoned, “He is the son of Jehoshaphat, who sought the LORD with his whole heart.”

There was no one in Ahaziah’s family strong enough to rule in his place.

Jehu Kills Joram’s Mother Jezebel (841n BC)

2 Kings 9:30–37

30 Jehu approached Jezreel. When Jezebel heard the news, she put on some eye liner, fixed up her hair, and leaned out the window.

31 When Jehu came through the gate, she said, “Is everything all right, Zimri, murderer of his master?”

32 He looked up at the window and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” Two or three eunuchs looked down at him.

33 He said, “Throw her down!” So they threw her down, and when she hit the ground, her blood splattered against the wall and the horses, and Jehu drove his chariot over her.

34 He went inside and had a meal. Then he said, “Dispose of this accursed woman’s corpse. Bury her, for after all, she was a king’s daughter.”

35 But when they went to bury her, they found nothing left but the skull, feet, and palms of the hands.

36 When they went back and told him, he said, “The LORD’s word through his servant, Elijah the Tishbite, has come to pass. He warned, ‘In the plot of land at Jezreel, dogs will devour Jezebel’s flesh.

37 Jezebel’s corpse will be like manure on the surface of the ground in the plot of land at Jezreel. People will not be able to even recognize her.’”

Athaliah, Ahaziah's Mother and Ahab's Daughter, Assumes the Throne of Judah (841n BC)

2 Kings 11:1–3

1 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she was determined to destroy the entire royal line.

2 So Jehosheba, the daughter of King Joram and sister of Ahaziah, took Ahaziah's son Joash and sneaked him away from the rest of the royal descendants who were to be executed. She hid him and his nurse in the room where the bed covers were stored.

So he was hidden from Athaliah and escaped execution.

3 He hid out with his nurse in the LORD's temple for six years, while Athaliah was ruling over the land.

2 Chronicles 22:10–12

10 When Athaliah the mother of Ahaziah saw that her son was dead, she was determined to destroy the entire royal line of Judah.

11 So Jehoshabeath, the daughter of King Jehoram, took Ahaziah's son Joash and sneaked him away from the rest of the royal descendants who were to be executed. She hid him and his nurse in the room where the bed covers were stored. So Jehoshabeath the daughter of King Jehoram, wife of Jehoiada the priest and sister of Ahaziah, hid him from Athaliah so she could not execute him.

12 He remained in hiding in God's temple for six years, while Athaliah was ruling over the land.

Jehu [Israel] Kills Ahab's Sons (841n BC)

2 Kings 10:1–11

1 Ahab had seventy sons living in Samaria. So Jehu wrote letters and sent them to Samaria to the leading officials of Jezreel and to the guardians of Ahab's dynasty. This is what the letters said,

2 "You have with you the sons of your master, chariots and horses, a fortified city, and weapons. So when this letter arrives,

3 pick the best and most capable of your master's sons, place him on his father's throne, and defend your master's dynasty."

4 They were absolutely terrified and said, "Look, two kings could not stop him! How can we?"

5 So the palace supervisor, the city commissioner, the leaders, and the guardians sent this message to Jehu, "We are your subjects! Whatever you say, we will do. We will not make anyone king. Do what you consider proper."

6 He wrote them a second letter, saying, "If you are really on my side and are willing to obey me, then take the heads of your master's sons and come to me in Jezreel at this time tomorrow." Now the king had seventy sons, and the prominent men of the city were raising them.

7 When they received the letter, they seized the king's sons and executed all seventy of them. They put their heads in baskets and sent them to him in Jezreel.

8 The messenger came and told Jehu, "They have brought the heads of the king's sons." Jehu said, "Stack them in two piles at the entrance of the city gate until morning."

9 In the morning he went out and stood there. Then he said to all the people, "You are innocent. I conspired against my master and killed him. But who struck down all of these men?"

10 Therefore take note that not one of the judgments the LORD announced against Ahab's dynasty has failed to materialize. The LORD had done what he announced through his servant Elijah."

11 Then Jehu killed all who were left of Ahab's family in Jezreel, and all his nobles, close friends, and priests. He left no survivors.

Jehu [Israel] Kills Ahaziah's [Judah] Relatives (841n BC)

2 Kings 10:12–14

12 Jehu then left there and set out for Samaria. While he was traveling through Beth Eked of the Shepherds,

13 Jehu encountered the relatives of King Ahaziah of Judah.

He asked, "Who are you?" They replied, "We are Ahaziah's relatives. We have come down to see how the king's sons and the queen mother's sons are doing."

14 He said, "Capture them alive!" So they captured them alive and then executed all forty-two of them in the cistern at Beth Eked. He left no survivors.

2 Chronicles 22:8

8 While Jehu was dishing out punishment to Ahab's family, he discovered the officials of Judah and the sons of Ahaziah's relatives who were serving Ahaziah and killed them.

Jehu [Israel] Kills Ahab's Family in Samaria (841n BC)

2 Kings 10:15–17

15 When he left there, he met Jehonadab, son of Rekeb, who had been looking for him. Jehu greeted him and asked, "Are you as committed to me as I am to you?" Jehonadab answered, "I am!" Jehu replied, "If so, give me your hand." So he offered his hand and

Jehu pulled him up into the chariot. [cf. [Jer 35](#)]

16 Jehu said, “Come with me and see how zealous I am for the LORD’s cause.” So he took him along in his chariot.

17 He went to Samaria and exterminated all the members of Ahab’s family who were still alive in Samaria, just as the LORD had announced to Elijah.

Jehu [Israel] Exterminates Baal Worship (841n BC)

2 Kings 10:18–30

18 Jehu assembled all the people and said to them, “Ahab worshiped Baal a little; Jehu will worship him with great devotion.

19 So now, bring to me all the prophets of Baal, as well as all his servants and priests. None of them must be absent, for I am offering a great sacrifice to Baal. Any of them who fail to appear will lose their lives.” But Jehu was tricking them so he could destroy the servants of Baal.

20 Then Jehu ordered, “Make arrangements for a celebration for Baal.” So they announced it.

21 Jehu sent invitations throughout Israel, and all the servants of Baal came; not one was absent. They arrived at the temple of Baal and filled it up from end to end.

22 Jehu ordered the one who was in charge of the wardrobe, “Bring out robes for all the servants of Baal.” So he brought out robes for them.

23 Then Jehu and Jehonadab son of Rekab went to the temple of Baal. Jehu said to the servants of Baal, “Make sure there are no servants of the LORD here with you; there must be only servants of Baal.”

24 They went inside to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings. Now Jehu had stationed eighty men outside. He had told them, “If any of the men inside get away, you will pay with your lives!”

25 When he finished offering the burnt sacrifice, Jehu ordered the royal guard and officers, “Come in and strike them down! Don’t let any escape!” So the royal guard and officers struck them down with the sword and left their bodies lying there. Then they entered the inner sanctuary of the temple of Baal.

26 They hauled out the sacred pillar of the temple of Baal and burned it.

27 They demolished the sacred pillar of Baal and the temple of Baal; it is used as a latrine to this very day.

28 So Jehu eradicated Baal worship from Israel.

29 However, Jehu did not repudiate the sins which Jeroboam son of Nebat had encouraged Israel to commit; the golden calves remained in Bethel and Dan.

30 The LORD said to Jehu, “You have done well. You have accomplished my will and carried out my wishes with regard to Ahab’s dynasty. Therefore four generations of your descendants will rule over Israel.”

The Shunammite Woman Returns to Israel (c. 837 BC)

2 Kings 8:3–6

3 After seven years the woman returned from the land of the Philistines and went to ask the king to give her back her house and field.

4 Now the king was talking to Gehazi, the prophet’s servant, and said, “Tell me all the great things which Elisha has done.”

5 While Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had brought the dead back to life, the woman whose son he had brought back to life came to ask the king for her house and field. Gehazi said, “My master, O king, this is the very woman and this is her son whom Elisha brought back to life!”

6 The king asked the woman about it, and she gave him the details. The king assigned a eunuch to take care of her request and ordered him, “Give her back everything she owns, as well as the amount of crops her field produced from the day she left the land until now.”

God Reduces Israel’s Territory Under Jehu (c. 837–836 BC)

2 Kings 10:31–33

31 But Jehu did not carefully and wholeheartedly obey the law of the LORD God of Israel. He did not repudiate the sins which Jeroboam had encouraged Israel to commit.

32 In those days the LORD began to reduce the size of Israel’s territory. Hazael attacked their eastern border.

33 He conquered all the land of Gilead, including the territory of Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh, extending all the way from the Aroer in the Arnon Valley through Gilead to Bashan.

The Overthrow of Athaliah (836t BC)

2 Kings 11:4–20

4 In the seventh year Jehoiada summoned the officers of the units of hundreds of the Carians and the royal bodyguard.

He met with them in the LORD's temple. He made an agreement with them and made them swear an oath of allegiance in the LORD's temple. Then he showed them the king's son.

5 He ordered them,

"This is what you must do. One third of the unit that is on duty during the Sabbath will guard the royal palace.

6 Another third of you will be stationed at the Foundation Gate. Still another third of you will be stationed at the gate behind the royal guard. You will take turns guarding the palace.

7 The two units who are off duty on the Sabbath will guard the LORD's temple and protect the king.

8 You must surround the king. Each of you must hold his weapon in his hand. Whoever approaches your ranks must be killed. You must accompany the king wherever he goes."

9 The officers of the units of hundreds did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the Sabbath,

and reported to Jehoiada the priest.

10 The priest gave to the officers of the units of hundreds King David's spears and the shields that were kept in the LORD's temple.

11 The royal bodyguard took their stations, each holding his weapon in his hand. They lined up from the south side of the temple to the north side and stood near the altar and the temple, surrounding the king.

12 Jehoiada led out the king's son and placed on him the crown and the royal insignia. They proclaimed him king and poured olive oil on his head. They clapped their hands and cried out, "Long live the king!"

13 When Athaliah heard the royal guard shout,

she joined the crowd at the LORD's temple.

14 Then she saw the king standing by the pillar, according to custom. The officers stood beside the king with their trumpets and all the people of the land were celebrating and blowing trumpets.

Athaliah tore her clothes and screamed, "Treason, treason!"

2 Chronicles 23

1 In the seventh year Jehoiada made a bold move. He made a pact with the officers of the units of hundreds: Azariah son of Jehoram, Ishmael son of Jehochanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zikri.

2 They traveled throughout Judah and assembled the Levites from all the cities of Judah, as well as the Israelite family leaders. They came to Jerusalem,

3 and the whole assembly made a covenant with the king in the temple of God.

Jehoiada said to them, "The king's son will rule, just as the LORD promised David's descendants.

4 This is what you must do. One third of you priests and Levites who are on duty during the Sabbath will guard the doors. 5b and still another third at the Foundation Gate. 5a Another third of you will be stationed at the royal palace

5c All the others will stand in the courtyards of the LORD's temple.

6 No one must enter the LORD's temple except the priests and Levites who are on duty. They may enter because they are ceremonially pure. All the others should carry out their assigned service to the LORD.

7 The Levites must surround the king. Each of you must hold his weapon in his hand. Whoever tries to enter the temple must be killed. You must accompany the king wherever he goes."

8 The Levites and all the men of Judah did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each of them took his men, those who were on duty during the Sabbath as well as those who were off duty on the Sabbath.

Jehoiada the priest did not release his divisions from their duties.

9 Jehoiada the priest gave to the officers of the units of hundreds King David's spears and shields that were kept in God's temple.

10 He placed the men at their posts, each holding his weapon in his hand. They lined up from the south side of the temple to the north side and stood near the altar and the temple, surrounding the king.

11 Jehoiada and his sons led out the king's son and placed on him the crown and the royal insignia. They proclaimed him king and poured olive oil on his head. They declared, "Long live the king!"

12 When Athaliah heard the royal guard shouting and praising the king,

she joined the crowd at the LORD's temple.

13 Then she saw the king standing by his pillar at the entrance.

The officers and trumpeters stood beside the king and all the people of the land were celebrating and blowing trumpets, and the musicians with various instruments were leading the celebration.

Athaliah tore her clothes and yelled, "Treason! Treason!"

<p>15 Jehoiada the priest ordered the officers of the units of hundreds, who were in charge of the army, “Bring her outside the temple to the guards. Put the sword to anyone who follows her.” The priest gave this order because he had decided she should not be executed in the LORD’s temple.</p> <p>16 They seized her and took her into the precincts of the royal palace through the horses’ entrance. There she was executed.</p> <p>17 Jehoiada then drew up a covenant between the LORD and the king and people, stipulating that they should be loyal to the LORD.</p> <p>18 All the people of the land went and demolished the temple of Baal. They smashed its altars and idols to bits. They killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altar.</p> <p>Jehoiada the priest then placed guards at the LORD’s temple.</p> <p>19 He took the officers of the units of hundreds, the Carians, the royal bodyguard, and all the people of land, and together they led the king down from the LORD’s temple. They entered the royal palace through the Gate of the Royal Bodyguard, and the king sat down on the royal throne.</p> <p>20 All the people of the land celebrated, for the city had rest now that they had killed Athaliah with the sword in the royal palace.</p>	<p>14 Jehoiada the priest sent out the officers of the units of hundreds, who were in charge of the army, and ordered them, “Bring her outside the temple to the guards. Put the sword to anyone who follows her.” The priest gave this order because he had decided she should not be executed in the LORD’s temple.</p> <p>15 They seized her and took her into the precincts of the royal palace through the horses’ entrance. There they executed her.</p> <p>16 Jehoiada then drew up a covenant stipulating that he, all the people, and the king should be loyal to the LORD.</p> <p>17 All the people went and demolished the temple of Baal. They smashed its altars and idols. They killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars.</p> <p>18 Jehoiada then assigned the duties of the LORD’s temple to the priests, the Levites whom David had assigned to the LORD’s temple. They were responsible for offering burnt sacrifices to the LORD with joy and music, according to the law of Moses and the edict of David.</p> <p>19 He posted guards at the gates of the LORD’s temple, so no one who was ceremonially unclean in any way could enter.</p> <p>20 He summoned the officers of the units of hundreds, the nobles, the rulers of the people, and all the people of land, and he then led the king down from the LORD’s temple. They entered the royal palace through the Upper Gate and seated the king on the royal throne.</p> <p>21 All the people of the land celebrated, for the city had rest now that they had killed Athaliah.</p>
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Joash, Ahaziah’s Son, Assumes the Throne of Judah (836t BC)

2 Kings 11:21–12:3	2 Chronicles 24:1–3
<p>11:21 Jehoash was seven years old when he began to reign.</p> <p>12:1 In Jehu’s seventh year Jehoash became king; he reigned for forty years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>His mother was Zibiah, who was from Beer Sheba.</p> <p>2 Throughout his lifetime Jehoash did what the LORD approved, just as Jehoiada the priest taught him.</p> <p>3 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places.</p>	<p>1 Joash was seven years old when he began to reign.</p> <p>He reigned for forty years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>His mother was Zibiah, who was from Beer Sheba.</p> <p>2 Joash did what the LORD approved throughout the lifetime of Jehoiada the priest.</p> <p>3 Jehoiada chose two wives for him who gave him sons and daughters.</p>

Joel’s Prophecy to Judah (c. 830 BC)

Joel 1–3

Judah Devastated by an Invasion of Locusts

1:1 This is the LORD’s message that was given to Joel the son of Pethuel:

- 2 Listen to this, you elders;
pay attention, all inhabitants of the land.
Has anything like this ever happened in your whole life
or in the lifetime of your ancestors?
- 3 Tell your children about it,
have your children tell their children,
and their children the following generation.
- 4 What the *gazam*-locust left the *’arbeh*-locust consumed,

- what the *'arbeh*-locust left the *yeleq*-locust consumed,
and what the *yeleq*-locust left the *hasil*-locust consumed!
- 5 Wake up, you drunkards, and weep!
Wail, all you wine drinkers,
because the sweet wine has been taken away from you.
- 6 For a nation has invaded our land.
There are so many of them they are too numerous to count.
Their teeth are like those of a lion;
they tear apart their prey like a lioness.
- 7 They have destroyed our vines;
they have turned our fig trees into mere splinters.
They have completely stripped off the bark and thrown them aside;
the twigs are stripped bare.
- 8 Wail like a young virgin clothed in sackcloth,
lamenting the death of her husband-to-be.
- 9 No one brings grain offerings or drink offerings
to the temple of the LORD anymore.
So the priests, those who serve the LORD, are in mourning.
- 10 The crops of the fields have been destroyed.
The ground is in mourning because the grain has perished.
The fresh wine has dried up; the olive oil languishes.
- 11 Be distressed, farmers;
wail, vinedressers, over the wheat and the barley.
For the harvest of the field has perished.
- 12 The vine has dried up;
the fig tree languishes—
the pomegranate, date, and apple as well.
In fact, all the trees of the field have dried up.
Indeed, the joy of the people has dried up!
- 13 Get dressed and lament, you priests!
Wail, you who minister at the altar!
Come, spend the night in sackcloth, you servants of my God,
because no one brings grain offerings or drink offerings
to the temple of your God anymore.
- 14 Announce a holy fast;
proclaim a sacred assembly.
Gather the elders and all the inhabitants of the land
to the temple of the LORD your God,
and cry out to the LORD.
- 15 How awful that day will be!
For the day of the LORD is near;
it will come as destruction from the Divine Destroyer.
- 16 Our food has been cut off right before our eyes!
There is no longer any joy or gladness in the temple of our God!
- 17 The grains of seed have shriveled beneath their shovels.
Storehouses have been decimated
and granaries have been torn down, for the grain has dried up.
- 18 Listen to the cattle groan!
The herds of livestock wander around in confusion
because they have no pasture.
Even the flocks of sheep are suffering.
- 19 To you, O LORD, I call out for help,
for fire has burned up the grassy pastures,
flames have razed all the trees in the fields.
- 20 Even the wild animals cry out to you;
for the river beds have dried up;
fire has destroyed the grassy pastures.

The Coming “Day of the LORD”

- 2:1 Blow the trumpet in Zion;
sound the alarm signal on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land shake with fear,
for the day of the LORD is about to come.
Indeed, it is near!
- 2 It will be a day of dreadful darkness,
a day of foreboding storm clouds,
like blackness spread over the mountains.
It is a huge and powerful army—
there has never been anything like it ever before,
and there will not be anything like it for many generations to come!
- 3 Like fire they devour everything in their path;
a flame blazes behind them.
The land looks like the Garden of Eden before them,
but behind them there is only a desolate wilderness—
for nothing escapes them!
- 4 They look like horses;
they charge ahead like war horses.
- 5 They sound like chariots rumbling over mountain tops,
like the crackling of blazing fire consuming stubble,
like the noise of a mighty army being drawn up for battle.
- 6 People writhe in fear when they see them.
All of their faces turn pale with fright.
- 7 They charge like warriors;
they scale walls like soldiers.
Each one proceeds on his course;
they do not alter their path.
- 8 They do not jostle one another;
each of them marches straight ahead.
They burst through the city defenses
and do not break ranks.
- 9 They rush into the city;
they scale its walls.
They climb up into the houses;
they go in through the windows like a thief.
- 10 The earth quakes before them;
the sky reverberates.
The sun and the moon grow dark;
the stars refuse to shine.
- 11 The voice of the LORD thunders as he leads his army.
Indeed, his warriors are innumerable;
Surely his command is carried out!
Yes, the day of the LORD is awesome
and very terrifying—who can survive it?

A Call to Repentance

- 12 “Yet even now,” the LORD says,
“return to me with all your heart—
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
Tear your hearts, not just your garments!”
- 13 Return to the LORD your God,
for he is merciful and compassionate,
slow to anger and boundless in loyal love—
often relenting from calamitous punishment.
- 14 Who knows?
Perhaps he will be compassionate and grant a reprieve,
and leave blessing in his wake—

- a meal offering and a drink offering for you to offer to the LORD your God!
- 15 Blow the trumpet in Zion.
Announce a holy fast;
proclaim a sacred assembly!
- 16 Gather the people;
sanctify an assembly!
Gather the elders;
gather the children and the nursing infants.
Let the bridegroom come out from his bedroom
and the bride from her private quarters.
- 17 Let the priests, those who serve the LORD, weep
from the vestibule all the way back to the altar.
Let them say, "Have pity, O LORD, on your people;
please do not turn over your inheritance to be mocked,
to become a proverb among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
"Where is their God?"

The LORD Has Mercy on Israel

- 18 Then the LORD became zealous for his land;
he had compassion on his people.
- 19 The LORD responded to his people,
"Look! I am about to restore your grain
as well as fresh wine and olive oil.
You will be fully satisfied.
I will never again make you an object of mockery among the nations.
- 20 I will remove the one from the north far from you.
I will drive him out to a dry and desolate place.
Those in front will be driven eastward into the Dead Sea,
and those in back westward into the Mediterranean Sea.
His stench will rise up as a foul smell."
Indeed, the LORD has accomplished great things.
- 21 Do not fear, my land!
Rejoice and be glad,
because the LORD has accomplished great things!
- 22 Do not fear, wild animals!
For the pastures of the wilderness are again green with grass.
Indeed, the trees bear their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield to their fullest.
- 23 Citizens of Zion, rejoice!
Be glad because of what the LORD your God has done!
For he has given to you the early rains as vindication.
He has sent to you the rains—
both the early and the late rains as formerly.
- 24 The threshing floors are full of grain;
the vats overflow with fresh wine and olive oil.
- 25 I will make up for the years
that the *'arbeh*-locust consumed your crops—
the *yeleq*-locust, the *hasil*-locust, and the *gazam*-locust—
my great army that I sent against you.
- 26 You will have plenty to eat,
and your hunger will be fully satisfied;
you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has acted wondrously in your behalf.
My people will never again be put to shame.
- 27 You will be convinced that I am in the midst of Israel.
I am the LORD your God; there is no other.
My people will never again be put to shame.

The LORD Will Pour Out His Spirit

- 28 After all of this
I will pour out my Spirit on all kinds of people.
Your sons and daughters will prophesy.
Your elderly will have revelatory dreams;
your young men will see prophetic visions.
- 29 Even on male and female servants
I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
- 30 I will produce portents both in the sky and on the earth—
blood, fire, and columns of smoke.
- 31 The sunlight will be turned to darkness
and the moon to the color of blood,
before the day of the LORD comes—
that great and terrible day!
- 32 It will so happen that
everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be delivered. [[Rom 10:13](#)]
For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be those who survive, [[Obad 1:17](#)]
just as the LORD has promised;
the remnant will be those whom the LORD will call. [[Acts 2:17–21](#)]

The LORD Judges the Nations

- 3:1 For look! In those days and at that time
I will return the exiles to Judah and Jerusalem.
- 2 Then I will gather all the nations,
and bring them down to the valley of Jehoshaphat. [[Zech 14:4](#)]
I will enter into judgment against them there
concerning my people Israel who are my inheritance,
whom they scattered among the nations.
They partitioned my land,
and they cast lots for my people.
- 3 They traded a boy for a prostitute;
they sold a little girl for wine so they could drink.
- 4 Why are you doing these things to me, Tyre and Sidon?
Are you trying to get even with me, land of Philistia?
I will very quickly repay you for what you have done!
- 5 For you took my silver and my gold
and brought my precious valuables to your own palaces.
- 6 You sold Judeans and Jerusalemites to the Greeks,
removing them far from their own country.
- 7 Look! I am rousing them from that place to which you sold them.
I will repay you for what you have done!
- 8 I will sell your sons and daughters to the people of Judah.
They will sell them to the Sabeans, a nation far away.
Indeed, the LORD has spoken!
- 9 Proclaim this among the nations:
“Prepare for a holy war!
Call out the warriors!
Let all these fighting men approach and attack!
- 10 Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears!
Let the weak say, ‘I too am a warrior!’
- 11 Lend your aid and come,
all you surrounding nations,
and gather yourselves to that place.”
Bring down, O LORD, your warriors!
- 12 Let the nations be roused and let them go up
to the valley of Jehoshaphat,
for there I will sit in judgment on all the surrounding nations.

- 13 Rush forth with the sickle, for the harvest is ripe!
Come, stomp the grapes, for the winepress is full!
The vats overflow.
Indeed, their evil is great! [[Rev 14:15](#)]
- 14 Crowds, great crowds are in the valley of decision,
for the day of the LORD is near in the valley of decision!
- 15 The sun and moon are darkened;
the stars withhold their brightness.
- 16 The LORD roars from Zion;
from Jerusalem his voice bellows out.
The heavens and the earth shake.
But the LORD is a refuge for his people;
he is a stronghold for the citizens of Israel.

The Glorious Future of Judah

- 17 You will be convinced that I the LORD am your God,
dwelling on Zion, my holy mountain.
Jerusalem will be holy—
conquering armies will no longer pass through it.
- 18 On that day the mountains will drip with sweet wine,
and the hills will flow with milk.
All the dry stream beds of Judah will flow with water.
A spring will flow out from the temple of the LORD,
watering the Valley of Acacia Trees.
- 19 Egypt will be desolate
and Edom will be a desolate wilderness,
because of the violence they did to the people of Judah,
in whose land they shed innocent blood.
- 20 But Judah will reside securely forever,
and Jerusalem will be secure from one generation to the next.
- 21 I will avenge their blood which I had not previously acquitted.
It is the LORD who dwells in Zion!

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Chronological Notes

1) The date of Joel.¹

A) Early pre-exilic date.²

(1) During the reign of King Jehoshaphat (873t–849t BC), or his grandson, King Joash (836t–797t BC).

(2) Arguments in favor of this period include the position of Joel in the Hebrew canon; it appears among other prophetic writings of this period. Also, the enemies of Israel that Joel named (Tyre, Sidon, Philistia [cf. 2 Chron. 21:16–17], Egypt [cf. 1 Kings 14:25–26], and Edom [cf. 2 Kings 8:20–22]; 3:2–7, 19) were enemies of Israel during this time. The prominence Joel gave to Judah’s priests and elders rather than to her king—Joash was a boy king under the influence of Jehoiada, the high priest, early in his reign—is a further argument for this view.

¹ Sourced from Thomas L. Constable, “Notes on Joel,” Online: <http://www.soniclight.com>.

² Advocates of this view include Hobart E. Freeman, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*, 148; Gleason A. Archer Jr., *A Survey of Old Testament Introduction*, 305; E. J. Young, *An Introduction to the Old Testament*, 271–72; C. F. Keil, *The Twelve Minor Prophets*, 1:169–70; Walter C. Kaiser Jr., *Toward an Old Testament Theology*, 188; Charles H. Dyer, *The Old Testament Explorer*, 737; Warren W. Wiersbe, “Joel,” in *The Bible Exposition Commentary/Prophets*, 333; and Leon J. Wood, *The Prophets of Israel*, 268.

B) Middle pre-exilic date.³

- (1) During the reign of Joash's grandson, King Uzziah (791t–740t BC).
- (2) Supporters of this view also claim the first two arguments cited in favor of the early pre-exilic view above. They argue, in addition, that the absence of references to Assyria, Babylonia, and Persia make a later date, when these nations were the major ancient Near Eastern superpowers, unlikely. Joel's reference to Greece in 3:6 may fit this period since the Ionian Greeks were at this time expanding their commercial influence in Asia Minor. Joel's reference to the Sabeans in 3:8 is appropriate for this period as well. Internal references and linguistic characteristics may also reflect Uzziah's times, and are similar to the writings of the other eighth-century prophets (i.e., Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah).

C) Late pre-exilic date.⁴

- (1) Between 597 and 587 BC.
- (2) Statements in Joel could fit this period, and some of his statements are similar to those of Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and may reflect conditions before the destruction of Jerusalem. If true, Joel would have been a contemporary of Jeremiah, Habakkuk, and Zephaniah. Yet Joel 2:18–19 seems to imply that God had been merciful to Joel's generation, suggesting that the people had repented, but there is no record of this happening during this period.

D) Post-exilic date.⁵

- (1) Between 515 and 500 BC, or even as late as sometime in the 400s BC.
- (2) Interpreters who see Joel 3:1–2 and 17 as references to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Babylonian Captivity take the references to the temple in 1:9, 13 and 2:17 as applying to the second temple (completed in 515 BC). Yet all these texts could apply to earlier periods. Generally, scholars who view apocalyptic writing as a late development in Judaism tend to date Joel quite late.

E) The wide variety of views on the dating of Joel demonstrate how difficult it is to date.⁶ I have opted to present Joel within the reign of King Joash (c. 830 BC).

³ Advocates include Richard D. Patterson, "Joel," in *Daniel–Malachi*, vol. 7 of *The Expositor's Bible Commentary*, 231–33.

⁴ Advocates include Wilhelm Rudolph, *Joel-Amos-Obadja-Jona*, 14–15; and Arvid S. Kapelrud, *Joel Studies*, 154–58.

⁵ Advocates include Robert B. Chisholm Jr., "Joel," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: Old Testament*, 1410; idem, "A Theology of the Minor Prophets," in *A Biblical Theology of the Old Testament*, 387; idem, *Handbook on the Prophets*, 368; Raymond B. Dillard, "Joel," in *The Minor Prophets*, 240–42 (though see 301–2); David A. Hubbard, *Joel and Amos*, 27; and John Bright, *A History of Israel*, 417.

⁶ For an excellent examination of all the evidences used in dating Joel, see Duane A. Garrett, "Hosea Joel," *NAC*, 287–294. He concludes: "In summary, clear pointers to the date of Joel are few and far between."

Joash [Judah] Commissions the Levites to Repair the Temple (c. 820 BC)

2 Kings 12:4–5

2 Chronicles 24:4–5

4 Jehoash said to the priests,

“I place at your disposal all the consecrated silver that has been brought to the LORD’s temple, including the silver collected from the census tax, the silver received from those who have made vows, and all the silver that people have voluntarily contributed to the LORD’s temple.

5 The priests should receive the silver they need from the treasurers and repair any damage to the temple they discover.”

4 Joash was determined to repair the LORD’s temple.

5 He assembled the priests and Levites and ordered them, “Go out to the cities of Judah and collect the annual quota of silver from all Israel for repairs on the temple of your God.

Be quick about it!” But the Levites delayed.

The Temple is Finally Repaired (814t BC)

2 Kings 12:6–16

2 Chronicles 24:6–14

6 By the twenty-third year of King Jehoash’s reign the priests had still not repaired the damage to the temple.

7 So King Jehoash summoned Jehoiada the priest along with the other priests, and said to them, “Why have you not repaired the damage to the temple?

Now, take no more silver from your treasurers unless you intend to use it to repair the damage.”

8 The priests agreed not to collect silver from the people and relieved themselves of personal responsibility for the temple repairs.

9 Jehoiada the priest took a chest and drilled a hole in its lid. He placed it on the right side of the altar near the entrance of the LORD’s temple. The priests who guarded the entrance would put into it all the silver brought to the LORD’s temple.

10 When they saw the chest was full of silver, the royal secretary and the high priest

counted the silver that had been brought to the LORD’s temple and bagged it up.

11 They would then hand over the silver that had been weighed to the construction foremen assigned to the LORD’s temple. They hired carpenters and builders to work on the LORD’s temple, 12 as well as masons and stonecutters.

6 So the king summoned Jehoiada the chief priest, and said to him,

“Why have you not made the Levites collect from Judah and Jerusalem the tax authorized by Moses the LORD’s servant and by the assembly of Israel at the tent containing the tablets of the law?”

7 (Wicked Athaliah and her sons had broken into God’s temple and used all the holy items of the LORD’s temple in their worship of the Baals.)

8 The king ordered a chest to be made and placed outside the gate of the LORD’s temple.

9 An edict was sent throughout Judah and Jerusalem requiring the people to bring to the LORD the tax that Moses, God’s servant, imposed on Israel in the wilderness.

10 All the officials and all the people gladly brought their silver and threw it into the chest until it was full.

11 Whenever the Levites brought the chest to the royal accountant and they saw there was a lot of silver, the royal scribe and the accountant of the high priest emptied the chest and then took it back to its place.

They went through this routine every day and collected a large amount of silver.

12 The king and Jehoiada gave it to the construction foremen assigned to the LORD’s temple. They hired carpenters and craftsmen to repair the LORD’s temple, as well as those skilled in working with iron and bronze to restore the LORD’s temple.

They bought wood and chiseled stone to repair the damage to the LORD's temple and also paid for all the other expenses.
 13 The silver brought to the LORD's temple was not used for silver bowls, trimming shears, basins, trumpets, or any kind of gold or silver implements.
 14 It was handed over to the foremen who used it to repair the LORD's temple.
 15 They did not audit the treasurers who disbursed the funds to the foremen, for they were honest.
 16 (The silver collected in conjunction with reparation offerings and sin offerings was not brought to the LORD's temple; it belonged to the priests.)

13 They worked hard and made the repairs. They followed the measurements specified for God's temple and restored it.
 14 When they were finished, they brought the rest of the silver to the king and Jehoiada. They used it to make items for the LORD's temple, including items used in the temple service and for burnt sacrifices, pans, and various other gold and silver items. Throughout Jehoiada's lifetime, burnt sacrifices were offered regularly in the LORD's temple.

The Death of Jehu [Israel] (814n BC)

2 Kings 10:34–36

34 The rest of the events of Jehu's reign, including all his accomplishments and successes, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.
 35 Jehu passed away and was buried in Samaria. His son Jehoahaz replaced him as king.
 36 Jehu reigned over Israel for twenty-eight years in Samaria.

Jehoahaz, Jehu's Son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (814n BC)

2 Kings 13:1–2

1 In the twenty-third year of the reign of Judah's King Joash son of Ahaziah, Jehu's son Jehoahaz became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for seventeen years.
 2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD. He continued in the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who had encouraged Israel to sin; he did not repudiate those sins.

Hazael [Syria] Oppresses Israel (c. 810–800 BC)

2 Kings 13:3–5

3 The LORD was furious with Israel and handed them over to King Hazael of Syria and to Hazael's son Ben Hadad for many years.
 4 Jehoahaz asked for the LORD's mercy and the LORD responded favorably, for he saw that Israel was oppressed by the king of Syria.
 5 The LORD provided a deliverer for Israel and they were freed from Syria's power. The Israelites once more lived in security.

The Death of Jehoiada and Joash's [Judah] Apostasy (c. 800 BC)

2 Chronicles 24:15–19

15 Jehoiada grew old and died at the age of 130.
 16 He was buried in the City of David with the kings, because he had accomplished good in Israel and for God and his temple.
 17 After Jehoiada died, the officials of Judah visited the king and declared their loyalty to him. The king listened to their advice.
 18 They abandoned the temple of the LORD God of their ancestors, and worshiped the Asherah poles and idols. Because of this sinful activity, God was angry with Judah and Jerusalem.
 19 The LORD sent prophets among them to lead them back to him. They warned the people, but they would not pay attention.

The Death of Jehoahaz [Israel] (798n BC)

2 Kings 13:6–9

6 But they did not repudiate the sinful ways of the family of Jeroboam, who encouraged Israel to sin; they continued in those sins. There was even an Asherah pole standing in Samaria.

7 Jehoahaz had no army left except for fifty horsemen, ten chariots, and 10,000 foot soldiers. The king of Syria had destroyed his troops and trampled on them like dust.

8 The rest of the events of Jehoahaz's reign, including all his accomplishments and successes, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.

9 Jehoahaz passed away and was buried in Samaria. His son Joash replaced him as king.

Jehoash, Jehoahaz's Son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (798n BC)

2 Kings 13:10–11

10 In the thirty-seventh year of King Joash's reign over Judah, Jehoahaz's son Jehoash became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for sixteen years.

11 He did evil in the sight of the LORD. He did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin; he continued in those sins.

Joash [Judah] Murders Jehoiada's Son Zechariah (797t BC)

2 Chronicles 24:20–22

20 God's Spirit energized Zechariah son of Jehoiada the priest. He stood up before the people and said to them, "This is what God says: 'Why are you violating the commands of the LORD? You will not be prosperous! Because you have rejected the LORD, he has rejected you!'"

21 They plotted against him and by royal decree stoned him to death in the courtyard of the LORD's temple. [[Matt 23:35](#); [Luke 11:51](#)]

22 King Joash disregarded the loyalty his father Jehoiada had shown him and killed Jehoiada's son. As Zechariah was dying, he said, "May the LORD take notice and seek vengeance!"

The Death of Joash [Judah] (797t BC)

2 Kings 12:17–21

17 At that time King Hazael of Syria attacked Gath and captured it. Hazael then decided to attack Jerusalem.

18 King Jehoash of Judah collected all the sacred items that his ancestors Jehoshaphat, Jehoram, and Ahaziah, kings of Judah, had consecrated, as well as his own sacred items and all the gold that could be found in the treasuries of the LORD's temple and the royal palace.

He sent it all to King Hazael of Syria, who then withdrew from Jerusalem.

19 The rest of the events of Joash's reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.

20 His servants conspired against him

and murdered Joash at Beth-Millo, on the road that goes down to Silla.

2 Chronicles 24:23–27

23 At the beginning of the year the Syrian army attacked Joash and invaded Judah and Jerusalem. They wiped out all the leaders of the people

and sent all the plunder they gathered to the king of Damascus.

24 Even though the invading Syrian army was relatively weak, the LORD handed over to them Judah's very large army, for the people of Judah had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors. The Syrians gave Joash what he deserved.

25 When they withdrew, they left Joash badly wounded.

His servants plotted against him because of what he had done to the son of Jehoiada the priest. They murdered him on his bed.

Thus he died and was buried in the City of David,

<p>21 His servants Jozabad son of Shimeath and Jehozabad son of Shomer murdered him. He was buried with his ancestors in the city of David.</p> <p>His son Amaziah replaced him as king.</p>	<p>but not in the tombs of the kings.</p> <p>26 The conspirators were Zabad son of Shimeath (an Ammonite woman) and Jehozabad son of Shimrith (a Moabite woman).</p> <p>27 The list of Joash’s sons, the many prophetic oracles pertaining to him, and the account of his building project on God’s temple are included in the record of the Scroll of the Kings.</p> <p>His son Amaziah replaced him as king.</p>
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Chronological Notes

- 1) Merrill insists that “the Aramean invasion which set the stage for Joash’s death cannot be the same as the campaign under Hazael which is described in 2 Kings 12:17–18, for Hazael died in 801 and Joash lived on until 796. Besides, the two accounts share virtually nothing except the common foe. For example, only 2 Kings records the detail that Jerusalem would have fallen had not Joash bought off the Aramean king by emptying the temple treasury.”¹ However, most scholars see 2 Kings 12:17–18 and 2 Chronicles 24:23–24 as describing the same event.²

¹ Eugene H. Merrill, *Kingdom of Priests*, 364–65. Davis sides with Merrill (Dale R. Davis, *2 Kings: The Power and the Fury*, 184 n. 8.)

² Keil & Delitzsch, *Commentary on the Old Testament*, vol. 3, p. 264.

Amaziah, Joash's Son, Assumes the Throne of Judah (797t BC)

2 Kings 14:1–6

1 In the second year of the reign of Israel's King Joash son of Joahaz, Joash's son Amaziah became king over Judah.
 2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jehoaddan, who was from Jerusalem.
 3 He did what the LORD approved, but not like David his father. He followed the example of his father Joash.
 4 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places.
 5 When he had secured control of the kingdom, he executed the servants who had assassinated his father.
 6 But he did not execute the sons of the assassins. He obeyed the LORD's commandment as recorded in the law scroll of Moses, "Fathers must not be put to death for what their sons do, and sons must not be put to death for what their fathers do. A man must be put to death only for his own sin." [Deut 24:16]

2 Chronicles 25:1–4

1 Amaziah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Jehoaddan, who was from Jerusalem.
 2 He did what the LORD approved, but not with wholehearted devotion.
 3 When he had secured control of the kingdom, he executed the servants who had assassinated his father.
 4 However, he did not execute their sons. He obeyed the LORD's commandment as recorded in the law scroll of Moses, "Fathers must not be executed for what their sons do, and sons must not be executed for what their fathers do. A man must be executed only for his own sin."

The Death of Elisha (c. 790 BC)

2 Kings 13:14–21

14 Now Elisha had a terminal illness. King Joash of Israel went down to visit him. He wept before him and said, "My father, my father! The chariot and horsemen of Israel!"
 15 Elisha told him, "Take a bow and some arrows," and he did so.
 16 Then Elisha told the king of Israel, "Aim the bow." He did so, and Elisha placed his hands on the king's hands.
 17 Elisha said, "Open the east window," and he did so. Elisha said, "Shoot!" and he did so. Elisha said, "This arrow symbolizes the victory the LORD will give you over Syria. You will annihilate Syria in Aphek!"
 18 Then Elisha said, "Take the arrows," and he did so. He told the king of Israel, "Strike the ground!" He struck the ground three times and stopped.
 19 The prophet got angry at him and said, "If you had struck the ground five or six times, you would have annihilated Syria! But now, you will defeat Syria only three times."
 20 Elisha died and was buried. Moabite raiding parties invaded the land at the beginning of the year.
 21 One day some men were burying a man when they spotted a raiding party. So they threw the dead man into Elisha's tomb. When the body touched Elisha's bones, the dead man came to life and stood on his feet.

Elisha's Last Prophecy is Fulfilled (c. 789 BC)

2 Kings 13:22–25

22 Now King Hazael of Syria oppressed Israel throughout Jehoahaz's reign.
 23 But the LORD had mercy on them and felt pity for them. He extended his favor to them because of the promise he had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He has been unwilling to destroy them or remove them from his presence to this very day.
 24 When King Hazael of Syria died, his son Ben Hadad replaced him as king.
 25 Jehoahaz's son Jehoash took back from Ben Hadad son of Hazael the cities that he had taken from his father Jehoahaz in war. Joash defeated him three times and recovered the Israelite cities.

Amaziah [Judah] Attacks Edom (c. 786 BC)

2 Kings 14:7

2 Chronicles 25:5–16

5 Amaziah assembled the people of Judah and assigned them by families to the commanders of units of a thousand and the commanders of units of a hundred for all Judah and Benjamin. He counted those twenty years old and up and discovered there were 300,000 young men of fighting age equipped with spears and shields.

<p>7 He defeated 10,000 Edomites in the Salt Valley; he captured Sela in battle and renamed it Joktheel, a name it has retained to this very day.</p>	<p>6 He hired 100,000 Israelite warriors for a hundred talents of silver. 7 But a prophet visited him and said: "O king, the Israelite troops must not go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel or any of the Ephraimites. 8 Even if you go and fight bravely in battle, God will defeat you before the enemy. God is capable of helping or defeating." 9 Amaziah asked the prophet: "But what should I do about the hundred talents of silver I paid the Israelite troops?" The prophet replied, "The LORD is capable of giving you more than that." 10 So Amaziah dismissed the troops that had come to him from Ephraim and sent them home. They were very angry at Judah and returned home incensed. 11 Amaziah boldly led his army to the Valley of Salt, where he defeated 10,000 Edomites. 12 The men of Judah captured 10,000 men alive. They took them to the top of a cliff and threw them over. All the captives fell to their death. 13 Now the troops Amaziah had dismissed and had not allowed to fight in the battle raided the cities of Judah from Samaria to Beth Horon. They killed 3,000 people and carried off a large amount of plunder. 14 When Amaziah returned from defeating the Edomites, he brought back the gods of the people of Seir and made them his personal gods. He bowed down before them and offered them sacrifices. 15 The LORD was angry at Amaziah and sent a prophet to him, who said, "Why are you following these gods that could not deliver their own people from your power?" 16 While he was speaking, Amaziah said to him, "Did we appoint you to be a royal counselor? Stop prophesying or else you will be killed!" So the prophet stopped, but added, "I know that the LORD has decided to destroy you, because you have done this thing and refused to listen to my advice."</p>
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Amaziah [Judah] Attacks Jehoash [Israel] (c. 784 BC)

2 Kings 14:8–14	2 Chronicles 25:17–24
<p>8 Then Amaziah sent messengers to Jehoash son of Jehoahaz son of Jehu, king of Israel. He said, "Come, let's meet face to face." 9 King Jehoash of Israel sent this message back to King Amaziah of Judah, "A thorn bush in Lebanon sent this message to a cedar in Lebanon, 'Give your daughter to my son as a wife.' Then a wild animal of Lebanon came by and trampled down the thorn. 10 You thoroughly defeated Edom and it has gone to your head! Gloat over your success, but stay in your palace. Why bring calamity on yourself? Why bring down yourself and Judah along with you?" 11 But Amaziah would not heed the warning, so King Jehoash of Israel attacked. He and King Amaziah of Judah met face to face</p>	<p>17 After King Amaziah of Judah consulted with his advisers, he sent this message to the king of Israel, Joash son of Jehoahaz, the son of Jehu, "Come, face me on the battlefield." 18 King Joash of Israel sent this message back to King Amaziah of Judah, "A thorn bush in Lebanon sent this message to a cedar in Lebanon, 'Give your daughter to my son as a wife.' Then a wild animal of Lebanon came by and trampled down the thorn bush. 19 You defeated Edom and it has gone to your head. Gloat over your success, but stay in your palace. Why bring calamity on yourself? Why bring down yourself and Judah along with you?" 20 But Amaziah did not heed the warning, for God wanted to hand them over to Joash because they followed the gods of Edom. 21 So King Joash of Israel attacked. He and King Amaziah of Judah faced each other on the battlefield</p>

<p>in Beth Shemesh of Judah. 12 Judah was defeated by Israel, and each man ran back home. 13 King Jehoash of Israel captured King Amaziah of Judah, son of Jehoash son of Ahaziah, in Beth Shemesh.</p> <p>He attacked Jerusalem and broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—a distance of about six hundred feet. 14 He took away all the gold and silver, all the items found in the LORD's temple and in the treasuries of the royal palace, and some hostages. Then he went back to Samaria.</p>	<p>in Beth Shemesh of Judah. 22 Judah was defeated by Israel, and each man ran back home. 23 King Joash of Israel captured King Amaziah of Judah, son of Joash son of Jehoahaz, in Beth Shemesh and brought him to Jerusalem. He broke down the wall of Jerusalem from the Gate of Ephraim to the Corner Gate—a distance of about six hundred feet. 24 He took away all the gold and silver, all the items found in God's temple that were in the care of Obed-Edom, the riches in the royal palace, and some hostages. Then he went back to Samaria.</p>
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The Death of Jehoash [Israel] (782n BC)

2 Kings 13:12–13	2 Kings 14:15–16
<p>12 The rest of the events of Joash's reign, including all his accomplishments and his successful war with King Amaziah of Judah, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 13 Joash passed away and Jeroboam succeeded him on the throne. Joash was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel.</p>	<p>15 The rest of the events of Jehoash's reign, including all his accomplishments and his successful war with King Amaziah of Judah, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel. 16 Jehoash passed away and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. His son Jeroboam replaced him as king.</p>

Jeroboam II, Jehoash's Son, Begins Sole Reign of Israel (782t/781n BC)

2 Kings 14:23–27
<p>23 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Judah's King Amaziah, son of Joash, Jeroboam son of Joash became king over Israel. He reigned for forty-one years in Samaria. 24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin. 25 He restored the border of Israel from Lebo Hamath in the north to the sea of the Arabah in the south, in accordance with the word of the LORD God of Israel announced through his servant Jonah son of Amittai, the prophet from Gath Hopher. 26 The LORD saw Israel's intense suffering; everyone was weak and incapacitated and Israel had no deliverer. 27 The LORD had not decreed that he would blot out Israel's memory from under heaven, so he delivered them through Jeroboam son of Joash.</p>

The Death of Amaziah [Judah] (768t BC)

2 Kings 14:17–21	2 Chronicles 25:25–26:1
<p>17 King Amaziah son of Joash of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of King Jehoash son of Jehoahaz of Israel. 18 The rest of the events of Amaziah's reign are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah. 19 Conspirators plotted against him in Jerusalem, so he fled to Lachish. But they sent assassins after him and they killed him there. 20 His body was carried back by horses and he was buried in Jerusalem with his ancestors in the city of David. 21 All the people of Judah took Azariah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in his father Amaziah's place.</p>	<p>25:25 King Amaziah son of Joash of Judah lived for fifteen years after the death of King Joash son of Jehoahaz of Israel. 26 The rest of the events of Amaziah's reign, from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel. 27 From the time Amaziah turned from following the LORD, conspirators plotted against him in Jerusalem, so he fled to Lachish. But they sent assassins after him and they killed him there. 28 His body was carried back by horses, and he was buried in Jerusalem with his ancestors in the City of David. 26:1 All the people of Judah took Uzziah, who was sixteen years old, and made him king in his father Amaziah's place.</p>

Uzziah (Azariah), Amaziah's Son, Begins Sole Reign of Judah (767n/767t BC)

2 Kings 14:22; 15:1–4	2 Chronicles 26:2–5
<p>15:1 In the twenty-seventh year of King Jeroboam's reign over Israel, Amaziah's son Azariah became king over Judah.</p>	

<p>2 He was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah, who was from Jerusalem.</p> <p>3 He did what the LORD approved, just as his father Amaziah had done.</p> <p>4 But the high places were not eliminated; the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the high places.</p> <p>14:22 Azariah built up Elat and restored it to Judah after the king had passed away.</p>	<p>3 Uzziah was sixteen years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for fifty-two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jecholiah, who was from Jerusalem.</p> <p>4 He did what the LORD approved, just as his father Amaziah had done.</p> <p>5 He followed God during the lifetime of Zechariah, who taught him how to honor God. As long as he followed the LORD, God caused him to succeed.</p> <p>2 Uzziah built up Elat and restored it to Judah after King Amaziah had passed away.</p>
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Jonah's Mission to the Assyrian City of Nineveh (c. 760 BC)

Jonah 1–4

Jonah Flees from the Presence of the LORD

1:1 The LORD said to Jonah son of Amittai,

2 “Go immediately to Nineveh, that large capital city, and announce judgment against its people because their wickedness has come to my attention.”

3 Instead, Jonah immediately headed off to Tarshish to escape from the commission of the LORD. He traveled to Joppa and found a merchant ship heading to Tarshish. So he paid the fare and went aboard it to go with them to Tarshish far away from the LORD.

4 But the LORD hurled a powerful wind on the sea. Such a violent tempest arose on the sea that the ship threatened to break up!

5 The sailors were so afraid that each cried out to his own god and they flung the ship's cargo overboard to make the ship lighter. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold below deck, had lain down, and was sound asleep.

6 The ship's captain approached him and said, “What are you doing asleep? Get up! Cry out to your god! Perhaps your god might take notice of us so that we might not die!”

Jonah is Thrown into the Sea

7 The sailors said to one another, “Come on, let's cast lots to find out whose fault it is that this disaster has overtaken us. “ So they cast lots, and Jonah was singled out.

8 They said to him, “Tell us, whose fault is it that this disaster has overtaken us? What's your occupation? Where do you come from? What's your country? And who are your people?”

9 He said to them, “I am a Hebrew! And I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.”

10 Hearing this, the men became even more afraid and said to him, “What have you done?” (The men said this because they knew that he was trying to escape from the LORD, because he had previously told them.)

11 Because the storm was growing worse and worse, they said to him, “What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?”

12 He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea to make the sea quiet down, because I know it's my fault you are in this severe storm.”

13 Instead, they tried to row back to land, but they were not able to do so because the storm kept growing worse and worse.

14 So they cried out to the LORD, “Oh, please, LORD, don't let us die on account of this man! Don't hold us guilty of shedding innocent blood. After all, you, LORD, have done just as you pleased.”

15 So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea, and the sea stopped raging.

16 The men feared the LORD greatly, and earnestly vowed to offer lavish sacrifices to the Lord.

A Great Fish Swallows Jonah

17 The LORD sent a huge fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was in the stomach of the fish three days and three nights.

Jonah's Prayer

2:1 Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish

2 and said,

“I called out to the LORD from my distress,
and he answered me;
from the belly of Sheol I cried out for help,
and you heard my prayer.

3 You threw me into the deep waters,
into the middle of the sea;
the ocean current engulfed me;

all the mighty waves you sent swept over me.

4 I thought I had been banished from your sight,
that I would never again see your holy temple!

5 Water engulfed me up to my neck;
the deep ocean surrounded me;
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

6 I went down to the very bottoms of the mountains;
the gates of the netherworld barred me in forever;
but you brought me up from the Pit, O LORD, my God.

7 When my life was ebbing away, I called out to the LORD,
and my prayer came to your holy temple.

8 Those who worship worthless idols forfeit the mercy that could be theirs.

9 But as for me, I promise to offer a sacrifice to you with a public declaration of praise;
I will surely do what I have promised.
Salvation belongs to the LORD!”

10 Then the LORD commanded the fish and it disgorged Jonah on dry land.

Jonah Goes to Nineveh

3:1 The LORD said to Jonah a second time,

2 “Go immediately to Nineveh, that large city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.”

3 So Jonah went immediately to Nineveh, as the LORD had said. (Now Nineveh was an enormous city—it required three days to walk through it!)

4 When Jonah began to enter the city one day’s walk, he announced, “At the end of forty days, Nineveh will be overthrown!”

The People of Nineveh Repent

5 The people of Nineveh believed in God, and they declared a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least of them.

6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he got up from his throne, took off his royal robe, put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes.

7 He issued a proclamation and said, “In Nineveh, by the decree of the king and his nobles: No human or animal, cattle or sheep, is to taste anything; they must not eat and they must not drink water.

8 Every person and animal must put on sackcloth and must cry earnestly to God, and everyone must turn from their evil way of living and from the violence that they do.

9 Who knows? Perhaps God might be willing to change his mind and relent and turn from his fierce anger so that we might not die.”

10 When God saw their actions—they turned from their evil way of living!—God relented concerning the judgment he had

threatened them with and he did not destroy them. [[Matt 12:39–41; 16:4; Luke 11:2](#)]

Jonah’s Anger and the LORD’s Compassion

4:1 This displeased Jonah terribly and he became very angry.

2 He prayed to the LORD and said, “Oh, LORD, this is just what I thought would happen when I was in my own country. This is what I tried to prevent by attempting to escape to Tarshish!—because I knew that you are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in mercy, and one who relents concerning threatened judgment.

3 So now, LORD, kill me instead, because I would rather die than live!”

4 The LORD said, “Are you really so very angry?”

5 Jonah left the city and sat down east of it. He made a shelter for himself there and sat down under it in the shade to see what would happen to the city.

6 The LORD God appointed a little plant and caused it to grow up over Jonah to be a shade over his head to rescue him from his misery. Now Jonah was very delighted about the little plant.

7 So God sent a worm at dawn the next day, and it attacked the little plant so that it dried up.

8 When the sun began to shine, God sent a hot east wind. So the sun beat down on Jonah’s head, and he grew faint. So he despaired of life, and said, “I would rather die than live!”

9 God said to Jonah, “Are you really so very angry about the little plant?” And he said, “I am as angry as I could possibly be!”

10 The LORD said, “You were upset about this little plant, something for which you have not worked nor did you do anything to make it grow. It grew up overnight and died the next day.

11 Should I not be even more concerned about Nineveh, this enormous city? There are more than one hundred twenty thousand people in it who do not know right from wrong, as well as many animals!”

Amos’ Prophecy to Israel – Part 1 (c. 760 BC)

Amos 1–2

Title and Theme

1:1 The following is a record of what Amos prophesied. He was one of the herdsmen from Tekoa. These prophecies about Israel were revealed to him during the time of King Uzziah of Judah and King Jeroboam son of Joash of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

2 Amos said:

“The LORD comes roaring out of Zion;
from Jerusalem he comes bellowing!
The shepherds’ pastures wilt;
the summit of Carmel withers.”

Oracle against Syria

3 This is what the LORD says:

Because Damascus has committed three crimes—
make that four!—I will not revoke my
decree of judgment.

They ripped through Gilead like threshing sledges with iron teeth. [cf. [2 Kgs 10:32–33](#); [13:1–7](#)]

4 So I will set Hazael's house on fire;

fire will consume Ben Hadad's fortresses.

5 I will break the bar on the gate of Damascus.

I will remove the ruler from Wicked Valley,
the one who holds the royal scepter from Beth Eden.

The people of Aram will be deported to Kir.”

The LORD has spoken!

Oracle against Philistia

6 This is what the LORD says:

“Because Gaza has committed three crimes—
make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment.

They deported a whole community and sold them to Edom.

7 So I will set Gaza's city wall on fire;

fire will consume her fortresses.

8 I will remove the ruler from Ashdod,

the one who holds the royal scepter from Ashkelon.

I will strike Ekron with my hand;

the rest of the Philistines will also die.”

The sovereign LORD has spoken!

Oracle against Phoenicia

9 This is what the LORD says:

“Because Tyre has committed three crimes—
make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment.

They sold a whole community to Edom;

they failed to observe a treaty of brotherhood.

10 So I will set fire to Tyre's city wall;

fire will consume her fortresses.”

Oracle against Edom

11 This is what the LORD says:

“Because Edom has committed three crimes—
make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment.

He chased his brother with a sword;

he wiped out his allies.

In his anger he tore them apart without stopping to rest;

in his fury he relentlessly attacked them.

12 So I will set Teman on fire;

fire will consume Bozrah's fortresses.”

Oracle against Ammon

13 This is what the LORD says:

“Because the Ammonites have committed three crimes—
make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment.

They ripped open Gilead's pregnant women

so they could expand their territory.

- 14 So I will set fire to Rabbah's city wall;
fire will consume her fortresses.
War cries will be heard on the day of battle;
a strong gale will blow on the day of the windstorm.
- 15 Ammon's king will be deported;
he and his officials will be carried off together."
The LORD has spoken!

Oracle against Moab

2:1 This is what the LORD says:

"Because Moab has committed three crimes—
make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment.
They burned the bones of Edom's king into lime.

- 2 So I will set Moab on fire,
and it will consume Kerioth's fortresses.
Moab will perish in the heat of battle
amid war cries and the blaring of the ram's horn.
- 3 I will remove Moab's leader;
I will kill all Moab's officials with him."
The LORD has spoken!

Oracle against Judah

4 This is what the LORD says:

"Because Judah has committed three covenant transgressions—
make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment.
They rejected the LORD's law;
they did not obey his commands.
Their false gods,
to which their fathers were loyal,
led them astray.

- 5 So I will set Judah on fire,
and it will consume Jerusalem's fortresses."

Oracle against Israel

6 This is what the LORD says:

"Because Israel has committed three covenant transgressions—
make that four!—I will not revoke my decree of judgment.

- They sold the innocent for silver,
the needy for a pair of sandals.
- 7 They trample on the dirt-covered heads of the poor;
they push the destitute away.
A man and his father go to the same girl;
in this way they show disrespect for my moral purity.
- 8 They stretch out on clothing seized as collateral;
they do so right beside every altar!
They drink wine bought with the fines they have levied;
they do so right in the temple of their God!
- 9 For Israel's sake I destroyed the Amorites.
They were as tall as cedars
and as strong as oaks,
but I destroyed the fruit on their branches
and their roots in the ground.
- 10 I brought you up from the land of Egypt;
I led you through the wilderness for forty years
so you could take the Amorites' land as your own.

- 11 I made some of your sons prophets
and some of your young men Nazirites.
Is this not true, you Israelites?”
The LORD is speaking!
- 12 “But you made the Nazirites drink wine;
you commanded the prophets, ‘Do not prophesy!’
- 13 Look! I will press you down,
like a cart loaded down with grain presses down.
- 14 Fast runners will find no place to hide;
strong men will have no strength left;
warriors will not be able to save their lives.
- 15 Archers will not hold their ground;
fast runners will not save their lives,
nor will those who ride horses.
- 16 Bravehearted warriors will run away naked in that day.”
The LORD is speaking!

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Chronological Notes

1) Jonah.¹

- A) Jonah is mentioned in 2 Kings 14:25 as having prophesied the restoration of the “border of Israel from Lebo Hamath in the north to the sea of Arabah in the south.” This took place during the reign of Jeroboam II (793n–753n BC).
- B) A few years after the death of Jeroboam II, Menahem became tributary to the Assyrian King Pul (2 Kings 15:19). Thus we can assume that in the time of Jeroboam II, the Assyrians were no strangers to Israel. Assyria had frequent contacts with Palestine. Tiglath-pileser I (1114–1076) had extended the conquests of Assyria westward toward the Mediterranean Sea. In 853 BC at Karkar, Shalmaneser II fought a confederation of kings including Ahab of Israel; later Jehu (841n–814n) was compelled to pay tribute to Assyria.
- C) Nineveh was the last capital of the Assyrian Empire located on the east bank of the Tigris River, and was destroyed in 612 BC through a military alliance of Medes, Babylonians and Scythians. Nimrod had been its founder (Gen 10:9–11), and the city is mentioned in early Babylonian cuneiform tablets. By “Nineveh the great city” the Hebrews designated both the city itself and its neighboring communities (Gen 10:11ff.). The description of the size and importance of the city in Jonah harmonizes with secular and archaeological records.
- D) Several Assyrian kings reigned in Nineveh during the time of Jonah’s ministry as a prophet:
- (1) Adad-nirari III (810–783)
 - (2) Shalmaneser IV (782–773)
 - (3) Ashur-dan III (772–755)
 - (4) Ashur-nirari V (754–745)
 - (5) Tiglath-pileser III (744–727)
- E) If Jonah appeared in Nineveh during the reign of Ashur-dan III, then the plagues recorded in Assyrian history in 765 and 759, and the total eclipse of 763, could have been regarded as portents of divine wrath which prepared the city for Jonah’s message. Thus a date of c. 760 for the story is probably near the mark.

¹ Hobart E. Freeman, *An Introduction to the Old Testament Prophets*, 167.

2) Amos.²

- A) Amos ministered during the reigns of King Jeroboam II of Israel (793n–753n BC) and King Uzziah (Azariah) of Judah (791t–740t BC), specifically two years before “the earthquake” (Amos 1:1). Zechariah also referred to a notable earthquake during the reign of Uzziah (Zech 14:5). Josephus wrote that an earthquake occurred when Uzziah entered the temple and was struck with leprosy (2 Chron. 26:16–20).³ However this may be simply Jewish tradition. Archaeological excavations at Hazor and Samaria point to evidence of a violent earthquake in Israel about 760 BC.⁴ So perhaps Amos ministered about 760 BC. This date may account for the omission of the name of King Jotham who ruled as coregent with Uzziah from 750–740 BC. Thus Amos was a contemporary of the other eighth-century prophets: Jonah, Hosea, Isaiah, and Micah.

² Thomas L. Constable, *Notes on Amos*, 2.

³ Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, 9:10:4.

⁴ Y. Yadin, et al., *Hazor II: An Account of the Second Season of Excavations, 1956*, pp. 24, 26, 36–37; and Philip J. King, *Amos, Hosea, Micah—An Archaeological Commentary*, p. 21.

Amos' Prophecy to Israel – Part 2 (c. 760 BC)

Amos 3–6

Cause and Effect—Sin Brings Judgment

3:1 Listen, you Israelites, to this message which the LORD is proclaiming against you! This message is for the entire clan I brought up from the land of Egypt:

- 2 “I have chosen you alone from all the clans of the earth.
Therefore I will punish you for all your sins.”
- 3 Do two walk together without having met?
- 4 Does a lion roar in the woods if he has not cornered his prey?
Does a young lion bellow from his den if he has not caught something?
- 5 Does a bird swoop down into a trap on the ground if there is no bait?
Does a trap spring up from the ground unless it has surely caught something?
- 6 If an alarm sounds in a city, do people not fear?
If disaster overtakes a city, is the LORD not responsible?
- 7 Certainly the sovereign LORD does nothing without first revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.
- 8 A lion has roared! Who is not afraid?
The sovereign LORD has spoken! Who can refuse to prophesy?

9 Make this announcement in the fortresses of Ashdod and in the fortresses in the land of Egypt. Say this:

- “Gather on the hills around Samaria!
Observe the many acts of violence taking place within the city,
the oppressive deeds occurring in it.”
- 10 “They do not know how to do what is right.” (The LORD is speaking.)
“They store up the spoils of destructive violence in their fortresses.
- 11 Therefore,” says the sovereign LORD, “an enemy will encircle the land.
He will take away your power; your fortresses will be looted.”

12 This is what the LORD says:

- “Just as a shepherd salvages from the lion’s mouth a couple of leg bones or a piece of an ear,
so the Israelites who live in Samaria will be salvaged.
They will be left with just a corner of a bed,
and a part of a couch.”
- 13 Listen and warn the family of Jacob!
The sovereign LORD, the God who commands armies, is speaking!
- 14 “Certainly when I punish Israel for their covenant transgressions,
I will destroy Bethel’s altars.
The horns of the altar will be cut off and fall to the ground.
- 15 I will destroy both the winter and summer houses.
The houses filled with ivory will be ruined,
the great houses will be swept away.”
The LORD is speaking!

Condemnation of Samaria’s Self-serving Women

4:1 Listen to this message, you cows of Bashan who live on Mount Samaria! You oppress the poor; you crush the needy. You say to your husbands, “Bring us more to drink!”

2 The sovereign LORD confirms this oath by his own holy character:

- “Certainly the time is approaching
when you will be carried away in baskets,
every last one of you in fishermen’s pots.
- 3 Each of you will go straight through the gaps in the walls;
you will be thrown out toward Harmon.”
The LORD is speaking!

Condemnation of Israel's Worship

- 4 "Go to Bethel and rebel!
At Gilgal rebel some more!
Bring your sacrifices in the morning,
your tithes on the third day!
- 5 Burn a thank offering of bread made with yeast!
Make a public display of your voluntary offerings!
For you love to do this, you Israelites."
The sovereign LORD is speaking!

Condemnation of Israel's Stubbornness

- 6 "But surely I gave you no food to eat in any of your cities;
you lacked food everywhere you live.
Still you did not come back to me."
The LORD is speaking!
- 7 "I withheld rain from you three months before the harvest.
I gave rain to one city, but not to another.
One field would get rain, but the field that received no rain dried up.
- 8 People from two or three cities staggered into one city to get water,
but remained thirsty.
Still you did not come back to me."
The LORD is speaking!
- 9 "I destroyed your crops with blight and disease.
Locusts kept devouring your orchards, vineyards, fig trees, and olive trees.
Still you did not come back to me."
The LORD is speaking!
- 10 "I sent against you a plague like one of the Egyptian plagues.
I killed your young men with the sword,
along with the horses you had captured.
I made the stench from the corpses rise up into your nostrils.
Still you did not come back to me."
The LORD is speaking!
- 11 "I overthrew some of you the way God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
You were like a burning stick snatched from the flames.
Still you did not come back to me."
The LORD is speaking!
- 12 "Therefore this is what I will do to you, Israel.
Because I will do this to you,
prepare to meet your God, Israel!
- 13 For here he is!
He formed the mountains and created the wind.
He reveals his plans to men.
He turns the dawn into darkness
and marches on the heights of the earth.
The LORD, the God who commands armies, is his name!"

Funeral Song for Fallen Israel

5:1 Listen to this funeral song I am ready to sing about you, family of Israel:

- 2 "The virgin Israel has fallen down
and will not get up again.
She is abandoned on her own land
with no one to help her get up."

3 The sovereign LORD says this:

"The city that marches out with a thousand soldiers
will have only a hundred left;

the town that marches out with a hundred soldiers
will have only ten left for the family of Israel.”

4 The LORD says this to the family of Israel:

“Seek me so you can live!

5 Do not seek Bethel!

Do not visit Gilgal!

Do not journey down to Beer Sheba!

For the people of Gilgal will certainly be carried into exile;
and Bethel will become a place where disaster abounds.”

6 Seek the LORD so you can live!

Otherwise he will break out like fire against Joseph’s family;
the fire will consume

and no one will be able to quench it and save Bethel.

7 The Israelites turn justice into bitterness;

they throw what is fair and right to the ground.

8 (But there is one who made the constellations Pleiades and Orion;

he can turn the darkness into morning and daylight into night.

He summons the water of the seas

and pours it out on the earth’s surface.

The LORD is his name!

9 He flashes destruction down upon the strong

so that destruction overwhelms the fortified places.)

10 The Israelites hate anyone who arbitrates at the city gate;

they despise anyone who speaks honestly.

11 Therefore, because you make the poor pay taxes on their crops

and exact a grain tax from them,

you will not live in the houses you built with chiseled stone,

nor will you drink the wine from the fine vineyards you planted.

12 Certainly I am aware of your many rebellious acts

and your numerous sins.

You torment the innocent, you take bribes,

and you deny justice to the needy at the city gate.

13 For this reason whoever is smart keeps quiet in such a time,

for it is an evil time.

14 Seek good and not evil so you can live!

Then the LORD, the God who commands armies,

just might be with you, as you claim he is.

15 Hate what is wrong, love what is right!

Promote justice at the city gate!

Maybe the LORD, the God who commands armies,

will have mercy on those who are left from Joseph.

16 Because of Israel’s sins this is what the LORD, the God who commands armies, the sovereign One, says:

“In all the squares there will be wailing,

in all the streets they will mourn the dead.

They will tell the field workers to lament

and the professional mourners to wail.

17 In all the vineyards there will be wailing,

for I will pass through your midst,” says the LORD.

The “Day of the LORD”

18 Woe to those who wish for the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the LORD’s day of judgment to come?

It will bring darkness, not light.

19 Disaster will be inescapable,

as if a man ran from a lion only to meet a bear,
then escaped into a house,
leaned his hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a poisonous snake.

- 20 Don't you realize the LORD's day of judgment will bring darkness, not light—
gloomy blackness, not bright light?

Rejection of Israel's Worship

- 21 "I absolutely despise your festivals!
I get no pleasure from your religious assemblies!
- 22 Even if you offer me burnt and grain offerings, I will not be satisfied;
I will not look with favor on your peace offerings of fattened calves.
- 23 Take away from me your noisy songs;
I don't want to hear the music of your stringed instruments.
- 24 Justice must flow like torrents of water,
righteous actions like a stream that never dries up.
- 25 You did not bring me sacrifices and grain offerings
during the forty years you spent in the wilderness, family of Israel. [[Acts 7:42](#)]
- 26 You will pick up your images of Sikkuth, your king,
and Kiyyun, your star god, which you made for yourselves,
and I will drive you into exile beyond Damascus," says the LORD.
He is called the God who commands armies!

Woe Oracle against Israel

- 6:1 Woe to those who live in ease in Zion,
to those who feel secure on Mount Samaria.
They think of themselves as the elite class of the best nation.
The family of Israel looks to them for leadership.
- 2 They say to the people:
"Journey over to Calneh and look at it!
Then go from there to Hamath-Rabbah!
Then go down to Gath of the Philistines!
Are they superior to our two kingdoms?
Is their territory larger than yours?"
- 3 You refuse to believe a day of disaster will come,
but you establish a reign of violence.
- 4 They lie around on beds decorated with ivory,
and sprawl out on their couches.
They eat lambs from the flock,
and calves from the middle of the pen.
- 5 They sing to the tune of stringed instruments;
like David they invent musical instruments.
- 6 They drink wine from sacrificial bowls,
and pour the very best oils on themselves.
Yet they are not concerned over the ruin of Joseph.
- 7 Therefore they will now be the first to go into exile,
and the religious banquets where they sprawl on couches will end.

A Doomed Nation

- 8 The sovereign LORD confirms this oath by his very own life. The LORD, the God who commands armies, is speaking:

"I despise Jacob's arrogance;
I hate their fortresses.
I will hand over to their enemies the city of Samaria and everything in it."

- 9 If ten men are left in one house, they too will die.

10 When their close relatives, the ones who will burn the corpses, pick up their bodies to remove the bones from the house, they will say to anyone who is in the inner rooms of the house, "Is anyone else with you?" He will respond, "Be quiet! Don't invoke the

LORD's name!"

- 11 Indeed, look! The LORD is giving the command.
He will smash the large house to bits,
and the small house into little pieces.
- 12 Can horses run on rocky cliffs?
Can one plow the sea with oxen?
Yet you have turned justice into a poisonous plant,
and the fruit of righteous actions into a bitter plant.
- 13 You are happy because you conquered Lo-Debar.
You say, "Did we not conquer Karnaim by our own power?"
- 14 "Look! I am about to bring a nation against you, family of Israel."
The LORD, the God who commands armies, is speaking.
"They will oppress you all the way from Lebo-Hamath to the Stream of the Arabah."

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Amos' Prophecy to Israel – Part 3 (c. 760 BC)

Amos 7–9

Amos' First Vision—the Locusts

7:1 The sovereign LORD showed me this: I saw him making locusts just as the crops planted late were beginning to sprout. (The crops planted late sprout after the royal harvest.)

2 When they had completely consumed the earth's vegetation, I said,

“Sovereign LORD, forgive Israel!
How can Jacob survive?
He is too weak!”

3 The LORD decided not to do this.
“It will not happen,” the LORD said.

Amos' Second Vision—the Fire

4 The sovereign LORD showed me this: I saw the sovereign LORD summoning a shower of fire. It consumed the great deep and devoured the fields.

5 I said,

“Sovereign LORD, stop!
How can Jacob survive?
He is too weak!”

6 The LORD decided not to do this.
The sovereign LORD said, “This will not happen either.”

Amos' Third Vision—the Plumb Line

7 He showed me this: I saw the sovereign One standing by a [a wall that had been built true to plumb, with a plumb line in his hand].

8 The LORD said to me, “What do you see, Amos?” I said, “[A plumb line].” The sovereign One then said,

“Look, I am [setting a plumb line] among my people Israel.
I will no longer overlook their sin.

9 Isaac's centers of worship will become desolate;
Israel's holy places will be in ruins.
I will attack Jeroboam's dynasty with the sword.”

Amaziah, Priest of Bethel, Urges Jeroboam II to Get Rid of Amos

10 Amaziah the priest of Bethel sent this message to King Jeroboam of Israel: “Amos is conspiring against you in the very heart of the kingdom of Israel! The land cannot endure all his prophecies.

11 As a matter of fact, Amos is saying this:

‘Jeroboam will die by the sword
and Israel will certainly be carried into exile
away from its land.’”

12 Amaziah then said to Amos, “Leave, you visionary! Run away to the land of Judah! Earn your living and prophesy there!

13 Don't prophesy at Bethel any longer, for a royal temple and palace are here!”

14 Amos replied to Amaziah, “I was not a prophet by profession. No, I was a herdsman who also took care of sycamore fig trees.

15 Then the LORD took me from tending flocks and gave me this commission, ‘Go! Prophesy to my people Israel!’

16 So now listen to the LORD's message!

You say, ‘Don't prophesy against Israel!
Don't preach against the family of Isaac!’

17 “Therefore this is what the LORD says:

‘Your wife will become a prostitute in the streets
and your sons and daughters will die violently.
Your land will be given to others
and you will die in a foreign land.’

Israel will certainly be carried into exile away from its land.”

Amos' Fourth Vision—A Basket of Summer Fruit

8:1 The sovereign LORD showed me this: I saw a basket of summer fruit.

2 He said, “What do you see, Amos?” I replied, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the LORD said to me,

“The end has come for my people Israel!

I will no longer overlook their sins.

3 The women singing in the temple will wail in that day.”

The sovereign LORD is speaking.

“There will be many corpses littered everywhere! Be quiet!”

Indictment of Greedy Merchants

4 Listen to this, you who trample the needy,
and do away with the destitute in the land.

5 You say, “When will the new moon festival be over,
so we can sell grain?

When will the Sabbath end,

so we can open up the grain bins?

We're eager to sell less for a higher price,

and to cheat the buyer with rigged scales!

6 We're eager to trade silver for the poor,

a pair of sandals for the needy!

We want to mix in some chaff with the grain!”

7 The LORD confirms this oath by the arrogance of Jacob:

“I swear I will never forget all you have done!

The LORD's Judgment

8 Because of this the earth will quake,
and all who live in it will mourn.

The whole earth will rise like the River Nile,

it will surge upward and then grow calm, like the Nile in Egypt.

9 In that day,” says the sovereign LORD, “I will make the sun set at noon,
and make the earth dark in the middle of the day.

10 I will turn your festivals into funerals,
and all your songs into funeral dirges.

I will make everyone wear funeral clothes

and cause every head to be shaved bald.

I will make you mourn as if you had lost your only son;

when it ends it will indeed have been a bitter day.

11 Be certain of this, the time is coming,” says the sovereign LORD,

“when I will send a famine through the land—

not a shortage of food or water

but an end to divine revelation!

12 People will stagger from sea to sea,
and from the north around to the east.

They will wander about looking for a revelation from the LORD,

but they will not find any.

13 In that day your beautiful young women
and your young men will faint from thirst.

14 These are the ones who now take oaths in the name of the sinful idol goddess of Samaria.

They vow, ‘As surely as your god lives, O Dan,’

or ‘As surely as your beloved one lives, O Beer Sheba!’

But they will fall down and not get up again.”

Amos' Fifth Vision—The LORD Standing by the Altar

9:1 I saw the sovereign One standing by the altar and he said,

“Strike the tops of the support pillars, so the thresholds shake!

Knock them down on the heads of all the people,
and I will kill the survivors with the sword.

No one will be able to run away;
no one will be able to escape.

2 Even if they could dig down into the netherworld,
my hand would pull them up from there.

Even if they could climb up to heaven,
I would drag them down from there.

3 Even if they were to hide on the top of Mount Carmel,
I would hunt them down and take them from there.

Even if they tried to hide from me at the bottom of the sea,
from there I would command the Sea Serpent to bite them.

4 Even when their enemies drive them into captivity,
from there I will command the sword to kill them.

I will not let them out of my sight;
they will experience disaster, not prosperity.”

The Lord Almighty

5 The sovereign LORD who commands armies will do this.

He touches the earth and it dissolves;
all who live on it mourn.

The whole earth rises like the River Nile,
and then grows calm like the Nile in Egypt.

6 He builds the upper rooms of his palace in heaven
and sets its foundation supports on the earth.

He summons the water of the sea
and pours it out on the earth’s surface.

The LORD is his name.

Destruction of the Sinful Kingdom

7 “You Israelites are just like the Ethiopians in my sight,” says the LORD.

“Certainly I brought Israel up from the land of Egypt,
but I also brought the Philistines from Caphtor and the Arameans from Kir.

8 Look, the sovereign LORD is watching the sinful nation,
and I will destroy it from the face of the earth.

But I will not completely destroy the family of Jacob,” says the LORD.

9 “For look, I am giving a command

and I will shake the family of Israel together with all the nations.

It will resemble a sieve being shaken,
when not even a pebble falls to the ground.

10 All the sinners among my people will die by the sword—

the ones who say, ‘Disaster will not come near, it will not confront us.’

Future Restoration of Israel

11 “In that day I will rebuild the collapsing hut of David.

I will seal its gaps, repair its ruins,
and restore it to what it was like in days gone by.

12 As a result they will conquer those left in Edom [*that the remnant of men may earnestly seek me* (LXX)]
and all the nations subject to my rule.” [*and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called* (LXX)]

The LORD, who is about to do this, is speaking! [[Acts 15:13-21](#)]

13 “Be sure of this, the time is coming,” says the LORD,

“when the plowman will catch up to the reaper
and the one who stomps the grapes will overtake the planter.

Juice will run down the slopes,
it will flow down all the hillsides.

14 I will bring back my people, Israel;

they will rebuild the cities lying in rubble and settle down.

They will plant vineyards and drink the wine they produce;
they will grow orchards and eat the fruit they produce.

- 15 I will plant them on their land
and they will never again be uprooted from the land I have given them,”
says the LORD your God.

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Uzziah [Judah] Becomes Famous and Powerful (c. 757 BC)

2 Chronicles 26:6–15

Uzziah's Military Campaigns

6 Uzziah attacked the Philistines and broke down the walls of Gath, Jabneh, and Ashdod. He built cities in the region of Ashdod and throughout Philistine territory.

7 God helped him in his campaigns against the Philistines, the Arabs living in Gur Baal, and the Meunites.

8 The Ammonites paid tribute to Uzziah and his fame reached the border of Egypt, for he grew in power.

Uzziah's Infrastructure and Agricultural Improvements

9 Uzziah built and fortified towers in Jerusalem at the Corner Gate, Valley Gate, and at the Angle.

10 He built towers in the desert and dug many cisterns, for he owned many herds in the lowlands and on the plain. He had workers in the fields and vineyards in the hills and in Carmel, for he loved agriculture.

Uzziah's Army

11 Uzziah had an army of skilled warriors trained for battle. They were organized by divisions according to the muster rolls made by Jeiel the scribe and Maaseiah the officer under the authority of Hananiah, a royal official.

12 The total number of family leaders who led warriors was 2,600.

13 They commanded an army of 307,500 skilled and able warriors who were ready to defend the king against his enemies.

14 Uzziah supplied shields, spears, helmets, breastplates, bows, and slingstones for the entire army.

15 In Jerusalem he made war machines carefully designed to shoot arrows and large stones from the towers and corners of the walls. He became very famous, for he received tremendous support and became powerful.

Hosea's Prophecy to Israel—A Picture of Israel's Unfaithfulness (c. 755 BC)

Hosea 1–3

Title

1:1 This is the word of the LORD which was revealed to Hosea son of Beeri during the time when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ruled Judah, and during the time when Jeroboam son of Joash ruled Israel.

The Command to Marry Gomer

2 When the LORD first spoke through Hosea, he said to him, "Go marry a prostitute who will bear illegitimate children conceived through prostitution, because the nation continually commits spiritual prostitution by turning away from the LORD."

3a So Hosea married Gomer, the daughter of Diblaim.

The Naming of Hosea's Children

3b Then she conceived and gave birth to a son for him.

4 Then the LORD said to Hosea, "Name him 'Jezreel,' because in a little while I will punish the dynasty of Jehu on account of the bloodshed in the valley of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel.

5 At that time, I will destroy the military power of Israel in the valley of Jezreel."

6 She conceived again and gave birth to a daughter. Then the LORD said to him, "Name her 'No Pity' (Lo-Ruhamah) because I will no longer have pity on the nation of Israel. For I will certainly not forgive their guilt.

7 But I will have pity on the nation of Judah. I will deliver them by the LORD their God; I will not deliver them by the warrior's bow, by sword, by military victory, by chariot horses, or by chariots."

8 When she had weaned 'No Pity' (Lo-Ruhamah) she conceived again and gave birth to another son.

9 Then the LORD said: "Name him 'Not My People' (Lo-Ammi), because you are not my people and I am not your God."

Future Restoration and Reversal

10 However, in the future the number of the people of Israel will be like the sand of the sea which can be neither measured nor numbered. Although it was said to them, "You are not my people," it will be said to them, "You are children of the living God!" [\[Rom 9:26\]](#)

11 Then the people of Judah and the people of Israel will be gathered together. They will appoint for themselves one leader, and will flourish in the land. Certainly, the day of Jezreel will be great!

Transition

2:1 Then you will call your brother, "My People" (Ammi)! You will call your sister, "Pity" (Ruhamah)!

Idolatrous Israel Will Be Punished Like a Prostitute

2 Plead earnestly with your mother

(for she is not my wife, and I am not her husband),
so that she might put an end to her adulterous lifestyle,
and turn away from her sexually immoral behavior.

- 3 Otherwise, I will strip her naked,
and expose her like she was when she was born.
I will turn her land into a wilderness
and make her country a parched land,
so that I might kill her with thirst.
- 4 I will have no pity on her children,
because they are children conceived in adultery.
- 5 For their mother has committed adultery;
she who conceived them has acted shamefully.
For she said, “I will seek out my lovers;
they are the ones who give me my bread and my water,
my wool, my flax, my olive oil, and my wine.

The Lord’s Discipline Will Bring Israel to Repentance

- 6 Therefore, I will soon fence her in with thorns;
I will wall her in so that she cannot find her way.
- 7 Then she will pursue her lovers, but she will not catch them;
she will seek them, but she will not find them.
Then she will say, “I will go back to my husband,
because I was better off then than I am now.”

Agricultural Fertility Withdrawn from Israel

- 8 Yet until now she has refused to acknowledge that I was the one
who gave her the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil;
and that it was I who lavished on her the silver and gold—
which they used in worshiping Baal!
- 9 Therefore, I will take back my grain during the harvest time
and my new wine when it ripens;
I will take away my wool and my flax
which I had provided in order to clothe her.
- 10 Soon I will expose her lewd nakedness in front of her lovers,
and no one will be able to rescue her from me!
- 11 I will put an end to all her celebration:
her annual religious festivals,
monthly new moon celebrations,
and weekly Sabbath festivities—
all her appointed festivals.
- 12 I will destroy her vines and fig trees,
about which she said, “These are my wages for prostitution
that my lovers gave to me!”
I will turn her cultivated vines and fig trees into an uncultivated thicket,
so that wild animals will devour them.
- 13 “I will punish her for the festival days
when she burned incense to the Baal idols;
she adorned herself with earrings and jewelry,
and went after her lovers,
but she forgot me!” says the LORD.

Future Repentance and Restoration of Israel

- 14 However, in the future I will allure her;
I will lead her back into the wilderness,
and speak tenderly to her.
- 15 From there I will give back her vineyards to her,
and turn the “Valley of Trouble” into an “Opportunity for Hope.”
There she will sing as she did when she was young,

- when she came up from the land of Egypt.
- 16 “At that time,” declares the LORD,
“you will call, ‘My husband’;
you will never again call me, ‘My master.’”
- 17 For I will remove the names of the Baal idols from your lips,
so that you will never again utter their names!”
- 18 “At that time I will make a covenant for them with the wild animals,
the birds of the air, and the creatures that crawl on the ground.
I will abolish the warrior’s bow and sword—
that is, every weapon of warfare—from the land,
and I will allow them to live securely.”
- 19 I will commit myself to you forever;
I will commit myself to you in righteousness and justice,
in steadfast love and tender compassion.
- 20 I will commit myself to you in faithfulness;
then you will acknowledge the LORD.”

Agricultural Fertility Restored to the Repentant Nation

- 21 “At that time, I will willingly respond,” declares the LORD.
“I will respond to the sky,
and the sky will respond to the ground;
22 then the ground will respond to the grain, the new wine, and the olive oil;
and they will respond to ‘God Plants’ (Jezreel)!”
- 23 Then I will plant her as my own in the land.
I will have pity on ‘No Pity’ (Lo-Ruhamah).
I will say to ‘Not My People’ (Lo-Ammi), ‘You are my people!’
And he will say, ‘You are my God!’” [[Rom 9:25](#); [1 Pet 2:10](#)]

An Illustration of God’s Love for Idolatrous Israel

- 3:1 The LORD said to me, “Go, show love to your wife again, even though she loves another man and continually commits adultery. Likewise, the LORD loves the Israelites although they turn to other gods and love to offer raisin cakes to idols.”
- 2 So I paid fifteen shekels of silver and about seven bushels of barley to purchase her.
- 3 Then I told her, “You must live with me many days; you must not commit adultery or have sexual intercourse with another man, and I also will wait for you.”
- 4 For the Israelites must live many days without a king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred fertility pillar, without ephod or idols.
- 5 Afterward, the Israelites will turn and seek the LORD their God and their Davidic king. Then they will submit to the LORD in fear and receive his blessings in the future.

The Death of Jeroboam II [Israel] (Elul [September] 753 BC)

2 Kings 14:28–29

- 28 The rest of the events of Jeroboam’s reign, including all his accomplishments, his military success in restoring Israelite control over Damascus and Hamath, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.
- 29 Jeroboam passed away and was buried in Samaria with the kings of Israel. His son Zechariah replaced him as king.

Zechariah, Jeroboam II’s Son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (Elul [September] 753 BC)

2 Kings 15:8–9

- 8 In the thirty-eighth year of King Azariah’s reign over Judah, Jeroboam’s son Zechariah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for six months.
- 9 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, as his ancestors had done. He did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin.

Zechariah [Israel] is Assassinated by Shallum (Adar [March] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:10–12

- 10 Shallum son of Jabesh conspired against him; he assassinated him in Ibleam and took his place as king.

11 The rest of the events of Zechariah's reign are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.
 12 His assassination brought to fulfillment the LORD's word to Jehu, "Four generations of your descendants will rule over Israel." That is exactly what happened.

Shallum Assumes the Throne of Israel (Adar [March] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:13

13 Shallum son of Jabesh became king in the thirty-ninth year of King Uzziah's reign over Judah. He reigned for one month in Samaria.

Shallum is Killed by Menahem (Nisan [April] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:14–16

14 Menahem son of Gadi went up from Tirzah to Samaria and attacked Shallum son of Jabesh. He killed him and took his place as king.

15 The rest of the events of Shallum's reign, including the conspiracy he organized, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.

16 At that time Menahem came from Tirzah and attacked Tiphshah. He struck down all who lived in the city and the surrounding territory, because they would not surrender. He even ripped open the pregnant women.

Menahem Assumes the Throne of Israel (Nisan [April] 752 BC)

2 Kings 15:17–18

17 In the thirty-ninth year of King Azariah's reign over Judah, Menahem son of Gadi became king over Israel. He reigned for twelve years in Samaria.

18 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin.

Uzziah's Pride Causes His Downfall (750 BC)

2 Kings 15:5a

2 Chronicles 26:16–21a

5a The LORD afflicted the king with an illness; he suffered from a skin disease until the day he died. He lived in separate quarters,

16 But once he [Uzziah] became powerful, his pride destroyed him. He disobeyed the LORD his God. He entered the LORD's temple to offer incense on the incense altar.
 17 Azariah the priest and eighty other brave priests of the LORD followed him in.
 18 They confronted King Uzziah and said to him, "It is not proper for you, Uzziah, to offer incense to the LORD. That is the responsibility of the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who are consecrated to offer incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have disobeyed and the LORD God will not honor you!"
 19 Uzziah, who had an incense censer in his hand, became angry. While he was ranting and raving at the priests, a skin disease appeared on his forehead right there in front of the priests in the LORD's temple near the incense altar.
 20 When Azariah the high priest and the other priests looked at him, there was a skin disease on his forehead. They hurried him out of there; even the king himself wanted to leave quickly because the LORD had afflicted him.
 21a King Uzziah suffered from a skin disease until the day he died. He lived in separate quarters, afflicted by a skin disease and banned from the LORD's temple.

Jotham [Judah] Begins His Coregency With Uzziah (750n/750t BC)

2 Kings 15:5b, 32–33

2 Chronicles 26:21b, 27:1

5b while his son Jotham was in charge of the palace and ruled over the people of the land.

26:21b His son Jotham was in charge of the palace and ruled over the people of the land.

<p>32 In the second year of the reign of Israel's King Pekah son of Remaliah, Uzziah's son Jotham became king over Judah.</p> <p>33 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>His mother was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.</p>	<p>27:1 Jotham was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>His mother was Jerusha the daughter of Zadok.</p>
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Menahem [Israel] and Tiglath-Pileser III's [Assyria] First Campaign (743 BC)

2 Kings 15:19–20

19 During his [Menahem's] reign, Pul king of Assyria invaded the land, and Menahem paid him a thousand talents of silver to gain his support and to solidify his control of the kingdom.

20 Menahem got this silver by taxing all the wealthy men in Israel; he took fifty shekels of silver from each one of them and paid it to the king of Assyria. Then the king of Assyria left; he did not stay there in the land.

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Chronological Notes

1) Hosea.

A) The title of the book of Hosea states that Hosea's ministry took place "when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah ruled Judah, and during the time when Jeroboam son of Joash ruled Israel" (Hos 1:1). These kings' reigns are as follows:

(1) Judah.

- (a) Uzziah (791t–740t; sole reign 767t).
- (b) Jotham (751t–736t; sole reign 740t).
- (c) Ahaz (732t–716t).
- (d) Hezekiah (716t–687t).

(2) Israel.

- (a) Jeroboam II (793n–753n; sole reign 781n).

B) When we examine the book itself for more precise indications of date, we find that Hosea warns that "in a little while I [God] will punish the dynasty of Jehu on account of the bloodshed in the valley of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of Israel" (Hos 1:4). Jeroboam II was the great-grandson of Jehu, and his son Zechariah, who succeeded him, reigned only six months (753n) and was the last of the line of Jehu. Thus we can date the beginning of Hosea's recorded prophecies to a short time before the death of Jeroboam II: Elul [September] of 753 BC. For this reason, I have placed Hosea 1–3 at c. 755 BC in today's reading.

C) We can place a lower bound on the date of Hosea's recorded prophecies of 723n BC—the year of the fall of Samaria. This disaster is threatened in Hosea (cf. 10:14; 11:6; 13:16) but has not yet taken place. We may further refine this date by noting the verses that describe Israel seeking the aid of Assyria (cf. 5:13; 7:11; 8:9; 14:3). This took place during the reign of Menahem (752n–742n; 2 Kgs 15:19–20) and the struggle for power in Israel during these years provides a good background for the bulk of Hosea's prophecies. For this reason, I have placed Hosea 4–14 at c. 743 BC in the readings.¹

¹ "The complacency of the early days (2:5, 8, 13) gives way to a desperation in foreign (7:8–12; 12:1) and domestic (7:3–7; 13:10–11) affairs, evidenced in the latter chapters" (Douglas Stuart, "Hosea Jonah," *WBC*, 10.)

Hosea's Prophecy to Israel—Indictment, Punishment and Restoration – Part 1 (c. 743 BC)

Hosea 4–9

Jezreel: A General Complaint

- 4:1 Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites!
 For the LORD has a covenant lawsuit against the people of Israel.
 For there is neither faithfulness nor loyalty in the land,
 nor do they acknowledge God.
- 2 There is only cursing, lying, murder, stealing, and adultery.
 They resort to violence and bloodshed.
- 3 Therefore the land will mourn,
 and all its inhabitants will perish.
 The wild animals, the birds of the sky,
 and even the fish in the sea will perish.

Lo-Ammi: Three Guilty Groups—Priests, Common People and Women

- 4 Do not let anyone accuse or contend against anyone else:
 for my case is against you priests!
- 5 You stumble day and night,
 and the false prophets stumble with you;
 You have destroyed your own people!
- 6 You have destroyed my people
 by failing to acknowledge me!
 Because you refuse to acknowledge me,
 I will reject you as my priests.
 Because you reject the law of your God,
 I will reject your descendants.
- 7 The more the priests increased in numbers,
 the more they rebelled against me.
 They have turned their glorious calling
 into a shameful disgrace!
- 8 They feed on the sin offerings of my people;
 their appetites long for their iniquity! [cf. [Lev 6:26–30](#); [Heb 13:10–11](#)]
- 9 I will deal with the people and priests together:
 I will punish them both for their ways,
 and I will repay them for their deeds.
- 10 They will eat, but not be satisfied;
 they will engage in prostitution,
 but not increase in numbers;
 because they have abandoned the LORD
 by pursuing other gods.
- 11 Old and new wine
 take away the understanding of my people.
- 12 They consult their wooden idols,
 and their diviner's staff answers with an oracle.
 The wind of prostitution blows them astray;
 they commit spiritual adultery against their God.
- 13 They sacrifice on the mountaintops,
 and burn offerings on the hills;
 they sacrifice under oak, poplar, and terebinth,
 because their shade is so pleasant.
 As a result, your daughters have become cult prostitutes,
 and your daughters-in-law commit adultery!
- 14 I will not punish your daughters when they commit prostitution,
 nor your daughters-in-law when they commit adultery.
 For the men consort with harlots,
 they sacrifice with temple prostitutes.
 It is true: "A people that lacks understanding will come to ruin!" [cf. [Prov 10:8, 10](#)]

Lo-Ruhamah: Three Warnings for Israel and Judah

- 15 Although you, O Israel, commit adultery,
do not let Judah become guilty!
Do not journey to Gilgal!
Do not go up to Beth Aven!
Do not swear, "As surely as the LORD lives!"
- 16 Israel has rebelled like a stubborn heifer!
Soon the LORD will put them out to pasture
like a lamb in a broad field!
- 17 Ephraim has attached himself to idols;
Do not go near him!
- 18 They consume their alcohol,
then engage in cult prostitution;
they dearly love their shameful behavior.
- 19 A whirlwind has wrapped them in its wings;
they will be brought to shame because of their idolatrous worship.
- 5:1 Hear this, you priests!
Pay attention, you Israelites!
Listen closely, O king!
For judgment is about to overtake you!
For you were like a trap to Mizpah,
like a net spread out to catch Tabor.
- 2 Those who revolt are knee-deep in slaughter,
but I will discipline them all.
- 3 I know Ephraim all too well;
the evil of Israel is not hidden from me.
For you have engaged in prostitution, O Ephraim;
Israel has defiled itself.
- 4 Their wicked deeds do not allow them to return to their God;
because a spirit of idolatry controls their heart,
and they do not acknowledge the LORD.
- 5 The arrogance of Israel testifies against it;
Israel and Ephraim will be overthrown because of their iniquity.
Even Judah will be brought down with them.
- 6 Although they bring their flocks and herds
to seek the favor of the LORD,
They will not find him—
he has withdrawn himself from them!
- 7 They have committed treason against the LORD,
because they bore illegitimate children.
Soon the new moon festival will devour them and their fields.
- 8 Blow the ram's horn in Gibeah!
Sound the trumpet in Ramah!
Sound the alarm in Beth Aven!
Tremble in fear, O Benjamin!
- 9 Ephraim will be ruined in the day of judgment!
What I am declaring to the tribes of Israel will certainly take place!
- 10 The princes of Judah are like those who move boundary markers.
I will pour out my rage on them like a torrential flood!
- 11 Ephraim will be oppressed, crushed under judgment,
because he was determined to pursue worthless idols.
- 12 I will be like a moth to Ephraim,
like wood rot to the house of Judah.
- 13 When Ephraim saw his sickness
and Judah saw his wound,
then Ephraim turned to Assyria,
and begged its great king for help. [cf. [2 Kgs 15:19](#)]
But he will not be able to heal you!

- He cannot cure your wound!
- 14 I will be like a lion to Ephraim,
like a young lion to the house of Judah.
I myself will tear them to pieces,
then I will carry them off,
and no one will be able to rescue them!
- 15 Then I will return again to my lair
until they have suffered their punishment.
Then they will seek me;
in their distress they will earnestly seek me.

The Prophet's Call to Repent

- 6:1 "Come on! Let's return to the LORD!
He himself has torn us to pieces,
but he will heal us!
He has injured us,
but he will bandage our wounds!
- 2 He will restore us in a very short time;
he will heal us in a little while, [cf. possible connection to [1 Cor 15:4](#)]
so that we may live in his presence.
- 3 So let us acknowledge him!
Let us seek to acknowledge the LORD!
He will come to our rescue as certainly as the appearance of the dawn,
as certainly as the winter rain comes,
as certainly as the spring rain that waters the land."

Yahweh's Frustration

- 4 What am I going to do with you, O Ephraim?
What am I going to do with you, O Judah?
For your faithfulness is as fleeting as the morning mist;
it disappears as quickly as dawn's dew!
- 5 Therefore, I will certainly cut you into pieces at the hands of the prophets;
I will certainly kill you in fulfillment of my oracles of judgment;
for my judgment will come forth like the light of the dawn.
- 6 For I delight in faithfulness, not simply in sacrifice;
I delight in acknowledging God, not simply in whole burnt offerings. [[Matt 9:13; 12:7](#)]

Sins of Adam, Gilead and Shechem

- 7 At Adam they broke the covenant;
Oh how they were unfaithful to me!
- 8 Gilead is a city full of evildoers;
its streets are stained with bloody footprints!
- 9 The company of priests is like a gang of robbers,
lying in ambush to pounce on a victim.
They commit murder on the road to Shechem;
they have done heinous crimes!

Apostasy of Ephraim—and Judah

- 10 I have seen a disgusting thing in the temple of Israel:
there Ephraim practices temple prostitution
and Judah defiles itself.
- 11a I have appointed a time to reap judgment for you also, O Judah!

Unforgiven Sins of Israel, Ephraim and Samaria

- 11b Whenever I want to restore the fortunes of my people,
7:1 whenever I want to heal Israel,
the sin of Ephraim is revealed,
and the evil deeds of Samaria are exposed.

- For they do what is wrong;
thieves break into houses,
and gangs rob people out in the streets.
- 2 They do not realize
that I remember all of their wicked deeds.
Their evil deeds have now surrounded them;
their sinful deeds are always before me.
- 3 The royal advisers delight the king with their evil schemes,
the princes make him glad with their lies.
- 4 They are all like bakers,
they are like a smoldering oven;
they are like a baker who does not stoke the fire
until the kneaded dough is ready for baking.
- 5 At the celebration of their king,
his princes become inflamed with wine;
they conspire with evildoers.
- 6 They approach him, all the while plotting against him.
Their hearts are like an oven;
their anger smolders all night long,
but in the morning it bursts into a flaming fire.
- 7 All of them are blazing like an oven;
they devour their rulers.
All of their kings fall—
and none of them call on me!

Folly of Ephraim

- 8 Ephraim has mixed itself like flour among the nations;
Ephraim is like a ruined cake of bread that is scorched on one side.
- 9 Foreigners are consuming what his strenuous labor produced,
but he does not recognize it!
His head is filled with gray hair,
but he does not realize it!
- 10 The arrogance of Israel testifies against him,
yet they refuse to return to the LORD their God!
In spite of all this they refuse to seek him!
- 11 Ephraim has been like a dove,
easily deceived and lacking discernment.
They called to Egypt for help;
they turned to Assyria for protection.
- 12 I will throw my bird net over them while they are flying,
I will bring them down like birds in the sky;
I will discipline them when I hear them flocking together.

Yahweh's Lament

- 13 Woe to them! For they have fled from me!
Destruction to them! For they have rebelled against me!
I want to deliver them,
but they have lied to me.
- 14 They do not pray to me,
but howl in distress on their beds;
They slash themselves for grain and new wine,
but turn away from me.
- 15 Although I trained and strengthened them,
they plot evil against me!
- 16 They turn to Baal;
they are like an unreliable bow.
Their leaders will fall by the sword
because their prayers to Baal have made me angry.

So people will disdain them in the land of Egypt.

Broken Covenant and Shattered Calf

- 8:1 Sound the alarm!
An eagle looms over the temple of the LORD!
For they have broken their covenant with me,
and have rebelled against my law.
- 2 Israel cries out to me,
“My God, we acknowledge you!”
- 3 But Israel has rejected what is morally good;
so an enemy will pursue him.
- 4 They enthroned kings without my consent!
They appointed princes without my approval!
They made idols out of their silver and gold,
but they will be destroyed!
- 5 O Samaria, he has rejected your calf idol!
My anger burns against them!
They will not survive much longer without being punished,
even though they are Israelites!
- 6 That idol was made by a workman—it is not God!
The calf idol of Samaria will be broken to bits.

Calling Egypt and Assyria

- 7 They sow the wind,
and so they will reap the whirlwind!
The stalk does not have any standing grain;
it will not produce any flour.
Even if it were to yield grain,
foreigners would swallow it all up.
- 8 Israel will be swallowed up among the nations;
they will be like a worthless piece of pottery.
- 9 They have gone up to Assyria,
like a wild donkey that wanders off.
Ephraim has hired prostitutes as lovers.
- 10 Even though they have hired lovers among the nations,
I will soon gather them together for judgment.
Then they will begin to waste away
under the oppression of a mighty king.
- 11 Although Ephraim has built many altars for sin offerings,
these have become altars for sinning!
- 12 I spelled out my law for him in great detail,
but they regard it as something totally unknown to them!
- 13 They offer up sacrificial gifts to me,
and eat the meat,
but the LORD does not accept their sacrifices.
Soon he will remember their wrongdoing,
he will punish their sins,
and they will return to Egypt.
- 14 Israel has forgotten his Maker and built royal palaces,
and Judah has built many fortified cities.
But I will send fire on their cities;
it will consume their royal citadels.

From Festival Days to Punishment Days

- 9:1 O Israel, do not rejoice jubilantly like the nations,
for you are unfaithful to your God.
You love to receive a prostitute’s wages
on all the floors where you thresh your grain.

- 2 Threshing floors and wine vats will not feed the people,
and new wine only deceives them.
- 3 They will not remain in the LORD's land.
Ephraim will return to Egypt;
they will eat ritually unclean food in Assyria.
- 4 They will not pour out drink offerings of wine to the LORD;
they will not please him with their sacrifices.
Their sacrifices will be like bread eaten while in mourning;
all those who eat them will make themselves ritually unclean.
For their bread will be only to satisfy their appetite;
it will not come into the temple of the LORD.
- 5 So what will you do on the festival day,
on the festival days of the LORD?
- 6 Look! Even if they flee from the destruction,
Egypt will take hold of them,
and Memphis will bury them.
The weeds will inherit the silver they treasure—
thorn bushes will occupy their homes.
- 7 The time of judgment is about to arrive!
The time of retribution is imminent!
Let Israel know!
The prophet is considered a fool—
the inspired man is viewed as a madman—
because of the multitude of your sins
and your intense animosity.
- 8 The prophet is a watchman over Ephraim on behalf of God,
yet traps are laid for him along all of his paths;
animosity rages against him in the land of his God.
- 9 They have sunk deep into corruption
as in the days of Gibeah.
He will remember their wrongdoing.
He will repay them for their sins.

Ephraim Rejected, Exiled and Unloved

- 10 When I found Israel, it was like finding grapes in the wilderness.
I viewed your ancestors like an early fig on a fig tree in its first season.
Then they came to Baal-Peor and they dedicated themselves to shame—
they became as detestable as what they loved.
- 11 Ephraim will be like a bird;
what they value will fly away.
They will not bear children—
they will not enjoy pregnancy—
they will not even conceive!
- 12 Even if they raise their children,
I will take away every last one of them.
Woe to them!
For I will turn away from them.
- 13 Just as lion cubs are born predators,
so Ephraim will bear his sons for slaughter.
- 14 Give them, O LORD—
what will you give them?
Give them wombs that miscarry,
and breasts that cannot nurse!
- 15 Because of all their evil in Gilgal,
I hate them there.
On account of their evil deeds,
I will drive them out of my land.
I will no longer love them;

- all their rulers are rebels.
- 16 Ephraim will be struck down—
their root will be dried up;
they will not yield any fruit.
Even if they do bear children,
I will kill their precious offspring.
- 17 My God will reject them,
for they have not obeyed him;
so they will be fugitives among the nations.

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Hosea's Prophecy to Israel—Indictment, Punishment and Restoration – Part 2 (c. 743 BC)

Hosea 10–14

The End of Cult, King, and Capital

- 10:1 Israel was a fertile vine
that yielded fruit.
As his fruit multiplied,
he multiplied altars to Baal.
As his land prospered,
they adorned the fertility pillars.
- 2 Their heart is slipping;
soon they will be punished for their guilt.
The LORD will break their altars;
he will completely destroy their fertility pillars.
- 3 Very soon they will say, “We have no king
since we did not fear the LORD.
But what can a king do for us anyway?”
- 4 They utter empty words,
taking false oaths and making empty agreements.
Therefore legal disputes sprout up
like poisonous weeds in the furrows of a plowed field.
- 5 The inhabitants of Samaria will lament over the calf idol of Beth Aven.
Its people will mourn over it;
its idolatrous priests will wail over it,
because its splendor will be taken from them into exile.
- 6 Even the calf idol will be carried to Assyria,
as tribute for the great king.
Ephraim will be disgraced;
Israel will be put to shame because of its wooden idol.
- 7 Samaria and its king will be carried off
like a twig on the surface of the waters.
- 8 The high places of the “House of Wickedness” will be destroyed;
it is the place where Israel sins.
Thorns and thistles will grow up over its altars.
Then they will say to the mountains, “Cover us!”
and to the hills, “Fall on us!” [\[Luke 23:27–31\]](#)

Remember Gibeah and Beth Arbel—You Cannot Trust in Military Might

- 9 O Israel, you have sinned since the time of Gibeah,
and there you have remained.
Did not war overtake the evildoers in Gibeah?
- 10 When I please, I will discipline them;
I will gather nations together to attack them,
to bind them in chains for their two sins.
- 11 Ephraim was a well-trained heifer who loved to thresh grain;
I myself put a fine yoke on her neck.
I will harness Ephraim.
Let Judah plow!
Let Jacob break up the unplowed ground for himself!
- 12 Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap unfailing love.
Break up the unplowed ground for yourselves,
for it is time to seek the LORD,
until he comes and showers deliverance on you.
- 13 But you have plowed wickedness;
you have reaped injustice;
you have eaten the fruit of deception.
Because you have depended on your chariots;
you have relied on your many warriors.

- 14 The roar of battle will rise against your people;
all your fortresses will be devastated,
just as Shalman devastated Beth Arbel on the day of battle,
when mothers were dashed to the ground with their children.
- 15 So will it happen to you, O Bethel,
because of your great wickedness!
When that day dawns,
the king of Israel will be destroyed.

Israel Will Be Slaves in the New Egypt: Assyria

- 11:1 When Israel was a young man, I loved him like a son,
and I summoned my son out of Egypt. [[Matt 2:15](#)]
- 2 But the more I summoned them,
the farther they departed from me.
They sacrificed to the Baal idols
and burned incense to images.
- 3 Yet it was I who led Ephraim,
I took them by the arm;
but they did not acknowledge that I had healed them.
- 4 I led them with leather cords,
with leather ropes;
I lifted the yoke from their neck,
and gently fed them.
- 5 They will return to Egypt!
Assyria will rule over them
because they refuse to repent!

Yahweh Cannot Totally Destroy Israel as He Did the Cities of the Plain (see Genesis 19)

- 6 A sword will flash in their cities,
it will destroy the bars of their city gates,
and will devour them in their fortresses.
- 7 My people are obsessed with turning away from me;
they call to Baal, but he will never exalt them!
- 8 How can I give you up, O Ephraim?
How can I surrender you, O Israel?
How can I treat you like Admah?
How can I make you like Zeboiim?
I have had a change of heart!
All my tender compassions are aroused!
- 9 I cannot carry out my fierce anger!
I cannot totally destroy Ephraim!
Because I am God, and not man—
the Holy One among you—
I will not come in wrath!

A New Exodus in the Future

- 10 He will roar like a lion,
and they will follow the LORD;
when he roars,
his children will come trembling from the west.
- 11 They will return in fear and trembling
like birds from Egypt,
like doves from Assyria,
and I will settle them in their homes," declares the LORD.

Israel a Deceiver

- 12 Ephraim has surrounded me with lies;
the house of Israel has surrounded me with deceit.

[And Judah is unruly against God,
even against the faithful Holy One.] (NIV)

- 12:1 Ephraim continually feeds on the wind;
he chases the east wind all day;
he multiplies lies and violence.
They make treaties with Assyria,
and send olive oil as tribute to Egypt.
- 2 The LORD also has a covenant lawsuit against Judah;
he will punish Jacob according to his ways
and repay him according to his deeds.
- 3 In the womb he attacked his brother;
in his manly vigor he struggled with God.
- 4 He struggled with an angel and prevailed;
he wept and begged for his favor.
He found God at Bethel,
and there he spoke with him!
- 5 As for the LORD God Almighty,
the LORD is the name by which he is remembered!
- 6 But you must return to your God,
by maintaining love and justice,
and by waiting for your God to return to you.
- 7 The businessmen love to cheat;
they use dishonest scales.
- 8 Ephraim boasts, "I am very rich!
I have become wealthy!
In all that I have done to gain my wealth,
no one can accuse me of any offense that is actually sinful."
- 9 "I am the LORD your God who brought you out of Egypt;
I will make you live in tents again as in the days of old.
- 10 I spoke to the prophets;
I myself revealed many visions;
I spoke in parables through the prophets."
- 11 Is there idolatry in Gilead?
Certainly its inhabitants will come to nothing!
Do they sacrifice bulls in Gilgal?
Surely their altars will be like stones heaped up on a plowed field!
- 12 Jacob fled to the country of Aram,
then Israel worked to acquire a wife;
he tended sheep to pay for her.
- 13 The LORD brought Israel out of Egypt by a prophet,
and due to a prophet Israel was preserved alive.
- 14 But Ephraim bitterly provoked him to anger;
so he will hold him accountable for the blood he has shed,
his Lord will repay him for the contempt he has shown.
- 13:1 When Ephraim spoke, there was terror;
he was exalted in Israel,
but he became guilty by worshiping Baal and died.

"I Will Destroy You, Israel"

- 2 Even now they persist in sin!
They make metal images for themselves,
idols that they skillfully fashion from their own silver;
all of them are nothing but the work of craftsmen!
There is a saying about them:
"Those who sacrifice to the calf idol are calf kissers!"
- 3 Therefore they will disappear like the morning mist,
like early morning dew that evaporates,
like chaff that is blown away from a threshing floor,

- like smoke that disappears through an open window.
- 4 But I am the LORD your God,
who brought you out of Egypt.
Therefore, you must not acknowledge any God but me;
except me there is no Savior.
- 5 I cared for you in the wilderness,
in the dry desert where no water was.
- 6 When they were fed, they became satisfied;
when they were satisfied, they became proud;
as a result, they forgot me!
- 7 So I will pounce on them like a lion;
like a leopard I will lurk by the path.
- 8 I will attack them like a bear robbed of her cubs—
I will rip open their chests.
I will devour them there like a lion—
like a wild animal would tear them apart.
- 9 I will destroy you, O Israel!
Who is there to help you?
- 10 Where then is your king,
that he may save you in all your cities?
Where are your rulers for whom you asked, saying,
“Give me a king and princes”?
- 11 I granted you a king in my anger,
and I will take him away in my wrath!
- 12 The punishment of Ephraim has been decreed;
his punishment is being stored up for the future.
- 13 The labor pains of a woman will overtake him,
but the baby will lack wisdom;
when the time arrives,
he will not come out of the womb!
- 14 Will I deliver them from the power of Sheol? No, I will not!
Will I redeem them from death? No, I will not!
O Death, bring on your plagues!
O Sheol, bring on your destruction! [cf. [1 Cor 15:55](#)]
My eyes will not show any compassion!
- 15 Even though he flourishes like a reed plant,
a scorching east wind will come,
a wind from the LORD rising up from the desert.
As a result, his spring will dry up;
his well will become dry.
That wind will spoil all his delightful foods
in the containers in his storehouse.
- 16 Samaria will be held guilty,
because she rebelled against her God.
They will fall by the sword,
their infants will be dashed to the ground—
their pregnant women will be ripped open.

A Promise for the Remnant That Will Return

- 14:1 Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God,
for your sin has been your downfall!
- 2 Return to the LORD and repent!
Say to him: “Completely forgive our iniquity;
accept our penitential prayer,
that we may offer the praise of our lips as sacrificial bulls. [[Heb 13:15](#)]
- 3 Assyria cannot save us;
we will not ride warhorses.
We will never again say, ‘Our gods’

- to what our own hands have made.
For only you will show compassion to Orphan Israel!”
- 4 “I will heal their waywardness
and love them freely,
for my anger will turn away from them.
- 5 I will be like the dew to Israel;
he will blossom like a lily,
he will send down his roots like a cedar of Lebanon.
- 6 His young shoots will grow;
his splendor will be like an olive tree,
his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon.
- 7 People will reside again in his shade;
they will plant and harvest grain in abundance.
They will blossom like a vine,
and his fame will be like the wine from Lebanon.
- 8 O Ephraim, I do not want to have anything to do with idols anymore!
I will answer him and care for him.
I am like a luxuriant cypress tree;
your fruitfulness comes from me!
- 9 Who is wise?
Let him discern these things!
Who is discerning?
Let him understand them!
For the ways of the LORD are right;
the godly walk in them,
but in them the rebellious stumble.

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The Death of Menahem [Israel] (742n BC)

2 Kings 15:21–22

21 The rest of the events of Menahem's reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.

22 Menahem passed away and his son Pekahiah replaced him as king.

Pekahiah, Menahem's Son, Assumes the Throne of Israel (742n BC)

2 Kings 15:23–24

23 In the fiftieth year of King Azariah's reign over Judah, Menahem's son Pekahiah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for two years.

24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin.

Pekahiah [Israel] is Assassinated by Pekah (740n BC)

2 Kings 15:25–26

25 His officer Pekah son of Remaliah conspired against him. He and fifty Gileadites assassinated Pekahiah, as well as Argob and Arieh, in Samaria in the fortress of the royal palace. Pekah then took his place as king.

26 The rest of the events of Pekahiah's reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.

Pekah Assumes the Throne of Israel (740n BC)

2 Kings 15:27–28

27 In the fifty-second year of King Azariah's reign over Judah, Pekah son of Remaliah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for twenty years.

28 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not repudiate the sinful ways of Jeroboam son of Nebat who encouraged Israel to sin.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—God's Case Against His People (740t BC)

Isaiah 1

Title

1 Here is the message about Judah and Jerusalem that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz during the time when Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah reigned over Judah.

God's Accusations of Rebellion against Judah

- 2 Listen, O heavens,
pay attention, O earth!
For the LORD speaks:
"I raised children, I brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me!
- 3 An ox recognizes its owner,
a donkey recognizes where its owner puts its food;
but Israel does not recognize me,
my people do not understand."
- 4 The sinful nation is as good as dead,
the people weighed down by evil deeds.
They are offspring who do wrong,
children who do wicked things.
They have abandoned the LORD,
and rejected the Holy One of Israel.
They are alienated from him.
- 5 Why do you insist on being battered?
Why do you continue to rebel?
Your head has a massive wound,
your whole body is weak.
- 6 From the soles of your feet to your head,

there is no spot that is unharmed.
There are only bruises, cuts, and open wounds.
They have not been cleansed or bandaged,
nor have they been treated with olive oil.

- 7 Your land is devastated,
your cities burned with fire.
Right before your eyes your crops
are being destroyed by foreign invaders.
They leave behind devastation and destruction.
- 8 Daughter Zion is left isolated,
like a hut in a vineyard,
or a shelter in a cucumber field;
she is a besieged city.
- 9 If the LORD who commands armies had not left us a few survivors,
we would have quickly become like Sodom,
we would have become like Gomorrah. [[Rom 9:29](#)]

God Condemns Religious Activities Done With an Unrepentant Heart

- 10 Listen to the LORD's word,
you leaders of Sodom!
Pay attention to our God's rebuke,
people of Gomorrah!
- 11 "Of what importance to me are your many sacrifices?" says the LORD.
"I am stuffed with burnt sacrifices of rams
and the fat from steers.
The blood of bulls, lambs, and goats I do not want.
- 12 When you enter my presence,
do you actually think I want this—
animals trampling on my courtyards?
- 13 Do not bring any more meaningless offerings;
I consider your incense detestable!
You observe new moon festivals, Sabbaths, and convocations,
but I cannot tolerate sin-stained celebrations!
- 14 I hate your new moon festivals and assemblies;
they are a burden that I am tired of carrying.
- 15 When you spread out your hands in prayer,
I look the other way;
when you offer your many prayers,
I do not listen,
because your hands are covered with blood.
- 16 Wash! Cleanse yourselves!
Remove your sinful deeds from my sight.
Stop sinning!
- 17 Learn to do what is right!
Promote justice!
Give the oppressed reason to celebrate!
Take up the cause of the orphan!
Defend the rights of the widow!
- 18 Come, let's consider your options," says the LORD.
"Though your sins have stained you like the color red,
you can become white like snow;
though they are as easy to see as the color scarlet,
you can become white like wool.
- 19 If you have a willing attitude and obey,
then you will again eat the good crops of the land.
- 20 But if you refuse and rebel,
you will be devoured by the sword."
Know for certain that the LORD has spoken.

God Promises to Purge the Wicked Rulers from Judah

- 21 How tragic that the once-faithful city
has become a prostitute!
She was once a center of justice,
fairness resided in her,
but now only murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become scum,
your beer is diluted with water.
- 23 Your officials are rebels,
they associate with thieves.
All of them love bribery,
and look for payoffs.
They do not take up the cause of the orphan,
or defend the rights of the widow.
- 24 Therefore, the sovereign LORD who commands armies,
the powerful ruler of Israel, says this:
“Ah, I will seek vengeance against my adversaries,
I will take revenge against my enemies.
- 25 I will attack you;
I will purify your metal with flux.
I will remove all your slag.
- 26 I will reestablish honest judges as in former times,
wise advisers as in earlier days.
Then you will be called, ‘The Just City, Faithful Town.’”
- 27 Zion will be freed by justice,
and her returnees by righteousness.
- 28 All rebellious sinners will be shattered,
those who abandon the LORD will perish.
- 29 Indeed, they will be ashamed of the sacred trees
you find so desirable;
you will be embarrassed because of the sacred orchards
where you choose to worship.
- 30 For you will be like a tree whose leaves wither,
like an orchard that is unwatered.
- 31 The powerful will be like a thread of yarn,
their deeds like a spark;
both will burn together,
and no one will put out the fire.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Exaltation of God and Humbling of the Proud (740t BC)

Isaiah 2–4

The Future Millennial Kingdom

2:1 Here is the message about Judah and Jerusalem that was revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz.

- 2 In the future
the mountain of the LORD’s temple will endure
as the most important of mountains,
and will be the most prominent of hills.
All the nations will stream to it,
- 3 many peoples will come and say,
“Come, let us go up to the LORD’s mountain,
to the temple of the God of Jacob,
so he can teach us his requirements,
and we can follow his standards.”
For Zion will be the center for moral instruction;
the LORD will issue edicts from Jerusalem.
- 4 He will judge disputes between nations;

he will settle cases for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nations will not take up the sword against other nations,
and they will no longer train for war.

- 5 O descendants of Jacob,
come, let us walk in the LORD's guiding light. [compare Isaiah 2:1–5 with [Micah 4:1–5](#)]

The Coming "Day of the LORD"

- 6 Indeed, O LORD, you have abandoned your people,
the descendants of Jacob.
For diviners from the east are everywhere;
they consult omen readers like the Philistines do.
Plenty of foreigners are around.
- 7 Their land is full of gold and silver;
there is no end to their wealth.
Their land is full of horses;
there is no end to their chariots.
- 8 Their land is full of worthless idols;
they worship the product of their own hands,
what their own fingers have fashioned.
- 9 Men bow down to them in homage,
they lie flat on the ground in worship.
Don't spare them!
- 10 Go up into the rocky cliffs,
hide in the ground.
Get away from the dreadful judgment of the LORD,
from his royal splendor!
- 11 Proud men will be brought low,
arrogant men will be humiliated;
the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.
- 12 Indeed, the LORD who commands armies has planned a day of judgment,
for all the high and mighty,
for all who are proud—they will be humiliated;
- 13 for all the cedars of Lebanon,
that are so high and mighty,
for all the oaks of Bashan;
- 14 for all the tall mountains,
for all the high hills,
- 15 for every high tower,
for every fortified wall,
- 16 for all the large ships,
for all the impressive ships.
- 17 Proud men will be humiliated,
arrogant men will be brought low;
the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.
- 18 The worthless idols will be completely eliminated.
- 19 They will go into caves in the rocky cliffs
and into holes in the ground,
trying to escape the dreadful judgment of the LORD
and his royal splendor,
when he rises up to terrify the earth.
- 20 At that time men will throw
their silver and gold idols,
which they made for themselves to worship,
into the caves where rodents and bats live,
- 21 so they themselves can go into the crevices of the rocky cliffs
and the openings under the rocky overhangs,

trying to escape the dreadful judgment of the LORD
and his royal splendor,
when he rises up to terrify the earth.

- 22 Stop trusting in human beings,
whose life's breath is in their nostrils.
For why should they be given special consideration?

Removal of Judah's Male Leaders

- 3:1 Look, the sovereign LORD who commands armies
is about to remove from Jerusalem and Judah
every source of security,
including all the food and water,
2 the mighty men and warriors,
judges and prophets,
omen readers and leaders,
3 captains of groups of fifty,
the respected citizens,
advisers and those skilled in magical arts,
and those who know incantations.
4 The LORD says, "I will make youths their officials;
malicious young men will rule over them.
5 The people will treat each other harshly;
men will oppose each other;
neighbors will fight.
Youths will proudly defy the elderly
and ruffians will challenge those who were once respected.
6 Indeed, a man will grab his brother
right in his father's house and say,
'You own a coat—
you be our leader!
This heap of ruins will be under your control.'
7 At that time the brother will shout,
'I am no doctor,
I have no food or coat in my house;
don't make me a leader of the people!'"
8 Jerusalem certainly stumbles,
Judah falls,
for their words and their actions offend the LORD;
they rebel against his royal authority.
9 The look on their faces testifies to their guilt;
like the people of Sodom they openly boast of their sin.
Too bad for them!
For they bring disaster on themselves.
10 Tell the innocent it will go well with them,
for they will be rewarded for what they have done.
11 Too bad for the wicked sinners!
For they will get exactly what they deserve.
12 Oppressors treat my people cruelly;
creditors rule over them.
My people's leaders mislead them;
they give you confusing directions.
13 The LORD takes his position to judge;
he stands up to pass sentence on his people.
14 The LORD comes to pronounce judgment
on the leaders of his people and their officials.
He says, "It is you who have ruined the vineyard!
You have stashed in your houses what you have stolen from the poor.
15 Why do you crush my people

and grind the faces of the poor?”

The sovereign LORD who commands armies has spoken.

Removal of Judah’s Proud Women

- 16 The LORD says,
 “The women of Zion are proud.
 They walk with their heads high
 and flirt with their eyes.
 They skip along
 and the jewelry on their ankles jingles.
- 17 So the sovereign master will afflict the foreheads of Zion’s women with skin diseases,
 the LORD will make the front of their heads bald.”

18 At that time the sovereign master will remove their beautiful ankle jewelry, neck ornaments, crescent shaped ornaments,
 19 earrings, bracelets, veils,

20 headdresses, ankle ornaments, sashes, sachets, amulets,

21 rings, nose rings,

22 festive dresses, robes, shawls, purses,

23 garments, vests, head coverings, and gowns.

24 A putrid stench will replace the smell of spices,
 a rope will replace a belt,
 baldness will replace braided locks of hair,
 a sackcloth garment will replace a fine robe,
 and a prisoner’s brand will replace beauty.

25 Your men will fall by the sword,
 your strong men will die in battle.

26 Her gates will mourn and lament;
 deprived of her people, she will sit on the ground.

4:1 Seven women will grab hold of
 one man at that time.
 They will say, “We will provide our own food,
 we will provide our own clothes;
 but let us belong to you—
 take away our shame!”

The Millennial Glory of Jerusalem

2 At that time the crops given by the LORD will bring admiration and honor; the produce of the land will be a source of pride and delight to those who remain in Israel.

3 Those remaining in Zion, those left in Jerusalem, will be called “holy,” all in Jerusalem who are destined to live.

4 At that time the sovereign master will wash the excrement from Zion’s women, he will rinse the bloodstains from Jerusalem’s midst, as he comes to judge and to bring devastation.

5 Then the LORD will create over all of Mount Zion and over its convocations a cloud and smoke by day and a bright flame of fire by night; indeed a canopy will accompany the LORD’s glorious presence.

6 By day it will be a shelter to provide shade from the heat, as well as safety and protection from the heavy downpour.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Coming Destruction of Judah (740t BC)

Isaiah 5

The Song of the Vineyard

- 1 I will sing to my love—
 a song to my lover about his vineyard.
 My love had a vineyard
 on a fertile hill.
- 2 He built a hedge around it, removed its stones,
 and planted a vine.
 He built a tower in the middle of it,
 and constructed a winepress.

- He waited for it to produce edible grapes,
but it produced sour ones instead.
- 3 So now, residents of Jerusalem,
people of Judah,
you decide between me and my vineyard!
- 4 What more can I do for my vineyard
beyond what I have already done?
When I waited for it to produce edible grapes,
why did it produce sour ones instead?
- 5 Now I will inform you
what I am about to do to my vineyard:
I will remove its hedge and turn it into pasture,
I will break its wall and allow animals to graze there.
- 6 I will make it a wasteland;
no one will prune its vines or hoe its ground,
and thorns and briars will grow there.
I will order the clouds not to drop any rain on it.
- 7 Indeed Israel is the vineyard of the LORD who commands armies,
the people of Judah are the cultivated place in which he took delight.
He waited for justice, but look what he got—disobedience!
He waited for fairness, but look what he got—cries for help!

Woe Oracles against the Wicked

- 8 Those who accumulate houses are as good as dead,
those who also accumulate landed property
until there is no land left,
and you are the only landowners remaining within the land.
- 9 The LORD who commands armies told me this:
“Many houses will certainly become desolate,
large, impressive houses will have no one living in them.
- 10 Indeed, a large vineyard will produce just a few gallons,
and enough seed to yield several bushels will produce less than a bushel.”
- 11 Those who get up early to drink beer are as good as dead,
those who keep drinking long after dark
until they are intoxicated with wine.
- 12 They have stringed instruments, tambourines, flutes,
and wine at their parties.
So they do not recognize what the LORD is doing,
they do not perceive what he is bringing about.
- 13 Therefore my people will be deported
because of their lack of understanding.
Their leaders will have nothing to eat,
their masses will have nothing to drink.
- 14 So Death will open up its throat,
and open wide its mouth;
Zion’s dignitaries and masses will descend into it,
including those who revel and celebrate within her.
- 15 Men will be humiliated,
they will be brought low;
the proud will be brought low.
- 16 The LORD who commands armies will be exalted when he punishes,
the sovereign God’s authority will be recognized when he judges.
- 17 Lambs will graze as if in their pastures,
amid the ruins the rich sojourners will graze.
- 18 Those who pull evil along using cords of emptiness are as good as dead,
who pull sin as with cart ropes.
- 19 They say, “Let him hurry, let him act quickly,
so we can see;

let the plan of the Holy One of Israel take shape and come to pass,
then we will know it!"

- 20 Those who call evil good and good evil are as good as dead,
who turn darkness into light and light into darkness,
who turn bitter into sweet and sweet into bitter.
- 21 Those who think they are wise are as good as dead,
those who think they possess understanding.
- 22 Those who are champions at drinking wine are as good as dead,
who display great courage when mixing strong drinks.
- 23 They pronounce the guilty innocent for a payoff,
they ignore the just cause of the innocent.
- 24 Therefore, as flaming fire devours straw,
and dry grass disintegrates in the flames,
so their root will rot,
and their flower will blow away like dust.
For they have rejected the law of the LORD who commands armies,
they have spurned the commands of the Holy One of Israel.
- 25 So the LORD is furious with his people;
he lifts his hand and strikes them.
The mountains shake,
and corpses lie like manure in the middle of the streets.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

An Army's Destruction of Judah

- 26 He lifts a signal flag for a distant nation,
he whistles for it to come from the far regions of the earth.
Look, they come quickly and swiftly.
- 27 None tire or stumble,
they don't stop to nap or sleep.
They don't loosen their belts,
or unstrap their sandals to rest.
- 28 Their arrows are sharpened,
and all their bows are prepared.
The hooves of their horses are hard as flint,
and their chariot wheels are like a windstorm.
- 29 Their roar is like a lion's;
they roar like young lions.
They growl and seize their prey;
they drag it away and no one can come to the rescue.
- 30 At that time they will growl over their prey,
it will sound like sea waves crashing against rocks.
One will look out over the land and see the darkness of disaster,
clouds will turn the light into darkness.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Pekah assumed the throne of Israel in 740t/739n (Pekahiah's reign officially ended in 740n), but many scholars believe that he had been reigning as a rival to the kings of Israel since 752n. Young comments, "The contention of Cook and Thiele that Pekah, in Gilead, began a rival reign to Menahem's rule in Samaria after Shallum's death will be accepted here as the only solution that has explained adequately the chronological data associated with Pekah. Pekah's twenty-year reign and the rivalry with

Menahem began in 732n + 20 = 752n.”¹

2) Isaiah.

- A) The title of the book of Isaiah tells us that Isaiah’s ministry took place “in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah” (Isa 1:1). These kings’ reigns are as follows:
- (1) Uzziah (791t–740t; sole reign began 767t).
 - (2) Jotham (751t–736t; sole reign began 740t).
 - (3) Ahaz (732t–716t).
 - (4) Hezekiah (716t–687t).
- B) When we examine the book itself for more precise indications of date, we discover that all chronological notations are in strict historical order:
- (1) “In the year that king Uzziah died” (Isa 6:1) – 740t.
 - (2) “In the days of Ahaz...Rezin the king of Syria and Pekah the king of Israel came up to Jerusalem” (Isa 7:1) – 733.
 - (3) “In the year that king Ahaz died” (Isa 14:28) – 716t.
 - (4) “In the year that the ‘Tartan’ came to Ashdod and attacked and captured it” (Isa 20:1) – 711.
 - (5) “In the fourteenth year of king Hezekiah” (Isa 36:1) – 702t (summer of 701).
- C) Does the fact that Isaiah’s chronological notations are in strict historical order mean that all the individual prophecies are arranged in chronological order? This is a very difficult question to answer, and there are debates on the timing of various prophecies. For example, Isaiah 6, which many understand as Isaiah’s initial call to prophetic ministry, is argued to have occurred before the prophecies of Isaiah 1–5. Also, the events of Isaiah 38–39 (Hezekiah’s illness and Merodach-baladan’s visit from Babylon) are argued to occur prior to the events of Isaiah 36–37 (see Isa 38:6 which promises deliverance from Sennacherib’s [Assyria] attack on Jerusalem mentioned in Isa 36:1).
- D) After weeks of trying to figure out the best way to present Isaiah, I finally decided to present it in canonical order with the sections separated into the various historical periods found throughout the book.

¹ Rodger C. Young, “When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies,” *JETS* 47.4 (Dec 2004): 581–582 (be sure to read note 11). See also J. H. Cook, “Pekah,” *Vetus Testamentum* 14 (1964): 121–135.

The Death of Uzziah [Judah] (740t BC)

2 Kings 15:6–7	2 Chronicles 26:22–23
<p>6 The rest of the events of Azariah’s reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>7 Azariah passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David.</p> <p>His son Jotham replaced him as king.</p>	<p>22 The rest of the events of Uzziah’s reign, from start to finish,</p> <p>were recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz.</p> <p>23 Uzziah passed away and was buried near his ancestors in a cemetery belonging to the kings. (This was because he had a skin disease.)</p> <p>His son Jotham replaced him as king.</p>

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—A Vision of Yahweh (740t BC)

Isaiah 6

A Vision of the Holy King

- 1 In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the sovereign master seated on a high, elevated throne. The hem of his robe filled the temple.
- 2 Seraphs stood over him; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used the remaining two to fly.
- 3 They called out to one another,
- “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord who commands armies!
His majestic splendor fills the entire earth!”
- 4 The sound of their voices shook the door frames, and the temple was filled with smoke.

The Prophet’s Purification

- 5 I said, “Too bad for me! I am destroyed, for my lips are contaminated by sin, and I live among people whose lips are contaminated by sin. My eyes have seen the king, the LORD who commands armies.”
- 6 But then one of the seraphs flew toward me. In his hand was a hot coal he had taken from the altar with tongs.
- 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, “Look, this coal has touched your lips. Your evil is removed; your sin is forgiven.”

A Hardening Message for a Calloused Audience

- 8 I heard the voice of the sovereign master say, “Whom will I send? Who will go on our behalf?” I answered, “Here I am, send me!”
- 9 He said, “Go and tell these people:
- ‘Listen continually, but don’t understand!
Look continually, but don’t perceive!’
- 10 Make the hearts of these people calloused;
make their ears deaf and their eyes blind!
Otherwise they might see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
their hearts might understand and they might repent and be healed.” [\[Matt 13:13–15; John 12:39–41\]](#)

Hope in the Midst of Destruction

- 11 I replied, “How long, sovereign master?” He said,
- “Until cities are in ruins and unpopulated,
and houses are uninhabited,
and the land is ruined and devastated,
- 12 and the LORD has sent the people off to a distant place,
and the very heart of the land is completely abandoned.
- 13 Even if only a tenth of the people remain in the land,
it will again be destroyed,
like one of the large sacred trees or an Asherah pole,
when a sacred pillar on a high place is thrown down.
That sacred pillar symbolizes the special chosen family.”

Jotham, Uzziah's Son, Begins Sole Reign of Judah (740t BC)

2 Kings 15:34–35a

2 Chronicles 27:2

34 He did what the LORD approved,
just as his father Uzziah had done.

35a But the high places were not eliminated;
the people continued to offer sacrifices and burn incense on the
high places.

2 He did what the LORD approved,
just as his father Uzziah had done.
(He did not, however, have the audacity to enter the temple.)

Yet the people were still sinning.

Micah's Prophecy to Judah—Judgment of Israel and Judah (c. 740–723 BC)

Micah 1–2

Title

1:1 This is the prophetic message that the LORD gave to Micah of Moresheth. He delivered this message during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. The prophecies pertain to Samaria and Jerusalem.

The Divine Warrior Comes to Judge Samaria and Israel

- 2 Listen, all you nations!
Pay attention, all inhabitants of earth!
The sovereign LORD will testify against you;
the LORD will accuse you from his majestic palace.
- 3 Look, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling place!
He will descend and march on the earth's mountaintops!
- 4 The mountains will disintegrate beneath him,
and the valleys will be split in two.
The mountains will melt like wax in a fire,
the rocks will slide down like water cascading down a steep slope.
- 5 All this is because of Jacob's rebellion
and the sins of the nation of Israel.
How has Jacob rebelled, you ask?
Samaria epitomizes their rebellion!
Where are Judah's pagan worship centers, you ask?
They are right in Jerusalem!
- 6 "I will turn Samaria into a heap of ruins in an open field—
vineyards will be planted there!
I will tumble the rubble of her stone walls down into the valley,
and tear down her fortifications to their foundations.
- 7 All her carved idols will be smashed to pieces;
all her metal cult statues will be destroyed by fire.
I will make a waste heap of all her images.
Since she gathered the metal as a prostitute collects her wages,
the idols will become a prostitute's wages again."

Micah Laments the Coming Invasion of Judah

- 8 For this reason I will mourn and wail;
I will walk around barefoot and without my outer garments.
I will howl like a wild dog,
and screech like an owl.
- 9 For Samaria's disease is incurable.
It has infected Judah;
it has spread to the leadership of my people
and has even contaminated Jerusalem!
- 10 Don't spread the news in Gath!
Don't shed even a single tear!
In Beth Leaphrah sit in the dust!
- 11 Residents of Shaphir, pass by in nakedness and humiliation!
The residents of Zaanan can't leave their city.
Beth Ezel mourns, "He takes from you what he desires."

- 12 Indeed, the residents of Maroth hope for something good to happen,
though the LORD has sent disaster against the city of Jerusalem.
- 13 Residents of Lachish, hitch the horses to the chariots!
You influenced Daughter Zion to sin,
for Israel's rebellious deeds can be traced back to you!
- 14 Therefore you will have to say farewell to Moresheth Gath.
The residents of Achzib will be as disappointing
as a dried up well to the kings of Israel.
- 15 Residents of Mareshah, a conqueror will attack you,
the leaders of Israel shall flee to Adullam.
- 16 Shave your heads bald as you mourn for the children you love;
shave your foreheads as bald as an eagle,
for they are taken from you into exile.

Woe to Wealthy and Oppressive Land-grabbers

- 2:1 Those who devise sinful plans are as good as dead,
those who dream about doing evil as they lie in bed.
As soon as morning dawns they carry out their plans,
because they have the power to do so.
- 2 They confiscate the fields they desire,
and seize the houses they want.
They defraud people of their homes,
and deprive people of the land they have inherited.
- 3 Therefore the LORD says this: "Look, I am devising disaster for this nation!
It will be like a yoke from which you cannot free your neck.
You will no longer walk proudly,
for it will be a time of catastrophe.
- 4 In that day people will sing this taunt song to you—
they will mock you with this lament:
'We are completely destroyed;
they sell off the property of my people.
How they remove it from me!
They assign our fields to the conqueror.'
- 5 Therefore no one will assign you land in the LORD's community.

The Wealthy Wicked and Their False Prophets versus Micah and His God

- 6 'Don't preach with such impassioned rhetoric,' they say excitedly.
'These prophets should not preach of such things;
we will not be overtaken by humiliation.'
- 7 Does the family of Jacob say,
'The LORD's patience can't be exhausted—
he would never do such things?'
To be sure, my commands bring a reward
for those who obey them,
- 8 but you rise up as an enemy against my people.
You steal a robe from a friend,
from those who pass by peacefully as if returning from a war.
- 9 You wrongly evict widows among my people from their cherished homes.
You defraud their children of their prized inheritance.
- 10 But you are the ones who will be forced to leave!
For this land is not secure!
Sin will thoroughly destroy it!
- 11 If a lying windbag should come and say,
'I'll promise you blessings of wine and beer,'
he would be just the right preacher for these people!

The Restoration of a Remnant

- 12 I will certainly gather all of you, O Jacob,

I will certainly assemble those Israelites who remain.
 I will bring them together like sheep in a fold,
 like a flock in the middle of a pasture;
 they will be so numerous that they will make a lot of noise.

13 The one who can break through barriers will lead them out
 they will break out, pass through the gate, and leave.
 Their king will advance before them,
 The LORD himself will lead them.

Jotham [Judah] Obeys God and Prospers (c. 738t BC)

2 Kings 15:35b	2 Chronicles 27:3–6
35b He built the Upper Gate to the LORD's temple.	<p>3 He built the Upper Gate to the LORD's temple and did a lot of work on the wall in the area known as Ophel.</p> <p>4 He built cities in the hill country of Judah and fortresses and towers in the forests.</p> <p>5 He launched a military campaign against the king of the Ammonites and defeated them. That year the Ammonites paid him 100 talents of silver, 10,000 kors of wheat, and 10,000 kors of barley. The Ammonites also paid this same amount of annual tribute the next two years.</p> <p>6 Jotham grew powerful because he was determined to please the LORD his God.</p>

Ahaz, Jotham's Son, Begins Coregency With Jotham [Judah] (735n/735t BC)

2 Kings 16:1–4	2 Chronicles 28:1–4
<p>1 In the seventeenth year of the reign of Pekah son of Remaliah, Jotham's son Ahaz became king over Judah.</p> <p>2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what pleased the LORD his God, in contrast to his ancestor David.</p> <p>3 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel.</p> <p>He passed his son through the fire, a horrible sin practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out from before the Israelites.</p> <p>4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.</p>	<p>1 Ahaz was twenty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem. He did not do what pleased the LORD, in contrast to his ancestor David.</p> <p>2 He followed in the footsteps of the kings of Israel; he also made images of the Baals.</p> <p>3 He offered sacrifices in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and passed his sons through the fire, a horrible sin practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out before the Israelites.</p> <p>4 He offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.</p>

Syro-Ephraimite War: Rezin [Syria] and Pekah [Israel] Attack Ahaz [Judah] (734 BC)

2 Chronicles 28:5–15, 17–19

Ahaz is Defeated in Battle by Pekah and Rezin

5 The LORD his God handed him over to the king of Syria. The Syrians defeated him and deported many captives to Damascus. He was also handed over to the king of Israel, who thoroughly defeated him.

6 In one day King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel killed 120,000 warriors in Judah, because they had abandoned the LORD God of their ancestors.

7 Zikri, an Ephraimite warrior, killed the king's son Maaseiah, Azrikam, the supervisor of the palace, and Elkanah, the king's second-in-command.

8 The Israelites seized from their brothers 200,000 wives, sons, and daughters. They also carried off a huge amount of plunder and took it back to Samaria.

God, through Oded the Prophet, Forbids Israel to Enslave Judah

9 Oded, a prophet of the LORD, was there. He went to meet the army as they arrived in Samaria and said to them: "Look, because the LORD God of your ancestors was angry with Judah he handed them over to you. You have killed them so mercilessly that God has taken notice.

10 And now you are planning to enslave the people of Judah and Jerusalem. Yet are you not also guilty before the LORD your God?
 11 Now listen to me! Send back those you have seized from your brothers, for the LORD is very angry at you!”
 12 So some of the Ephraimite family leaders, Azariah son of Jehochanan, Berechiah son of Meshillemoth, Jechizkiah son of Shallum, and Amasa son of Hadlai confronted those returning from the battle.
 13 They said to them, “Don’t bring those captives here! Are you planning on making us even more sinful and guilty before the LORD? Our guilt is already great and the LORD is very angry at Israel.”
 14 So the soldiers released the captives and the plunder before the officials and the entire assembly.
 15 Men were assigned to take the prisoners and find clothes among the plunder for those who were naked. So they clothed them, supplied them with sandals, gave them food and drink, and provided them with oil to rub on their skin. They put the ones who couldn’t walk on donkeys. They brought them back to their brothers at Jericho, the city of the date palm trees, and then returned to Samaria.

Edom and Philistia Take Advantage of Judah’s Weakness and Attack

17 The Edomites had again invaded and defeated Judah and carried off captives.
 18 The Philistines had raided the cities of Judah in the lowlands and the Negev. They captured and settled in Beth Shemesh, Aijalon, Gederoth, Soco and its surrounding villages, Timnah and its surrounding villages, and Gimzo and its surrounding villages.
 19 The LORD humiliated Judah because of King Ahaz of Israel, for he encouraged Judah to sin and was very unfaithful to the LORD.

Syro-Ephraimite War: Rezin and Pekah Besiege Jerusalem (733 BC)

2 Kings 16:5–6

Isaiah 7:1

5 At that time

King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel attacked Jerusalem.

They besieged Ahaz, but were unable to conquer him.

6 (At that time King Rezin of Syria recovered Elat for Syria; he drove the Judahites from there. Syrians arrived in Elat and live there to this very day.)

1 During the reign of Ahaz son of Jotham, son of Uzziah, king of Judah, King Rezin of Syria and King Pekah son of Remaliah of Israel marched up to Jerusalem to do battle,

but they were unable to prevail against it.

Syro-Ephraimite War: Isaiah Urges Ahaz to Trust God (733 BC)

Isaiah 7:2–9

2 It was reported to the family of David, “Syria has allied with Ephraim.” They and their people were emotionally shaken, just as the trees of the forest shake before the wind.

3 So the LORD told Isaiah, “Go out with your son Shear-jashub and meet Ahaz at the end of the conduit of the upper pool which is located on the road to the field where they wash and dry cloth.

4 Tell him, ‘Make sure you stay calm! Don’t be afraid! Don’t be intimidated by these two stubs of smoking logs, or by the raging anger of Rezin, Syria, and the son of Remaliah.

5 Syria has plotted with Ephraim and the son of Remaliah to bring about your demise.

6 They say, “Let’s attack Judah, terrorize it, and conquer it. Then we’ll set up the son of Tabeel as its king.”

7 For this reason the sovereign master, the LORD, says:

“It will not take place;
it will not happen.

8 For Syria’s leader is Damascus,
and the leader of Damascus is Rezin.
Within sixty-five years Ephraim will no longer exist as a nation.

9 Ephraim’s leader is Samaria,
and Samaria’s leader is the son of Remaliah.
If your faith does not remain firm,
then you will not remain secure.”

Syro-Ephraimite War: Ahaz [Judah] Asks Tiglath-Pileser III [Assyria] for Help (733 BC)

2 Kings 16:7–8

7 Ahaz sent messengers to King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria, saying, “I am your servant and your dependent. March up and rescue me from the power of the king of Syria and the king of Israel, who have attacked me.”
8 Then Ahaz took the silver and gold that were in the LORD’s temple and in the treasuries of the royal palace and sent it as tribute to the king of Assyria.

2 Chronicles 28:16, 21

16 At that time King Ahaz asked the king of Assyria for help.
21 Ahaz gathered riches from the LORD’s temple, the royal palace, and the officials and gave them to the king of Assyria, but that did not help.

Syro-Ephraimite War: Isaiah Gives Ahaz a Sign (733 BC)

Isaiah 7:10–8:17

The Sign of Immanuel

7:10 The LORD again spoke to Ahaz:

11 “Ask for a confirming sign from the LORD your God. You can even ask for something miraculous.”

12 But Ahaz responded, “I don’t want to ask; I don’t want to put the LORD to a test.”

13 So Isaiah replied, “Pay attention, family of David. Do you consider it too insignificant to try the patience of men? Is that why you are also trying the patience of my God?”

14 For this reason the sovereign master himself will give you a confirming sign. [Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.] (ESV) [[Matt 1:23](#)]

15 He will eat sour milk and honey [until he knows] how to reject evil and choose what is right.

16 Here is why this will be so: Before the child knows how to reject evil and choose what is right, the land whose two kings you fear will be desolate.

Judgment of the Land

17 The LORD will bring on you, your people, and your father’s family a time unlike any since Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria!”

18 At that time the LORD will whistle for flies from the distant streams of Egypt and for bees from the land of Assyria.

19 All of them will come and make their home in the ravines between the cliffs, and in the crevices of the cliffs, in all the thorn bushes, and in all the watering holes.

20 At that time the sovereign master will use a razor hired from the banks of the Euphrates River, the king of Assyria, to shave the head and the pubic hair; it will also shave off the beard.

21 At that time a man will keep alive a young cow from the herd and a couple of goats.

22 From the abundance of milk they produce, he will have sour milk for his meals. Indeed, everyone left in the heart of the land will eat sour milk and honey.

23 At that time every place where there had been a thousand vines worth a thousand shekels will be overrun with thorns and briers.

24 With bow and arrow men will hunt there, for the whole land will be covered with thorns and briers.

25 They will stay away from all the hills that were cultivated, for fear of the thorns and briers. Cattle will graze there and sheep will trample on them.

Isaiah Predicts the Destruction of Syria and Israel

8:1 The LORD told me, “Take a large tablet and inscribe these words on it with an ordinary stylus: ‘Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz.’”

2 Then I will summon as my reliable witnesses Uriah the priest and Zechariah son of Jeberekiah.”

3 I then had sexual relations with the prophetess; she conceived and gave birth to a son. The LORD told me, “Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz,

4 for before the child knows how to cry out, ‘My father’ or ‘My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the plunder of Samaria will be carried off by the king of Assyria.”

The Coming Assyrian Flood

5 The LORD spoke to me again:

6 “These people have rejected the gently flowing waters of Shiloah and melt in fear over Rezin and the son of Remaliah.

7 So look, the sovereign master is bringing up against them the turbulent and mighty waters of the Euphrates River—the king of Assyria and all his majestic power. It will reach flood stage and overflow its banks.

8 It will spill into Judah, flooding and engulfing, as it reaches to the necks of its victims. He will spread his wings out over your entire

land, O Immanuel.”

- 9 You will be broken, O nations;
you will be shattered!
Pay attention, all you distant lands of the earth!
Get ready for battle, and you will be shattered!
Get ready for battle, and you will be shattered!
- 10 Devise your strategy, but it will be thwarted!
Issue your orders, but they will not be executed!
For God is with us!

Fear God, Not Human Armies

11 Indeed this is what the LORD told me. He took hold of me firmly and warned me not to act like these people:

- 12 “Do not say, ‘Conspiracy,’ every time these people say the word.
Don’t be afraid of what scares them; don’t be terrified.
- 13 You must recognize the authority of the LORD who commands armies.
He is the one you must respect;
he is the one you must fear.
- 14 He will become a sanctuary,
but a stone that makes a person trip,
and a rock that makes one stumble—
to the two houses of Israel.
He will become a trap and a snare
to the residents of Jerusalem.
- 15 Many will stumble over the stone and the rock,
and will fall and be seriously injured,
and will be ensnared and captured.” [cf. [Rom 9:33](#); [1 Pet 2:8](#)]

16 Tie up the scroll as legal evidence, seal the official record of God’s instructions and give it to my followers.

17 I will wait patiently for the LORD, who has rejected the family of Jacob; I will wait for him.

Syro-Ephraimite War: Assyria Defeats Syria and Israel (732 BC)

2 Kings 16:9; 15:29	1 Chronicles 5:26	2 Chronicles 28:20
<p>16:9 The king of Assyria responded favorably to his request; he attacked Damascus and captured it. He deported the people to Kir and executed Rezin.</p> <p>15:29 During Pekah’s reign over Israel, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria came and captured Ijon, Abel Beth Maacah, Janoah, Kedesh, Hazor, Gilead, and Galilee, including all the territory of Naphtali.</p> <p>He deported the people to Assyria.</p>	<p>26 So the God of Israel stirred up King Pul of Assyria</p> <p>(that is, King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria),</p> <p>and he carried away the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh and took them to Halah, Habor, Hara, and the river of Gozan, where they remain to this very day.</p>	<p>20 King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria came,</p> <p>but he gave him more trouble than support.</p>

Syro-Ephraimite War: Pekah [Israel] is Assassinated by Hoshea (732n BC)

2 Kings 15:30–31

30 Hoshea son of Elah conspired against Pekah son of Remaliah. He assassinated him and took his place as king, in the twentieth year of the reign of Jotham son of Uzziah.

31 The rest of the events of Pekah's reign, including all his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Israel.

Syro-Ephraimite War: Hoshea Assumes the Throne of Israel (732n BC)

2 Kings 17:1–2

1 In the twelfth year of King Ahaz's reign over Judah, Hoshea son of Elah became king over Israel. He reigned in Samaria for nine years.

2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD, but not to the same degree as the Israelite kings who preceded him.

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Chronological Notes

1) Micah.

A) The first verse of Micah dates his prophecies to the reigns of “Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, the kings of Judah” (Mic 1:1). The dates for these kings' reigns are as follows:

- (1) Jotham (751t–736t). [coregent in 751t, sole reign in 740t, Ahaz coregent in 736t, death in 732t].
- (2) Ahaz (732t–716t).
- (3) Hezekiah (716t–687t).

B) I will be following J. T. Willis' division of Micah into three sections: 1–2, 3–5 and 6–7.¹ Since the destruction of Samaria is foretold in Micah 1:2–7, I have chosen to date this oracle to c. 740–723. Micah 3:12 is dated to the reign of Hezekiah (cf. Jer 26:18) and so I have dated the remaining two oracles (3–5, 6–7) to the time when Hezekiah was coregent with Ahaz (c. 720–715).²

¹ Bruce K. Waltke, “Micah,” *TOCT*, 157. Note that Waltke endorses Willis' approach to the structure of Micah.

² Hezekiah was coregent with his father Ahaz from 729t/728n to 715. For more details on this coregency, see Rodger C. Young, “When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies,” *JETS* 47.4 (Dec 2004): 577–95.

The Death of Jotham [Judah] (732t BC)

2 Kings 15:36–38	2 Chronicles 27:7–9
<p>36 The rest of the events of Jotham’s reign, including his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>37 In those days the LORD prompted King Rezin of Syria and Pekah son of Remaliah to attack Judah.</p> <p>38 Jotham passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of his ancestor David. His son Ahaz replaced him as king.</p>	<p>7 The rest of the events of Jotham’s reign, including all his military campaigns and his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll of the kings of Israel and Judah.</p> <p>8 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned for sixteen years in Jerusalem.</p> <p>9 Jotham passed away and was buried in the City of David. His son Ahaz replaced him as king.</p>

Ahaz [Judah] Compounds His Idolatry (732 BC)

2 Kings 16:10–18	2 Chronicles 28:22–25
<p>10 When King Ahaz went to meet with King Tiglath-pileser of Assyria in Damascus, he saw the altar there. King Ahaz sent to Uriah the priest a drawing of the altar and a blueprint for its design.</p> <p>11 Uriah the priest built an altar in conformity to the plans King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. Uriah the priest finished it before King Ahaz arrived back from Damascus.</p> <p>12 When the king arrived back from Damascus and saw the altar, he approached it and offered a sacrifice on it.</p> <p>13 He offered his burnt sacrifice and his grain offering. He poured out his libation and sprinkled the blood from his peace offerings on the altar.</p> <p>14 He moved the bronze altar that stood in the LORD’s presence from the front of the temple (between the altar and the LORD’s temple) and put it on the north side of the new altar.</p> <p>15 King Ahaz ordered Uriah the priest, “On the large altar offer the morning burnt sacrifice, the evening grain offering, the royal burnt sacrifices and grain offering, the burnt sacrifice for all the people of Israel, their grain offering, and their libations. Sprinkle all the blood of the burnt sacrifice and other sacrifices on it. The bronze altar will be for my personal use.”</p> <p>16 So Uriah the priest did exactly as King Ahaz ordered.</p> <p>17 King Ahaz took off the frames of the movable stands, and removed the basins from them. He took “The Sea” down from the bronze bulls that supported it and put it on the pavement.</p> <p>18 He also removed the Sabbath awning that had been built in the temple and the king’s outer entranceway, on account of the king of Assyria.</p>	<p>22 During his time of trouble King Ahaz was even more unfaithful to the LORD.</p> <p>23 He offered sacrifices to the gods of Damascus whom he thought had defeated him.</p> <p>He reasoned, “Since the gods of the kings of Damascus helped them, I will sacrifice to them so they will help me.” But they caused him and all Israel to stumble.</p> <p>24 Ahaz gathered the items in God’s temple and removed them.</p> <p>He shut the doors of the LORD’s temple and erected altars on every street corner in Jerusalem.</p> <p>25 In every city throughout Judah he set up high places to offer sacrifices to other gods. He angered the LORD God of his ancestors.</p>

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Righteous King (c. 730 BC)

Isaiah 8:18–12:6

Isaiah Addresses His Followers

8:18 Look, I and the sons whom the LORD has given me are reminders and object lessons in Israel, sent from the LORD who commands armies, who lives on Mount Zion. [[Heb 2:13](#)]

19 They will say to you, “Seek oracles at the pits used to conjure up underworld spirits, from the magicians who chirp and mutter incantations. Should people not seek oracles from their gods, by asking the dead about the destiny of the living?”

20 Then you must recall the LORD's instructions and the prophetic testimony of what would happen. Certainly they say such things because their minds are spiritually darkened.

21 They will pass through the land destitute and starving. Their hunger will make them angry, and they will curse their king and their God as they look upward.

22 When one looks out over the land, he sees distress and darkness, gloom and anxiety, darkness and people forced from the land.

The Reign of a Righteous King—The Messiah and the Millennium

9:1 The gloom will be dispelled for those who were anxious. In earlier times he humiliated the land of Zebulun, and the land of Naphtali; but now he brings honor to the way of the sea, the region beyond the Jordan, and Galilee of the nations.

- 2 The people walking in darkness
see a bright light;
light shines
on those who live in a land of deep darkness. [[Matt 4:14–16](#)]
- 3 You have enlarged the nation;
you give them great joy.
They rejoice in your presence
as harvesters rejoice;
as warriors celebrate when they divide up the plunder.
- 4 For their oppressive yoke
and the club that strikes their shoulders,
the cudgel the oppressor uses on them,
you have shattered, as in the day of Midian's defeat.
- 5 Indeed every boot that marches and shakes the earth
and every garment dragged through blood
is used as fuel for the fire.
- 6 For a child has been born to us,
a son has been given to us.
[And the government will be on his shoulders;
and he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor],
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.
- 7 His dominion will be vast
and he will bring immeasurable prosperity.
He will rule on David's throne
and over David's kingdom,
establishing it and strengthening it
by promoting justice and fairness,
from this time forward and forevermore.
The LORD's intense devotion to his people will accomplish this.

God's Wrath against Proud Israel

- 8 The sovereign master decreed judgment on Jacob,
and it fell on Israel.
- 9 All the people were aware of it,
the people of Ephraim and those living in Samaria.
Yet with pride and an arrogant attitude, they said,
- 10 “The bricks have fallen,
but we will rebuild with chiseled stone;

the sycamore fig trees have been cut down,
but we will replace them with cedars.”

- 11 Then the LORD provoked their adversaries to attack them,
he stirred up their enemies—
- 12 Syria from the east,
and the Philistines from the west,
they gobbled up Israelite territory.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

God's Wrath against Unrepentant Leaders

- 13 The people did not return to the one who struck them,
they did not seek reconciliation with the LORD who commands armies.
- 14 So the LORD cut off Israel's head and tail,
both the shoots and stalk in one day.
- 15 The leaders and the highly respected people are the head,
the prophets who teach lies are the tail.
- 16 The leaders of this nation were misleading people,
and the people being led were destroyed.
- 17 So the sovereign master was not pleased with their young men,
he took no pity on their orphans and widows;
for the whole nation was godless and did wicked things,
every mouth was speaking disgraceful words.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

God's Destruction of the Nation

- 18 For evil burned like a fire,
it consumed thorns and briars;
it burned up the thickets of the forest,
and they went up in smoke.
- 19 Because of the anger of the LORD who commands armies, the land was scorched,
and the people became fuel for the fire.
People had no compassion on one another.
- 20 They devoured on the right, but were still hungry,
they ate on the left, but were not satisfied.
People even ate the flesh of their own arm!
- 21 Manasseh fought against Ephraim,
and Ephraim against Manasseh;
together they fought against Judah.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

Lament: Judah's Oppression Will Lead to Its Demise

- 10:1 Those who enact unjust policies are as good as dead,
those who are always instituting unfair regulations,
- 2 to keep the poor from getting fair treatment,
and to deprive the oppressed among my people of justice,
so they can steal what widows own,
and loot what belongs to orphans.
- 3 What will you do on judgment day,
when destruction arrives from a distant place?
To whom will you run for help?
Where will you leave your wealth?
- 4 You will have no place to go, except to kneel with the prisoners,
or to fall among those who have been killed.
Despite all this, his anger does not subside,
and his hand is ready to strike again.

God Will Judge Assyria for Its Pride

- 5 Assyria, the club I use to vent my anger, is as good as dead,
a cudgel with which I angrily punish.
- 6 I sent him against a godless nation,
I ordered him to attack the people with whom I was angry,
to take plunder and to carry away loot,
to trample them down like dirt in the streets.
- 7 But he does not agree with this,
his mind does not reason this way,
for his goal is to destroy,
and to eliminate many nations.
- 8 Indeed, he says:
“Are not my officials all kings?
9 Is not Calneh like Carchemish?
Hamath like Arpad?
Samaria like Damascus?
10 I overpowered kingdoms ruled by idols,
whose carved images were more impressive than Jerusalem’s or Samaria’s.
11 As I have done to Samaria and its idols,
so I will do to Jerusalem and its idols.” [cf. [2 Kgs 18:33-35](#)]

12 But when the sovereign master finishes judging Mount Zion and Jerusalem, then I will punish the king of Assyria for what he has proudly planned and for the arrogant attitude he displays.

13 For he says:

“By my strong hand I have accomplished this,
by my strategy that I devised.
I invaded the territory of nations,
and looted their storehouses.
Like a mighty conqueror,
I brought down rulers.

- 14 My hand discovered the wealth of the nations, as if it were in a nest,
as one gathers up abandoned eggs,
I gathered up the whole earth.
There was no wing flapping,
or open mouth chirping.”
- 15 Does an ax exalt itself over the one who wields it,
or a saw magnify itself over the one who cuts with it?
As if a scepter should brandish the one who raises it,
or a staff should lift up what is not made of wood!
- 16 For this reason the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies,
will make his healthy ones emaciated.
His majestic glory will go up in smoke.
- 17 The light of Israel will become a fire,
their Holy One will become a flame;
it will burn and consume
the Assyrian king’s briars and his thorns in one day.
- 18 The splendor of his forest and his orchard
will be completely destroyed,
as when a sick man’s life ebbs away.
- 19 There will be so few trees left in his forest,
a child will be able to count them.

God Will Save a Remnant

20 At that time those left in Israel, those who remain of the family of Jacob, will no longer rely on a foreign leader that abuses them. Instead they will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

21 A remnant will come back, a remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God.

22 For though your people, Israel, are as numerous as the sand on the seashore, only a remnant will come back. Destruction has

been decreed; just punishment is about to engulf you. [\[Rom 9:27\]](#)

23 The sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, is certainly ready to carry out the decreed destruction throughout the land.

24 So here is what the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, says: “My people who live in Zion, do not be afraid of Assyria, even though they beat you with a club and lift their cudgel against you as Egypt did.

25 For very soon my fury will subside, and my anger will be directed toward their destruction.”

26 The LORD who commands armies is about to beat them with a whip, similar to the way he struck down Midian at the rock of Oreb. He will use his staff against the sea, lifting it up as he did in Egypt.

27 At that time the LORD will remove their burden from your shoulders, and their yoke from your neck; the yoke will be taken off because your neck will be too large.

Invading Assyrians Will Be Cut Off

28 They attacked Aiath,
moved through Migron,
depositing their supplies at Micmash.

29 They went through the pass,
spent the night at Geba.
Ramah trembled,
Gibeah of Saul ran away.

30 Shout out, daughter of Gallim!
Pay attention, Laishah!
Answer her, Anathoth!

31 Madmenah flees,
the residents of Gebim have hidden.

32 This very day, standing in Nob,
they shake their fist
at Daughter Zion’s mountain—
at the hill of Jerusalem.

33 Look, the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies,
is ready to cut off the branches with terrifying power.
The tallest trees will be cut down,
the loftiest ones will be brought low.

34 The thickets of the forest will be chopped down with an ax,
and mighty Lebanon will fall.

Millennium: The Just and Peaceful Millennial Reign of a Davidic Branch

11:1 A shoot will grow out of Jesse’s root stock,
a bud will sprout from his roots.

2 The LORD’s spirit will rest on him—
a spirit that gives extraordinary wisdom,
a spirit that provides the ability to execute plans,
a spirit that produces absolute loyalty to the LORD.

3 He will take delight in obeying the LORD.
He will not judge by mere appearances,
or make decisions on the basis of hearsay.

4 He will treat the poor fairly,
and make right decisions for the downtrodden of the earth.
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and order the wicked to be executed.

5 Justice will be like a belt around his waist,
integrity will be like a belt around his hips.

6 A wolf will reside with a lamb,
and a leopard will lie down with a young goat;
an ox and a young lion will graze together,
as a small child leads them along.

7 A cow and a bear will graze together,
their young will lie down together.
A lion, like an ox, will eat straw.

- 8 A baby will play
over the hole of a snake;
over the nest of a serpent
an infant will put his hand.
- 9 They will no longer injure or destroy
on my entire royal mountain.
For there will be universal submission to the LORD's sovereignty,
just as the waters completely cover the sea.

Millennium: The Gathering of the Nations to God

- 10 At that time a root from Jesse will stand like a signal flag for the nations. Nations will look to him for guidance, and his residence will be majestic. [[Rom 15:12](#)]
- 11 At that time the sovereign master will again lift his hand to reclaim the remnant of his people from Assyria, Egypt, Pathros, Cush, Elam, Shinar, Hamath, and the seacoasts.
- 12 He will lift a signal flag for the nations;
he will gather Israel's dispersed people
and assemble Judah's scattered people
from the four corners of the earth.
- 13 Ephraim's jealousy will end,
and Judah's hostility will be eliminated.
Ephraim will no longer be jealous of Judah,
and Judah will no longer be hostile toward Ephraim.
- 14 They will swoop down on the Philistine hills to the west;
together they will loot the people of the east.
They will take over Edom and Moab,
and the Ammonites will be their subjects.
- 15 The LORD will divide the gulf of the Egyptian Sea;
he will wave his hand over the Euphrates River and send a strong wind,
he will turn it into seven dried-up streams,
and enable them to walk across in their sandals.
- 16 There will be a highway leading out of Assyria
for the remnant of his people,
just as there was for Israel,
when they went up from the land of Egypt.

Millennium: A Song of Trust in God

- 12:1 At that time you will say:
"I praise you, O LORD,
for even though you were angry with me,
your anger subsided, and you consoled me.
- 2 Look, God is my deliverer!
I will trust in him and not fear.
For the LORD gives me strength and protects me;
he has become my deliverer."
- 3 Joyfully you will draw water
from the springs of deliverance.
- 4 At that time you will say:
"Praise the LORD!
Ask him for help!
Publicize his mighty acts among the nations!
Make it known that he is unique!
- 5 Sing to the LORD, for he has done magnificent things,
let this be known throughout the earth!
- 6 Cry out and shout for joy, O citizens of Zion,
for the Holy One of Israel acts mightily among you!"

Hezekiah, Ahaz's Son, Begins Coregency With Ahaz [Judah] (729t/728n BC)

2 Kings 18:1

1 In the third year of the reign of Israel's King Hoshea son of Elah, Ahaz's son Hezekiah became king over Judah.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) For more information regarding Hezekiah's coregency with Ahaz, see the following resources:
 - A) Siegfried H. Horn, "The Chronology of King Hezekiah's Reign," *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, Vol. 2 (1964): 40–52.
 - B) Leslie McFall, "Did Thiele Overlook Hezekiah's Coregency?" *Bibliotheca Sacra* 146:584 (Oct 1989): 394–404.
 - C) Leslie McFall, "Some Missing Coregencies in Thiele's Chronology," *Andrews University Seminary Studies*, Vol. 30, (Spring 1992): 35–38.
 - D) Rodger C. Young, "When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies," *JETS* 47/4 (Dec 2004): 577–95.

Hoshea [Israel] Rebels against Shalmaneser V [Assyria] (727n–725n BC)

2 Kings 17:3–4

3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him, and Hoshea became his servant and paid him tribute.

4 But the king of Assyria found conspiracy in Hoshea, who had sent messengers to So king of Egypt and had offered no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year; so the king of Assyria shut him up and bound him in prison.

Shalmaneser V [Assyria] Besieges Samaria (725n–723n BC)

2 Kings 17:5

5 Then the king of Assyria invaded the whole land and went up to Samaria and besieged it three years.

2 Kings 18:9

9 Now it came about in the fourth year of King Hezekiah, which was the seventh year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, that Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against Samaria and besieged it.

The Fall of Samaria and the Exile of Israel (723n BC)

2 Kings 17:6–23

6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria captured Samaria and carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and settled them in Halah and Habor, on the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7 Now this came about, because the sons of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, who had brought them up from the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, and they had feared other gods

8 and walked in the customs of the nations whom the LORD had driven out before the sons of Israel, and in the customs of the kings of Israel which they had introduced.

9 And the sons of Israel did things secretly which were not right, against the LORD their God. Moreover, they built for themselves high places in all their towns, from watchtower to fortified city.

10 And they set for themselves sacred pillars and Asherim on every high hill and under every green tree,

11 and there they burned incense on all the high places as the nations did which the LORD had carried away to exile before them; and they did evil things provoking the LORD.

12 And they served idols, concerning which the LORD had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

13 Yet the LORD warned Israel and Judah, through all His prophets and every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways and keep My commandments, My statutes according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you through My servants the prophets."

14 However, they did not listen, but stiffened their neck like their fathers, who did not believe in the LORD their God.

15 And they rejected His statutes and His covenant which He made with their fathers, and His warnings with which He warned them. And they followed vanity and became vain, and went after the nations which surrounded them, concerning which the LORD had commanded them not to do like them.

16 And they forsook all the commandments of the LORD their God and made for themselves molten images, even two calves, and made an Asherah and worshiped all the host of heaven and

2 Kings 18:10–12

10 And at the end of three years they captured it; in the sixth year of Hezekiah, which was the ninth year of Hoshea king of Israel, Samaria was captured.

11 Then the king of Assyria carried Israel away into exile to Assyria, and put them in Halah and on the Habor, the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes,

12 because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God,

but transgressed His covenant

even all that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded; they would neither listen, nor do it.

served Baal.

17 Then they made their sons and their daughters pass through the fire, and practiced divination and enchantments, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking Him.

18 So the LORD was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; none was left except the tribe of Judah.

19 Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the LORD their God, but walked in the customs which Israel had introduced.

20 And the LORD rejected all the descendants of Israel and afflicted them and gave them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them out of His sight.

21 When He had torn Israel from the house of David, they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel away from following the LORD, and made them commit a great sin.

22 And the sons of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them,

23 until the LORD removed Israel from His sight, as He spoke through all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away into exile from their own land to Assyria until this day.

Samaria Resettled by the Assyrians (c. 722–720 BC)

2 Kings 17:24–41

24 The king of Assyria brought foreigners from Babylon, Cuthah, Avva, Hamath, and Sepharvaim and settled them in the cities of Samaria in place of the Israelites. They took possession of Samaria and lived in its cities.

25 When they first moved in, they did not worship the LORD. So the LORD sent lions among them and the lions were killing them.

26 The king of Assyria was told, “The nations whom you deported and settled in the cities of Samaria do not know the requirements of the God of the land, so he has sent lions among them. They are killing the people because they do not know the requirements of the God of the land.”

27 So the king of Assyria ordered, “Take back one of the priests whom you deported from there. He must settle there and teach them the requirements of the God of the land.”

28 So one of the priests whom they had deported from Samaria went back and settled in Bethel. He taught them how to worship the LORD.

29 But each of these nations made its own gods and put them in the shrines on the high places that the people of Samaria had made. Each nation did this in the cities where they lived.

30 The people from Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the people from Cuth made Nergal, the people from Hamath made Ashima, 31 the Avvites made Nibhaz and Tartak, and the Sepharvites burned their sons in the fire as an offering to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim.

32 At the same time they worshiped the LORD. They appointed some of their own people to serve as priests in the shrines on the high places.

33 They were worshiping the LORD and at the same time serving their own gods in accordance with the practices of the nations from which they had been deported.

34 To this very day they observe their earlier practices. They do not worship the LORD; they do not obey the rules, regulations, law, and commandments that the LORD gave the descendants of Jacob, whom he renamed Israel.

35 The LORD made an agreement with them and instructed them, “You must not worship other gods. Do not bow down to them, serve them, or offer sacrifices to them.

36 Instead you must worship the LORD, who brought you up from the land of Egypt by his great power and military ability; bow down to him and offer sacrifices to him.

37 You must carefully obey at all times the rules, regulations, law, and commandments he wrote down for you. You must not worship other gods.

38 You must never forget the agreement I made with you, and you must not worship other gods.

39 Instead you must worship the LORD your God; then he will rescue you from the power of all your enemies.”

40 But they pay no attention; instead they observe their earlier practices.

41 These nations are worshiping the LORD and at the same time serving their idols; their sons and grandsons do just as their fathers have done, to this very day.

Restore Us, O God (c. 722–720 BC)

Psalm 80

For the music director; according to the shushan-eduth style;

A psalm of Asaph.

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, pay attention,
you who lead Joseph like a flock of sheep!
You who sit enthroned above the winged angels, reveal your splendor!
- 2 In the sight of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh reveal your power!
Come and deliver us!
- 3 O God, restore us!
Smile on us! Then we will be delivered!
- 4 O LORD God, invincible warrior!
How long will you remain angry at your people while they pray to you?
- 5 You have given them tears as food;
you have made them drink tears by the measure.
- 6 You have made our neighbors dislike us,
and our enemies insult us.
- 7 O God, invincible warrior, restore us!
Smile on us! Then we will be delivered!
- 8 You uprooted a vine from Egypt;
you drove out nations and transplanted it.
- 9 You cleared the ground for it;
it took root,
and filled the land.
- 10 The mountains were covered by its shadow,
the highest cedars by its branches.
- 11 Its branches reached the Mediterranean Sea,
and its shoots the Euphrates River.
- 12 Why did you break down its walls,
so that all who pass by pluck its fruit?
- 13 The wild boars of the forest ruin it;
the insects of the field feed on it.
- 14 O God, invincible warrior, come back!
Look down from heaven and take notice!
Take care of this vine,
15 the root your right hand planted,
the shoot you made to grow!
- 16 It is burned and cut down.
They die because you are displeased with them.
- 17 May you give support to the one you have chosen,
to the one whom you raised up for yourself!
- 18 Then we will not turn away from you.
Revive us and we will pray to you!
- 19 O LORD God, invincible warrior, restore us!
Smile on us! Then we will be delivered!

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Chronological Notes

- 1) For the date of the fall of Samaria, see the following definitive paper: Rodger C. Young, “When Was Samaria Captured? The Need for Precision in Biblical Chronologies” *JETS* 47/4 (Dec 2004): 577–95.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Babylon (c. 720 BC)

Isaiah 13:1–14:27

Destruction on the “Day of the LORD”

13:1 This is a message about Babylon that God revealed to Isaiah son of Amoz:

- 2 On a bare hill raise a signal flag,
shout to them,
wave your hand,
so they might enter the gates of the princes!
- 3 I have given orders to my chosen soldiers;
I have summoned the warriors through whom I will vent my anger,
my boasting, arrogant ones.
- 4 There is a loud noise on the mountains—
it sounds like a large army!
There is great commotion among the kingdoms—
nations are being assembled!
The LORD who commands armies is mustering
forces for battle.
- 5 They come from a distant land,
from the horizon.
It is the LORD with his instruments of judgment,
coming to destroy the whole earth.
- 6 Wail, for the LORD's day of judgment is near;
it comes with all the destructive power of the sovereign judge.
- 7 For this reason all hands hang limp,
every human heart loses its courage.
- 8 They panic—
cramps and pain seize hold of them
like those of a woman who is straining to give birth.
They look at one another in astonishment;
their faces are flushed red.
- 9 Look, the LORD's day of judgment is coming;
it is a day of cruelty and savage, raging anger,
destroying the earth
and annihilating its sinners.
- 10 Indeed the stars in the sky and their constellations
no longer give out their light;
the sun is darkened as soon as it rises,
and the moon does not shine. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:24](#)]
- 11 I will punish the world for its evil,
and wicked people for their sin.
I will put an end to the pride of the insolent,
I will bring down the arrogance of tyrants.
- 12 I will make human beings more scarce than pure gold,
and people more scarce than gold from Ophir.
- 13 So I will shake the heavens,
and the earth will shake loose from its foundation,
because of the fury of the LORD who commands armies,
in the day he vents his raging anger.
- 14 Like a frightened gazelle
or a sheep with no shepherd,
each will turn toward home,
each will run to his homeland.
- 15 Everyone who is caught will be stabbed;
everyone who is seized will die by the sword.
- 16 Their children will be smashed to pieces before their very eyes;
their houses will be looted and their wives raped.

God Will Destroy Proud Babylon

- 17 Look, I am stirring up the Medes to attack them;
they are not concerned about silver,
nor are they interested in gold.
- 18 Their arrows will cut young men to ribbons;
they have no compassion on a person's offspring,
they will not look with pity on children.
- 19 Babylon, the most admired of kingdoms,
the Chaldeans' source of honor and pride,
will be destroyed by God
just as Sodom and Gomorrah were.
- 20 No one will live there again;
no one will ever reside there again.
No bedouin will camp there,
no shepherds will rest their flocks there.
- 21 Wild animals will rest there,
the ruined houses will be full of hyenas.
Ostriches will live there,
wild goats will skip among the ruins.
- 22 Wild dogs will yip in her ruined fortresses,
jackals will yelp in the once-splendid palaces.
Her time is almost up, her days will not be prolonged. [[Rev 18:2](#)]

God Will Restore Israel

- 14:1 The LORD will certainly have compassion on Jacob; he will again choose Israel as his special people and restore them to their land. Resident foreigners will join them and unite with the family of Jacob.
- 2 Nations will take them and bring them back to their own place. Then the family of Jacob will make foreigners their servants as they settle in the LORD's land. They will make their captors captives and rule over the ones who oppressed them.

A Taunt Song for the King of Babylon

- 3 When the LORD gives you relief from your suffering and anxiety, and from the hard labor which you were made to perform,
4 you will taunt the king of Babylon with these words:

- Look how the oppressor has met his end!
Hostility has ceased!
- 5 The LORD has broken the club of the wicked,
the scepter of rulers.
- 6 It furiously struck down nations
with unceasing blows.
It angrily ruled over nations,
oppressing them without restraint.
- 7 The whole earth rests and is quiet;
they break into song.
- 8 The evergreens also rejoice over your demise,
as do the cedars of Lebanon, singing,
'Since you fell asleep,
no woodsman comes up to chop us down!'
- 9 Sheol below is stirred up about you,
ready to meet you when you arrive.
It rouses the spirits of the dead for you,
all the former leaders of the earth;
it makes all the former kings of the nations
rise from their thrones.
- 10 All of them respond to you, saying:
'You too have become weak like us!
You have become just like us!
- 11 Your splendor has been brought down to Sheol,
as well as the sound of your stringed instruments.

- You lie on a bed of maggots,
with a blanket of worms over you.
- 12 Look how you have fallen from the sky,
O shining one, son of the dawn!
You have been cut down to the ground,
O conqueror of the nations!
- 13 You said to yourself,
“I will climb up to the sky.
Above the stars of El I will set up my throne.
I will rule on the mountain of assembly
on the remote slopes of Zaphon.
- 14 I will climb up to the tops of the clouds;
I will make myself like the Most High!”
- 15 But you were brought down to Sheol,
to the remote slopes of the pit.
- 16 Those who see you stare at you,
they look at you carefully, thinking:
“Is this the man who shook the earth,
the one who made kingdoms tremble?
- 17 Is this the one who made the world like a desert,
who ruined its cities,
and refused to free his prisoners so they could return home?”
- 18 As for all the kings of the nations,
all of them lie down in splendor,
each in his own tomb.
- 19 But you have been thrown out of your grave
like a shoot that is thrown away.
You lie among the slain,
among those who have been slashed by the sword,
among those headed for the stones of the pit,
as if you were a mangled corpse.
- 20 You will not be buried with them,
because you destroyed your land
and killed your people.
The offspring of the wicked
will never be mentioned again.
- 21 Prepare to execute his sons
for the sins their ancestors have committed.
They must not rise up and take possession of the earth,
or fill the surface of the world with cities.”
- 22 “I will rise up against them,”
says the LORD who commands armies.
“I will blot out all remembrance of Babylon and destroy all her people,
including the offspring she produces,”
says the LORD.
- 23 “I will turn her into a place that is overrun with wild animals
and covered with pools of stagnant water.
I will get rid of her, just as one sweeps away dirt with a broom,”
says the LORD who commands armies.

God's Plan to Crush Assyria

- 24 The LORD who commands armies makes this solemn vow:
“Be sure of this:
Just as I have intended, so it will be;
just as I have planned, it will happen.
- 25 I will break Assyria in my land,
I will trample them underfoot on my hills.
Their yoke will be removed from my people,

- the burden will be lifted from their shoulders.
- 26 This is the plan I have devised for the whole earth;
my hand is ready to strike all the nations.”
- 27 Indeed, the LORD who commands armies has a plan,
and who can possibly frustrate it?
His hand is ready to strike,
and who can possibly stop it?

Micah's Prophecy to Judah—Wicked Leaders Judged and a Future Righteous Ruler (c. 720–715 BC)

Micah 3–5

Indictment of Judah's Leaders

- 3:1 I said, “Listen, you leaders of Jacob,
you rulers of the nation of Israel!
You ought to know what is just,
2 yet you hate what is good,
and love what is evil.
You flay my people's skin
and rip the flesh from their bones.
3 You devour my people's flesh,
strip off their skin,
and crush their bones.
You chop them up like flesh in a pot—
like meat in a kettle.
4 Someday these sinners will cry to the LORD for help,
but he will not answer them.
He will hide his face from them at that time,
because they have done such wicked deeds.”
5 This is what the LORD says:
“The prophets who mislead my people
are as good as dead.
If someone gives them enough to eat,
they offer an oracle of peace.
But if someone does not give them food,
they are ready to declare war on him.
6 Therefore night will fall,
and you will receive no visions;
it will grow dark,
and you will no longer be able to read the omens.
The sun will set on these prophets,
and the daylight will turn to darkness over their heads.
7 The prophets will be ashamed;
the omen readers will be humiliated.
All of them will cover their mouths,
for they will receive no divine oracles.”
8 But I am full of the courage that the LORD's Spirit gives,
and have a strong commitment to justice.
This enables me to confront Jacob with its rebellion,
and Israel with its sin.
9 Listen to this, you leaders of the family of Jacob,
you rulers of the nation of Israel!
You hate justice
and pervert all that is right.
10 You build Zion through bloody crimes,
Jerusalem through unjust violence.
11 Her leaders take bribes when they decide legal cases,
her priests proclaim rulings for profit,
and her prophets read omens for pay.

Yet they claim to trust the LORD and say,
 “The LORD is among us.
 Disaster will not overtake us!”

- 12 Therefore, because of you, Zion will be plowed up like a field,
 Jerusalem will become a heap of ruins,
 and the Temple Mount will become a hill overgrown with brush! [[Jer 26:18](#)]

Millennium—Zion’s Future Exaltation

- 4:1 In the future the LORD’s Temple Mount
 will be the most important mountain of all;
 it will be more prominent than other hills.
 People will stream to it.
- 2 Many nations will come, saying,
 “Come on! Let’s go up to the LORD’s mountain,
 to the temple of Jacob’s God,
 so he can teach us his commands
 and we can live by his laws.”
 For Zion will be the source of instruction;
 the LORD’s teachings will proceed from Jerusalem.
- 3 He will arbitrate between many peoples
 and settle disputes between many distant nations.
 They will beat their swords into plowshares,
 and their spears into pruning hooks.
 Nations will not use weapons against other nations,
 and they will no longer train for war.
- 4 Each will sit under his own grapevine
 or under his own fig tree without any fear.
 The LORD who commands armies has decreed it.
- 5 Though all the nations follow their respective gods,
 we will follow the LORD our God forever. [compare Micah 4:1–5 with [Isaiah 2:1–5](#)]

Millennium—Restoration of a Remnant and Zion

- 6 “In that day,” says the LORD, “I will gather the lame,
 and assemble the outcasts whom I injured.
- 7 I will transform the lame into the nucleus of a new nation,
 and those far off into a mighty nation.
 The LORD will reign over them on Mount Zion,
 from that day forward and forevermore.”
- 8 As for you, watchtower for the flock,
 fortress of Daughter Zion—
 your former dominion will be restored,
 the sovereignty that belongs to Daughter Jerusalem.

From Distress to Deliverance

- 9 Jerusalem, why are you now shouting so loudly?
 Has your king disappeared?
 Has your wise leader been destroyed?
 Is this why pain grips you as if you were a woman in labor?
- 10 Twist and strain, Daughter Zion, as if you were in labor!
 For you will leave the city
 and live in the open field.
 You will go to Babylon,
 but there you will be rescued.
 There the LORD will deliver you
 from the power of your enemies.

From Siege to Victory

- 11 Many nations have now assembled against you.

They say, “Jerusalem must be desecrated,
so we can gloat over Zion!”

- 12 But they do not know what the LORD is planning;
they do not understand his strategy.
He has gathered them like stalks of grain
to be threshed at the threshing floor.
- 13 “Get up and thresh, Daughter Zion!
For I will give you iron horns;
I will give you bronze hooves,
and you will crush many nations.”
You will devote to the LORD the spoils you take from them,
and dedicate their wealth to the sovereign Ruler of the whole earth.

From Helpless Ruler to Ideal King

- 5:1 But now slash yourself, daughter surrounded by soldiers!
We are besieged!
With a scepter they strike Israel’s ruler
on the side of his face.
- 2 As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah—
from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf,
one whose origins are in the distant past. [\[Matt 2:6\]](#)
- 3 So the LORD will hand the people of Israel over to their enemies
until the time when the woman in labor gives birth.
Then the rest of the king’s countrymen will return
to be reunited with the people of Israel.
- 4 He will assume his post and shepherd the people by the LORD’s strength,
by the sovereign authority of the LORD his God.
They will live securely, for at that time he will be honored
even in the distant regions of the earth.

The Ideal King Will Deliver His People

- 5 He will give us peace.
Should the Assyrians try to invade our land
and attempt to set foot in our fortresses,
we will send against them seven shepherd-rulers,
make that eight commanders.
- 6 They will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,
the land of Nimrod with a drawn sword.
Our king will rescue us from the Assyrians
should they attempt to invade our land
and try to set foot in our territory.

The Remnant Among the Nations

- 7 Those survivors from Jacob will live
in the midst of many nations.
They will be like the dew the LORD sends,
like the rain on the grass,
that does not hope for men to come
or wait around for humans to arrive.
- 8 Those survivors from Jacob will live among the nations,
in the midst of many peoples.
They will be like a lion among the animals of the forest,
like a young lion among the flocks of sheep,
which attacks when it passes through;
it rips its prey and there is no one to stop it.
- 9 Lift your hand triumphantly against your adversaries;
may all your enemies be destroyed!

Obliteration of Military Power and Pagan Worship

- 10 “In that day,” says the LORD,
“I will destroy your horses from your midst,
and smash your chariots.
- 11 I will destroy the cities of your land,
and tear down all your fortresses.
- 12 I will remove the sorcery that you practice,
and you will no longer have omen readers living among you.
- 13 I will remove your idols and sacred pillars from your midst;
you will no longer worship what your own hands made.
- 14 I will uproot your images of Asherah from your midst,
and destroy your idols.
- 15 I will angrily seek vengeance
on the nations that do not obey me.”

Micah’s Prophecy to Judah—Punishment and Future Restoration (c. 720–715 BC)

Micah 6–7

A Divine Covenant Lawsuit

- 6:1 Listen to what the LORD says:
“Get up! Defend yourself before the mountains!
Present your case before the hills!”
- 2 Hear the LORD’s accusation, you mountains,
you enduring foundations of the earth!
For the LORD has a case against his people;
he has a dispute with Israel!
- 3 “My people, how have I wronged you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- 4 In fact, I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
I delivered you from that place of slavery.
I sent Moses, Aaron, and Miriam to lead you.
- 5 My people, recall how King Balak of Moab planned to harm you,
how Balaam son of Beor responded to him.
Recall how you journeyed from Shittim to Gilgal,
so you might acknowledge that the LORD has treated you fairly.”
- 6 With what should I enter the LORD’s presence?
With what should I bow before the sovereign God?
Should I enter his presence with burnt offerings,
with year-old calves?
- 7 Will the LORD accept a thousand rams,
or ten thousand streams of olive oil?
Should I give him my firstborn child as payment for my rebellion,
my offspring—my own flesh and blood—for my sin?
- 8 He has told you, O man, what is good,
and what the LORD really wants from you:
He wants you to promote justice, to be faithful,
and to live obediently before your God. [cf. [Deut 10:12–13](#); [Matt 23:23](#)]

Further Charges and the Sentence

- 9 Listen! The LORD is calling to the city!
It is wise to respect your authority, O LORD!
Listen, O nation, and those assembled in the city!
- 10 “I will not overlook, O sinful house, the dishonest gain you have hoarded away,
or the smaller-than-standard measure I hate so much.
- 11 I do not condone the use of rigged scales,
or a bag of deceptive weights.
- 12 The city’s rich men think nothing of resorting to violence;
her inhabitants lie,

their tongues speak deceptive words.

- 13 I will strike you brutally
and destroy you because of your sin.
- 14 You will eat, but not be satisfied.
Even if you have the strength to overtake some prey,
you will not be able to carry it away;
if you do happen to carry away something,
I will deliver it over to the sword.
- 15 You will plant crops, but will not harvest them;
you will squeeze oil from the olives, but you will have no oil to rub on your bodies;
you will squeeze juice from the grapes, but you will have no wine to drink.
- 16 You implement the regulations of Omri,
and all the practices of Ahab's dynasty;
you follow their policies.
Therefore I will make you an appalling sight,
the city's inhabitants will be taunted derisively,
and nations will mock all of you."

A Lament Over a Decadent Society

- 7:1 I am depressed!
Indeed, it is as if the summer fruit has been gathered,
and the grapes have been harvested.
There is no grape cluster to eat,
no fresh figs that I crave so much.
- 2 Faithful men have disappeared from the land;
there are no godly men left.
They all wait in ambush so they can shed blood;
they hunt their own brother with a net.
- 3 They are determined to be experts at doing evil;
government officials and judges take bribes,
prominent men make demands,
and they all do what is necessary to satisfy them.
- 4 The best of them is like a thorn;
the most godly among them are more dangerous than a row of thorn bushes.
The day you try to avoid by posting watchmen—
your appointed time of punishment—is on the way,
and then you will experience confusion.
- 5 Do not rely on a friend;
do not trust a companion!
Don't even share secrets with the one who lies in your arms!
- 6 For a son thinks his father is a fool,
a daughter challenges her mother,
and a daughter-in-law her mother-in-law;
a man's enemies are his own servants.
- 7 But I will keep watching for the LORD;
I will wait for the God who delivers me.
My God will hear my lament.

A Psalm of Trust

- 8 My enemies, do not gloat over me!
Though I have fallen, I will get up.
Though I sit in darkness, the LORD will be my light.
- 9 I must endure the LORD's anger,
for I have sinned against him.
But then he will defend my cause,
and accomplish justice on my behalf.
He will lead me out into the light;
I will experience firsthand his deliverance.

10 When my enemies see this, they will be covered with shame.
They say to me, "Where is the LORD your God?"
I will gloat over them.
Then they will be trampled down
like mud in the streets.

A Promise of Restoration

11 It will be a day for rebuilding your walls;
in that day your boundary will be extended.
12 In that day people will come to you
from Assyria as far as Egypt,
from Egypt as far as the Euphrates River,
from the seacoasts and the mountains.
13 The earth will become desolate
because of what its inhabitants have done.

A Prayer, the Lord's Answer and the Response

14 Shepherd your people with your shepherd's rod,
the flock that belongs to you,
the one that lives alone in a thicket,
in the midst of a pastureland.
Allow them to graze in Bashan and Gilead,
as they did in the old days.
15 "As in the days when you departed from the land of Egypt,
I will show you miraculous deeds."
16 Nations will see this and be disappointed by all their strength,
they will put their hands over their mouths,
and act as if they were deaf.
17 They will lick the dust like a snake,
like serpents crawling on the ground.
They will come trembling from their strongholds
to the LORD our God;
they will be terrified of you.

A Hymn of Praise to God

18 There is no other God like you!
You forgive sin
and pardon the rebellion
of those who remain among your people.
You do not remain angry forever,
but delight in showing loyal love.
19 You will once again have mercy on us;
you will conquer our evil deeds;
you will hurl our sins into the depths of the sea.
20 You will be loyal to Jacob
and extend your loyal love to Abraham,
which you promised on oath to our ancestors in ancient times.

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The Death of Ahaz [Judah] (715 BC)

2 Kings 16:19–20	2 Chronicles 28:26–27
<p>19 The rest of the events of Ahaz's reign, including his accomplishments, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>20 Ahaz passed away and was buried with his ancestors in the city of David.</p> <p>His son Hezekiah replaced him as king.</p>	<p>26 The rest of the events of Ahaz's reign, including his accomplishments from start to finish, are recorded in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel.</p> <p>27 Ahaz passed away and was buried in the City of David; they did not bring him to the tombs of the kings of Israel.</p> <p>His son Hezekiah replaced him as king.</p>

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Philistia (715 BC)

Isaiah 14:28–32
<p>28 In the year King Ahaz died, this message was revealed:</p> <p>29 Don't be so happy, all you Philistines, just because the club that beat you has been broken! For a viper will grow out of the serpent's root, and its fruit will be a darting adder.</p> <p>30 The poor will graze in my pastures; the needy will rest securely. But I will kill your root by famine; it will put to death all your survivors.</p> <p>31 Wail, O city gate! Cry out, O city! Melt with fear, all you Philistines! For out of the north comes a cloud of smoke, and there are no stragglers in its ranks.</p> <p>32 How will they respond to the messengers of this nation? Indeed, the LORD has made Zion secure; the oppressed among his people will find safety in her.</p>

Hezekiah Begins Sole Reign of Judah (715 BC)

2 Kings 18:2–3	2 Chronicles 29:1–2
<p>2 He was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Abi, the daughter of Zechariah.</p> <p>3 He did what the LORD approved, just as his ancestor David had done.</p>	<p>1 Hezekiah was twenty-five years old when he began to reign, and he reigned twenty-nine years in Jerusalem. His mother was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah.</p> <p>2 He did what the LORD approved, just as his ancestor David had done.</p>

Hezekiah's Reforms: Outer Court and Vessels Purified (1–7 Nisan [Mar/Apr] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 29:3–17a
<p>Temple Repairs</p> <p>3 In the first month of the first year of his reign, he opened the doors of the LORD's temple and repaired them.</p> <p>4 He brought in the priests and Levites and assembled them in the square on the east side.</p> <p>Hezekiah's Speech</p> <p>5 He said to them: "Listen to me, you Levites! Now consecrate yourselves, so you can consecrate the temple of the LORD God of your ancestors! Remove from the sanctuary what is ceremonially unclean!</p> <p>6 For our fathers were unfaithful; they did what is evil in the sight of the LORD our God and abandoned him! They turned away from the LORD's dwelling place and rejected him.</p> <p>7 They closed the doors of the temple porch and put out the lamps; they did not offer incense or burnt sacrifices in the sanctuary of the God of Israel.</p> <p>8 The LORD was angry at Judah and Jerusalem and made them an appalling object of horror at which people hiss out their scorn, as you can see with your own eyes.</p> <p>9 Look, our fathers died violently and our sons, daughters, and wives were carried off because of this.</p> <p>10 Now I intend to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, so that he may relent from his raging anger.</p> <p>11 My sons, do not be negligent now, for the LORD has chosen you to serve in his presence and offer sacrifices."</p> <p>The Work of Consecration Begins</p> <p>12 The following Levites prepared to carry out the king's orders: From the Kohathites: Mahath son of Amasai and Joel son of Azariah; from the Merarites: Kish son of Abdi and Azariah son of Jehallelel; from the Gershonites: Joah son of Zimmah and Eden son of Joah;</p> <p>13 from the descendants of Elizaphan: Shimri and Jeiel; from the descendants of Asaph: Zechariah and Mattaniah;</p> <p>14 from the descendants of Heman: Jehiel and Shimei; from the descendants of Jeduthun: Shemaiah and Uzziel.</p> <p>15 They assembled their brothers and consecrated themselves. Then they went in to purify the LORD's temple, just as the king had ordered, in accordance with the word of the LORD.</p>

16 The priests then entered the LORD's temple to purify it; they brought out to the courtyard of the LORD's temple every ceremonially unclean thing they discovered inside. The Levites took them out to the Kidron Valley.

17a On the first day of the first month they began consecrating; by the eighth day of the month they reached the porch of the LORD's temple.

Hezekiah's Reforms: Temple Purified (8–16 Nisan [April] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 29:17b–19

17b For eight more days they consecrated the LORD's temple. On the sixteenth day of the first month they were finished.

18 They went to King Hezekiah and said: "We have purified the entire temple of the LORD, including the altar of burnt sacrifice and all its equipment, and the table for the Bread of the Presence and all its equipment.

19 We have prepared and consecrated all the items that King Ahaz removed during his reign when he acted unfaithfully. They are in front of the altar of the LORD."

Hezekiah's Reforms: Rededication Ceremony (17 Nisan [April] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 29:20–36

The Rededication of the Temple

20 Early the next morning King Hezekiah assembled the city officials and went up to the LORD's temple.

21 They brought seven bulls, seven rams, seven lambs, and seven goats as a sin offering for the kingdom, the sanctuary, and Judah. The king told the priests, the descendants of Aaron, to offer burnt sacrifices on the altar of the LORD.

22 They slaughtered the bulls, and the priests took the blood and splashed it on the altar. Then they slaughtered the rams and splashed the blood on the altar; next they slaughtered the lambs and splashed the blood on the altar.

23 Finally they brought the goats for the sin offering before the king and the assembly, and they placed their hands on them.

24 Then the priests slaughtered them. They offered their blood as a sin offering on the altar to make atonement for all Israel, because the king had decreed that the burnt sacrifice and sin offering were for all Israel.

25 King Hezekiah stationed the Levites in the LORD's temple with cymbals and stringed instruments, just as David, Gad the king's prophet, and Nathan the prophet had ordered. (The LORD had actually given these orders through his prophets.)

26 The Levites had David's musical instruments and the priests had trumpets.

27 Hezekiah ordered the burnt sacrifice to be offered on the altar. As they began to offer the sacrifice, they also began to sing to the LORD, accompanied by the trumpets and the musical instruments of King David of Israel.

28 The entire assembly worshiped, as the singers sang and the trumpeters played. They continued until the burnt sacrifice was completed.

29 When the sacrifices were completed, the king and all who were with him bowed down and worshiped.

30 King Hezekiah and the officials told the Levites to praise the LORD, using the psalms of David and Asaph the prophet. So they joyfully offered praise and bowed down and worshiped.

The Participation of the People

31 Hezekiah said, "Now you have consecrated yourselves to the LORD. Come and bring sacrifices and thank offerings to the LORD's temple." So the assembly brought sacrifices and thank offerings, and whoever desired to do so brought burnt sacrifices.

32 The assembly brought a total of 70 bulls, 100 rams, and 200 lambs as burnt sacrifices to the LORD,

33 and 600 bulls and 3,000 sheep were consecrated.

34 But there were not enough priests to skin all the animals, so their brothers, the Levites, helped them until the work was finished and the priests could consecrate themselves. (The Levites had been more conscientious about consecrating themselves than the priests.)

35 There was a large number of burnt sacrifices, as well as fat from the peace offerings and drink offerings that accompanied the burnt sacrifices. So the service of the LORD's temple was reinstated.

36 Hezekiah and all the people were happy about what God had done for them, for it had been done quickly.

Hezekiah's Reforms: National Invitation to the Passover (Nisan–Ziv [April–May] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:1–12

1 Hezekiah sent messages throughout Israel and Judah; he even wrote letters to Ephraim and Manasseh, summoning them to come to the LORD's temple in Jerusalem and observe a Passover celebration for the LORD God of Israel.

2 The king, his officials, and the entire assembly in Jerusalem decided to observe the Passover in the second month.

3 They were unable to observe it at the regular time because not enough priests had consecrated themselves and the people had not assembled in Jerusalem. [cf. [Num 9:10–14](#)]

4 The proposal seemed appropriate to the king and the entire assembly.

5 So they sent an edict throughout Israel from Beer Sheba to Dan, summoning the people to come and observe a Passover for the

LORD God of Israel in Jerusalem, for they had not observed it on a nationwide scale as prescribed in the law.
 6 Messengers delivered the letters from the king and his officials throughout Israel and Judah. This royal edict read: “O Israelites, return to the LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, so he may return to you who have been spared from the kings of Assyria.
 7 Don’t be like your fathers and brothers who were unfaithful to the LORD God of their ancestors, provoking him to destroy them, as you can see.
 8 Now, don’t be stubborn like your fathers! Submit to the LORD and come to his sanctuary which he has permanently consecrated. Serve the LORD your God so that he might relent from his raging anger.
 9 For if you return to the LORD, your brothers and sons will be shown mercy by their captors and return to this land. The LORD your God is merciful and compassionate; he will not reject you if you return to him.”
 10 The messengers journeyed from city to city through the land of Ephraim and Manasseh as far as Zebulun, but people mocked and ridiculed them.
 11 But some men from Asher, Manasseh, and Zebulun humbled themselves and came to Jerusalem.
 12 In Judah God moved the people to unite and carry out the edict the king and the officers had issued at the LORD’s command.

Hezekiah’s Reforms: Celebration of the Passover (14 Iyyar [May] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:13–20

13 A huge crowd assembled in Jerusalem to observe the Feast of Unleavened Bread in the second month.
 14 They removed the altars in Jerusalem; they also removed all the incense altars and threw them into the Kidron Valley.
 15 They slaughtered the Passover lamb on the fourteenth day of the second month. The priests and Levites were ashamed, so they consecrated themselves and brought burnt sacrifices to the LORD’s temple.
 16 They stood at their posts according to the regulations outlined in the law of Moses, the man of God. The priests were splashing the blood as the Levites handed it to them.
 17 Because many in the assembly had not consecrated themselves, the Levites slaughtered the Passover lambs of all who were ceremonially unclean and could not consecrate their sacrifice to the LORD.
 18 The majority of the many people from Ephraim, Manasseh, Issachar, and Zebulun were ceremonially unclean, yet they ate the Passover in violation of what is prescribed in the law. For Hezekiah prayed for them, saying: “May the LORD, who is good, forgive everyone who has determined to follow God, the LORD God of his ancestors, even if he is not ceremonially clean according to the standards of the temple.”
 20 The LORD responded favorably to Hezekiah and forgave the people.

Hezekiah’s Reforms: Feast of Unleavened Bread (15–21 Iyyar [May] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:21–22

21 The Israelites who were in Jerusalem observed the Feast of Unleavened Bread for seven days with great joy. The Levites and priests were praising the LORD every day with all their might.
 22 Hezekiah expressed his appreciation to all the Levites, who demonstrated great skill in serving the LORD. They feasted for the seven days of the festival, and were making peace offerings and giving thanks to the LORD God of their ancestors.

Hezekiah’s Reforms: Extended Celebration (22–28 Iyyar [May/June] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 30:23–27

23 The entire assembly then decided to celebrate for seven more days; so they joyfully celebrated for seven more days.
 24 King Hezekiah of Judah supplied 1,000 bulls and 7,000 sheep for the assembly, while the officials supplied them with 1,000 bulls and 10,000 sheep. Many priests consecrated themselves.
 25 The celebration included the entire assembly of Judah, the priests, the Levites, the entire assembly of those who came from Israel, the resident foreigners who came from the land of Israel, and the residents of Judah.
 26 There was a great celebration in Jerusalem, unlike anything that had occurred in Jerusalem since the time of King Solomon son of David of Israel.
 27 The priests and Levites got up and pronounced blessings on the people. The LORD responded favorably to them as their prayers reached his holy dwelling place in heaven.

Hezekiah’s Reforms: Destruction of Idols (Sivan [June] 715 BC)

2 Kings 18:4–6

2 Chronicles 31:1

4 He eliminated the high places, smashed the sacred pillars to bits,

1 When all this was over, the Israelites who were in the cities of Judah went out and smashed the sacred pillars,

<p>and cut down the Asherah pole.</p> <p>He also demolished the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been offering incense to it; it was called Nehushtan. [cf. Num 21:4–9]</p> <p>5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; in this regard there was none like him among the kings of Judah either before or after.</p> <p>6 He was loyal to the LORD and did not abandon him. He obeyed the commandments which the LORD had given to Moses.</p>	<p>cut down the Asherah poles, and demolished all the high places and altars throughout Judah, Benjamin, Ephraim, and Manasseh. Then all the Israelites returned to their own homes in their cities.</p>
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Hezekiah's Reforms: Supplies for Priests and Levites (Sivan–Tishri [June–October] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 31:2–7

- 2 Hezekiah appointed the divisions of the priests and Levites to do their assigned tasks—to offer burnt sacrifices and present offerings and to serve, give thanks, and offer praise in the gates of the LORD's sanctuary.
- 3 The king contributed some of what he owned for burnt sacrifices, including the morning and evening burnt sacrifices and the burnt sacrifices made on Sabbaths, new moon festivals, and at other appointed times prescribed in the law of the LORD.
- 4 He ordered the people living in Jerusalem to contribute the portion prescribed for the priests and Levites so they might be obedient to the law of the LORD.
- 5 When the edict was issued, the Israelites freely contributed the initial portion of their grain, wine, olive oil, honey, and all the produce of their fields. They brought a tenth of everything, which added up to a huge amount.
- 6 The Israelites and people of Judah who lived in the cities of Judah also contributed a tenth of their cattle and sheep, as well as a tenth of the holy items consecrated to the LORD their God. They brought them and placed them in many heaps.
- 7 In the third month they began piling their contributions in heaps and finished in the seventh month.

Hezekiah's Reforms: Storage and Disbursement of Supplies (Tishri [October] 715 BC)

2 Chronicles 31:8–21

- 8 When Hezekiah and the officials came and saw the heaps, they praised the LORD and pronounced blessings on his people Israel.
- 9 When Hezekiah asked the priests and Levites about the heaps,
- 10 Azariah, the head priest from the family of Zadok, said to him, "Since the contributions began arriving in the LORD's temple, we have had plenty to eat and have a large quantity left over. For the LORD has blessed his people, and this large amount remains."
- 11 Hezekiah ordered that storerooms be prepared in the LORD's temple. When this was done,
- 12 they brought in the contributions, tithes, and consecrated items that had been offered. Konaniah, a Levite, was in charge of all this, assisted by his brother Shimei.
- 13 Jehiel, Azariah, Nahath, Asahel, Jerimoth, Jozabad, Eliel, Ismakiah, Mahath, and Benaiah worked under the supervision of Konaniah and his brother Shimei, as directed by King Hezekiah and Azariah, the supervisor of God's temple.
- 14 Kore son of Imnah, a Levite and the guard on the east side, was in charge of the voluntary offerings made to God and disbursed the contributions made to the LORD and the consecrated items.
- 15 In the cities of the priests, Eden, Miniamin, Jeshua, Shemaiah, Amariah, and Shecaniah faithfully assisted him in making disbursements to their fellow priests according to their divisions, regardless of age.
- 16 They made disbursements to all the males three years old and up who were listed in the genealogical records—to all who would enter the LORD's temple to serve on a daily basis and fulfill their duties as assigned to their divisions.
- 17 They made disbursements to the priests listed in the genealogical records by their families, and to the Levites twenty years old and up, according to their duties as assigned to their divisions,
- 18 and to all the infants, wives, sons, and daughters of the entire assembly listed in the genealogical records, for they faithfully consecrated themselves.
- 19 As for the descendants of Aaron, the priests who lived in the outskirts of all their cities, men were assigned to disburse portions to every male among the priests and to every Levite listed in the genealogical records.
- 20 This is what Hezekiah did throughout Judah. He did what the LORD his God considered good and right and faithful.
- 21 He wholeheartedly and successfully reinstated service in God's temple and obedience to the law, in order to follow his God.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Moab (c. 715–711 BC)

Isaiah 15–16

A Lament Over the Ruin of Moab

- 15:1 Here is a message about Moab:
 Indeed, in a night it is devastated,
 Ar of Moab is destroyed!
 Indeed, in a night it is devastated,
 Kir of Moab is destroyed!
- 2 They went up to the temple,
 the people of Dibon went up to the high places to lament.
 Because of what happened to Nebo and Medeba, Moab wails.
 Every head is shaved bare,
 every beard is trimmed off.
- 3 In their streets they wear sackcloth;
 on their roofs and in their town squares all of them wail,
 they fall down weeping.
- 4 The people of Heshbon and Elealeh cry out,
 their voices are heard as far away as Jahaz.
 For this reason Moab's soldiers shout in distress;
 their courage wavers.
- 5 My heart cries out because of Moab's plight,
 and for the fugitives stretched out as far as Zoar and Eglath Shelishiyah.
 For they weep as they make their way up the ascent of Luhith;
 they loudly lament their demise on the road to Horonaim.
- 6 For the waters of Nimrim are gone;
 the grass is dried up,
 the vegetation has disappeared,
 and there are no plants.
- 7 For this reason what they have made and stored up,
 they carry over the Stream of the Poplars.
- 8 Indeed, the cries of distress echo throughout Moabite territory;
 their wailing can be heard in Eglaim and Beer Elim.
- 9 Indeed, the waters of Dimon are full of blood!
 Indeed, I will heap even more trouble on Dimon.
 A lion will attack the Moabite fugitives
 and the people left in the land.

A Moabite Request for Shelter in Judah

- 16:1 Send rams as tribute to the ruler of the land,
 from Sela in the desert to the hill of Daughter Zion.
- 2 At the fords of the Arnon
 the Moabite women are like a bird
 that flies about when forced from its nest.
- 3 "Bring a plan, make a decision!
 Provide some shade in the middle of the day!
 Hide the fugitives! Do not betray the one who tries to escape!
- 4 Please let the Moabite fugitives live among you.
 Hide them from the destroyer!"
 Certainly the one who applies pressure will cease,
 the destroyer will come to an end,
 those who trample will disappear from the earth.
- 5 Then a trustworthy king will be established;
 he will rule in a reliable manner,
 this one from David's family.
 He will be sure to make just decisions
 and will be experienced in executing justice.

A Lament: Pride Will Cause the Devastation of Moab

- 6 We have heard about Moab's pride,
their great arrogance,
their boasting, pride, and excess.
But their boastful claims are empty!
- 7 So Moab wails over its demise—
they all wail!
Completely devastated, they moan
about what has happened to the raisin cakes of Kir Hareseth.
- 8 For the fields of Heshbon are dried up,
as well as the vines of Sibmah.
The rulers of the nations trample all over its vines,
which reach Jazer and spread to the desert;
their shoots spread out and cross the sea.
- 9 So I weep along with Jazer over the vines of Sibmah.
I will saturate you with my tears, Heshbon and Elealeh,
for the conquering invaders shout triumphantly
over your fruit and crops.
- 10 Joy and happiness disappear from the orchards,
and in the vineyards no one rejoices or shouts;
no one treads out juice in the wine vats—
I have brought the joyful shouts to an end.
- 11 So my heart constantly sighs for Moab,
like the strumming of a harp,
my inner being sighs for Kir Hareseth.
- 12 When the Moabites plead with all their might at their high places,
and enter their temples to pray,
their prayers will be ineffective!

Moab's Destruction Within Three Years

13 This is the message the LORD previously announced about Moab.

14 Now the LORD makes this announcement: "Within exactly three years Moab's splendor will disappear, along with all her many people; there will be just a few, insignificant survivors left."

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Damascus (c. 715–711 BC)

Isaiah 17–18

Syria (Damascus) and Israel (Ephraim)

- 17:1 Here is a message about Damascus:
"Look, Damascus is no longer a city,
it is a heap of ruins!
- 2 The cities of Aroer are abandoned.
They will be used for herds,
which will lie down there in peace.
- 3 Fortified cities will disappear from Ephraim,
and Damascus will lose its kingdom.
The survivors in Syria
will end up like the splendor of the Israelites,"
says the LORD who commands armies.
- 4 "At that time
Jacob's splendor will be greatly diminished,
and he will become skin and bones.
- 5 It will be as when one gathers the grain harvest,
and his hand gleans the ear of grain.
It will be like one gathering the ears of grain
in the Valley of Rephaim.
- 6 There will be some left behind,
like when an olive tree is beaten—
two or three ripe olives remain toward the very top,

- four or five on its fruitful branches,”
says the LORD God of Israel.
- 7 At that time men will trust in their creator;
they will depend on the Holy One of Israel.
- 8 They will no longer trust in the altars their hands made,
or depend on the Asherah poles and incense altars their fingers made.
- 9 At that time their fortified cities will be
like the abandoned summits of the Amorites,
which they abandoned because of the Israelites;
there will be desolation.
- 10 For you ignore the God who rescues you;
you pay no attention to your strong protector.
So this is what happens:
You cultivate beautiful plants
and plant exotic vines.
- 11 The day you begin cultivating,
you do what you can to make it grow;
the morning you begin planting,
you do what you can to make it sprout.
Yet the harvest will disappear
in the day of disease and incurable pain.
- 12 The many nations massing together are as good as dead,
those who make a commotion as loud as the roaring of the sea’s waves.
The people making such an uproar are as good as dead,
those who make an uproar as loud as the roaring of powerful waves.
- 13 Though these people make an uproar as loud as the roaring of powerful waves,
when he shouts at them, they will flee to a distant land,
driven before the wind like dead weeds on the hills,
or like dead thistles before a strong gale.
- 14 In the evening there is sudden terror;
by morning they vanish.
This is the fate of those who try to plunder us,
the destiny of those who try to loot us!

Nubia/Ethiopia (Cush)

- 18:1 The land of buzzing wings is as good as dead,
the one beyond the rivers of Cush,
2 that sends messengers by sea,
who glide over the water’s surface in boats made of papyrus.
Go, you swift messengers,
to a nation of tall, smooth-skinned people,
to a people that are feared far and wide,
to a nation strong and victorious,
whose land rivers divide.
- 3 All you who live in the world,
who reside on the earth,
you will see a signal flag raised on the mountains;
you will hear a trumpet being blown.
- 4 For this is what the LORD has told me:
“I will wait and watch from my place,
like scorching heat produced by the sunlight,
like a cloud of mist in the heat of harvest.”
- 5 For before the harvest, when the bud has sprouted,
and the ripening fruit appears,
he will cut off the unproductive shoots with pruning knives;
he will prune the tendrils.
- 6 They will all be left for the birds of the hills
and the wild animals;
the birds will eat them during the summer,

and all the wild animals will eat them during the winter.

- 7 At that time
tribute will be brought to the LORD who commands armies,
by a people that are tall and smooth-skinned,
a people that are feared far and wide,
a nation strong and victorious,
whose land rivers divide.
The tribute will be brought to the place where the LORD who commands armies has chosen
to reside, on Mount Zion.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Egypt (c. 715–711 BC)

Isaiah 19

God Will Defeat Egypt and Her Gods

- 1 Here is a message about Egypt:
Look, the LORD rides on a swift-moving cloud
and approaches Egypt.
The idols of Egypt tremble before him;
the Egyptians lose their courage.
- 2 "I will provoke civil strife in Egypt,
brothers will fight with each other,
as will neighbors, cities, and kingdoms.
- 3 The Egyptians will panic,
and I will confuse their strategy.
They will seek guidance from the idols and from the spirits of the dead,
from the pits used to conjure up underworld spirits, and from the magicians.
- 4 I will hand Egypt over to a harsh master;
a powerful king will rule over them,"
says the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies.
- 5 The water of the sea will be dried up,
and the river will dry up and be empty.
- 6 The canals will stink;
the streams of Egypt will trickle and then dry up;
the bulrushes and reeds will decay,
along with the plants by the mouth of the river.
- 7 All the cultivated land near the river
will turn to dust and be blown away.
- 8 The fishermen will mourn and lament,
all those who cast a fishhook into the river,
and those who spread out a net on the water's surface will grieve.
- 9 Those who make clothes from combed flax will be embarrassed;
those who weave will turn pale.
- 10 Those who make cloth will be demoralized;
all the hired workers will be depressed.
- 11 The officials of Zoan are nothing but fools;
Pharaoh's wise advisers give stupid advice.
How dare you say to Pharaoh,
"I am one of the sages,
one well-versed in the writings of the ancient kings?"
- 12 But where, oh where, are your wise men?
Let them tell you, let them find out
what the LORD who commands armies has planned for Egypt.
- 13 The officials of Zoan are fools,
the officials of Memphis are misled;
the rulers of her tribes lead Egypt astray.
- 14 The LORD has made them undiscerning;
they lead Egypt astray in all she does,
so that she is like a drunk sliding around in his own vomit.

15 Egypt will not be able to do a thing, head or tail, shoots and stalk.

Egypt Will Worship God in the Millennium

16 At that time the Egyptians will be like women. They will tremble and fear because the LORD who commands armies brandishes his fist against them.

17 The land of Judah will humiliate Egypt. Everyone who hears about Judah will be afraid because of what the LORD who commands armies is planning to do to them.

18 At that time five cities in the land of Egypt will speak the language of Canaan and swear allegiance to the LORD who commands armies. One will be called the City of the Sun.

19 At that time there will be an altar for the LORD in the middle of the land of Egypt, as well as a sacred pillar dedicated to the LORD at its border.

20 It will become a visual reminder in the land of Egypt of the LORD who commands armies. When they cry out to the LORD because of oppressors, he will send them a deliverer and defender who will rescue them.

21 The LORD will reveal himself to the Egyptians, and they will acknowledge the LORD's authority at that time. They will present sacrifices and offerings; they will make vows to the LORD and fulfill them.

22 The LORD will strike Egypt, striking and then healing them. They will turn to the LORD and he will listen to their prayers and heal them.

23 At that time there will be a highway from Egypt to Assyria. The Assyrians will visit Egypt, and the Egyptians will visit Assyria. The Egyptians and Assyrians will worship together.

24 At that time Israel will be the third member of the group, along with Egypt and Assyria, and will be a recipient of blessing in the earth.

25 The LORD who commands armies will pronounce a blessing over the earth, saying, "Blessed be my people, Egypt, and the work of my hands, Assyria, and my special possession, Israel!"

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Egypt and Cush (c. 711 BC)

Isaiah 20

1 The LORD revealed the following message during the year in which King Sargon of Assyria sent his commanding general to Ashdod, and he fought against it and captured it.

2 At that time the LORD announced through Isaiah son of Amoz: "Go, remove the sackcloth from your waist and take your sandals off your feet." He did as instructed and walked around in undergarments and barefoot.

3 Later the LORD explained, "In the same way that my servant Isaiah has walked around in undergarments and barefoot for the past three years, as an object lesson and omen pertaining to Egypt and Cush,

4 so the king of Assyria will lead away the captives of Egypt and the exiles of Cush, both young and old. They will be in undergarments and barefoot, with the buttocks exposed; the Egyptians will be publicly humiliated.

5 Those who put their hope in Cush and took pride in Egypt will be afraid and embarrassed.

6 At that time those who live on this coast will say, "Look what has happened to our source of hope to whom we fled for help, expecting to be rescued from the king of Assyria! How can we escape now?"

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Smith comments on the setting of Isaiah 17–18: "Since the oracle seems to be related to two different events, one has two choices in hypothesizing a setting. (a) The interpreter can date this prophecy within a few years of 701 BC and view the prophet as quoting an earlier prophecy about the Syro-Ephraimite War as an historical illustration teaching principles that were still valid in 701 BC. (b) One can place this prophecy during the Syro-Ephraimite War and understand 17:12–14 as a warning to Ahaz that he should not trust Assyria, because eventually God will destroy that nation sometime in the future. The first option fits best in this context."¹ I concur with Smith's assessment that this prophecy is being referenced again in a new setting, and I have chosen to date this prophecy c. 715–711 since Isaiah 14:28 is dated to 716t BC and Isaiah 20 is dated to 711 BC (this is in keeping with my current approach of presenting Isaiah in its canonical order).

¹ Gary V. Smith, "Isaiah 1–39," *New American Commentary* (Nashville, TN 2007), p. 340. See also Keil (C. F. Keil and F. Delitzsch, "Isaiah," *Commentary on the Old Testament*, Vol. 7, p. 220) and Watts (John D. W. Watts, "Isaiah 1–33," *Word Biblical Commentary*, p. 234). Watts dates the prophecy to 716–714 BC.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Babylon (c. 710 BC)

Isaiah 21:1–10

- 1 Here is a message about the Desert by the Sea:
Like strong winds blowing in the south,
one invades from the desert,
from a land that is feared.
- 2 I have received a distressing message:
“The deceiver deceives,
the destroyer destroys.
Attack, you Elamites!
Lay siege, you Medes!
I will put an end to all the groaning!”
- 3 For this reason my stomach churns;
cramps overwhelm me like the contractions of a woman in labor.
I am disturbed by what I hear,
horrified by what I see.
- 4 My heart palpitates, I shake in fear;
the twilight I desired has brought me terror.
- 5 Arrange the table, lay out the carpet, eat and drink!
Get up, you officers, smear oil on the shields!
- 6 For this is what the sovereign master has told me:
“Go, post a guard! He must report what he sees.
- 7 When he sees chariots, teams of horses,
riders on donkeys, riders on camels,
he must be alert, very alert.”
- 8 Then the guard cries out:
“On the watchtower, O sovereign master,
I stand all day long;
at my post I am stationed every night.
- 9 Look what's coming!
A charioteer, a team of horses.”
When questioned, he replies,
“Babylon has fallen, fallen!
All the idols of her gods lie shattered on the ground!”
- 10 O my downtrodden people,
crushed like stalks on the threshing floor,
what I have heard from the LORD who commands armies,
the God of Israel,
I have reported to you.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Edom (c. 709 BC)

Isaiah 21:11–12

- 11 Here is a message about Dumah:
Someone calls to me from Seir,
“Watchman, what is left of the night?
Watchman, what is left of the night?”
- 12 The watchman replies,
“Morning is coming, but then night.
If you want to ask, ask; come back again.”

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Arabia (c. 708 BC)

Isaiah 21:13–17

- 13 Here is a message about Arabia:
In the thicket of Arabia you spend the night,
you Dedanite caravans.
- 14 Bring out some water for the thirsty.

You who live in the land of Tema,
bring some food for the fugitives.
15 For they flee from the swords—
from the drawn sword
and from the battle-ready bow
and from the severity of the battle.

16 For this is what the sovereign master has told me: “Within exactly one year all the splendor of Kedar will come to an end.
17 Just a handful of archers, the warriors of Kedar, will be left.” Indeed, the LORD God of Israel has spoken.

Hezekiah Rebels Against Assyria and Defeats Philistia (705 BC)

2 Kings 18:7–8

7 The LORD was with him [Hezekiah]; he succeeded in all his endeavors. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and refused to submit to him.

8 He defeated the Philistines as far as Gaza and its territory, from the watchtower to the city fortress.

Hezekiah’s Tunnel (c. 705–701 BC)

2 Kings 20:20b

2 Chronicles 32:30a

20b he built a pool
and conduit to bring water
into the city

30a Hezekiah dammed up the source of the waters of the Upper Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the City of David.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Jerusalem (c. 705 BC)

Isaiah 22

Jerusalem Rejoices Even Though She Faces Defeat

1 Here is a message about the Valley of Vision:
What is the reason
that all of you go up to the rooftops?
2 The noisy city is full of raucous sounds;
the town is filled with revelry.
Your slain were not cut down by the sword;
they did not die in battle.
3 All your leaders ran away together—
they fled to a distant place;
all your refugees were captured together—
they were captured without a single arrow being shot.
4 So I say:
“Don’t look at me!
I am weeping bitterly.
Don’t try to console me
concerning the destruction of my defenseless people.”
5 For the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies,
has planned a day of panic, defeat, and confusion.
In the Valley of Vision people shout
and cry out to the hill.
6 The Elamites picked up the quiver,
and came with chariots and horsemen;
the men of Kir prepared the shield.
7 Your very best valleys were full of chariots;
horsemen confidently took their positions at the gate.
8 They removed the defenses of Judah.
At that time you looked
for the weapons in the House of the Forest.
9 You saw the many breaks
in the walls of the city of David;
you stored up water in the lower pool.

- 10 You counted the houses in Jerusalem,
and demolished houses so you could have material to reinforce the wall.
- 11 You made a reservoir between the two walls
for the water of the old pool—
but you did not trust in the one who made it;
you did not depend on the one who formed it long ago!
- 12 At that time the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, called for weeping and mourning,
for shaved heads and sackcloth.
- 13 But look, there is outright celebration!
You say, “Kill the ox and slaughter the sheep,
eat meat and drink wine.
Eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!”
- 14 The LORD who commands armies told me this: “Certainly this sin will not be forgiven as long as you live,” says the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies.

Steward Shebna Faces Disgrace

- 15 This is what the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, says:
“Go visit this administrator, Shebna, who supervises the palace, and tell him:
- 16 ‘What right do you have to be here? What relatives do you have buried here?
Why do you chisel out a tomb for yourself here?
He chisels out his burial site in an elevated place,
he carves out his tomb on a cliff.
- 17 Look, the LORD will throw you far away, you mere man!
He will wrap you up tightly.
- 18 He will wind you up tightly into a ball
and throw you into a wide, open land.
There you will die,
and there with you will be your impressive chariots,
which bring disgrace to the house of your master.
- 19 I will remove you from your office;
you will be thrown down from your position.

Eliakim Replaces Shebna

- 20 “At that time I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiyah.
- 21 I will put your robe on him, tie your belt around him, and transfer your authority to him. He will become a protector of the residents of Jerusalem and of the people of Judah.
- 22 I will place the key to the house of David on his shoulder. When he opens the door, no one can close it; when he closes the door, no one can open it.
- 23 I will fasten him like a peg into a solid place; he will bring honor and respect to his father’s family.
- 24 His father’s family will gain increasing prominence because of him, including the offspring and the offshoots. All the small containers, including the bowls and all the jars will hang from this peg.’
- 25 “At that time,” says the LORD who commands armies, “the peg fastened into a solid place will come loose. It will be cut off and fall, and the load hanging on it will be cut off.” Indeed, the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Book of Oracles: Tyre (c. 705–704 BC)

Isaiah 23

Lament Over the Fall of Proud Tyre

- 1 Here is a message about Tyre:
Wail, you large ships,
for the port is too devastated to enter!
From the land of Cyprus this news is announced to them.
- 2 Lament, you residents of the coast,
you merchants of Sidon who travel over the sea,
whose agents sail over
- 3 the deep waters!
Grain from the Shihor region,
crops grown near the Nile she receives;

she is the trade center of the nations.

- 4 Be ashamed, O Sidon,
for the sea says this, O fortress of the sea:
“I have not gone into labor or given birth;
I have not raised young men
or brought up young women.”
- 5 When the news reaches Egypt,
they will be shaken by what has happened to Tyre.
- 6 Travel to Tarshish!
Wail, you residents of the coast!
- 7 Is this really your boisterous city
whose origins are in the distant past,
and whose feet led her to a distant land to reside?

Explanation of God’s Plan

- 8 Who planned this for royal Tyre,
whose merchants are princes,
whose traders are the dignitaries of the earth?
- 9 The LORD who commands armies planned it—
to dishonor the pride that comes from all her beauty,
to humiliate all the dignitaries of the earth.
- 10 Daughter Tarshish, travel back to your land, as one crosses the Nile;
there is no longer any marketplace in Tyre.
- 11 The LORD stretched out his hand over the sea,
he shook kingdoms;
he gave the order
to destroy Canaan’s fortresses.
- 12 He said,
“You will no longer celebrate,
oppressed virgin daughter Sidon!
Get up, travel to Cyprus,
but you will find no relief there.”
- 13 Look at the land of the Chaldeans,
these people who have lost their identity!
The Assyrians have made it a home for wild animals.
They erected their siege towers,
demolished its fortresses,
and turned it into a heap of ruins.
- 14 Wail, you large ships,
for your fortress is destroyed!

Tyre’s Restoration After Seventy Years

15 At that time Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years, the typical life span of a king. At the end of seventy years Tyre will try to attract attention again, like the prostitute in the popular song:

- 16 “Take the harp,
go through the city,
forgotten prostitute!
Play it well,
play lots of songs,
so you’ll be noticed!”

17 At the end of seventy years the LORD will revive Tyre. She will start making money again by selling her services to all the earth’s kingdoms.

18 Her profits and earnings will be set apart for the LORD. They will not be stored up or accumulated, for her profits will be given to those who live in the LORD’s presence and will be used to purchase large quantities of food and beautiful clothes.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Isaiah's Apocalypse (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 24–27

The Tribulation—God's Judgment on a Wicked World

- 24:1 Look, the LORD is ready to devastate the earth
and leave it in ruins;
he will mar its surface
and scatter its inhabitants.
- 2 Everyone will suffer—
the priest as well as the people,
the master as well as the servant,
the elegant lady as well as the female attendant,
the seller as well as the buyer,
the borrower as well as the lender,
the creditor as well as the debtor.
- 3 The earth will be completely devastated
and thoroughly ransacked.
For the LORD has decreed this judgment.

The Tribulation—The Sinfulness of Men

- 4 The earth dries up and withers,
the world shrivels up and withers;
the prominent people of the earth fade away.
- 5 The earth is defiled by its inhabitants,
for they have violated laws,
disregarded the regulation,
and broken the permanent treaty.
- 6 So a treaty curse devours the earth;
its inhabitants pay for their guilt.
This is why the inhabitants of the earth disappear,
and are reduced to just a handful of people.

The Tribulation—Life Without God

- 7 The new wine dries up,
the vines shrivel up,
all those who like to celebrate groan.
- 8 The happy sound of the tambourines stops,
the revelry of those who celebrate comes to a halt,
the happy sound of the harp ceases.
- 9 They no longer sing and drink wine;
the beer tastes bitter to those who drink it.
- 10 The ruined town is shattered;
all of the houses are shut up tight.
- 11 They howl in the streets because of what happened to the wine;
all joy turns to sorrow;
celebrations disappear from the earth.
- 12 The city is left in ruins;
the gate is reduced to rubble.

The Tribulation—A Righteous Remnant Will Survive God's Judgment

- 13 This is what will happen throughout the earth,
among the nations.
It will be like when they beat an olive tree,
and just a few olives are left at the end of the harvest.
- 14 They lift their voices and shout joyfully;
they praise the majesty of the LORD in the west.
- 15 So in the east extol the LORD,
along the seacoasts extol the fame of the LORD God of Israel.
- 16 From the ends of the earth we hear songs—

the Just One is majestic.

The Tribulation—The Wicked, However, Cannot Escape

But I say, "I'm wasting away! I'm wasting away! I'm doomed!
Deceivers deceive, deceivers thoroughly deceive!"

- 17 Terror, pit, and snare
are ready to overtake you inhabitants of the earth!
- 18 The one who runs away from the sound of the terror
will fall into the pit;
the one who climbs out of the pit,
will be trapped by the snare.
For the floodgates of the heavens are opened up
and the foundations of the earth shake.
- 19 The earth is broken in pieces,
the earth is ripped to shreds,
the earth shakes violently.
- 20 The earth will stagger around like a drunk;
it will sway back and forth like a hut in a windstorm.
Its sin will weigh it down,
and it will fall and never get up again.

The Second Coming—Christ Returns

- 21 At that time the LORD will punish
the heavenly forces in the heavens
and the earthly kings on the earth.
- 22 They will be imprisoned in a pit,
locked up in a prison,
and after staying there for a long time,
they will be punished.
- 23 The full moon will be covered up,
the bright sun will be darkened;
for the LORD who commands armies will rule
on Mount Zion in Jerusalem
in the presence of his assembly, in majestic splendor.

The Millennium—Rejoicing in Messiah's Reign

- 25:1 O LORD, you are my God!
I will exalt you in praise, I will extol your fame.
For you have done extraordinary things,
and executed plans made long ago exactly as you decreed.
- 2 Indeed, you have made the city into a heap of rubble,
the fortified town into a heap of ruins;
the fortress of foreigners is no longer a city,
it will never be rebuilt.
- 3 So a strong nation will extol you;
the towns of powerful nations will fear you.
- 4 For you are a protector for the poor,
a protector for the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm,
a shade from the heat.
Though the breath of tyrants is like a winter rainstorm,
- 5 like heat in a dry land,
you humble the boasting foreigners.
Just as the shadow of a cloud causes the heat to subside,
so he causes the song of tyrants to cease.

The Millennium and the Eternal State—God's Joyous Feast

- 6 The LORD who commands armies will hold a banquet for all the nations on this mountain.

At this banquet there will be plenty of meat and aged wine—
tender meat and choicest wine.

- 7 On this mountain he will swallow up
the shroud that is over all the peoples,
the woven covering that is over all the nations;
8 he will swallow up death permanently.
The sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from every face,
and remove his people’s disgrace from all the earth. [[1 Cor 15:54](#); [Rev 7:17](#); [21:4](#)]
Indeed, the LORD has announced it!

The Millennium—Praise for God’s Deliverance

- 9 At that time they will say,
“Look, here is our God!
We waited for him and he delivered us.
Here is the LORD! We waited for him.
Let’s rejoice and celebrate his deliverance!”
10 For the LORD’s power will make this mountain secure.
Moab will be trampled down where it stands,
as a heap of straw is trampled down in a manure pile.
11 Moab will spread out its hands in the middle of it,
just as a swimmer spreads his hands to swim;
the LORD will bring down Moab’s pride as it spreads its hands.
12 The fortified city (along with the very tops of your walls) he will knock down,
he will bring it down, he will throw it down to the dusty ground.

The Millennium—A Song of Trust in God

- 26:1 At that time this song will be sung in the land of Judah:
“We have a strong city!
The LORD’s deliverance, like walls and a rampart, makes it secure.
2 Open the gates so a righteous nation can enter—
one that remains trustworthy.
3 You keep completely safe the people who maintain their faith,
for they trust in you.
4 Trust in the LORD from this time forward,
even in Yah, the LORD, an enduring protector!
5 Indeed, the LORD knocks down those who live in a high place,
he brings down an elevated town;
he brings it down to the ground,
he throws it down to the dust.
6 It is trampled underfoot
by the feet of the oppressed,
by the soles of the poor.”

The Present—Isaiah’s Lament While Waiting for God’s Salvation

- 7 The way of the righteous is level,
the path of the righteous that you make is straight.
8 Yes, as your judgments unfold,
O LORD, we wait for you.
We desire your fame and reputation to grow.
9 I look for you during the night,
my spirit within me seeks you at dawn,
for when your judgments come upon the earth,
those who live in the world learn about justice.
10 If the wicked are shown mercy,
they do not learn about justice.
Even in a land where right is rewarded, they act unjustly;
they do not see the LORD’s majesty revealed.

The Present—Isaiah’s Anticipation of Future Salvation

- 11 O LORD, you are ready to act,
but they don’t even notice.
They will see and be put to shame by your angry judgment against humankind,
yes, fire will consume your enemies.
- 12 O LORD, you make us secure,
for even all we have accomplished, you have done for us.
- 13 O LORD, our God,
masters other than you have ruled us,
but we praise your name alone.
- 14 The dead do not come back to life,
the spirits of the dead do not rise.
That is because you came in judgment and destroyed them,
you wiped out all memory of them.
- 15 You have made the nation larger, O LORD,
you have made the nation larger and revealed your splendor,
you have extended all the borders of the land.
- 16 O LORD, in distress they looked for you;
they uttered incantations because of your discipline.
- 17 As when a pregnant woman gets ready to deliver
and strains and cries out because of her labor pains,
so were we because of you, O LORD.
- 18 We were pregnant, we strained,
we gave birth, as it were, to wind.
We cannot produce deliverance on the earth;
people to populate the world are not born.
- 19 Your dead will come back to life;
your corpses will rise up.
Wake up and shout joyfully, you who live in the ground!
For you will grow like plants drenched with the morning dew,
and the earth will bring forth its dead spirits.

The Present—Isaiah’s Warning of Hardship Before the End

- 20 Go, my people! Enter your inner rooms!
Close your doors behind you!
Hide for a little while, [\[Heb 10:37\]](#)
until his angry judgment is over!
- 21 For look, the LORD is coming out of the place where he lives,
to punish the sin of those who live on the earth.
The earth will display the blood shed on it;
it will no longer cover up its slain.

The Millennium—The Defeat of Satan

- 27:1 At that time the LORD will punish
with his destructive, great, and powerful sword
Leviathan the fast-moving serpent,
Leviathan the squirming serpent;
he will kill the sea monster.

The Millennium—The Future Blessing of Israel

- 2 When that time comes,
sing about a delightful vineyard!
- 3 I, the LORD, protect it;
I water it regularly.
I guard it night and day,
so no one can harm it.
- 4 I am not angry.
I wish I could confront some thorns and briars!

- Then I would march against them for battle;
I would set them all on fire,
5 unless they became my subjects
and made peace with me;
let them make peace with me.
6 The time is coming when Jacob will take root;
Israel will blossom and grow branches.
The produce will fill the surface of the world.

The Present—Judah Will Be Exiled for Her Sin / Blessing Comes After Judgment and Discipline

- 7 Has the LORD struck down Israel like he did their oppressors?
Has Israel been killed like their enemies?
8 When you summon her for divorce, you prosecute her;
he drives her away with his strong wind in the day of the east wind.
9 So in this way Jacob's sin will be forgiven,
and this is how they will show they are finished sinning: [[Rom 11:27](#)]
They will make all the stones of the altars
like crushed limestone,
and the Asherah poles and the incense altars will no longer stand.
10 For the fortified city is left alone;
it is a deserted settlement
and abandoned like the desert.
Calves graze there;
they lie down there
and eat its branches bare.
11 When its branches get brittle, they break;
women come and use them for kindling.
For these people lack understanding,
therefore the one who made them has no compassion on them;
the one who formed them has no mercy on them.

The Millennium—A Regathering to Worship

- 12 At that time the LORD will shake the tree, from the Euphrates River to the Stream of Egypt. Then you will be gathered up one by one, O Israelites.
13 At that time a large trumpet will be blown, and the ones lost in the land of Assyria will come, as well as the refugees in the land of Egypt. They will worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.

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Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Israel's Leaders (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 28

Woe to the Fading Wreath of Ephraim

- 1 The splendid crown of Ephraim's drunkards is doomed,
the withering flower, its beautiful splendor,
situated at the head of a rich valley,
the crown of those overcome with wine.
- 2 Look, the sovereign master sends a strong, powerful one.
With the force of a hailstorm or a destructive windstorm,
with the might of a driving, torrential rainstorm,
he will knock that crown to the ground with his hand.
- 3 The splendid crown of Ephraim's drunkards
will be trampled underfoot.
- 4 The withering flower, its beautiful splendor,
situated at the head of a rich valley,
will be like an early fig before harvest—
as soon as someone notices it, he grabs it and swallows it.
- 5 At that time the LORD who commands armies will become a beautiful crown
and a splendid diadem for the remnant of his people.
- 6 He will give discernment to the one who makes judicial decisions,
and strength to those who defend the city from attackers.

Failure of Judah's Priests and Prophets

- 7 Even these men stagger because of wine,
they stumble around because of beer—
priests and prophets stagger because of beer,
they are confused because of wine,
they stumble around because of beer;
they stagger while seeing prophetic visions,
they totter while making legal decisions.
- 8 Indeed, all the tables are covered with vomit;
no place is untouched.
- 9 Who is the LORD trying to teach?
To whom is he explaining a message?
Those just weaned from milk!
Those just taken from their mother's breast!
- 10 Indeed, they will hear meaningless gibberish,
senseless babbling,
a syllable here, a syllable there.
- 11 For with mocking lips and a foreign tongue
he will speak to these people. [\[1 Cor 14:21\]](#)
- 12 In the past he said to them,
"This is where security can be found.
Provide security for the one who is exhausted!
This is where rest can be found."
But they refused to listen.
- 13 So the LORD's word to them will sound like
meaningless gibberish,
senseless babbling,
a syllable here, a syllable there.
As a result, they will fall on their backsides when they try to walk,
and be injured, ensnared, and captured.

Leaders of Judah Reject God's Cornerstone—The Messiah

- 14 Therefore, listen to the LORD's word,
you who mock,
you rulers of these people
who reside in Jerusalem!

- 15 For you say,
“We have made a treaty with death,
with Sheol we have made an agreement.
When the overwhelming judgment sweeps by
it will not reach us.
For we have made a lie our refuge,
we have hidden ourselves in a deceitful word.”
- 16 Therefore, this is what the sovereign master, the LORD, says:
“Look, I am laying a stone in Zion,
an approved stone,
set in place as a precious cornerstone for the foundation.
The one who maintains his faith will not panic (LXX “be put to shame”). [[Rom 9:33](#); [10:11](#); [1 Pet 2:6](#)]
- 17 I will make justice the measuring line,
fairness the plumb line;
hail will sweep away the unreliable refuge,
the floodwaters will overwhelm the hiding place.
- 18 Your treaty with death will be dissolved;
your agreement with Sheol will not last.
When the overwhelming judgment sweeps by,
you will be overrun by it.
- 19 Whenever it sweeps by, it will overtake you;
indeed, every morning it will sweep by,
it will come through during the day and the night.”
When this announcement is understood,
it will cause nothing but terror.
- 20 For the bed is too short to stretch out on,
and the blanket is too narrow to wrap around oneself.
- 21 For the LORD will rise up, as he did at Mount Perazim,
he will rouse himself, as he did in the Valley of Gibeon,
to accomplish his work,
his peculiar work,
to perform his task,
his strange task.
- 22 So now, do not mock,
or your chains will become heavier!
For I have heard a message about decreed destruction,
from the sovereign master, the LORD who commands armies, against the entire land.

A Parable of the Farmer: Accept God’s Wisdom

- 23 Pay attention and listen to my message!
Be attentive and listen to what I have to say!
- 24 Does a farmer just keep on plowing at planting time?
Does he keep breaking up and harrowing his ground?
- 25 Once he has leveled its surface,
does he not scatter the seed of the caraway plant,
sow the seed of the cumin plant,
and plant the wheat, barley, and grain in their designated places?
- 26 His God instructs him;
he teaches him the principles of agriculture.
- 27 Certainly caraway seed is not threshed with a sledge,
nor is the wheel of a cart rolled over cumin seed.
Certainly caraway seed is beaten with a stick,
and cumin seed with a flail.
- 28 Grain is crushed,
though one certainly does not thresh it forever.
The wheel of one’s wagon rolls over it,
but his horses do not crush it.
- 29 This also comes from the LORD who commands armies,

who gives supernatural guidance and imparts great wisdom.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Religious Hypocrisy (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 29:1–14

Jerusalem Besieged, But Its Enemies Disappear

- 1 Ariel is as good as dead—
Ariel, the town David besieged!
Keep observing your annual rituals,
celebrate your festivals on schedule.
- 2 I will threaten Ariel,
and she will mourn intensely
and become like an altar hearth before me.
- 3 I will lay siege to you on all sides;
I will besiege you with troops;
I will raise siege works against you.
- 4 You will fall;
while lying on the ground you will speak;
from the dust where you lie, your words will be heard.
Your voice will sound like a spirit speaking from the underworld;
from the dust you will chirp as if muttering an incantation.
- 5 But the horde of invaders will be like fine dust,
the horde of tyrants like chaff that is blown away.
It will happen suddenly, in a flash.
- 6 Judgment will come from the LORD who commands armies,
accompanied by thunder, earthquake, and a loud noise,
by a strong gale, a windstorm, and a consuming flame of fire.
- 7 It will be like a dream, a night vision.
There will be a horde from all the nations that fight against Ariel,
those who attack her and her stronghold and besiege her.
- 8 It will be like a hungry man dreaming that he is eating,
only to awaken and find that his stomach is empty.
It will be like a thirsty man dreaming that he is drinking,
only to awaken and find that he is still weak and his thirst unquenched.
So it will be for the horde from all the nations
that fight against Mount Zion.

The Blindness of Prophets and People

- 9 You will be shocked and amazed!
You are totally blind!
They are drunk, but not because of wine;
they stagger, but not because of beer.
- 10 For the LORD has poured out on you
a strong urge to sleep deeply.
He has shut your eyes (the prophets),
and covered your heads (the seers). [[Rom 11:8](#)]

11 To you this entire prophetic revelation is like words in a sealed scroll. When they hand it to one who can read and say, “Read this,” he responds, “I can’t, because it is sealed.”

12 Or when they hand the scroll to one who can’t read and say, “Read this,” he says, “I can’t read.”

- 13 The sovereign master says,
“These people say they are loyal to me;
they say wonderful things about me,
but they are not really loyal to me.
Their worship consists of
nothing but man-made ritual. [[Matt 15:8–9](#); [Mark 7:6–7](#)]
- 14 Therefore I will again do an amazing thing for these people—

an absolutely extraordinary deed.
 Wise men will have nothing to say,
 the sages will have no explanations.” [1 Cor 1:19]

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Rebellion and Pride (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 29:15–24

- 15 Those who try to hide their plans from the LORD are as good as dead,
 who do their work in secret and boast,
 “Who sees us? Who knows what we’re doing?”
- 16 Your thinking is perverse!
 Should the potter be regarded as clay?
 Should the thing made say about its maker, “He didn’t make me”?
 Or should the pottery say about the potter, “He doesn’t understand”? [Rom 9:20]
- 17 In just a very short time
 Lebanon will turn into an orchard,
 and the orchard will be considered a forest.
- 18 At that time the deaf will be able to hear words read from a scroll,
 and the eyes of the blind will be able to see through deep darkness. [Matt 11:5; Luke 7:22]
- 19 The downtrodden will again rejoice in the LORD;
 the poor among humankind will take delight in the Holy One of Israel.
- 20 For tyrants will disappear,
 those who taunt will vanish,
 and all those who love to do wrong will be eliminated—
- 21 those who bear false testimony against a person,
 who entrap the one who arbitrates at the city gate
 and deprive the innocent of justice by making false charges.
- 22 So this is what the LORD, the one who delivered Abraham, says to the family of Jacob:
 “Jacob will no longer be ashamed;
 their faces will no longer show their embarrassment.
- 23 For when they see their children,
 whom I will produce among them,
 they will honor my name.
 They will honor the Holy One of Jacob;
 they will respect the God of Israel.
- 24 Those who stray morally will gain understanding;
 those who complain will acquire insight.

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Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Allying With Egypt (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 30

Woe Against Trusting Worthless Egypt

- 1 “The rebellious children are as good as dead,” says the LORD,
“those who make plans without consulting me,
who form alliances without consulting my Spirit,
and thereby compound their sin.
- 2 They travel down to Egypt
without seeking my will,
seeking Pharaoh’s protection,
and looking for safety in Egypt’s protective shade.
- 3 But Pharaoh’s protection will bring you nothing but shame,
and the safety of Egypt’s protective shade nothing but humiliation.
- 4 Though his officials are in Zoan
and his messengers arrive at Hanes,
5 all will be put to shame
because of a nation that cannot help them,
who cannot give them aid or help,
but only shame and disgrace.”
- 6 This is a message about the animals in the Negev:
Through a land of distress and danger,
inhabited by lionesses and roaring lions,
by snakes and darting adders,
they transport their wealth on the backs of donkeys,
their riches on the humps of camels,
to a nation that cannot help them.
- 7 Egypt is totally incapable of helping.
For this reason I call her ‘Proud one who is silenced.’”
- 8 Now go, write it down on a tablet in their presence,
inscribe it on a scroll,
so that it might be preserved for a future time
as an enduring witness.
- 9 For these are rebellious people—
they are lying children,
children unwilling to obey the LORD’s law.
- 10 They say to the visionaries, “See no more visions!”
and to the seers, “Don’t relate messages to us about what is right!
Tell us nice things,
relate deceptive messages.
- 11 Turn aside from the way,
stray off the path.
Remove from our presence the Holy One of Israel.”
- 12 For this reason this is what the Holy One of Israel says:
“You have rejected this message;
you trust instead in your ability to oppress and trick,
and rely on that kind of behavior.
- 13 So this sin will become your downfall.
You will be like a high wall
that bulges and cracks and is ready to collapse;
it crumbles suddenly, in a flash.
- 14 It shatters in pieces like a clay jar,
so shattered to bits that none of it can be salvaged.
Among its fragments one cannot find a shard large enough
to scoop a hot coal from a fire
or to skim off water from a cistern.”
- 15 For this is what the master, the LORD, the Holy One of Israel says:
“If you repented and patiently waited for me, you would be delivered;
if you calmly trusted in me you would find strength,

- but you are unwilling.
- 16 You say, 'No, we will flee on horses,'
so you will indeed flee.
You say, 'We will ride on fast horses,'
so your pursuers will be fast.
- 17 One thousand will scurry at the battle cry of one enemy soldier;
at the battle cry of five enemy soldiers you will all run away,
until the remaining few are as isolated
as a flagpole on a mountaintop
or a signal flag on a hill."

God's Future Grace Will Transform Judah

- 18 For this reason the LORD is ready to show you mercy;
he sits on his throne, ready to have compassion on you.
Indeed, the LORD is a just God;
all who wait for him in faith will be blessed.
- 19 For people will live in Zion;
in Jerusalem you will weep no more.
When he hears your cry of despair, he will indeed show you mercy;
when he hears it, he will respond to you.
- 20 The sovereign master will give you distress to eat
and suffering to drink;
but your teachers will no longer be hidden;
your eyes will see them.
- 21 You will hear a word spoken behind you, saying,
"This is the correct way, walk in it,"
whether you are heading to the right or the left.
- 22 You will desecrate your silver-plated idols
and your gold-plated images.
You will throw them away as if they were a menstrual rag,
saying to them, "Get out!"
- 23 He will water the seed you plant in the ground,
and the ground will produce crops in abundance.
At that time your cattle will graze in wide pastures.
- 24 The oxen and donkeys used in plowing
will eat seasoned feed winnowed with a shovel and pitchfork.
- 25 On every high mountain
and every high hill
there will be streams flowing with water,
at the time of great slaughter when the fortified towers collapse.
- 26 The light of the full moon will be like the sun's glare
and the sun's glare will be seven times brighter,
like the light of seven days,
when the LORD binds up his people's fractured bones
and heals their severe wound.

God's Plan to Destroy Assyria

- 27 Look, the name of the LORD comes from a distant place
in raging anger and awesome splendor.
He speaks angrily
and his word is like destructive fire.
- 28 His battle cry overwhelms like a flooding river
that reaches one's neck.
He shakes the nations in a sieve that isolates the chaff;
he puts a bit into the mouth of the nations and leads them to destruction.
- 29 You will sing
as you do in the evening when you are celebrating a festival.
You will be happy like one who plays a flute

- as he goes to the mountain of the LORD,
the Rock who shelters Israel.
- 30 The LORD will give a mighty shout
and intervene in power,
with furious anger and flaming, destructive fire,
with a driving rainstorm and hailstones.
- 31 Indeed, the LORD's shout will shatter Assyria;
he will beat them with a club.
- 32 Every blow from his punishing cudgel,
with which the LORD will beat them,
will be accompanied by music from the tambourine and harp,
and he will attack them with his weapons.
- 33 For the burial place is already prepared;
it has been made deep and wide for the king.
The firewood is piled high on it.
The LORD's breath, like a stream flowing with brimstone,
will ignite it.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Relying on Egypt (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 31–32

Woe Against Reliance on Egypt Rather Than God

- 31:1 Those who go down to Egypt for help are as good as dead,
those who rely on war horses,
and trust in Egypt's many chariots
and in their many, many horsemen.
But they do not rely on the Holy One of Israel
and do not seek help from the LORD.
- 2 Yet he too is wise and he will bring disaster;
he does not retract his decree.
He will attack the wicked nation,
and the nation that helps those who commit sin.
- 3 The Egyptians are mere humans, not God;
their horses are made of flesh, not spirit.
The LORD will strike with his hand;
the one who helps will stumble
and the one being helped will fall.
Together they will perish.
- 4 Indeed, this is what the LORD says to me:
"The LORD will be like a growling lion,
like a young lion growling over its prey.
Though a whole group of shepherds gathers against it,
it is not afraid of their shouts
or intimidated by their yelling.
In this same way the LORD who commands armies will descend
to do battle on Mount Zion and on its hill.
- 5 Just as birds hover over a nest,
so the LORD who commands armies will protect Jerusalem.
He will protect and deliver it;
as he passes over he will rescue it.
- 6 You Israelites! Return to the one against whom you have so blatantly rebelled!
- 7 For at that time everyone will get rid of the silver and gold idols your hands sinfully made.
- 8 Assyria will fall by a sword, but not one human-made;
a sword not made by humankind will destroy them.
They will run away from this sword
and their young men will be forced to do hard labor.

- 9 They will surrender their stronghold because of fear;
their officers will be afraid of the LORD's battle flag."
This is what the LORD says—
the one whose fire is in Zion,
whose firepot is in Jerusalem.

God's Exalting of a Righteous King

- 32:1 Look, a king will promote fairness;
officials will promote justice.
- 2 Each of them will be like a shelter from the wind
and a refuge from a rainstorm;
like streams of water in a dry region
and like the shade of a large cliff in a parched land.
- 3 Eyes will no longer be blind
and ears will be attentive.
- 4 The mind that acts rashly will possess discernment
and the tongue that stutters will speak with ease and clarity.
- 5 A fool will no longer be called honorable;
a deceiver will no longer be called principled.
- 6 For a fool speaks disgraceful things;
his mind plans out sinful deeds.
He commits godless deeds
and says misleading things about the LORD;
he gives the hungry nothing to satisfy their appetite
and gives the thirsty nothing to drink.
- 7 A deceiver's methods are evil;
he dreams up evil plans to ruin the poor with lies,
even when the needy are in the right.
- 8 An honorable man makes honorable plans;
his honorable character gives him security.

Complacent Women of Jerusalem Must Lament

- 9 You complacent women,
get up and listen to me!
You carefree daughters,
pay attention to what I say!
- 10 In a year's time you carefree ones will shake with fear,
for the grape harvest will fail,
and the fruit harvest will not arrive.
- 11 Tremble, you complacent ones!
Shake with fear, you carefree ones!
Strip off your clothes and expose yourselves—
put sackcloth on your waist!
- 12 Mourn over the field,
over the delightful fields
and the fruitful vine!
- 13 Mourn over the land of my people,
which is overgrown with thorns and briers,
and over all the once-happy houses
in the city filled with revelry.
- 14 For the fortress is neglected;
the once-crowded city is abandoned.
Hill and watchtower are permanently uninhabited.
Wild donkeys love to go there,
and flocks graze there.

Future Transformation of Israel

- 15 This desolation will continue until new life is poured out on us from heaven.

- Then the desert will become an orchard
and the orchard will be considered a forest.
- 16 Justice will settle down in the desert
and fairness will live in the orchard.
- 17 Fairness will produce peace
and result in lasting security.
- 18 My people will live in peaceful settlements,
in secure homes,
and in safe, quiet places.
- 19 Even if the forest is destroyed
and the city is annihilated,
- 20 you will be blessed,
you who plant seed by all the banks of the streams,
you who let your ox and donkey graze.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Woes: Assyria (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 33

Woe to Assyria

- 1 The destroyer is as good as dead,
you who have not been destroyed!
The deceitful one is as good as dead,
the one whom others have not deceived!
When you are through destroying, you will be destroyed;
when you finish deceiving, others will deceive you!
- 2 LORD, be merciful to us! We wait for you.
Give us strength each morning!
Deliver us when distress comes.
- 3 The nations run away when they hear a loud noise;
the nations scatter when you spring into action!
- 4 Your plunder disappears as if locusts were eating it;
they swarm over it like locusts!
- 5 The LORD is exalted,
indeed, he lives in heaven;
he fills Zion with justice and fairness.
- 6 He is your constant source of stability;
he abundantly provides safety and great wisdom;
he gives all this to those who fear him.
- 7 Look, ambassadors cry out in the streets;
messengers sent to make peace weep bitterly.
- 8 Highways are empty,
there are no travelers.
Treaties are broken,
witnesses are despised,
human life is treated with disrespect.
- 9 The land dries up and withers away;
the forest of Lebanon shrivels up and decays.
Sharon is like the desert;
Bashan and Carmel are parched.
- 10 "Now I will rise up," says the LORD.
"Now I will exalt myself;
now I will magnify myself.
- 11 You conceive straw,
you give birth to chaff;
your breath is a fire that destroys you.
- 12 The nations will be burned to ashes;
like thorn bushes that have been cut down, they will be set on fire.
- 13 You who are far away, listen to what I have done!

- You who are close by, recognize my strength!”
- 14 Sinners are afraid in Zion;
panic grips the godless.
They say, ‘Who among us can coexist with destructive fire?
Who among us can coexist with unquenchable fire?’
- 15 The one who lives uprightly
and speaks honestly;
the one who refuses to profit from oppressive measures
and rejects a bribe;
the one who does not plot violent crimes
and does not seek to harm others—
- 16 This is the person who will live in a secure place;
he will find safety in the rocky, mountain strongholds;
he will have food
and a constant supply of water.

The Reign of the Messiah in Zion

- 17 You will see a king in his splendor;
you will see a wide land.
- 18 Your mind will recall the terror you experienced,
and you will ask yourselves, “Where is the scribe?
Where is the one who weighs the money?
Where is the one who counts the towers?”
- 19 You will no longer see a defiant people
whose language you do not comprehend,
whose derisive speech you do not understand.
- 20 Look at Zion, the city where we hold religious festivals!
You will see Jerusalem,
a peaceful settlement,
a tent that stays put;
its stakes will never be pulled up;
none of its ropes will snap in two.
- 21 Instead the LORD will rule there as our mighty king.
Rivers and wide streams will flow through it;
no war galley will enter;
no large ships will sail through.
- 22 For the LORD, our ruler,
the LORD, our commander,
the LORD, our king—
he will deliver us.
- 23 Though at this time your ropes are slack,
the mast is not secured,
and the sail is not unfurled,
at that time you will divide up a great quantity of loot;
even the lame will drag off plunder.
- 24 No resident of Zion will say, “I am ill”;
the people who live there will have their sin forgiven.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—God’s Wrath against the Nations (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 34

Eschatological Judgment

- 1 Come near, you nations, and listen!
Pay attention, you people!
The earth and everything it contains must listen,
the world and everything that lives in it.
- 2 For the LORD is angry at all the nations
and furious with all their armies.

- He will annihilate them and slaughter them.
- 3 Their slain will be left unburied,
their corpses will stink;
the hills will soak up their blood.
- 4 All the stars in the sky will fade away,
the sky will roll up like a scroll;
all its stars will wither,
like a leaf withers and falls from a vine
or a fig withers and falls from a tree. [[Matt 24:29](#); [Mark 13:25](#); [Luke 21:26](#)]

Edom Singled Out as an Example of God's Judgment

- 5 He says, "Indeed, my sword has slaughtered heavenly powers.
Look, it now descends on Edom,
on the people I will annihilate in judgment."
- 6 The LORD's sword is dripping with blood,
it is covered with fat;
it drips with the blood of young rams and goats
and is covered with the fat of rams' kidneys.
For the LORD is holding a sacrifice in Bozrah,
a bloody slaughter in the land of Edom.
- 7 Wild oxen will be slaughtered along with them,
as well as strong bulls.
Their land is drenched with blood,
their soil is covered with fat.
- 8 For the LORD has planned a day of revenge,
a time when he will repay Edom for her hostility toward Zion.
- 9 Edom's streams will be turned into pitch
and her soil into brimstone;
her land will become burning pitch.
- 10 Night and day it will burn;
its smoke will ascend continually.
Generation after generation it will be a wasteland
and no one will ever pass through it again.
- 11 Owls and wild animals will live there,
all kinds of wild birds will settle in it.
The LORD will stretch out over her the measuring line of ruin
and the plumb line of destruction.
- 12 Her nobles will have nothing left to call a kingdom
and all her officials will disappear.
- 13 Her fortresses will be overgrown with thorns;
thickets and weeds will grow in her fortified cities.
Jackals will settle there;
ostriches will live there.
- 14 Wild animals and wild dogs will congregate there;
wild goats will bleat to one another.
Yes, nocturnal animals will rest there
and make for themselves a nest.
- 15 Owls will make nests and lay eggs there;
they will hatch them and protect them.
Yes, hawks will gather there,
each with its mate.
- 16 Carefully read the scroll of the LORD!
Not one of these creatures will be missing,
none will lack a mate.
For the LORD has issued the decree,
and his own spirit gathers them.
- 17 He assigns them their allotment;
he measures out their assigned place.

They will live there permanently;
they will settle in it through successive generations.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—God's Glory Will Transform Zion (c. 704–702 BC)

Isaiah 35

- 1 Let the desert and dry region be happy;
let the wilderness rejoice and bloom like a lily!
- 2 Let it richly bloom;
let it rejoice and shout with delight!
It is given the grandeur of Lebanon,
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon.
They will see the grandeur of the LORD,
the splendor of our God.
- 3 Strengthen the hands that have gone limp,
steady the knees that shake! [cf. [Heb 12:12](#)]
- 4 Tell those who panic,
“Be strong! Do not fear!
Look, your God comes to avenge!
With divine retribution he comes to deliver you.”
- 5 Then blind eyes will open,
deaf ears will hear.
- 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer,
the mute tongue will shout for joy;
for water will flow in the desert,
streams in the wilderness.
- 7 The dry soil will become a pool of water,
the parched ground springs of water.
Where jackals once lived and sprawled out,
grass, reeds, and papyrus will grow.
- 8 A thoroughfare will be there—
it will be called the Way of Holiness.
The unclean will not travel on it;
it is reserved for those authorized to use it—
fools will not stray into it.
- 9 No lions will be there,
no ferocious wild animals will be on it—
they will not be found there.
Those delivered from bondage will travel on it,
those whom the LORD has ransomed will return that way.
- 10 They will enter Zion with a happy shout.
Unending joy will crown them,
happiness and joy will overwhelm them;
grief and suffering will disappear.

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Sennacherib [Assyria] Invades Judah (701 BC)

2 Kings 18:13	Isaiah 36:1	2 Chronicles 32:1
13 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, King Sennacherib of Assyria marched up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.	1 In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, King Sennacherib of Assyria marched up against all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.	1 After these faithful deeds were accomplished, King Sennacherib of Assyria invaded Judah. He besieged the fortified cities, intending to seize them.

Hezekiah Pays Tribute to Sennacherib (701 BC)

2 Kings 18:14–16

14 King Hezekiah of Judah sent this message to the king of Assyria, who was at Lachish, "I have violated our treaty. If you leave, I will do whatever you demand." So the king of Assyria demanded that King Hezekiah of Judah pay three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold.
15 Hezekiah gave him all the silver in the LORD's temple and in the treasuries of the royal palace.
16 At that time King Hezekiah of Judah stripped the metal overlays from the doors of the LORD's temple and from the posts which he had plated and gave them to the king of Assyria.

Sennacherib Besieges Jerusalem Anyway (701 BC)

2 Chronicles 32:2–8

2 When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had invaded and intended to attack Jerusalem,
3 he consulted with his advisers and military officers about stopping up the springs outside the city, and they supported him.
4 A large number of people gathered together and stopped up all the springs and the stream that flowed through the district. They reasoned, "Why should the kings of Assyria come and find plenty of water?"
5 Hezekiah energetically rebuilt every broken wall. He erected towers and an outer wall, and fortified the terrace of the City of David. He made many weapons and shields.
6 He appointed military officers over the army and assembled them in the square at the city gate. He encouraged them, saying,
7 "Be strong and brave! Don't be afraid and don't panic because of the king of Assyria and this huge army that is with him! We have with us one who is stronger than those who are with him.
8 He has with him mere human strength, but the LORD our God is with us to help us and fight our battles!" The army was encouraged by the words of King Hezekiah of Judah.

Sennacherib's Message to Hezekiah (701 BC)

2 Kings 18:17–37	Isaiah 36:2–22	2 Chronicles 32:9–15, 18–19
17 The king of Assyria sent his commanding general, the chief eunuch, and the chief adviser from Lachish to King Hezekiah in Jerusalem, along with a large army. They went up and arrived at Jerusalem. They went and stood at the conduit of the upper pool which is located on the road to the field where they wash and dry cloth. 18 They summoned the king, so Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace	2 The king of Assyria sent his chief adviser from Lachish to King Hezekiah in Jerusalem, along with a large army. The chief adviser stood at the conduit of the upper pool which is located on the road to the field where they wash and dry cloth. 3 Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace	9 Afterward King Sennacherib of Assyria, while attacking Lachish with all his military might, sent his messengers to Jerusalem. The message was for King Hezekiah of Judah and all the people of Judah who were in Jerusalem.

<p>supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went out to meet them. 19 The chief adviser said to them, "Tell Hezekiah: 'This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: "What is your source of confidence?</p> <p>20 Your claim to have a strategy and military strength is just empty talk. In whom are you trusting that you would dare to rebel against me? 21 Now look, you must be trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed staff. If a man leans for support on it, it punctures his hand and wounds him. That is what Pharaoh king of Egypt does to all who trust in him. 22 Perhaps you will tell me, 'We are trusting in the LORD our God.'</p> <p>But Hezekiah is the one who eliminated his high places and altars and then told the people of Judah and Jerusalem, 'You must worship at this altar in Jerusalem.'</p> 23 Now make a deal with my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses, provided you can find enough riders for them. 24 Certainly you will not refuse one of my master's minor officials and trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen. 25 Furthermore it was by the command of the LORD that I marched up against this place to destroy it. The LORD told me, 'March up against this land and destroy it.'"" 26 Eliakim son of Hilkiyah, Shebna, and Joah said to the chief adviser, "Speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Don't speak with us in the Judahite dialect in the hearing of the people who are on the wall." 27 But the chief adviser said to them, "My master did not send me to speak these words only to your master and to you. His message is also for the men who sit on the wall, for they will eat their own excrement and drink their own urine along with you." 28 The chief adviser then stood there and called out loudly in the Judahite dialect,	<p>supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went out to meet him. 4 The chief adviser said to them, "Tell Hezekiah: 'This is what the great king, the king of Assyria, says: "What is your source of confidence?</p> <p>5 Your claim to have a strategy and military strength is just empty talk. In whom are you trusting, that you would dare to rebel against me? 6 Look, you must be trusting in Egypt, that splintered reed staff. If someone leans on it for support, it punctures his hand and wounds him. That is what Pharaoh king of Egypt does to all who trust in him! 7 Perhaps you will tell me, 'We are trusting in the LORD our God.'</p> <p>But Hezekiah is the one who eliminated his high places and altars and then told the people of Judah and Jerusalem, 'You must worship at this altar.'</p> 8 Now make a deal with my master the king of Assyria, and I will give you two thousand horses, provided you can find enough riders for them. 9 Certainly you will not refuse one of my master's minor officials and trust in Egypt for chariots and horsemen. 10 Furthermore it was by the command of the LORD that I marched up against this land to destroy it. The LORD told me, 'March up against this land and destroy it!"" 11 Eliakim, Shebna, and Joah said to the chief adviser, "Speak to your servants in Aramaic, for we understand it. Don't speak with us in the Judahite dialect in the hearing of the people who are on the wall." 12 But the chief adviser said, "My master did not send me to speak these words only to your master and to you. His message is also for the men who sit on the wall, for they will eat their own excrement and drink their own urine along with you!" 13 The chief adviser then stood there and called out loudly in the Judahite dialect,	<p>It read:</p> <p>10 "This is what King Sennacherib of Assyria says: 'Why are you so confident that you remain in Jerusalem while it is under siege?</p> <p>11 Hezekiah says, "The LORD our God will rescue us from the power of the king of Assyria." But he is misleading you and you will die of hunger and thirst! 12 Hezekiah is the one who eliminated the LORD's high places and altars and then told Judah and Jerusalem, "At one altar you must worship and offer sacrifices."</p> <p>18 They called out loudly in the Judahite dialect to the people of Jerusalem who were on</p>
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<p>“Listen to the message of the great king, the king of Assyria. 29 This is what the king says: ‘Don’t let Hezekiah mislead you, for he is not able to rescue you from my hand! 30 Don’t let Hezekiah talk you into trusting in the LORD when he says, “The LORD will certainly rescue us; this city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.” 31 Don’t listen to Hezekiah!’ For this is what the king of Assyria says, ‘Send me a token of your submission and surrender to me. Then each of you may eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, 32 until I come and take you to a land just like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards, a land of olive trees and honey. Then you will live and not die.</p> <p>Don’t listen to Hezekiah, for he is misleading you when he says, “The LORD will rescue us.”</p> <p>33 Have any of the gods of the nations actually rescued his land from the power of the king of Assyria? 34 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah? Indeed, did any gods rescue Samaria from my power? 35 Who among all the gods of the lands has rescued their lands from my power? So how can the LORD rescue Jerusalem from my power?” 36 The people were silent and did not respond, for the king had ordered, “Don’t respond to him.” 37 Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went to Hezekiah with their</p>	<p>“Listen to the message of the great king, the king of Assyria. 14 This is what the king says: ‘Don’t let Hezekiah mislead you, for he is not able to rescue you! 15 Don’t let Hezekiah talk you into trusting in the LORD by saying, “The LORD will certainly rescue us; this city will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.” 16 Don’t listen to Hezekiah!’ For this is what the king of Assyria says, ‘Send me a token of your submission and surrender to me. Then each of you may eat from his own vine and fig tree and drink water from his own cistern, 17 until I come and take you to a land just like your own—a land of grain and new wine, a land of bread and vineyards.</p> <p>18 Hezekiah is misleading you when he says, “The LORD will rescue us.”</p> <p>Has any of the gods of the nations rescued his land from the power of the king of Assyria? 19 Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim? Indeed, did any gods rescue Samaria from my power? 20 Who among all the gods of these lands have rescued their lands from my power? So how can the LORD rescue Jerusalem from my power?” 21 They were silent and did not respond, for the king had ordered, “Don’t respond to him.” 22 Eliakim son of Hilkiah, the palace supervisor, accompanied by Shebna the scribe and Joah son of Asaph, the secretary, went to Hezekiah with their</p>	<p>the wall, trying to scare and terrify them so they could seize the city. 19 They talked about the God of Jerusalem as if he were one of the man-made gods of the nations of the earth.</p> <p>13 Are you not aware of what I and my predecessors have done to all the nations of the surrounding lands? Have the gods of the surrounding lands actually been able to rescue their lands from my power? 14 Who among all the gods of these nations whom my predecessors annihilated was able to rescue his people from my power? 15 Now don’t let Hezekiah deceive you or mislead you like this.</p> <p>Don’t believe him, for no god of any nation or kingdom has been able to rescue his people from my power or the power of my predecessors.</p> <p>So how can your gods rescue you from my power?”</p>
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clothes torn and reported to him what the chief adviser had said.	clothes torn in grief and reported to him what the chief adviser had said.	
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Hezekiah's First Prayer For Deliverance (701 BC)

2 Kings 19:1–7	Isaiah 37:1–7
<p>1 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went to the LORD's temple.</p> <p>2 He sent Eliakim the palace supervisor, Shebna the scribe, and the leading priests, clothed in sackcloth, with this message to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz:</p> <p>3 "This is what Hezekiah says: 'This is a day of distress, insults, and humiliation, as when a baby is ready to leave the birth canal, but the mother lacks the strength to push it through.'</p> <p>4 Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all these things the chief adviser has spoken on behalf of his master, the king of Assyria, who sent him to taunt the living God. When the LORD your God hears, perhaps he will punish him for the things he has said. So pray for this remnant that remains.'"</p> <p>5 When King Hezekiah's servants came to Isaiah,</p> <p>6 Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master this: 'This is what the LORD says: "Don't be afraid because of the things you have heard—these insults the king of Assyria's servants have hurled against me.'</p> <p>7 Look, I will take control of his mind; he will receive a report and return to his own land. I will cut him down with a sword in his own land.'"</p>	<p>1 When King Hezekiah heard this, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth, and went to the LORD's temple.</p> <p>2 Eliakim the palace supervisor, Shebna the scribe, and the leading priests, clothed in sackcloth, sent this message to the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz:</p> <p>3 "This is what Hezekiah says: 'This is a day of distress, insults, and humiliation, as when a baby is ready to leave the birth canal, but the mother lacks the strength to push it through.'</p> <p>4 Perhaps the LORD your God will hear all these things the chief adviser has spoken on behalf of his master, the king of Assyria, who sent him to taunt the living God. When the LORD your God hears, perhaps he will punish him for the things he has said. So pray for this remnant that remains.'"</p> <p>5 When King Hezekiah's servants came to Isaiah,</p> <p>6 Isaiah said to them, "Tell your master this: 'This is what the LORD says: "Don't be afraid because of the things you have heard—these insults the king of Assyria's servants have hurled against me.'</p> <p>7 Look, I will take control of his mind; he will receive a report and return to his own land. I will cut him down with a sword in his own land.'"</p>

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Sennacherib Sends Hezekiah a Taunting Letter (701 BC)

2 Kings 19:8–13	Isaiah 37:8–13	2 Chronicles 32:16–17
<p>8 When the chief adviser heard the king of Assyria had departed from Lachish, he left and went to Libnah, where the king was campaigning.</p> <p>9 The king heard that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was marching out to fight him. He again sent messengers to Hezekiah, ordering them:</p> <p>10 “Tell King Hezekiah of Judah this: ‘Don’t let your God in whom you trust mislead you when he says, “Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.”</p> <p>11 Certainly you have heard how the kings of Assyria have annihilated all lands. Do you really think you will be rescued?</p> <p>12 Were the nations whom my ancestors destroyed—the nations of Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden in Telassar—rescued by their gods?</p> <p>13 Where are the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the king of Lair, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?”</p>	<p>8 When the chief adviser heard the king of Assyria had departed from Lachish, he left and went to Libnah, where the king was campaigning.</p> <p>9 The king heard that King Tirhakah of Ethiopia was marching out to fight him. He again sent messengers to Hezekiah, ordering them:</p> <p>10 “Tell King Hezekiah of Judah this: ‘Don’t let your God in whom you trust mislead you when he says, “Jerusalem will not be handed over to the king of Assyria.”</p> <p>11 Certainly you have heard how the kings of Assyria have annihilated all lands. Do you really think you will be rescued?</p> <p>12 Were the nations whom my predecessors destroyed—the nations of Gozan, Haran, Rezeph, and the people of Eden in Telassar—rescued by their gods?</p> <p>13 Where are the king of Hamath, the king of Arpad, and the kings of Lair, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?”</p>	<p>16 Sennacherib’s servants further insulted the LORD God and his servant Hezekiah.</p> <p>17 He wrote letters mocking the LORD God of Israel and insulting him with these words:</p> <p>“The gods of the surrounding nations could not rescue their people from my power. Neither can Hezekiah’s god rescue his people from my power.”</p>

Hezekiah’s Second Prayer For Deliverance (701 BC)

2 Kings 19:14–19	Isaiah 37:14–20	2 Chronicles 32:20
<p>14 Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers and read it. Then Hezekiah went up to the LORD’s temple and spread it out before the LORD.</p> <p>15 Hezekiah</p> <p>prayed before the LORD:</p> <p>“LORD God of Israel, who is enthroned on the cherubs! You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the sky and the earth.</p> <p>16 Pay attention, LORD, and hear! Open your eyes, LORD, and observe! Listen to the message Sennacherib sent and how he taunts the living God!</p> <p>17 It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed the nations and their lands.</p>	<p>14 Hezekiah took the letter from the messengers and read it. Then Hezekiah went up to the LORD’s temple and spread it out before the LORD.</p> <p>15 Hezekiah</p> <p>prayed before the LORD:</p> <p>16 “O LORD who commands armies, O God of Israel, who is enthroned on the cherubim! You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You made the sky and the earth.</p> <p>17 Pay attention, LORD, and hear! Open your eyes, LORD, and observe! Listen to this entire message Sennacherib sent and how he taunts the living God!</p> <p>18 It is true, LORD, that the kings of Assyria have destroyed all the nations and their lands.</p>	<p>20 King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz prayed about this and cried out to heaven.</p>

<p>18 They have burned the gods of the nations, for they are not really gods, but only the product of human hands manufactured from wood and stone. That is why the Assyrians could destroy them.</p> <p>19 Now, O LORD our God, rescue us from his power, so that all the kingdoms of the earth will know that you, LORD, are the only God.”</p>	<p>19 They have burned the gods of the nations, for they are not really gods, but only the product of human hands manufactured from wood and stone. That is why the Assyrians could destroy them.</p> <p>20 Now, O LORD our God, rescue us from his power, so all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone are the LORD.”</p>	
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Yahweh Sends Sennacherib a Taunting Reply (701 BC)

2 Kings 19:20–34	Isaiah 37:21–35
<p>20 Isaiah son of Amoz sent this message to Hezekiah: “This is what the LORD God of Israel says: ‘I have heard your prayer concerning King Sennacherib of Assyria.</p> <p>21 This is what the LORD says about him:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“The virgin daughter Zion despises you, she makes fun of you; Daughter Jerusalem shakes her head after you.</p> <p>22 Whom have you taunted and hurled insults at? At whom have you shouted, and looked so arrogantly? At the Holy One of Israel!</p> <p>23 Through your messengers you taunted the sovereign master, ‘With my many chariots I climbed up the high mountains, the slopes of Lebanon. I cut down its tall cedars, and its best evergreens. I invaded its most remote regions, its thickest woods.</p> <p>24 I dug wells and drank water in foreign lands. With the soles of my feet I dried up all the rivers of Egypt.’</p> <p>25 Certainly you must have heard! Long ago I worked it out, In ancient times I planned it; and now I am bringing it to pass. The plan is this: Fortified cities will crash into heaps of ruins.</p> <p>26 Their residents are powerless, they are terrified and ashamed. They are as short-lived as plants in the field, or green vegetation. They are as short-lived as grass on the rooftops when it is scorched by the east wind.</p> <p>27 I know where you live, and everything you do.</p> <p>28 Because you rage against me, and the uproar you create has reached my ears; I will put my hook in your nose, and my bridle between your lips,</p>	<p>21 Isaiah son of Amoz sent this message to Hezekiah: “This is what the LORD God of Israel says: ‘Because you prayed to me concerning King Sennacherib of Assyria,</p> <p>22 this is what the LORD says about him:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“The virgin daughter Zion despises you—she makes fun of you; daughter Jerusalem shakes her head after you.</p> <p>23 Whom have you taunted and hurled insults at? At whom have you shouted and looked so arrogantly? At the Holy One of Israel!</p> <p>24 Through your messengers you taunted the sovereign master, ‘With my many chariots I climbed up the high mountains, the slopes of Lebanon. I cut down its tall cedars and its best evergreens. I invaded its most remote regions, its thickest woods.</p> <p>25 I dug wells and drank water. With the soles of my feet I dried up all the rivers of Egypt.’</p> <p>26 Certainly you must have heard! Long ago I worked it out, in ancient times I planned it, and now I am bringing it to pass. The plan is this: Fortified cities will crash into heaps of ruins.</p> <p>27 Their residents are powerless; they are terrified and ashamed. They are as short-lived as plants in the field or green vegetation. They are as short-lived as grass on the rooftops when it is scorched by the east wind.</p> <p>28 I know where you live and everything you do and how you rage against me.</p> <p>29 Because you rage against me and the uproar you create has reached my ears, I will put my hook in your nose, and my bridle between your lips,</p>

<p>and I will lead you back the way you came.”</p> <p>29 This will be your confirmation that I have spoken the truth: This year you will eat what grows wild, and next year what grows on its own from that. But in the third year you will plant seed and harvest crops; you will plant vines and consume their produce.</p> <p>30 Those who remain in Judah will take root in the ground and bear fruit.</p> <p>31 For a remnant will leave Jerusalem; survivors will come out of Mount Zion. The intense devotion of the sovereign LORD to his people will accomplish this.</p> <p>32 So this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: “He will not enter this city, nor will he shoot an arrow here. He will not attack it with his shield-carrying warriors, nor will he build siege works against it.</p> <p>33 He will go back the way he came. He will not enter this city,” says the LORD.</p> <p>34 I will shield this city and rescue it for the sake of my reputation and because of my promise to David my servant.””</p>	<p>and I will lead you back the way you came.”</p> <p>30 “This will be your reminder that I have spoken the truth: This year you will eat what grows wild, and next year what grows on its own. But the year after that you will plant seed and harvest crops; you will plant vines and consume their produce.</p> <p>31 Those who remain in Judah will take root in the ground and bear fruit.</p> <p>32 “For a remnant will leave Jerusalem; survivors will come out of Mount Zion. The intense devotion of the LORD who commands armies will accomplish this.</p> <p>33 So this is what the LORD says about the king of Assyria: ‘He will not enter this city, nor will he shoot an arrow here. He will not attack it with his shielded warriors, nor will he build siege works against it.</p> <p>34 He will go back the way he came—he will not enter this city,’ says the LORD.</p> <p>35 I will shield this city and rescue it for the sake of my reputation and because of my promise to David my servant.”””</p>
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Yahweh’s Angel Destroys the Assyrian Army (701 BC)		
2 Kings 19:35–36	Isaiah 37:36–37	2 Chronicles 32:21a, 22–23
<p>35 That very night the LORD’s messenger went out and killed 185,000 men in the Assyrian camp. When they got up early the next morning, there were all the corpses.</p> <p>36 So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and went on his way. He went home and stayed in Nineveh.</p>	<p>36 The LORD’s messenger went out and killed 185,000 troops in the Assyrian camp. When they got up early the next morning, there were all the corpses!</p> <p>37 So King Sennacherib of Assyria broke camp and went on his way. He went home and stayed in Nineveh.</p>	<p>21a The LORD sent a messenger and he wiped out all the soldiers, princes, and officers in the army of the king of Assyria.</p> <p>So Sennacherib returned home humiliated.</p> <p>22 The LORD delivered Hezekiah and the residents of Jerusalem from the power of King Sennacherib of Assyria and from all the other nations. He made them secure on every side.</p> <p>23 Many were bringing presents to the LORD in Jerusalem and precious gifts to King Hezekiah of Judah. From that time on he was respected by all the nations.</p>

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Hezekiah's Illness (701 BC)		
2 Kings 20:1–11	Isaiah 38:1–8, 21–22	2 Chronicles 32:24
<p>1 In those days Hezekiah was stricken with a terminal illness.</p> <p>The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz visited him and told him, "This is what the LORD says, 'Give your household instructions, for you are about to die; you will not get well.'"</p> <p>2 He turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,</p> <p>3 "Please, LORD. Remember how I have served you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion, and how I have carried out your will." Then Hezekiah wept bitterly.</p> <p>4 Isaiah was still in the middle courtyard when the LORD told him,</p> <p>5 "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people: 'This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: "I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Look, I will heal you. The day after tomorrow you will go up to the LORD's temple.</p> <p>6 I will add fifteen years to your life and rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will shield this city for the sake of my reputation and because of my promise to David my servant.'"</p> <p>7 Isaiah ordered, "Get a fig cake." So they did as he ordered and placed it on the ulcerated sore, and he recovered.</p> <p>8 Hezekiah had said to Isaiah, "What is the confirming sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the LORD's temple the day after tomorrow?"</p> <p>9 Isaiah replied, "This is your sign from the LORD confirming that the LORD will do what he has said. Do you want the shadow to move ahead ten steps or to go back ten steps?"</p> <p>10 Hezekiah answered, "It is easy for the shadow to lengthen ten steps, but not for it to go back ten steps."</p> <p>11 Isaiah the prophet called out to the LORD,</p> <p>and the LORD made the shadow go back ten steps on the stairs of Ahaz.</p>	<p>1 In those days Hezekiah was stricken with a terminal illness.</p> <p>The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz visited him and told him, "This is what the LORD says, 'Give instructions to your household, for you are about to die; you will not get well.'"</p> <p>2 Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,</p> <p>3 "Please, LORD. Remember how I have served you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion, and how I have carried out your will." Then Hezekiah wept bitterly.</p> <p>4 The LORD told Isaiah,</p> <p>5 "Go and tell Hezekiah:</p> <p>'This is what the LORD God of your ancestor David says: "I have heard your prayer; I have seen your tears. Look,</p> <p>I will add fifteen years to your life, 6 and rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will shield this city.'"</p> <p>21 Isaiah ordered, "Let them take a fig cake and apply it to the ulcerated sore and he will get well."</p> <p>22 Hezekiah said, "What is the confirming sign that I will go up to the LORD's temple?"</p> <p>7 Isaiah replied, "This is your sign from the LORD confirming that the LORD will do what he has said:</p> <p>8 Look, I will make the shadow go back ten steps on the stairs of Ahaz." And then the shadow went back ten steps.</p>	<p>24 In those days Hezekiah was stricken with a terminal illness.</p> <p>He prayed to the LORD,</p> <p>who answered him and gave him a sign confirming that he would be healed.</p>

Hezekiah's Prayer (701 BC)

Isaiah 38:9–20

9 This is the prayer of King Hezekiah of Judah when he was sick and then recovered from his illness:

10 "I thought, 'In the middle of my life I must walk through the gates of Sheol, I am deprived of the rest of my years.'

11 "I thought, 'I will no longer see the LORD in the land of the living, I will no longer look on humankind with the inhabitants of the world.

12 My dwelling place is removed and taken away from me like a shepherd's tent. I rolled up my life like a weaver rolls cloth; from the loom he cuts me off. You turn day into night and end my life.

13 I cry out until morning; like a lion he shatters all my bones; you turn day into night and end my life.

14 Like a swallow or a thrush I chirp, I coo like a dove; my eyes grow tired from looking up to the sky. O sovereign master, I am oppressed; help me!

15 What can I say? He has decreed and acted. I will walk slowly all my years because I am overcome with grief.

16 O sovereign master, your decrees can give men life; may years of life be restored to me. Restore my health and preserve my life.'

17 "Look, the grief I experienced was for my benefit. You delivered me from the pit of oblivion. For you removed all my sins from your sight.

18 Indeed Sheol does not give you thanks; death does not praise you. Those who descend into the pit do not anticipate your faithfulness.

19 The living person, the living person, he gives you thanks, as I do today. A father tells his sons about your faithfulness.

20 The LORD is about to deliver me, and we will celebrate with music for the rest of our lives in the LORD's temple."

Hezekiah's Accomplishments (716t–687t BC)

2 Chronicles 32:27–30

27 Hezekiah was very wealthy and greatly respected. He made storehouses for his silver, gold, precious stones, spices, and all his other valuable possessions.

28 He made storerooms for the harvest of grain, wine, and olive oil, and stalls for all his various kinds of livestock and his flocks.

29 He built royal cities and owned a large number of sheep and cattle, for God gave him a huge amount of possessions.

30 Hezekiah dammed up the source of the waters of the Upper Gihon and directed them down to the west side of the City of David. Hezekiah succeeded in all that he did.

Hezekiah's Problem With Pride (701 BC)

2 Kings 20:12–19

Isaiah 39

2 Chronicles 32:25–26, 31

12 At that time Merodach-Baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he had heard that Hezekiah was ill.

13 Hezekiah welcomed them and showed them his whole storehouse, with its silver, gold, spices, and high-quality olive oil, as well as his armory and everything in his treasuries. Hezekiah showed them everything in his palace and in his whole kingdom.
14 Isaiah the prophet visited King Hezekiah and asked him, "What did these men say? Where do they come from?" Hezekiah replied, "They come from the

1 At that time Merodach-Baladan son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a gift to Hezekiah, for he heard that Hezekiah had been ill and had recovered.

2 Hezekiah welcomed them and showed them his storehouse with its silver, gold, spices, and high-quality olive oil, as well as his whole armory and everything in his treasuries. Hezekiah showed them everything in his palace and in his whole kingdom.
3 Isaiah the prophet visited King Hezekiah and asked him, "What did these men say? Where do they come from?" Hezekiah replied, "They come from the

25 But Hezekiah was ungrateful; he had a proud attitude, provoking God to be angry at him, as well as Judah and Jerusalem.

31 So when the envoys arrived from the Babylonian officials to visit him and inquire about the sign that occurred in the land, God left him alone to test him, in order to know his true motives.

<p>distant land of Babylon.”</p> <p>15 Isaiah asked, “What have they seen in your palace?” Hezekiah replied, “They have seen everything in my palace. I showed them everything in my treasuries.”</p> <p>16 Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Listen to the word of the LORD,</p> <p>17 ‘Look, a time is coming when everything in your palace and the things your ancestors have accumulated to this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says the LORD.</p> <p>18 ‘Some of your very own descendants whom you father will be taken away and will be made eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”</p> <p>19 Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The LORD’s word which you have announced is appropriate.” Then he added, “At least there will be peace and stability during my lifetime.”</p>	<p>distant land of Babylon.”</p> <p>4 Isaiah asked, “What have they seen in your palace?” Hezekiah replied, “They have seen everything in my palace. I showed them everything in my treasuries.”</p> <p>5 Isaiah said to Hezekiah, “Listen to the word of the LORD who commands armies:</p> <p>6 ‘Look, a time is coming when everything in your palace and the things your ancestors have accumulated to this day will be carried away to Babylon; nothing will be left,’ says the LORD.</p> <p>7 ‘Some of your very own descendants whom you father will be taken away and will be made eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.’”</p> <p>8 Hezekiah said to Isaiah, “The LORD’s word which you have announced is appropriate.” Then he thought, “For there will be peace and stability during my lifetime.”</p>	<p>26 But then Hezekiah and the residents of Jerusalem humbled themselves and abandoned their pride, and the LORD was not angry with them for the rest of Hezekiah’s reign.</p>
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Manasseh, Hezekiah’s Son, Becomes Coregent With Hezekiah (697t BC)

2 Kings 21:1	2 Chronicles 33:1
1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother was Hephzibah.	1 Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned for fifty-five years in Jerusalem.

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Chronological Notes

- 1) Many commentators argue that Isaiah 38–39 are out of place chronologically and should precede Isaiah 36–37.¹ The principle pieces of evidence offered are:
 - A) God’s promise to Hezekiah in Isaiah 38:6 appears to indicate that the threat from the king of Assyria lay in the present/future and not in the past.
 - B) If Hezekiah gave Sennacherib tribute money (2 Kgs 18:14–16), what did he have left to show the messengers from Merodach-Baladan (Isa 39:2; 2 Kgs 20:13)?
 - C) At the time following the invasion of Sennacherib, Merodach-Baladan was no longer king of Babylon.

¹ John N. Oswalt, “The Book of Isaiah, Chapters 1–39,” *NICOT*, 674; Gary V. Smith, “Isaiah 1–39,” *NAC*, 635–636; J. Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 289.

- 2) I think Benjamin Downer has ably argued against this majority view:²
- A) Concerning Isaiah 38:6—“But what was of more pressing concern to the inhabitants of the city than their future safety? From a human standpoint it was altogether probable that Sennacherib would return to the west land at no distant date and make another attempt on Jerusalem. The promise made to Hezekiah is therefore taken naturally to mean that, for the period to which his life was extended, he and his city should be safe from further aggression” (Downer, p. 255).
- B) Concerning the tribute—“But how long the treasury was allowed to remain thus depleted is another question. There is no reason to think the city was impoverished. It had not been through a protracted siege, probably only a blockade for a brief period. It would have been deemed necessary to take immediate steps, after the withdrawal of Sennacherib from the land, to replenish the treasury, if for no other reason, to aid in the rehabilitation of the wasted country districts. Menahem of Israel had raised a thousand talents in an emergency to buy the aid of Pul of Assyria by taking a fixed sum from all the wealthy men of his realm (2 Kgs 15:19–20). Jehoiakim of Judah at a later time raised the amount demanded by Pharaoh-Necho by exacting it of the people according to their property valuation (2 Kgs 23:35). It is worth while to observe also that the treasures shown by Hezekiah did not consist altogether of gold and silver, but of costly articles of various kinds, and of warlike equipment (Isa 39:2). Besides it is stated in 2 Chr 32:23 that much had come in from other peoples in the way of gifts of honor after the deliverance of the city from Sennacherib” (Downer, p. 254).³
- C) Concerning Merodach-Baladan—“Merodach-baladan had been already twice king of Babylon. He had ruled over the city, together with all southern Babylonia, for twelve years during the reign of Sargon II, from 721 to 709 B.C., and had held his own against all the power of Assyria (Rogers, *History of Babylonia and Assyria*, II, 316ff, 336ff). He had himself made king again in 702 B.C., and was dislodged after a reign of nine months by Sennacherib (R. II, 356ff). A man by the name of Bel-ibni, of little force and ability apparently, but wholly subservient to Sennacherib, was placed on the throne. He is in the several lists put down as king for the next three years (R. I, 514, 533, 535), but according to McCurdy (*History, Prophecy and the Monuments*, II, p. 275), this mock kingship ‘was intended merely as a compromise and makeshift till the time should come for the formal annexation of the whole country.’ While Sennacherib was engaged in his campaign in Palestine in 701 B.C., rebellion broke out again in Babylon. Bel-ibni was forced into a position hostile to Assyria, while Merodach-baladan joined in the revolt (R. II, 373f). If we may trust his former record, he was the chief figure in the rebellion, and the one to whom the populace would turn as the only man capable of carrying the struggle to a successful issue. With the Babylonians then hostile to the rule of Sennacherib, refusing ever to acknowledge him as king because of his ignoring their time-honored customs as to the manner of his assuming the royal prerogative (R. II, 355f); and with Bel-ibni helpless against public sentiment, while Merodach-baladan was apparently the brains and organizer of the revolt, there does not seem to be any serious objection to his being styled king of Babylon, a position he had held during the greater part of the time from the beginning of Sargon’s reign until that very day. Moreover, one of the accounts (2 Chr 32:31) does not mention him by name, but simply speaks of ‘the ambassadors of the princes of Babylon.’ We may suppose that Hezekiah’s sickness followed soon after the deliverance of Jerusalem. The general note of time, ‘in those days,’ found in all the accounts is sufficiently explained by the fact that in all the narratives the disastrous ending of Sennacherib’s campaign had been made to include the circumstances of his death at the hands of his sons twenty years later. The news of these events would soon reach Babylonia, for according to Rogers (II, 373) ‘news traveled far and fast in the ancient orient.’ Nothing would be of more importance to Merodach-baladan, knowing the certainty that Sennacherib would soon give his attention to the uprising in Babylon, than seeking to stir up more trouble for him in the west land. Therefore, hearing of Hezekiah’s successful resistance, and of his sickness and recovery, the opportunity offered itself, under the guise of congratulations on his recovery and interest in the reported wonder connected with it, of finding what chance there was of stirring up a new revolt in Palestine” (Downer, 255–56).⁴

² Benjamin R. Downer, “The Added Years of Hezekiah’s Life,” *Bibliotheca Sacra*, 80.318 (Apr 1923): 251–271.

³ I would add that the tribute Hezekiah paid to Sennacherib prior to the siege of Jerusalem may well have been recovered in whole or in part after God’s destruction of Sennacherib’s forces in a single night.

⁴ For those who argue that Hezekiah’s illness took place during Merodach-baladan’s first rule during Sargon’s reign, it should be noted that a straightforward calculation from the end of Hezekiah’s life in 687t bc yields the following: 687t + added 15 years of life = 702t or 701 bc. Thus we have an upper bound on the dating of Isaiah 38–39 of 702/701 bc.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Comfort, Part 1 (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 40:1–43:13

Comfort Ye My People

- 40:1 "Comfort, comfort my people,"
says your God.
- 2 "Speak kindly to Jerusalem, and tell her
that her time of warfare is over,
that her punishment is completed.
For the LORD has made her pay double for all her sins."
- 3 A voice cries out,
"In the wilderness clear a way for the LORD;
construct in the desert a road for our God. [[Matt 3:3; Mark 1:3; John 1:23](#)]
- 4 Every valley must be elevated,
and every mountain and hill leveled.
The rough terrain will become a level plain,
the rugged landscape a wide valley.
- 5 The splendor of the LORD will be revealed,
and all people will see it at the same time.
For the LORD has decreed it." [[Luke 3:4–6](#)]
- 6 A voice says, "Cry out!"
Another asks, "What should I cry out?"
The first voice responds: "All people are like grass,
and all their promises are like the flowers in the field.
- 7 The grass dries up,
the flowers wither,
when the wind sent by the LORD blows on them.
Surely humanity is like grass.
- 8 The grass dries up,
the flowers wither,
but the decree of our God is forever reliable." [[1 Pet 1:24–25](#)]
- 9 Go up on a high mountain, O herald Zion!
Shout out loudly, O herald Jerusalem!
Shout, don't be afraid!
Say to the towns of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
- 10 Look, the sovereign LORD comes as a victorious warrior;
his military power establishes his rule.
Look, his reward is with him;
his prize goes before him.
- 11 Like a shepherd he tends his flock;
he gathers up the lambs with his arm;
he carries them close to his heart;
he leads the ewes along.

There is No God Like Yahweh

- 12 Who has measured out the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or carefully measured the sky,
or carefully weighed the soil of the earth,
or weighed the mountains in a balance,
or the hills on scales?
- 13 Who comprehends the mind of the LORD,
or gives him instruction as his counselor? [[Rom 11:33–34; 1 Cor 2:15–16](#)]
- 14 From whom does he receive directions?
Who teaches him the correct way to do things,
or imparts knowledge to him,
or instructs him in skillful design?
- 15 Look, the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales.

- He lifts the coastlands as if they were dust.
- 16 Not even Lebanon could supply enough firewood for a sacrifice;
its wild animals would not provide enough burnt offerings.
- 17 All the nations are insignificant before him;
they are regarded as absolutely nothing.
- 18 To whom can you compare God?
To what image can you liken him?
- 19 A craftsman casts an idol;
a metalsmith overlays it with gold
and forges silver chains for it.
- 20 To make a contribution one selects wood that will not rot;
he then seeks a skilled craftsman
to make an idol that will not fall over.

God is in Control of the Heavens and the Earth

- 21 Do you not know?
Do you not hear?
Has it not been told to you since the very beginning?
Have you not understood from the time the earth's foundations were made?
- 22 He is the one who sits on the earth's horizon;
its inhabitants are like grasshoppers before him.
He is the one who stretches out the sky like a thin curtain,
and spreads it out like a pitched tent.
- 23 He is the one who reduces rulers to nothing;
he makes the earth's leaders insignificant.
- 24 Indeed, they are barely planted;
yes, they are barely sown;
yes, they barely take root in the earth,
and then he blows on them, causing them to dry up,
and the wind carries them away like straw.
- 25 "To whom can you compare me?
Whom do I resemble?" says the Holy One.
- 26 Look up at the sky!
Who created all these heavenly lights?
He is the one who leads out their ranks;
he calls them all by name.
Because of his absolute power and awesome strength,
not one of them is missing.

God Will Strengthen His People

- 27 Why do you say, Jacob,
Why do you say, Israel,
"The LORD is not aware of what is happening to me,
My God is not concerned with my vindication"?
- 28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The LORD is an eternal God, the creator of the whole earth.
He does not get tired or weary;
there is no limit to his wisdom.
- 29 He gives strength to those who are tired;
to the ones who lack power, he gives renewed energy.
- 30 Even youths get tired and weary;
even strong young men clumsily stumble.
- 31 But those who wait for the LORD's help find renewed strength;
they rise up as if they had eagles' wings,
they run without growing weary,
they walk without getting tired.

God's Work Terrifies Idolaters

- 41:1 "Listen to me in silence, you coastlands!
Let the nations find renewed strength!
Let them approach and then speak;
let us come together for debate!
- 2 Who stirs up this one from the east?
Who officially commissions him for service?
He hands nations over to him,
and enables him to subdue kings.
He makes them like dust with his sword,
like windblown straw with his bow.
- 3 He pursues them and passes by unharmed;
he advances with great speed.
- 4 Who acts and carries out decrees?
Who summons the successive generations from the beginning?
I, the LORD, am present at the very beginning,
and at the very end—I am the one.
- 5 The coastlands see and are afraid;
the whole earth trembles;
they approach and come.
- 6 They help one another;
one says to the other, 'Be strong!'
- 7 The craftsman encourages the metalsmith,
the one who wields the hammer encourages the one who pounds on the anvil.
He approves the quality of the welding,
and nails it down so it won't fall over."

Israel Need Not Fear—Yahweh is Their God!

- 8 "You, my servant Israel,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
offspring of Abraham my friend,
- 9 you whom I am bringing back from the earth's extremities,
and have summoned from the remote regions—
I told you, "You are my servant."
I have chosen you and not rejected you.
- 10 Don't be afraid, for I am with you!
Don't be frightened, for I am your God!
I strengthen you—
yes, I help you—
yes, I uphold you with my saving right hand!
- 11 Look, all who were angry at you will be ashamed and humiliated;
your adversaries will be reduced to nothing and perish.
- 12 When you will look for your opponents, you will not find them;
your enemies will be reduced to absolutely nothing.
- 13 For I am the LORD your God,
the one who takes hold of your right hand,
who says to you, 'Don't be afraid, I am helping you.'
- 14 Don't be afraid, despised insignificant Jacob, men of Israel.
I am helping you," says the LORD, your protector, the Holy One of Israel.
- 15 "Look, I am making you like a sharp threshing sledge,
new and double-edged.
You will thresh the mountains and crush them;
you will make the hills like straw.
- 16 You will winnow them and the wind will blow them away;
the wind will scatter them.
You will rejoice in the LORD;
you will boast in the Holy One of Israel.

God Will Meet Every Need

- 17 The oppressed and the poor look for water, but there is none;
their tongues are parched from thirst.
I, the LORD, will respond to their prayers;
I, the God of Israel, will not abandon them.
- 18 I will make streams flow down the slopes
and produce springs in the middle of the valleys.
I will turn the desert into a pool of water
and the arid land into springs.
- 19 I will make cedars, acacias, myrtles, and olive trees grow in the wilderness;
I will make evergreens, firs, and cypresses grow together in the desert.
- 20 I will do this so people will observe and recognize,
so they will pay attention and understand
that the LORD's power has accomplished this,
and that the Holy One of Israel has brought it into being."

God Challenges the Idols to Predict the Future

- 21 "Present your argument," says the LORD.
"Produce your evidence," says Jacob's king.
- 22 "Let them produce evidence!
Let them tell us what will happen!
Tell us about your earlier predictive oracles,
so we may examine them and see how they were fulfilled.
Or decree for us some future events!
- 23 Predict how future events will turn out,
so we might know you are gods.
Yes, do something good or bad,
so we might be frightened and in awe.
- 24 Look, you are nothing, and your accomplishments are nonexistent;
the one who chooses to worship you is disgusting.
- 25 I have stirred up one out of the north and he advances,
one from the eastern horizon who prays in my name.
He steps on rulers as if they were clay,
like a potter treading the clay.
- 26 Who decreed this from the beginning, so we could know?
Who announced it ahead of time, so we could say, 'He's correct'?
Indeed, none of them decreed it!
Indeed, none of them announced it!
Indeed, no one heard you say anything!
- 27 I first decreed to Zion, 'Look, here's what will happen!'
I sent a herald to Jerusalem.
- 28 I look, but there is no one,
among them there is no one who serves as an adviser,
that I might ask questions and receive answers.
- 29 Look, all of them are nothing,
their accomplishments are nonexistent;
their metal images lack any real substance.

The Ministry of the Messiah

- 42:1 "Here is my servant whom I support,
my chosen one in whom I take pleasure.
I have placed my spirit on him;
he will make just decrees for the nations.
- 2 He will not cry out or shout;
he will not publicize himself in the streets.
- 3 A crushed reed he will not break,
a dim wick he will not extinguish;
he will faithfully make just decrees.

- 4 He will not grow dim or be crushed
before establishing justice on the earth;
the coastlands will wait in anticipation for his decrees.” [\[Matt 12:15–21\]](#)
- 5 This is what the true God, the LORD, says—
the one who created the sky and stretched it out,
the one who fashioned the earth and everything that lives on it,
the one who gives breath to the people on it,
and life to those who live on it:
- 6 “I, the LORD, officially commission you;
I take hold of your hand.
I protect you and make you a covenant mediator for people,
and a light to the nations,
- 7 to open blind eyes,
to release prisoners from dungeons,
those who live in darkness from prisons.
- 8 I am the LORD! That is my name!
I will not share my glory with anyone else,
or the praise due me with idols.
- 9 Look, my earlier predictive oracles have come to pass;
now I announce new events.
Before they begin to occur,
I reveal them to you.”

A Hymn of Praise

- 10 Sing to the LORD a brand new song!
Praise him from the horizon of the earth,
you who go down to the sea, and everything that lives in it,
you coastlands and those who live there!
- 11 Let the desert and its cities shout out,
the towns where the nomads of Kedar live!
Let the residents of Sela shout joyfully;
let them shout loudly from the mountaintops.
- 12 Let them give the LORD the honor he deserves;
let them praise his deeds in the coastlands.

God, the Mighty Warrior

- 13 The LORD emerges like a hero,
like a warrior he inspires himself for battle;
he shouts, yes, he yells,
he shows his enemies his power.
- 14 “I have been inactive for a long time;
I kept quiet and held back.
Like a woman in labor I groan;
I pant and gasp.
- 15 I will make the trees on the mountains and hills wither up;
I will dry up all their vegetation.
I will turn streams into islands,
and dry up pools of water.
- 16 I will lead the blind along an unfamiliar way;
I will guide them down paths they have never traveled.
I will turn the darkness in front of them into light,
and level out the rough ground.
This is what I will do for them.
I will not abandon them.
- 17 Those who trust in idols
will turn back and be utterly humiliated,
those who say to metal images, “You are our gods.””

Israel's Failure to See and Hear

- 18 "Listen, you deaf ones!
Take notice, you blind ones!
- 19 My servant is truly blind,
my messenger is truly deaf.
My covenant partner, the servant of the LORD, is truly blind.
- 20 You see many things, but don't comprehend;
their ears are open, but do not hear."
- 21 The LORD wanted to exhibit his justice
by magnifying his law and displaying it.
- 22 But these people are looted and plundered;
all of them are trapped in pits
and held captive in prisons.
They were carried away as loot with no one to rescue them;
they were carried away as plunder, and no one says, "Bring that back!"
- 23 Who among you will pay attention to this?
Who will listen attentively in the future?
- 24 Who handed Jacob over to the robber?
Who handed Israel over to the looters?
Was it not the LORD, against whom we sinned?
They refused to follow his commands;
they disobeyed his law.
- 25 So he poured out his fierce anger on them,
along with the devastation of war.
Its flames encircled them, but they did not realize it;
it burned against them, but they did notice.

God's Love for Israel—He Will Save Them

- 43:1 Now, this is what the LORD says,
the one who created you, O Jacob,
and formed you, O Israel:
"Don't be afraid, for I will protect you.
I call you by name, you are mine.
- 2 When you pass through the waters, I am with you;
when you pass through the streams, they will not overwhelm you.
When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not harm you.
- 3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your deliverer.
I have handed over Egypt as a ransom price,
Ethiopia and Seba in place of you.
- 4 Since you are precious and special in my sight,
and I love you,
I will hand over people in place of you,
nations in place of your life.
- 5 Don't be afraid, for I am with you.
From the east I will bring your descendants;
from the west I will gather you.
- 6 I will say to the north, 'Hand them over!'
and to the south, 'Don't hold any back!'
Bring my sons from distant lands,
and my daughters from the remote regions of the earth,
- 7 everyone who belongs to me,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed—yes, whom I made!

The Courtroom—You Are My Witnesses

- 8 Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes,
those who are deaf, even though they have ears!
- 9 All nations gather together,
the peoples assemble.
Who among them announced this?
Who predicted earlier events for us?
Let them produce their witnesses to testify they were right;
let them listen and affirm, 'It is true.'
- 10 You are my witnesses," says the LORD,
"my servant whom I have chosen,
so that you may consider and believe in me,
and understand that I am he.
No god was formed before me,
and none will outlive me.
- 11 I, I am the LORD,
and there is no deliverer besides me.
- 12 I decreed and delivered and proclaimed,
and there was no other god among you.
you are my witnesses," says the LORD, "that I am God.
- 13 From this day forward I am he;
no one can deliver from my power;
I will act, and who can prevent it?"

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Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Book of Comfort, Part 2 (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 43:14–48:22

The New Exodus

- 43:14 This is what the LORD says,
 your protector, the Holy One of Israel:
 “For your sake I send to Babylon
 and make them all fugitives,
 turning the Babylonians’ joyful shouts into mourning songs.
- 15 I am the LORD, your Holy One,
 the one who created Israel, your king.”
- 16 This is what the LORD says,
 the one who made a road through the sea,
 a pathway through the surging waters,
 the one who led chariots and horses to destruction,
 together with a mighty army.
 They fell down, never to rise again;
 they were extinguished, put out like a burning wick:
- 18 “Don’t remember these earlier events;
 don’t recall these former events.
- 19 “Look, I am about to do something new.
 Now it begins to happen!
 Do you not recognize it?
 Yes, I will make a road in the desert
 and paths in the wilderness.
- 20 The wild animals of the desert honor me,
 the jackals and ostriches,
 because I put water in the desert
 and streams in the wilderness,
 to quench the thirst of my chosen people,
 the people whom I formed for myself,
 so they might praise me.”

Israel's Failure to Love God

- 22 “But you did not call for me, O Jacob;
 you did not long for me, O Israel.
- 23 You did not bring me lambs for your burnt offerings;
 you did not honor me with your sacrifices.
 I did not burden you with offerings;
 I did not make you weary by demanding incense.
- 24 You did not buy me aromatic reeds;
 you did not present to me the fat of your sacrifices.
 Yet you burdened me with your sins;
 you made me weary with your evil deeds.
- 25 I, I am the one who blots out your rebellious deeds for my sake;
 your sins I do not remember.
- 26 Remind me of what happened! Let’s debate!
 You, prove to me that you are right!
- 27 The father of your nation sinned;
 your spokesmen rebelled against me.
- 28 So I defiled your holy princes,
 and handed Jacob over to destruction,
 and subjected Israel to humiliating abuse.”

Future Blessing for the Lord's Chosen

- 44:1 “Now, listen, Jacob my servant,
 Israel whom I have chosen!”
- 2 This is what the LORD, the one who made you, says—
 the one who formed you in the womb and helps you:

“Don’t be afraid, my servant Jacob,
Jeshurun, whom I have chosen!

3 For I will pour water on the parched ground
and cause streams to flow on the dry land.

I will pour my spirit on your offspring
and my blessing on your children.

4 They will sprout up like a tree in the grass,
like poplars beside channels of water.

5 One will say, ‘I belong to the LORD,’
and another will use the name ‘Jacob.’
One will write on his hand, ‘The LORD’s,’
and use the name ‘Israel.’”

The Folly of Idolatry

6 This is what the LORD, Israel’s king, says,
their protector, the LORD who commands armies:
“I am the first and I am the last,
there is no God but me.

7 Who is like me? Let him make his claim!
Let him announce it and explain it to me—
since I established an ancient people—
let them announce future events!

8 Don’t panic! Don’t be afraid!
Did I not tell you beforehand and decree it?
You are my witnesses! Is there any God but me?
There is no other sheltering rock; I know of none.

9 All who form idols are nothing;
the things in which they delight are worthless.
Their witnesses cannot see;
they recognize nothing, so they are put to shame.

10 Who forms a god and casts an idol
that will prove worthless?

11 Look, all his associates will be put to shame;
the craftsmen are mere humans.
Let them all assemble and take their stand!
They will panic and be put to shame.

12 A blacksmith works with his tool
and forges metal over the coals.
He forms it with hammers;
he makes it with his strong arm.
He gets hungry and loses his energy;
he drinks no water and gets tired.

13 A carpenter takes measurements;
he marks out an outline of its form;
he scrapes it with chisels,
and marks it with a compass.
He patterns it after the human form,
like a well-built human being,
and puts it in a shrine.

14 He cuts down cedars
and acquires a cypress or an oak.
He gets trees from the forest;
he plants a cedar and the rain makes it grow.

15 A man uses it to make a fire;
he takes some of it and warms himself.
Yes, he kindles a fire and bakes bread.
Then he makes a god and worships it;
he makes an idol and bows down to it.

- 16 Half of it he burns in the fire—
over that half he cooks meat;
he roasts a meal and fills himself.
Yes, he warms himself and says,
'Ah! I am warm as I look at the fire.'
- 17 With the rest of it he makes a god, his idol;
he bows down to it and worships it.
He prays to it, saying,
'Rescue me, for you are my god!'
- 18 They do not comprehend or understand,
for their eyes are blind and cannot see;
their minds do not discern.
- 19 No one thinks to himself,
nor do they comprehend or understand and say to themselves:
'I burned half of it in the fire—
yes, I baked bread over the coals;
I roasted meat and ate it.
With the rest of it should I make a disgusting idol?
Should I bow down to dry wood?'
- 20 He feeds on ashes;
his deceived mind misleads him.
He cannot rescue himself,
nor does he say, 'Is this not a false god I hold in my right hand?'
- 21 Remember these things, O Jacob,
O Israel, for you are my servant.
I formed you to be my servant;
O Israel, I will not forget you!
- 22 I remove the guilt of your rebellious deeds as if they were a cloud,
the guilt of your sins as if they were a cloud.
Come back to me, for I protect you."
- 23 Shout for joy, O sky, for the LORD intervenes;
shout out, you subterranean regions of the earth.
O mountains, give a joyful shout;
you too, O forest and all your trees!
For the LORD protects Jacob;
he reveals his splendor through Israel.

Judah's Restoration Through Cyrus

- 24 This is what the LORD, your protector, says,
the one who formed you in the womb:
"I am the LORD, who made everything,
who alone stretched out the sky,
who fashioned the earth all by myself,
25 who frustrates the omens of the empty talkers
and humiliates the omen readers,
who overturns the counsel of the wise men
and makes their advice seem foolish,
26 who fulfills the oracles of his prophetic servants
and brings to pass the announcements of his messengers,
who says about Jerusalem, 'She will be inhabited,'
and about the towns of Judah, 'They will be rebuilt, her ruins I will raise up,'
27 who says to the deep sea, 'Be dry!
I will dry up your sea currents,'
28 who commissions Cyrus, the one I appointed as shepherd
to carry out all my wishes
and to decree concerning Jerusalem, 'She will be rebuilt,'
and concerning the temple, 'It will be reconstructed.'"

Cyrus, God's Anointed

- 45:1 This is what the LORD says to his chosen one,
to Cyrus, whose right hand I hold
in order to subdue nations before him,
and disarm kings,
to open doors before him,
so gates remain unclosed:
- 2 "I will go before you
and level mountains.
Bronze doors I will shatter
and iron bars I will hack through.
- 3 I will give you hidden treasures,
riches stashed away in secret places,
so you may recognize that I am the LORD,
the one who calls you by name, the God of Israel.
- 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
Israel, my chosen one,
I call you by name
and give you a title of respect, even though you do not recognize me.
- 5 I am the LORD, I have no peer,
there is no God but me.
I arm you for battle, even though you do not recognize me.
- 6 I do this so people will recognize from east to west
that there is no God but me;
I am the LORD, I have no peer.
- 7 I am the one who forms light and creates darkness;
the one who brings about peace and creates calamity.
I am the LORD, who accomplishes all these things.
- 8 O sky, rain down from above!
Let the clouds send down showers of deliverance!
Let the earth absorb it so salvation may grow,
and deliverance may sprout up along with it.
I, the LORD, create it.
- 9 One who argues with his creator is in grave danger,
one who is like a mere shard among the other shards on the ground!
The clay should not say to the potter,
"What in the world are you doing?
Your work lacks skill!"
- 10 Danger awaits one who says to his father,
"What in the world are you fathering?"
and to his mother,
"What in the world are you bringing forth?"

God the Creator Controls History

- 11 This is what the LORD says,
the Holy One of Israel, the one who formed him,
concerning things to come:
"How dare you question me about my children!
How dare you tell me what to do with the work of my own hands!
- 12 I made the earth,
I created the people who live on it.
It was me—my hands stretched out the sky,
I give orders to all the heavenly lights.
- 13 It is me—I stir him up and commission him;
I will make all his ways level.
He will rebuild my city;
he will send my exiled people home,
but not for a price or a bribe,"

says the LORD who commands armies.

Israel Saved by the Lord

- 14 This is what the LORD says:
 “The profit of Egypt and the revenue of Ethiopia,
 along with the Sabeans, those tall men,
 will be brought to you and become yours.
 They will walk behind you, coming along in chains.
 They will bow down to you and pray to you:
 ‘Truly God is with you; he has no peer;
 there is no other God!’” [\[1 Cor 14:25\]](#)
- 15 Yes, you are a God who keeps hidden,
 O God of Israel, deliverer!
- 16 They will all be ashamed and embarrassed;
 those who fashion idols will all be humiliated.
- 17 Israel will be delivered once and for all by the LORD;
 you will never again be ashamed or humiliated.

A Righteous God and a Savior

- 18 For this is what the LORD says,
 the one who created the sky—
 he is the true God,
 the one who formed the earth and made it;
 he established it,
 he did not create it without order,
 he formed it to be inhabited—
 “I am the LORD, I have no peer.
- 19 I have not spoken in secret,
 in some hidden place.
 I did not tell Jacob’s descendants,
 ‘Seek me in vain!’
 I am the LORD, the one who speaks honestly,
 who makes reliable announcements.
- 20 Gather together and come!
 Approach together, you refugees from the nations!
 Those who carry wooden idols know nothing,
 those who pray to a god that cannot deliver.
- 21 Tell me! Present the evidence!
 Let them consult with one another!
 Who predicted this in the past?
 Who announced it beforehand?
 Was it not I, the LORD?
 I have no peer, there is no God but me,
 a God who vindicates and delivers;
 there is none but me. [\[Mark 12:32; Acts 15:18\]](#)
- 22 Turn to me so you can be delivered,
 all you who live in the earth’s remote regions!
 For I am God, and I have no peer.
- 23 I solemnly make this oath—
 what I say is true and reliable:
 ‘Surely every knee will bow to me,
 every tongue will solemnly affirm; [\[Rom 14:11\]](#)
- 24 they will say about me,
 “Yes, the LORD is a powerful deliverer.””
 All who are angry at him will cower before him.
- 25 All the descendants of Israel will be vindicated by the LORD
 and will boast in him.

The Babylonians Will Carry Their Gods Into Captivity

- 46:1 Bel kneels down,
Nebo bends low.
Their images weigh down animals and beasts.
Your heavy images are burdensome to tired animals.
- 2 Together they bend low and kneel down;
they are unable to rescue the images;
they themselves head off into captivity.

But Israel Will be Carried by Their God

- 3 “Listen to me, O family of Jacob,
all you who are left from the family of Israel,
you who have been carried from birth,
you who have been supported from the time you left the womb.
- 4 Even when you are old, I will take care of you,
even when you have gray hair, I will carry you.
I made you and I will support you;
I will carry you and rescue you.

Yahweh Cannot Be Compared to Other Gods

- 5 To whom can you compare and liken me?
Tell me whom you think I resemble, so we can be compared!
- 6 Those who empty out gold from a purse
and weigh out silver on the scale
hire a metalsmith, who makes it into a god.
They then bow down and worship it.
- 7 They put it on their shoulder and carry it;
they put it in its place and it just stands there;
it does not move from its place.
Even when someone cries out to it, it does not reply;
it does not deliver him from his distress.
- 8 Remember this, so you can be brave!
Think about it, you rebels!
- 9 Remember what I accomplished in antiquity!
Truly I am God, I have no peer;
I am God, and there is none like me,
- 10 who announces the end from the beginning
and reveals beforehand what has not yet occurred,
who says, ‘My plan will be realized,
I will accomplish what I desire,’
- 11 who summons an eagle from the east,
from a distant land, one who carries out my plan.
Yes, I have decreed,
yes, I will bring it to pass;
I have formulated a plan,
yes, I will carry it out.
- 12 Listen to me, you stubborn people,
you who distance yourself from doing what is right.
- 13 I am bringing my deliverance near, it is not far away;
I am bringing my salvation near, it does not wait.
I will save Zion; I will adorn Israel with my splendor.”

Babylon Will Be Dethroned

- 47:1 “Fall down! Sit in the dirt,
O virgin daughter Babylon!
Sit on the ground, not on a throne,
O daughter of the Babylonians!
Indeed, you will no longer be called delicate and pampered.

- 2 Pick up millstones and grind flour!
Remove your veil,
strip off your skirt,
expose your legs,
cross the streams!
- 3 Let your private parts be exposed!
Your genitals will be on display!
I will get revenge;
I will not have pity on anyone,”
- 4 says our protector—
the LORD who commands armies is his name,
the Holy One of Israel.

Babylon's Greatness Will End

- 5 “Sit silently! Go to a hiding place,
O daughter of the Babylonians!
Indeed, you will no longer be called ‘Queen of kingdoms.’
- 6 I was angry at my people;
I defiled my special possession and handed them over to you.
You showed them no mercy;
you even placed a very heavy burden on old people.
- 7 You said,
‘I will rule forever as permanent queen!’
You did not think about these things;
you did not consider how it would turn out.

Impending Judgment

- 8 So now, listen to this,
O one who lives so lavishly,
who lives securely,
who says to herself,
‘I am unique! No one can compare to me!
I will never have to live as a widow;
I will never lose my children.’
- 9 Both of these will come upon you
suddenly, in one day!
You will lose your children and be widowed.
You will be overwhelmed by these tragedies,
despite your many incantations
and your numerous amulets.
- 10 You were complacent in your evil deeds;
you thought, ‘No one sees me.’
Your self-professed wisdom and knowledge lead you astray,
when you say, ‘I am unique! No one can compare to me!’
- 11 Disaster will overtake you;
you will not know how to charm it away.
Destruction will fall on you;
you will not be able to appease it.
Calamity will strike you suddenly,
before you recognize it.

No One Will Save Babylon

- 12 Persist in trusting your amulets
and your many incantations,
which you have faithfully recited since your youth!
Maybe you will be successful—
maybe you will scare away disaster.
- 13 You are tired out from listening to so much advice.

Let them take their stand—
 the ones who see omens in the sky,
 who gaze at the stars,
 who make monthly predictions—
 let them rescue you from the disaster that is about to overtake you!

- 14 Look, they are like straw,
 which the fire burns up;
 they cannot rescue themselves
 from the heat of the flames.
 There are no coals to warm them,
 no firelight to enjoy.
- 15 They will disappoint you,
 those you have so faithfully dealt with since your youth.
 Each strays off in his own direction,
 leaving no one to rescue you.”

God Proves Himself by Predicting the Future

- 48:1 Listen to this, O family of Jacob,
 you who are called by the name ‘Israel,’
 and are descended from Judah,
 who take oaths in the name of the LORD,
 and invoke the God of Israel—
 but not in an honest and just manner.
- 2 Indeed, they live in the holy city;
 they trust in the God of Israel,
 whose name is the LORD who commands armies.
- 3 “I announced events beforehand,
 I issued the decrees and made the predictions;
 suddenly I acted and they came to pass.
- 4 I did this because I know how stubborn you are.
 Your neck muscles are like iron
 and your forehead like bronze.
- 5 I announced them to you beforehand;
 before they happened, I predicted them for you,
 so you could never say,
 ‘My image did these things,
 my idol, my cast image, decreed them.’
- 6 You have heard; now look at all the evidence!
 Will you not admit that what I say is true?
 From this point on I am announcing to you new events
 that are previously unrevealed and you do not know about.
- 7 Now they come into being, not in the past;
 before today you did not hear about them,
 so you could not say,
 ‘Yes, I know about them.’
- 8 You did not hear,
 you do not know,
 you were not told beforehand.
 For I know that you are very deceitful;
 you were labeled a rebel from birth.
- 9 For the sake of my reputation I hold back my anger;
 for the sake of my prestige I restrain myself from destroying you.
- 10 Look, I have refined you, but not as silver;
 I have purified you in the furnace of misery.
- 11 For my sake alone I will act,
 for how can I allow my name to be defiled?
 I will not share my glory with anyone else!

Babylon's Destruction is Certain

- 12 Listen to me, O Jacob,
Israel, whom I summoned!
I am the one;
I am present at the very beginning
and at the very end.
- 13 Yes, my hand founded the earth;
my right hand spread out the sky.
I summon them;
they stand together.
- 14 All of you, gather together and listen!
Who among them announced these things?
The LORD's ally will carry out his desire against Babylon;
he will exert his power against the Babylonians.
- 15 I, I have spoken—
yes, I have summoned him;
I lead him and he will succeed.
- 16 Approach me! Listen to this!
From the very first I have not spoken in secret;
when it happens, I am there.”
So now, the sovereign LORD has sent me, accompanied by his spirit.
- 17 This is what the LORD, your protector, says,
the Holy One of Israel:
“I am the LORD your God,
who teaches you how to succeed,
who leads you in the way you should go.
- 18 If only you had obeyed my commandments,
prosperity would have flowed to you like a river,
deliverance would have come to you like the waves of the sea.
- 19 Your descendants would have been as numerous as sand,
and your children like its granules.
Their name would not have been cut off
and eliminated from my presence.
- 20 Leave Babylon!
Flee from the Babylonians!
Announce it with a shout of joy!
Make this known!
Proclaim it throughout the earth!
Say, “The LORD protects his servant Jacob.
- 21 They do not thirst as he leads them through dry regions;
he makes water flow out of a rock for them;
he splits open a rock and water flows out.’
- 22 There will be no prosperity for the wicked,”
says the LORD.

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Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Suffering Servant Brings Salvation (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 49:1–13

The Call of the Messiah

- 1 Listen to me, you coastlands!
Pay attention, you people who live far away!
The LORD summoned me from birth;
he commissioned me when my mother brought me into the world.
- 2 He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
he hid me in the hollow of his hand;
he made me like a sharpened arrow,
he hid me in his quiver.
- 3 He said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, through whom I will reveal my splendor."

The Mission of the Messiah

- 4 But I thought, "I have worked in vain;
I have expended my energy for absolutely nothing."
But the LORD will vindicate me;
my God will reward me.
- 5 So now the LORD says,
the one who formed me from birth to be his servant—
he did this to restore Jacob to himself,
so that Israel might be gathered to him;
and I will be honored in the LORD's sight,
for my God is my source of strength—
- 6 he says, "Is it too insignificant a task for you to be my servant,
to reestablish the tribes of Jacob,
and restore the remnant of Israel?
I will make you a light to the nations,
so you can bring my deliverance to the remote regions of the earth." [\[Acts 13:47\]](#)
- 7 This is what the LORD,
the protector of Israel, their Holy One,
says to the one who is despised and rejected by nations,
a servant of rulers:
"Kings will see and rise in respect,
princes will bow down,
because of the faithful LORD,
the Holy One of Israel who has chosen you."

Confirmation of the Messiah's Mission

- 8 This is what the LORD says:
"At the time I decide to show my favor, I will respond to you;
in the day of deliverance I will help you; [\[2 Cor 6:1–2\]](#)
I will protect you and make you a covenant mediator for people,
to rebuild the land
and to reassign the desolate property.
- 9 You will say to the prisoners, 'Come out,'
and to those who are in dark dungeons, 'Emerge.'
They will graze beside the roads;
on all the slopes they will find pasture.
- 10 They will not be hungry or thirsty;
the sun's oppressive heat will not beat down on them,
for one who has compassion on them will guide them;
he will lead them to springs of water. [\[Rev 7:16–17\]](#)
- 11 I will make all my mountains into a road;
I will construct my roadways."
- 12 Look, they come from far away!
Look, some come from the north and west,

and others from the land of Sinim!
 13 Shout for joy, O sky!
 Rejoice, O earth!
 Let the mountains give a joyful shout!
 For the LORD consoles his people
 and shows compassion to the oppressed.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Zion's Restoration (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 49:14–50:3

Zion's Complaint

49:14 "Zion said, 'The LORD has abandoned me,
 the sovereign master has forgotten me.'
 15 Can a woman forget her baby who nurses at her breast?
 Can she withhold compassion from the child she has borne?
 Even if mothers were to forget,
 I could never forget you!
 16 Look, I have inscribed your name on my palms;
 your walls are constantly before me.
 17 Your children hurry back,
 while those who destroyed and devastated you depart.
 18 Look all around you!
 All of them gather to you.
 As surely as I live," says the LORD,
 "you will certainly wear all of them like jewelry;
 you will put them on as if you were a bride.
 19 Yes, your land lies in ruins;
 it is desolate and devastated.
 But now you will be too small to hold your residents,
 and those who devoured you will be far away.
 20 Yet the children born during your time of bereavement
 will say within your hearing,
 'This place is too cramped for us,
 make room for us so we can live here.'
 21 Then you will think to yourself,
 'Who bore these children for me?
 I was bereaved and barren,
 dismissed and divorced.
 Who raised these children?
 Look, I was left all alone;
 where did these children come from?'"

God Will Free His Children from Oppression

22 This is what the sovereign LORD says:
 "Look I will raise my hand to the nations;
 I will raise my signal flag to the peoples.
 They will bring your sons in their arms
 and carry your daughters on their shoulders.
 23 Kings will be your children's guardians;
 their princesses will nurse your children.
 With their faces to the ground they will bow down to you
 and they will lick the dirt on your feet.
 Then you will recognize that I am the LORD;
 those who wait patiently for me are not put to shame.
 24 Can spoils be taken from a warrior,
 or captives be rescued from a conqueror?
 25 Indeed," says the LORD,
 "captives will be taken from a warrior;

spoils will be rescued from a conqueror.

I will oppose your adversary

and I will rescue your children.

- 26 I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh;
they will get drunk on their own blood, as if it were wine.
Then all humankind will recognize that
I am the LORD, your deliverer,
your protector, the powerful ruler of Jacob.”

Judah’s Captivity is not God’s Fault—It is Their Own

50:1 This is what the LORD says:

“Where is your mother’s divorce certificate
by which I divorced her?

Or to which of my creditors did I sell you?

Look, you were sold because of your sins;

because of your rebellious acts I divorced your mother.

- 2 Why does no one challenge me when I come?

Why does no one respond when I call?

Is my hand too weak to deliver you?

Do I lack the power to rescue you?

Look, with a mere shout I can dry up the sea;

I can turn streams into a desert,

so the fish rot away and die from lack of water.

- 3 I can clothe the sky in darkness;

I can cover it with sackcloth.”

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—The Suffering Servant Remains Faithful (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 50:4–11

The Suffering of the Messiah

- 50:4 The sovereign LORD has given me the capacity to be his spokesman,
so that I know how to help the weary.

He wakes me up every morning;

he makes me alert so I can listen attentively as disciples do.

- 5 The sovereign LORD has spoken to me clearly;

I have not rebelled,

I have not turned back.

- 6 I offered my back to those who attacked,

my jaws to those who tore out my beard;

I did not hide my face from insults and spitting.

The Messiah’s Trust in God Remains Steadfast

- 7 But the sovereign LORD helps me,

so I am not humiliated.

For that reason I am steadfastly resolved;

I know I will not be put to shame.

- 8 The one who vindicates me is close by.

Who dares to argue with me? Let us confront each other!

Who is my accuser? Let him challenge me!

- 9 Look, the sovereign LORD helps me.

Who dares to condemn me?

Look, all of them will wear out like clothes;

a moth will eat away at them.

The Destruction the Wicked Plan for the Messiah Falls Upon Themselves

- 10 Who among you fears the LORD?

Who obeys his servant?

Whoever walks in deep darkness, without light,

- 11 should trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.
 Look, all of you who start a fire
 and who equip yourselves with flaming arrows,
 walk in the light of the fire you started
 and among the flaming arrows you ignited!
 This is what you will receive from me:
 you will lie down in a place of pain.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Zion's Comfort (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 51:1–52:12

Future Blessing for Zion—the New Eden

- 51:1 “Listen to me, you who pursue godliness,
 who seek the LORD!
 Look at the rock from which you were chiseled,
 at the quarry from which you were dug!
- 2 Look at Abraham, your father,
 and Sarah, who gave you birth.
 When I summoned him, he was a lone individual,
 but I blessed him and gave him numerous descendants.
- 3 Certainly the LORD will console Zion;
 he will console all her ruins.
 He will make her wilderness like Eden,
 her desert like the Garden of the LORD.
 Happiness and joy will be restored to her,
 thanksgiving and the sound of music.

Justice to the Nations

- 4 Pay attention to me, my people!
 Listen to me, my people!
 For I will issue a decree,
 I will make my justice a light to the nations.
- 5 I am ready to vindicate,
 I am ready to deliver,
 I will establish justice among the nations.
 The coastlands wait patiently for me;
 they wait in anticipation for the revelation of my power.
- 6 Look up at the sky!
 Look at the earth below!
 For the sky will dissipate like smoke,
 and the earth will wear out like clothes;
 its residents will die like gnats.
 But the deliverance I give is permanent;
 the vindication I provide will not disappear.

Message for the Faithful

- 7 Listen to me, you who know what is right,
 you people who are aware of my law!
 Don't be afraid of the insults of men;
 don't be discouraged because of their abuse!
- 8 For a moth will eat away at them like clothes;
 a clothes moth will devour them like wool.
 But the vindication I provide will be permanent;
 the deliverance I give will last.”

The Mighty Redeemer

- 9 Wake up! Wake up!
 Clothe yourself with strength,

- O arm of the LORD!
Wake up as in former times, as in antiquity!
Did you not smash the Proud One?
Did you not wound the sea monster?
10 Did you not dry up the sea,
the waters of the great deep?
Did you not make a path through the depths of the sea,
so those delivered from bondage could cross over?
11 Those whom the LORD has ransomed will return;
they will enter Zion with a happy shout.
Unending joy will crown them,
happiness and joy will overwhelm them;
grief and suffering will disappear.
12 "I, I am the one who consoles you.
Why are you afraid of mortal men,
of mere human beings who are as short-lived as grass?
13 Why do you forget the LORD, who made you,
who stretched out the sky
and founded the earth?
Why do you constantly tremble all day long
at the anger of the oppressor,
when he makes plans to destroy?
Where is the anger of the oppressor?
14 The one who suffers will soon be released;
he will not die in prison,
he will not go hungry.
15 I am the LORD your God,
who churns up the sea so that its waves surge.
The LORD who commands armies is his name!
16 I commission you as my spokesman;
I cover you with the palm of my hand,
to establish the sky and to found the earth,
to say to Zion, 'You are my people.'"

The Cup of God's Wrath

- 17 Wake up! Wake up!
Get up, O Jerusalem!
You drank from the cup the LORD passed to you,
which was full of his anger!
You drained dry
the goblet full of intoxicating wine.
18 There was no one to lead her
among all the children she bore;
there was no one to take her by the hand
among all the children she raised.
19 These double disasters confronted you.
But who feels sorry for you?
Destruction and devastation,
famine and sword.
But who consoles you?
20 Your children faint;
they lie at the head of every street
like an antelope in a snare.
They are left in a stupor by the LORD's anger,
by the battle cry of your God.
21 So listen to this, oppressed one,
who is drunk, but not from wine!
22 This is what your sovereign master, the LORD your God, says:

“Look, I have removed from your hand
the cup of intoxicating wine,
the goblet full of my anger.
You will no longer have to drink it.

- 23 I will put it into the hand of your tormentors
who said to you, ‘Lie down, so we can walk over you.’
You made your back like the ground,
and like the street for those who walked over you.”

God Calls Zion to Awake

- 52:1 Wake up! Wake up!
Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion!
Put on your beautiful clothes,
O Jerusalem, holy city!
For uncircumcised and unclean pagans
will no longer invade you.
- 2 Shake off the dirt!
Get up, captive Jerusalem!
Take off the iron chains around your neck,
O captive daughter Zion!
- 3 For this is what the LORD says:
“You were sold for nothing,
and you will not be redeemed for money.”
- 4 For this is what the sovereign LORD says:
“In the beginning my people went to live temporarily in Egypt;
Assyria oppressed them for no good reason.
- 5 And now, what do we have here?” says the LORD.
“Indeed my people have been carried away for nothing,
those who rule over them taunt,” says the LORD,
“and my name is constantly slandered all day long. [[Rom 2:24](#)]
- 6 For this reason my people will know my name,
for this reason they will know at that time that I am the one who says,
‘Here I am.’”

Zion’s Deliverance Comes

- 7 How delightful it is to see approaching over the mountains
the feet of a messenger who announces peace,
a messenger who brings good news,
who announces deliverance,
who says to Zion, “Your God reigns!” [[Rom 10:14–15](#)]
- 8 Listen, your watchmen shout;
in unison they shout for joy,
for they see with their very own eyes
the LORD’s return to Zion.
- 9 In unison give a joyful shout,
O ruins of Jerusalem!
For the LORD consoles his people;
he protects Jerusalem.
- 10 The LORD reveals his royal power
in the sight of all the nations;
the entire earth sees
our God deliver.

Return from Exile

- 11 Leave! Leave! Get out of there!
Don’t touch anything unclean!
Get out of it!
Stay pure, you who carry the LORD’s holy items! [[2 Cor 6:17](#)]

12 Yet do not depart quickly
or leave in a panic.
For the LORD goes before you;
the God of Israel is your rear guard.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Suffering Servant Endures Reproach and Death (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 52:13–53:12

The Messiah's Suffering Eclipsed by His Exaltation

52:13 "Look, my servant will succeed!
He will be elevated, lifted high, and greatly exalted—
14 (just as many were horrified by the sight of you)
he was so disfigured he no longer looked like a man;
15 his form was so marred he no longer looked human—
so now he will startle many nations.
Kings will be shocked by his exaltation,
for they will witness something unannounced to them,
and they will understand something they had not heard about. [[Rom 15:21](#)]

The Messiah Will Not Appear in Majesty

53:1 Who would have believed what we just heard?
When was the LORD's power revealed through him? [[John 12:38](#); [Rom 10:16](#)]
2 He sprouted up like a twig before God,
like a root out of parched soil;
he had no stately form or majesty that might catch our attention,
no special appearance that we should want to follow him.
3 He was despised and rejected by people,
one who experienced pain and was acquainted with illness;
people hid their faces from him;
he was despised, and we considered him insignificant.

The Messiah Will Offer Himself as a Sacrifice for Sins

4 But he lifted up our illnesses,
he carried our pain; [[Matt 8:17](#)]
even though we thought he was being punished,
attacked by God, and afflicted for something he had done.
5 He was wounded because of our rebellious deeds,
crushed because of our sins;
he endured punishment that made us well;
because of his wounds we have been healed.
6 All of us had wandered off like sheep;
each of us had strayed off on his own path,
but the LORD caused the sin of all of us to attack him. [[1 Pet 2:23–25](#)]
7 He was treated harshly and afflicted,
but he did not even open his mouth.
Like a lamb led to the slaughtering block,
like a sheep silent before her shearers,
he did not even open his mouth.
8 He was led away after an unjust trial—
but who even cared?
Indeed, he was cut off from the land of the living;
because of the rebellion of his own people he was wounded. [[Acts 8:32–33](#)]
9 They intended to bury him with criminals,
but he ended up in a rich man's tomb,
because he had committed no violent deeds,
nor had he spoken deceitfully. [[1 Pet 2:22](#)]

The Messiah's Glorious Accomplished Work

- 10 Though the LORD desired to crush him and make him ill,
once restitution is made,
he will see descendants and enjoy long life,
and the LORD's purpose will be accomplished through him.
- 11 Having suffered, he will reflect on his work,
he will be satisfied when he understands what he has done.
"My servant will acquit many,
for he carried their sins.
- 12 So I will assign him a portion with the multitudes,
he will divide the spoils of victory with the powerful,
because he willingly submitted to death
and was numbered with the rebels, [[Luke 22:37](#)]
when he lifted up the sin of many
and intervened on behalf of the rebels."

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Zion's Spiritual Children (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 54

The Many Children of Zion

- 1 "Shout for joy, O barren one who has not given birth!
Give a joyful shout and cry out, you who have not been in labor!
For the children of the desolate one are more numerous
than the children of the married woman," says the LORD. [[Gal 4:27](#)]
- 2 Make your tent larger,
stretch your tent curtains farther out!
Spare no effort,
lengthen your ropes,
and pound your stakes deep.
- 3 For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your children will conquer nations
and will resettle desolate cities.

God Has Not Rejected Israel Forever

- 4 Don't be afraid, for you will not be put to shame!
Don't be intimidated, for you will not be humiliated!
You will forget about the shame you experienced in your youth;
you will no longer remember the disgrace of your abandonment.
- 5 For your husband is the one who made you—
the LORD who commands armies is his name.
He is your protector, the Holy One of Israel.
He is called "God of the entire earth."
- 6 "Indeed, the LORD will call you back
like a wife who has been abandoned and suffers from depression,
like a young wife when she has been rejected," says your God.
- 7 "For a short time I abandoned you,
but with great compassion I will gather you.
- 8 In a burst of anger I rejected you momentarily,
but with lasting devotion I will have compassion on you,"
says your protector, the LORD.
- 9 "As far as I am concerned, this is like in Noah's time,
when I vowed that the waters of Noah's flood would never again cover the earth.
In the same way I have vowed that I will not be angry at you or shout at you.
- 10 Even if the mountains are removed
and the hills displaced,
my devotion will not be removed from you,
nor will my covenant of friendship be displaced,"
says the LORD, the one who has compassion on you.

Future Glory of Zion

- 11 “O afflicted one, driven away, and unconsolated!
Look, I am about to set your stones in antimony
and I lay your foundation with lapis-lazuli.
- 12 I will make your pinnacles out of gems,
your gates out of beryl,
and your outer wall out of beautiful stones.
- 13 All your children will be [taught by] the LORD,
and your children will enjoy great prosperity. [[John 6:45](#)]
- 14 You will be reestablished when I vindicate you.
You will not experience oppression;
indeed, you will not be afraid.
You will not be terrified,
for nothing frightening will come near you.
- 15 If anyone dares to challenge you, it will not be my doing!
Whoever tries to challenge you will be defeated.
- 16 Look, I create the craftsman,
who fans the coals into a fire
and forges a weapon.
I create the destroyer so he might devastate.
- 17 No weapon forged to be used against you will succeed;
you will refute everyone who tries to accuse you.
This is what the LORD will do for his servants—
I will vindicate them,” says the LORD.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Yahweh’s Invitation (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 55

A Divine Invitation to Spiritual Life

- 1 “Hey, all who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come!
Buy and eat!
Come! Buy wine and milk
without money and without cost!
- 2 Why pay money for something that will not nourish you?
Why spend your hard-earned money on something that will not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me and eat what is nourishing!
Enjoy fine food!
- 3 Pay attention and come to me!
Listen, so you can live!
Then I will make an unconditional covenantal promise to you,
just like the reliable covenantal promises I made to David. [[Acts 13:34](#)]
- 4 Look, I made him a witness to nations,
a ruler and commander of nations.”
- 5 Look, you will summon nations you did not previously know;
nations that did not previously know you will run to you,
because of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he bestows honor on you.

Turn From Your Wickedness

- 6 Seek the LORD while he makes himself available;
call to him while he is nearby!
- 7 The wicked need to abandon their lifestyle
and sinful people their plans.
They should return to the LORD, and he will show mercy to them,
and to their God, for he will freely forgive them.
- 8 “Indeed, my plans are not like your plans,

9 and my deeds are not like your deeds,
for just as the sky is higher than the earth,
so my deeds are superior to your deeds
and my plans superior to your plans.

God's Word Will Accomplish its Purpose

10 The rain and snow fall from the sky
and do not return,
but instead water the earth
and make it produce and yield crops,
and provide seed for the planter
and food for those who must eat. [2 Cor 9:10]

11 In the same way, the promise that I make
does not return to me, having accomplished nothing.
No, it is realized as I desire
and is fulfilled as I intend.”

12 Indeed you will go out with joy;
you will be led along in peace;
the mountains and hills will give a joyful shout before you,
and all the trees in the field will clap their hands.

13 Evergreens will grow in place of thorn bushes,
firs will grow in place of nettles;
they will be a monument to the LORD,
a permanent reminder that will remain.

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Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—A Call to Obedience (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 56:1–8

- 1 This is what the LORD says,
“Promote justice! Do what is right!
For I am ready to deliver you;
I am ready to vindicate you openly.
- 2 The people who do this will be blessed,
the people who commit themselves to obedience,
who observe the Sabbath and do not defile it,
who refrain from doing anything that is wrong.
- 3 No foreigner who becomes a follower of the LORD should say,
‘The LORD will certainly exclude me from his people.’
The eunuch should not say,
‘Look, I am like a dried-up tree.’”
- 4 For this is what the LORD says:
“For the eunuchs who observe my Sabbaths
and choose what pleases me
and are faithful to my covenant,
5 I will set up within my temple and my walls a monument
that will be better than sons and daughters.
I will set up a permanent monument for them that will remain.
- 6 As for foreigners who become followers of the LORD and serve him,
who love the name of the LORD and want to be his servants—
all who observe the Sabbath and do not defile it,
and who are faithful to my covenant—
7 I will bring them to my holy mountain;
I will make them happy in the temple where people pray to me.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar,
for my temple will be known as a temple where all nations may pray.” [\[Matt 21:13; Mark 11:17; Luke 19:46\]](#)
- 8 The sovereign LORD says this,
the one who gathers the dispersed of Israel:
“I will still gather them up.”

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Denunciation of the Wicked (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 56:9–57:13

A Picture of Adulterous Israel

- 56:9 All you wild animals in the fields, come and devour,
all you wild animals in the forest!
- 10 All their watchmen are blind,
they are unaware.
All of them are like mute dogs,
unable to bark.
They pant, lie down,
and love to snooze.
 - 11 The dogs have big appetites;
they are never full.
They are shepherds who have no understanding;
they all go their own way,
each one looking for monetary gain.
 - 12 Each one says,
‘Come on, I’ll get some wine!
Let’s guzzle some beer!
Tomorrow will be just like today!
We’ll have everything we want!’
- 57:1 The godly perish,
but no one cares.
Honest people disappear,

- when no one minds that the godly disappear because of evil.
- 2 Those who live uprightly enter a place of peace;
they rest on their beds.
- 3 But approach, you sons of omen readers,
you offspring of adulteresses and prostitutes!
- 4 At whom are you laughing?
At whom are you opening your mouth
and sticking out your tongue?
You are the children of rebels,
the offspring of liars,
- 5 you who practice ritual sex under the oaks and every green tree,
who slaughter children near the streams under the rocky overhangs.
- 6 Among the smooth stones of the stream are the idols you love;
they, they are the object of your devotion.
You pour out liquid offerings to them,
you make an offering.
Because of these things I will seek vengeance.
- 7 On every high, elevated hill you prepare your bed;
you go up there to offer sacrifices.
- 8 Behind the door and doorpost you put your symbols.
Indeed, you depart from me and go up
and invite them into bed with you.
You purchase favors from them,
you love their bed,
and gaze longingly on their genitals.
- 9 You take olive oil as tribute to your king,
along with many perfumes.
You send your messengers to a distant place;
you go all the way to Sheol.
- 10 Because of the long distance you must travel, you get tired,
but you do not say, 'I give up.'
You get renewed energy,
so you don't collapse.
- 11 Whom are you worried about?
Whom do you fear, that you would act so deceitfully
and not remember me
or think about me?
Because I have been silent for so long,
you are not afraid of me.
- 12 I will denounce your so-called righteousness and your deeds,
but they will not help you.
- 13 When you cry out for help, let your idols help you!
The wind blows them all away,
a breeze carries them away.
But the one who looks to me for help will inherit the land
and will have access to my holy mountain."

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Holy and the Humble (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 57:14–21

Comfort for the Contrite

- 14 He says,
"Build it! Build it! Clear a way!
Remove all the obstacles out of the way of my people!"
- 15 For this is what the high and exalted one says,
the one who rules forever, whose name is holy:
"I dwell in an exalted and holy place,
but also with the discouraged and humiliated,

- in order to cheer up the humiliated
and to encourage the discouraged.
- 16 For I will not be hostile forever
or perpetually angry,
for then man's spirit would grow faint before me,
the life-giving breath I created.
- 17 I was angry because of their sinful greed;
I attacked them and angrily rejected them,
yet they remained disobedient and stubborn.
- 18 I have seen their behavior,
but I will heal them and give them rest,
and I will once again console those who mourn.
- 19 I am the one who gives them reason to celebrate.
Complete prosperity is available both to those who are far away and those who are nearby,"
says the LORD, "and I will heal them.
- 20 But the wicked are like a surging sea
that is unable to be quiet;
its waves toss up mud and sand.
- 21 There will be no prosperity," says my God,
"for the wicked."

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Please God Not Yourselves (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 58

The People's Complaint

- 1 "Shout loudly! Don't be quiet!
Yell as loud as a trumpet!
Confront my people with their rebellious deeds;
confront Jacob's family with their sin!
- 2 They seek me day after day;
they want to know my requirements,
like a nation that does what is right
and does not reject the law of their God.
They ask me for just decrees;
they want to be near God.
- 3a They lament, 'Why don't you notice when we fast?
Why don't you pay attention when we humble ourselves?'

God's Response—The Proper Kind of Fasting

- 3b Look, at the same time you fast, you satisfy your selfish desires,
you oppress your workers.
- 4 Look, your fasting is accompanied by arguments, brawls, and fistfights.
Do not fast as you do today,
trying to make your voice heard in heaven.
- 5 Is this really the kind of fasting I want?
Do I want a day when people merely humble themselves,
bowing their heads like a reed
and stretching out on sackcloth and ashes?
Is this really what you call a fast,
a day that is pleasing to the LORD?
- 6 No, this is the kind of fast I want.
I want you to remove the sinful chains,
to tear away the ropes of the burdensome yoke,
to set free the oppressed,
and to break every burdensome yoke.
- 7 I want you to share your food with the hungry
and to provide shelter for homeless, oppressed people.
When you see someone naked, clothe him!

- Don't turn your back on your own flesh and blood!
- 8 Then your light will shine like the sunrise;
your restoration will quickly arrive;
your godly behavior will go before you,
and the LORD's splendor will be your rear guard.
- 9 Then you will call out, and the LORD will respond;
you will cry out, and he will reply, 'Here I am.'
You must remove the burdensome yoke from among you
and stop pointing fingers and speaking sinfully.

How to Have Prosperity and a Good Relationship With God

- 10 You must actively help the hungry
and feed the oppressed.
Then your light will dispel the darkness,
and your darkness will be transformed into noonday.
- 11 The LORD will continually lead you;
he will feed you even in parched regions.
He will give you renewed strength,
and you will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring that continually produces water.
- 12 Your perpetual ruins will be rebuilt;
you will reestablish the ancient foundations.
You will be called, 'The one who repairs broken walls,
the one who makes the streets inhabitable again.'
- 13 You must observe the Sabbath
rather than doing anything you please on my holy day.
You must look forward to the Sabbath
and treat the LORD's holy day with respect.
You must treat it with respect by refraining from your normal activities,
and by refraining from your selfish pursuits and from making business deals.
- 14 Then you will find joy in your relationship to the LORD,
and I will give you great prosperity,
and cause crops to grow on the land I gave to your ancestor Jacob."
Know for certain that the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Consequences of Sin (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 59

Israel's Sin Prevents God from Acting

- 1 Look, the LORD's hand is not too weak to deliver you;
his ear is not too deaf to hear you.
- 2 But your sinful acts have alienated you from your God;
your sins have caused him to reject you and not listen to your prayers.
- 3 For your hands are stained with blood
and your fingers with sin;
your lips speak lies,
your tongue utters malicious words.
- 4 No one is concerned about justice;
no one sets forth his case truthfully.
They depend on false words and tell lies;
they conceive of oppression and give birth to sin.
- 5 They hatch the eggs of a poisonous snake
and spin a spider's web.
Whoever eats their eggs will die,
a poisonous snake is hatched.
- 6 Their webs cannot be used for clothing;
they cannot cover themselves with what they make.
Their deeds are sinful;

- they commit violent crimes.
- 7 They are eager to do evil,
quick to shed innocent blood.
Their thoughts are sinful;
they crush and destroy. [[Rom 3:15–17](#)]
- 8 They are unfamiliar with peace;
their deeds are unjust.
They use deceitful methods,
and whoever deals with them is unfamiliar with peace.
- 9 For this reason deliverance is far from us
and salvation does not reach us.
We wait for light, but see only darkness;
we wait for a bright light, but live in deep darkness.
- 10 We grope along the wall like the blind,
we grope like those who cannot see;
we stumble at noontime as if it were evening.
Though others are strong, we are like dead men.
- 11 We all growl like bears,
we coo mournfully like doves;
we wait for deliverance, but there is none,
for salvation, but it is far from us.
- 12 For you are aware of our many rebellious deeds,
and our sins testify against us;
indeed, we are aware of our rebellious deeds;
we know our sins all too well.
- 13 We have rebelled and tried to deceive the LORD;
we turned back from following our God.
We stir up oppression and rebellion;
we tell lies we concocted in our minds.
- 14 Justice is driven back;
godliness stands far off.
Indeed, honesty stumbles in the city square
and morality is not even able to enter.
- 15a Honesty has disappeared;
the one who tries to avoid evil is robbed.

God Will Rise Up and Execute Justice

- 15b The LORD watches and is displeased,
for there is no justice.
- 16 He sees there is no advocate;
he is shocked that no one intervenes.
So he takes matters into his own hands;
his desire for justice drives him on.
- 17 He wears his desire for justice like body armor,
and his desire to deliver is like a helmet on his head. [cf. [Eph 6:11–17](#)]
He puts on the garments of vengeance
and wears zeal like a robe.
- 18 He repays them for what they have done,
dispensing angry judgment to his adversaries
and punishing his enemies.
He repays the coastlands.
- 19 In the west, people respect the LORD's reputation;
in the east they recognize his splendor.
For he comes like a rushing stream
driven on by wind sent from the LORD.
- 20 "A protector comes to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their rebellious deeds," says the LORD. [[Rom 11:26](#)]

21 “As for me, this is my promise to them,” says the LORD. “My spirit, who is upon you, and my words, which I have placed in your mouth, will not depart from your mouth or from the mouths of your children and descendants from this time forward,” says the LORD.

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Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Millennial Glory of Zion (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 60

- 1 "Arise! Shine! For your light arrives!
The splendor of the LORD shines on you!
- 2 For, look, darkness covers the earth
and deep darkness covers the nations,
but the LORD shines on you;
his splendor appears over you.
- 3 Nations come to your light,
kings to your bright light.
- 4 Look all around you!
They all gather and come to you—
your sons come from far away
and your daughters are escorted by guardians.
- 5 Then you will look and smile,
you will be excited and your heart will swell with pride.
For the riches of distant lands will belong to you
and the wealth of nations will come to you.
- 6 Camel caravans will cover your roads,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
All the merchants of Sheba will come,
bringing gold and incense
and singing praises to the LORD.
- 7 All the sheep of Kedar will be gathered to you;
the rams of Nebaioth will be available to you as sacrifices.
They will go up on my altar acceptably,
and I will bestow honor on my majestic temple.
- 8 Who are these who float along like a cloud,
who fly like doves to their shelters?
- 9 Indeed, the coastlands look eagerly for me,
the large ships are in the lead,
bringing your sons from far away,
along with their silver and gold,
to honor the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, for he has bestowed honor on you.
- 10 Foreigners will rebuild your walls;
their kings will serve you.
Even though I struck you down in my anger,
I will restore my favor and have compassion on you.
- 11 Your gates will remain open at all times;
they will not be shut during the day or at night,
so that the wealth of nations may be delivered,
with their kings leading the way.
- 12 Indeed, nations or kingdoms that do not serve you will perish;
such nations will be totally destroyed.
- 13 The splendor of Lebanon will come to you,
its evergreens, firs, and cypresses together,
to beautify my palace;
I will bestow honor on my throne room.
- 14 The children of your oppressors will come bowing to you;
all who treated you with disrespect will bow down at your feet.
They will call you, 'The City of the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.'
- 15 You were once abandoned and despised,
with no one passing through,
but I will make you a permanent source of pride
and joy to coming generations.
- 16 You will drink the milk of nations;

- you will nurse at the breasts of kings.
Then you will recognize that I, the LORD, am your deliverer,
your protector, the powerful ruler of Jacob.
- 17 Instead of bronze, I will bring you gold,
instead of iron, I will bring you silver,
instead of wood, I will bring you bronze,
instead of stones, I will bring you iron.
I will make prosperity your overseer,
and vindication your sovereign ruler.
- 18 Sounds of violence will no longer be heard in your land,
or the sounds of destruction and devastation within your borders.
You will name your walls, 'Deliverance,'
and your gates, 'Praise.'
- 19 The sun will no longer supply light for you by day,
nor will the moon's brightness shine on you;
the LORD will be your permanent source of light—
the splendor of your God will shine upon you.
- 20 Your sun will no longer set;
your moon will not disappear;
the LORD will be your permanent source of light;
your time of sorrow will be over.
- 21 All of your people will be godly;
they will possess the land permanently.
I will plant them like a shoot;
they will be the product of my labor,
through whom I reveal my splendor.
- 22 The least of you will multiply into a thousand;
the smallest of you will become a large nation.
When the right time comes,
I the LORD will quickly do this!"

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—The Messiah Announces God's Favor (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 61

The Messiah's First Coming

- 1 The spirit of the sovereign LORD is upon me,
because the LORD has chosen me.
He has commissioned me to encourage the poor,
to help the brokenhearted,
to decree the release of captives,
and the freeing of prisoners,
- 2a to announce the year when the LORD will show his favor, [[Luke 4:16-21](#)]

The Messiah's Second Coming

- 2b the day when our God will seek vengeance,
to console all who mourn,
- 3 to strengthen those who mourn in Zion,
by giving them a turban, instead of ashes,
oil symbolizing joy, instead of mourning,
a garment symbolizing praise, instead of discouragement.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
trees planted by the LORD to reveal his splendor.
- 4 They will rebuild the perpetual ruins
and restore the places that were desolate;
they will reestablish the ruined cities,
the places that have been desolate since ancient times.
- 5 "Foreigners will take care of your sheep;
foreigners will work in your fields and vineyards.

- 6 You will be called, ‘the LORD’s priests,
servants of our God.’
You will enjoy the wealth of nations
and boast about the riches you receive from them.
- 7 Instead of shame, you will get a double portion;
instead of humiliation, they will rejoice over the land they receive.
Yes, they will possess a double portion in their land
and experience lasting joy.
- 8 For I, the LORD, love justice
and hate robbery and sin.
I will repay them because of my faithfulness;
I will make a permanent covenant with them.
- 9 Their descendants will be known among the nations,
their offspring among the peoples.
All who see them will recognize that
the LORD has blessed them.”
- 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
I will be overjoyed because of my God.
For he clothes me in garments of deliverance;
he puts on me a robe symbolizing vindication.
I look like a bridegroom when he wears a turban as a priest would;
I look like a bride when she puts on her jewelry.
- 11 For just as the ground produces its crops
and a garden yields its produce,
so the sovereign LORD will cause deliverance to grow,
and give his people reason to praise him in the sight of all the nations.

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Transformation of Zion (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 62

- 1 “For the sake of Zion I will not be silent;
for the sake of Jerusalem I will not be quiet,
until her vindication shines brightly
and her deliverance burns like a torch.”
- 2 Nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your splendor.
You will be called by a new name
that the LORD himself will give you.
- 3 You will be a majestic crown in the hand of the LORD,
a royal turban in the hand of your God.
- 4 You will no longer be called, “Abandoned,”
and your land will no longer be called “Desolate.”
Indeed, you will be called “My Delight is in Her,”
and your land “Married.”
For the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be married to him.
- 5 As a young man marries a young woman,
so your sons will marry you.
As a bridegroom rejoices over a bride,
so your God will rejoice over you.
- 6 I post watchmen on your walls, O Jerusalem;
they should keep praying all day and all night.
You who pray to the LORD, don’t be silent!
- 7 Don’t allow him to rest until he reestablishes Jerusalem,
until he makes Jerusalem the pride of the earth.
- 8 The LORD swears an oath by his right hand,
by his strong arm:
“I will never again give your grain

- to your enemies as food,
and foreigners will not drink your wine,
which you worked hard to produce.
- 9 But those who harvest the grain will eat it,
and will praise the LORD.
Those who pick the grapes will drink the wine
in the courts of my holy sanctuary.”
- 10 Come through! Come through the gates!
Prepare the way for the people!
Build it! Build the roadway!
Remove the stones!
Lift a signal flag for the nations!
- 11 Look, the LORD announces to the entire earth:
“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘Look, your deliverer comes!
Look, his reward is with him
and his reward goes before him!’”
- 12 They will be called, “The Holy People,
the Ones Protected by the LORD.”
You will be called, “Sought After,
City Not Abandoned.”

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—Edom: God’s Judgment in Miniature (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 63:1–6

- 1 Who is this who comes from Edom,
dressed in bright red, coming from Bozrah?
Who is this one wearing royal attire,
who marches confidently because of his great strength?
“It is I, the one who announces vindication,
and who is able to deliver!”
- 2 Why are your clothes red?
Why do you look like someone who has stomped on grapes in a vat?
- 3 “I have stomped grapes in the winepress all by myself;
no one from the nations joined me.
I stomped on them in my anger;
I trampled them down in my rage.
Their juice splashed on my garments,
and stained all my clothes.
- 4 For I looked forward to the day of vengeance,
and then payback time arrived.
- 5 I looked, but there was no one to help;
I was shocked because there was no one offering support.
So my right arm accomplished deliverance;
my raging anger drove me on.
- 6 I trampled nations in my anger,
I made them drunk in my rage,
I splashed their blood on the ground.”

Isaiah’s Prophecy to Judah—God’s Mercy Remembered (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 63:7–14

- 7 I will tell of the faithful acts of the LORD,
of the LORD’s praiseworthy deeds.
I will tell about all the LORD did for us,
the many good things he did for the family of Israel,
because of his compassion and great faithfulness.
- 8 He said, “Certainly they will be my people,

children who are not disloyal.”

He became their deliverer.

- 9 Through all that they suffered, he suffered too.
The messenger sent from his very presence delivered them.
In his love and mercy he protected them;
he lifted them up and carried them throughout ancient times.
- 10 But they rebelled and offended his holy Spirit,
so he turned into an enemy
and fought against them.
- 11 His people remembered the ancient times.
Where is the one who brought them up out of the sea,
along with the shepherd of his flock?
Where is the one who placed his holy Spirit among them,
- 12 the one who made his majestic power available to Moses,
who divided the water before them,
gaining for himself a lasting reputation,
- 13 who led them through the deep water?
Like a horse running on flat land they did not stumble.
- 14 Like an animal that goes down into a valley to graze,
so the Spirit of the LORD granted them rest.
In this way you guided your people,
gaining for yourself an honored reputation.

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—Isaiah's Prayer of Penitence (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 63:15–64:12

- 63:15 Look down from heaven and take notice,
from your holy, majestic palace!
Where are your zeal and power?
Do not hold back your tender compassion!
- 16 For you are our father,
though Abraham does not know us
and Israel does not recognize us.
You, LORD, are our father;
you have been called our protector from ancient times.
- 17 Why, LORD, do you make us stray from your ways,
and make our minds stubborn so that we do not obey you?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance!
- 18 For a short time your special nation possessed a land,
but then our adversaries knocked down your holy sanctuary.
- 19 We existed from ancient times,
but you did not rule over them,
they were not your subjects.
- 64:1 If only you would tear apart the sky and come down!
The mountains would tremble before you!
- 2 As when fire ignites dry wood,
or fire makes water boil,
let your adversaries know who you are,
and may the nations shake at your presence!
- 3 When you performed awesome deeds that took us by surprise,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
- 4 Since ancient times no one has heard or perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who intervenes for those who wait for him.
- 5 You assist those who delight in doing what is right,
who observe your commandments.
Look, you were angry because we violated them continually.

- How then can we be saved?
- 6 We are all like one who is unclean,
all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight.
We all wither like a leaf;
our sins carry us away like the wind.
- 7 No one invokes your name,
or makes an effort to take hold of you.
For you have rejected us
and handed us over to our own sins.
- 8 Yet, LORD, you are our father.
We are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the product of your labor.
- 9 LORD, do not be too angry!
Do not hold our sins against us continually!
Take a good look at your people, at all of us!
- 10 Your chosen cities have become a desert;
Zion has become a desert,
Jerusalem is a desolate ruin.
- 11 Our holy temple, our pride and joy,
the place where our ancestors praised you,
has been burned with fire;
all our prized possessions have been destroyed.
- 12 In light of all this, how can you still hold back, LORD?
How can you be silent and continue to humiliate us?

Isaiah's Prophecy to Judah—God's Answer to Isaiah's Prayer (c. 689 BC)

Isaiah 65–66

God Has Been Patient With a Sinful People

- 65:1 "I made myself available to those who did not ask for me;
I appeared to those who did not look for me.
I said, 'Here I am! Here I am!'
to a nation that did not invoke my name.
- 2 I spread out my hands all day long
to my rebellious people, [[Rom 10:20–21](#)]
who lived in a way that is morally unacceptable,
and who did what they desired.
- 3 These people continually and blatantly offend me
as they sacrifice in their sacred orchards
and burn incense on brick altars.
- 4 They sit among the tombs
and keep watch all night long.
They eat pork,
and broth from unclean sacrificial meat is in their pans.
- 5 They say, 'Keep to yourself!
Don't get near me, for I am holier than you!'
These people are like smoke in my nostrils,
like a fire that keeps burning all day long.
- 6 Look, I have decreed:
I will not keep silent, but will pay them back;
I will pay them back exactly what they deserve,
7 for your sins and your ancestors' sins," says the LORD.
"Because they burned incense on the mountains
and offended me on the hills,
I will punish them in full measure."

God Will Not Destroy Everyone

- 8 This is what the LORD says:

- “When juice is discovered in a cluster of grapes,
someone says, ‘Don’t destroy it, for it contains juice.’
So I will do for the sake of my servants—
I will not destroy everyone.
- 9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah people to take possession of my mountains.
My chosen ones will take possession of the land;
my servants will live there.
- 10 Sharon will become a pasture for sheep,
and the Valley of Achor a place where cattle graze;
they will belong to my people, who seek me.
- 11 But as for you who abandon the LORD
and forget about worshiping at my holy mountain,
who prepare a feast for the god called ‘Fortune,’
and fill up wine jugs for the god called ‘Destiny’—
- 12 I predestine you to die by the sword,
all of you will kneel down at the slaughtering block,
because I called to you, and you did not respond,
I spoke and you did not listen.
You did evil before me;
you chose to do what displeases me.”
- 13 So this is what the sovereign LORD says:
“Look, my servants will eat, but you will be hungry!
Look, my servants will drink, but you will be thirsty!
Look, my servants will rejoice, but you will be humiliated!
- 14 Look, my servants will shout for joy as happiness fills their hearts!
But you will cry out as sorrow fills your hearts;
you will wail because your spirits will be crushed.
- 15 Your names will live on in the curse formulas of my chosen ones.
The sovereign LORD will kill you,
but he will give his servants another name.
- 16 Whoever pronounces a blessing in the earth
will do so in the name of the faithful God;
whoever makes an oath in the earth
will do so in the name of the faithful God.
For past problems will be forgotten;
I will no longer think about them.

The Millennium and the Eternal State

- 17 For look, I am ready to create
new heavens and a new earth!
The former ones will not be remembered;
no one will think about them anymore. [cf. [2 Pet 3:13](#); [Rev 21:1–4](#)]
- 18 But be happy and rejoice forevermore
over what I am about to create!
For look, I am ready to create Jerusalem to be a source of joy,
and her people to be a source of happiness.
- 19 Jerusalem will bring me joy,
and my people will bring me happiness.
The sound of weeping or cries of sorrow
will never be heard in her again.
- 20 Never again will one of her infants live just a few days
or an old man die before his time.
Indeed, no one will die before the age of a hundred,
anyone who fails to reach the age of a hundred will be considered cursed.
- 21 They will build houses and live in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
- 22 No longer will they build a house only to have another live in it,

or plant a vineyard only to have another eat its fruit,
for my people will live as long as trees,
and my chosen ones will enjoy to the fullest what they have produced.

- 23 They will not work in vain,
or give birth to children that will experience disaster.
For the LORD will bless their children
and their descendants.
- 24 Before they even call out, I will respond;
while they are still speaking, I will hear.
- 25 A wolf and a lamb will graze together;
a lion, like an ox, will eat straw,
and a snake's food will be dirt.
They will no longer injure or destroy
on my entire royal mountain," says the LORD.

God Honors the Humble and Strikes Down the Wicked

- 66:1 This is what the LORD says:
"The heavens are my throne
and the earth is my footstool.
Where then is the house you will build for me?
Where is the place where I will rest?
- 2 My hand made them;
that is how they came to be," says the LORD. [[Acts 7:48-50](#)]
I show special favor to the humble and contrite,
who respect what I have to say.
- 3 The one who slaughters a bull also strikes down a man;
the one who sacrifices a lamb also breaks a dog's neck;
the one who presents an offering includes pig's blood with it;
the one who offers incense also praises an idol.
They have decided to behave this way;
they enjoy these disgusting practices.
- 4 So I will choose severe punishment for them;
I will bring on them what they dread,
because I called, and no one responded,
I spoke and they did not listen.
They did evil before me;
they chose to do what displeases me."
- 5 Hear the word of the LORD,
you who respect what he has to say!
Your countrymen, who hate you
and exclude you, supposedly for the sake of my name, say,
"May the LORD be glorified,
then we will witness your joy."
But they will be put to shame.

Zion's Future Children and Joy

- 6 The sound of battle comes from the city;
the sound comes from the temple!
It is the sound of the LORD paying back his enemies.
- 7 Before she goes into labor, she gives birth!
Before her contractions begin, she delivers a boy!
- 8 Who has ever heard of such a thing?
Who has ever seen this?
Can a country be brought forth in one day?
Can a nation be born in a single moment?
Yet as soon as Zion goes into labor she gives birth to sons!
- 9 "Do I bring a baby to the birth opening and then not deliver it?"
asks the LORD.

“Or do I bring a baby to the point of delivery and then hold it back?”
asks your God.

- 10 Be happy for Jerusalem
and rejoice with her, all you who love her!
Share in her great joy,
all you who have mourned over her!
- 11 For you will nurse from her satisfying breasts and be nourished;
you will feed with joy from her milk-filled breasts.
- 12 For this is what the LORD says:
“Look, I am ready to extend to her prosperity that will flow like a river,
the riches of nations will flow into her like a stream that floods its banks.
You will nurse from her breast and be carried at her side;
you will play on her knees.
- 13 As a mother consoles a child,
so I will console you,
and you will be consoled over Jerusalem.”
- 14 When you see this, you will be happy,
and you will be revived.
The LORD will reveal his power to his servants
and his anger to his enemies.

God Will Judge the Wicked and Preserve the Righteous

- 15 For look, the LORD comes with fire,
his chariots come like a windstorm,
to reveal his raging anger,
his battle cry, and his flaming arrows.
- 16 For the LORD judges all humanity
with fire and his sword;
the LORD will kill many.

17 “As for those who consecrate and ritually purify themselves so they can follow their leader and worship in the sacred orchards, those who eat the flesh of pigs and other disgusting creatures, like mice—they will all be destroyed together,” says the LORD.

18 “I hate their deeds and thoughts! So I am coming to gather all the nations and ethnic groups; they will come and witness my splendor.

19 I will perform a mighty act among them and then send some of those who remain to the nations—to Tarshish, Pul, Lud (known for its archers), Tubal, Javan, and to the distant coastlands that have not heard about me or seen my splendor. They will tell the nations of my splendor.

20 They will bring back all your countrymen from all the nations as an offering to the LORD. They will bring them on horses, in chariots, in wagons, on mules, and on camels to my holy hill Jerusalem,” says the LORD, “just as the Israelites bring offerings to the LORD’s temple in ritually pure containers.

21 And I will choose some of them as priests and Levites,” says the LORD.

22 “For just as the new heavens and the new earth I am about to make will remain standing before me,” says the LORD, “so your descendants and your name will remain.

23 From one month to the next and from one Sabbath to the next, all people will come to worship me,” says the LORD.

24 “They will go out and observe the corpses of those who rebelled against me, for the maggots that eat them will not die, and the fire that consumes them will not die out. All people will find the sight abhorrent.” [\[Mark 9:47–48\]](#)

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The Death of Hezekiah / Manasseh Begins Sole Reign of Judah (687t BC)

2 Kings 20:20–21	2 Chronicles 32:32–33
<p>20 The rest of the events of Hezekiah’s reign and all his accomplishments, including how he built a pool and conduit to bring water into the city, are recorded in the scroll called the Annals of the Kings of Judah.</p> <p>21 Hezekiah passed away</p> <p>and his son Manasseh replaced him as king.</p>	<p>32 The rest of the events of Hezekiah’s reign, including his faithful deeds, are recorded in the vision of the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz, included in the Scroll of the Kings of Judah and Israel.</p> <p>33 Hezekiah passed away and was buried on the ascent of the tombs of the descendants of David. All the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem buried him with great honor. His son Manasseh replaced him as king.</p>

Sennacherib Murdered By His Own Sons (681 BC)

2 Kings 19:37	Isaiah 37:38	2 Chronicles 32:21b
<p>37 One day, as he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword. They escaped to the land of Ararat; his son Esar-haddon replaced him as king.</p>	<p>38 One day, as he was worshiping in the temple of his god Nisroch, his sons Adrammelech and Sharezer struck him down with the sword. They ran away to the land of Ararat; his son Esar-haddon replaced him as king.</p>	<p>21b When he entered the temple of his god, some of his own sons struck him down with the sword.</p>

Manasseh—Judah’s Most Evil King (687t – c. 648 BC)

2 Kings 21:2–16	2 Chronicles 33:2–10
<p>2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out from before the Israelites.</p> <p>3 He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he set up altars for Baal and made an Asherah pole just like King Ahab of Israel had done. He bowed down to all the stars in the sky and worshiped them.</p> <p>4 He built altars in the LORD’s temple, about which the LORD had said, “Jerusalem will be my home.”</p> <p>5 In the two courtyards of the LORD’s temple he built altars for all the stars in the sky.</p> <p>6 He passed his son through the fire</p> <p>and practiced divination and omen reading. He set up a ritual pit to conjure up underworld spirits, and appointed magicians to supervise it. He did a great amount of evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.</p> <p>7 He put an idol of Asherah he had made in the temple, about which the LORD had said to David and to his son Solomon, “This temple in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, will be my permanent home.</p> <p>8 I will not make Israel again leave the land I gave to their ancestors, provided that they carefully obey all I commanded them, the whole law my servant Moses ordered them to obey.”</p> <p>9 But they did not obey, and Manasseh misled them</p> <p>so that they sinned more than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed from before the Israelites.</p> <p>10 So the LORD announced through his servants the prophets:</p> <p>11 “King Manasseh of Judah has committed horrible sins. He has</p>	<p>2 He did evil in the sight of the LORD and committed the same horrible sins practiced by the nations whom the LORD drove out ahead of the Israelites.</p> <p>3 He rebuilt the high places that his father Hezekiah had destroyed; he set up altars for the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the stars in the sky and worshiped them.</p> <p>4 He built altars in the LORD’s temple, about which the LORD had said, “Jerusalem will be my permanent home.”</p> <p>5 In the two courtyards of the LORD’s temple he built altars for all the stars in the sky.</p> <p>6 He passed his sons through the fire in the Valley of Ben-Hinnom and practiced divination, omen reading, and sorcery. He set up a ritual pit to conjure up underworld spirits and appointed magicians to supervise it. He did a great amount of evil in the sight of the LORD and angered him.</p> <p>7 He put an idolatrous image he had made in God’s temple, about which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, “This temple in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, will be my permanent home.</p> <p>8 I will not make Israel again leave the land I gave to their ancestors, provided that they carefully obey all I commanded them, the whole law, the rules and regulations given to Moses.”</p> <p>9 But Manasseh misled the people of Judah and the residents of Jerusalem so that they sinned more than the nations whom the LORD had destroyed ahead of the Israelites.</p> <p>10 The LORD confronted Manasseh and his people,</p>

sinned more than the Amorites before him and has encouraged Judah to sin by worshiping his disgusting idols.

12 So this is what the LORD God of Israel says, 'I am about to bring disaster on Jerusalem and Judah. The news will reverberate in the ears of those who hear about it.

13 I will destroy Jerusalem the same way I did Samaria and the dynasty of Ahab. I will wipe Jerusalem clean, just as one wipes a plate on both sides.

14 I will abandon this last remaining tribe among my people and hand them over to their enemies; they will be plundered and robbed by all their enemies,

15 because they have done evil in my sight and have angered me from the time their ancestors left Egypt right up to this very day!"

16 Furthermore Manasseh killed so many innocent people, he stained Jerusalem with their blood from end to end, in addition to encouraging Judah to sin by doing evil in the sight of the LORD.

but they paid no attention.

Nahum's Prophecy Against Nineveh (c. 663–654 BC)

Nahum 1–3

Title

1:1 The oracle against Nineveh; the book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite:

The Revelation of God

- 2 The LORD is a zealous and avenging God;
the LORD is avenging and very angry.
The LORD takes vengeance against his foes;
he sustains his rage against his enemies.
- 3 The LORD is slow to anger but great in power;
the LORD will certainly not allow the wicked to go unpunished.
He marches out in the whirlwind and the raging storm;
dark storm clouds billow like dust under his feet.
- 4 He shouts a battle cry against the sea and makes it dry up;
he makes all the rivers run dry.
Bashan and Carmel wither;
the blossom of Lebanon withers.
- 5 The mountains tremble before him,
the hills convulse;
the earth is laid waste before him,
the world and all its inhabitants are laid waste.
- 6 No one can withstand his indignation!
No one can resist his fierce anger!
His wrath is poured out like volcanic fire,
boulders are broken up as he approaches.

The LORD's Care for Judah

- 7 The LORD is good—
indeed, he is a fortress in time of distress,
and he protects those who seek refuge in him.
- 8 But with an overwhelming flood
he will make a complete end of Nineveh;
he will drive his enemies into darkness.
- 9 Whatever you plot against the LORD, he will completely destroy!
Distress will not arise a second time.
- 10 Surely they will be totally consumed
like entangled thorn bushes,

like the drink of drunkards,
like very dry stubble.

- 11 From you, O Nineveh, one has marched forth who plots evil against the LORD,
a wicked military strategist.

The LORD's Word for Judah

- 12 This is what the LORD says:
“Even though they are powerful—
and what is more, even though their army is numerous—
nevertheless, they will be destroyed and trickle away!
Although I afflicted you,
I will afflict you no more.
- 13 And now, I will break Assyria's yoke bar from your neck;
I will tear apart the shackles that are on you.”

The LORD's Word to Nineveh

- 14 The LORD has issued a decree against you:
“Your dynasty will come to an end.
I will destroy the idols and images in the temples of your gods.
I will desecrate your grave—because you are accursed!”

Judah Exults in Nineveh's Destruction

- 15 Look! A herald is running on the mountains!
A messenger is proclaiming deliverance: [cf. [Isa 52:7](#); [Rom 10:15](#)]
“Celebrate your sacred festivals, O Judah!
Fulfill your sacred vows to praise God!
For never again will the wicked Assyrians invade you,
they have been completely destroyed.”

The LORD's Judgment of Nineveh

- 2:1 The watchmen of Nineveh shout:
“An enemy who will scatter you is marching out to attack you!”
“Guard the rampart!
Watch the road!
Prepare yourselves for battle!
Muster your mighty strength!”
- 2 For the LORD will restore the majesty of Jacob,
as well as the majesty of Israel,
though their enemies have plundered them
and have destroyed their fields.
- 3 The shields of his warriors are dyed red;
the mighty soldiers are dressed in scarlet garments.
The metal fittings of the chariots shine
like fire on the day of battle;
the soldiers brandish their spears.
- 4 The chariots race madly through the streets,
they rush back and forth in the broad plazas;
they look like lightning bolts,
they dash here and there like flashes of lightning.
- 5 The commander orders his officers;
they stumble as they advance;
they rush to the city wall
and they set up the covered siege tower.
- 6 The sluice gates are opened;
the royal palace is deluged and dissolves.
- 7 Nineveh is taken into exile and is led away;
her slave girls moan like doves while they beat their breasts.
- 8 Nineveh was like a pool of water throughout her days,

- but now her people are running away;
she cries out: “Stop! Stop!”—
but no one turns back.
- 9 Her conquerors cry out:
“Plunder the silver! Plunder the gold!”
There is no end to the treasure;
riches of every kind of precious thing.
- 10 Destruction, devastation, and desolation!
Their hearts faint,
their knees tremble,
each stomach churns, each face turns pale!
- 11 Where now is the den of the lions,
the feeding place of the young lions,
where the lion, lioness, and lion cub once prowled
and no one disturbed them?
- 12 The lion tore apart as much prey as his cubs needed
and strangled prey to provide food for his lionesses;
he filled his lairs with prey
and his dens with torn flesh.
- 13 “I am against you!” declares the LORD who commands armies:
“I will burn your chariots with fire;
the sword will devour your young lions;
you will no longer prey upon the land;
the voices of your messengers will no longer be heard.”

The Woe over Nineveh

- 3:1 Woe to the city guilty of bloodshed!
She is full of lies;
she is filled with plunder;
she has hoarded her spoil!
- 2 The chariot drivers will crack their whips;
the chariot wheels will shake the ground;
the chariot horses will gallop;
the war chariots will bolt forward!
- 3 The charioteers will charge ahead;
their swords will flash and their spears will glimmer!
There will be many people slain;
there will be piles of the dead,
and countless casualties—
so many that people will stumble over the corpses.
- 4 “Because you have acted like a wanton prostitute—
a seductive mistress who practices sorcery,
who enslaves nations by her harlotry,
and entices peoples by her sorcery—
- 5 I am against you,” declares the LORD who commands armies.
“I will strip off your clothes!
I will show your nakedness to the nations
and your shame to the kingdoms;
- 6 I will pelt you with filth;
I will treat you with contempt;
I will make you a public spectacle.
- 7 Everyone who sees you will turn away from you in disgust;
they will say, ‘Nineveh has been devastated!
Who will lament for her?’
There will be no one to comfort you!”
- 8 You are no more secure than Thebes—
she was located on the banks of the Nile;
the waters surrounded her,

- her rampart was the sea,
the water was her wall.
- 9 Cush and Egypt had limitless strength;
Put and the Libyans were among her allies.
- 10 Yet she went into captivity as an exile;
even her infants were smashed to pieces at the head of every street.
They cast lots for her nobility;
all her dignitaries were bound with chains.
- 11 You too will act like drunkards;
you will go into hiding;
you too will seek refuge from the enemy.
- 12 All your fortifications will be like fig trees with first-ripe fruit:
If they are shaken, their figs will fall into the mouth of the eater!
- 13 Your warriors will be like women in your midst;
the gates of your land will be wide open to your enemies;
fire will consume the bars of your gates.
- 14 Draw yourselves water for a siege!
Strengthen your fortifications!
Trample the mud and tread the clay!
Make mud bricks to strengthen your walls!
- 15 There the fire will consume you;
the sword will cut you down;
it will devour you like the young locust would.
Multiply yourself like the young locust;
multiply yourself like the flying locust!
- 16 Increase your merchants more than the stars of heaven!
They are like the young locust which sheds its skin and flies away.
- 17 Your courtiers are like locusts,
your officials are like a swarm of locusts!
They encamp in the walls on a cold day,
yet when the sun rises, they fly away;
and no one knows where they are.
- 18 Your shepherds are sleeping, O king of Assyria!
Your officers are slumbering!
Your people are scattered like sheep on the mountains
and there is no one to regather them!
- 19 Your destruction is like an incurable wound;
your demise is like a fatal injury!
All who hear what has happened to you will clap their hands for joy,
for no one ever escaped your endless cruelty!

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Chronological Notes

1) Nahum.

- A) Nahum's prophecy mentions two historical events which allow us to fix an upper and lower bound for the date of the book. The first is the fall of the Egyptian city of Thebes to Assyrian king Ashurbanipal in 663 BC (Nah 3:8–10). The second is the fall of the Assyrian capital Nineveh to the Babylonians in 612 BC (Nah 3). This means that Nahum's prophecy was made between 663 and 612 BC.
- B) There is some evidence that points to Nahum writing shortly after Thebes fell. First, Nahum's description of Nineveh (1:12; 3:1, 4, 16) does not fit the city as it existed between 626 and 612 BC when Ashurbanipal's sons, Ashur-etil-ilani (626–623) and Sin-shar-ishkun (623–612), ruled over it. Second, the Southern Kingdom of Judah was under the yoke of Assyria when

Nahum wrote (1:13, 15; 2:1, 3), a condition that marked the reign of Manasseh (697t–643t) more than that of Josiah (641t–609). Third, if Nahum wrote after 654, his rhetorical question in Nahum 3:8 would have had little or no force since Thebes rose to power again in that year. Thus a date of composition between 663 and 654 BC seems most likely.¹

¹ Walter A. Maier, *The Book of Nahum*, pp. 30, 34–37; Richard D. Patterson, *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah: An Exegetical Commentary*, pp. 13–14; Thomas L. Constable, “Notes on Nahum,” pp. 1–2.