

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

2 Kings 15:21–22

21 Now the rest of the acts of Menahem, and all that he did, *are* they not written in the scroll of the events of the days of the kings of Israel?

22 So Menahem slept with his ancestors, and Pekahiah his son became king in his place.

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

2 Kings 15:23–24

23 In the fiftieth year of Azariah king of Judah, Pekahiah the son of Menahem began to reign over Israel in Samaria *for* two years.

24 But he did evil in the eyes of Yahweh. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat which he caused Israel to sin.

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

2 Kings 15:25–26

25 Pekah the son of Remaliah, his captain, conspired against him, so he attacked him in Samaria in the citadel fortress of *the* palace of the king, with Argob and Arieah. With him *also were* fifty men from the children of the Gileadites, and he killed him and became king in his place.

26 Now the remainder of the acts of Pekahiah and all that he did, look, they are written in the scroll of the events of the days 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 Azariah king of Judah, Pekah the son of Remaliah began to reign over Israel in Samaria *for* twenty years.

28 He did evil in the eyes of Yahweh. He did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat which he caused Israel to sin.

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

Isaiah 1

1:1 The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, *and* Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

God's Accusations of Rebellion against Judah

- 2 Hear, heavens,
and listen, earth,
for Yahweh has spoken:
"I reared children
and I brought *them* up,
but they rebelled against me.
- 3 An ox knows its owner
and a donkey the manger of its master.
Israel does not know;
my people do not understand.
- 4 Ah, sinful nation,
a people heavy *with* iniquity,
offspring of evildoers,
children who deal corruptly.
They have forsaken Yahweh;
they have despised the holy one of Israel.
They are estranged *and gone* backward.
- 5 Why do you want to be beaten again?
You continue *in* rebellion.
The whole of the head is sick,
and the whole of the heart is faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot and up to *the* head
there is no health in it;
bruise and sore and bleeding wound have not been cleansed,

and they have not been bound up
and not softened with the oil.

- 7 Your country *is* desolate,
your cities *are* burned *with* fire;
As for your land, aliens are devouring it in your presence,
and *it is* desolate, like devastation *by* foreigners.
- 8 And the daughter of Zion is left like a booth in a vineyard,
like a shelter in a cucumber field,
like a city that is besieged.
- 9 If Yahweh of hosts had not left us survivors,
we would have been as few as Sodom,
we would have become like Gomorrah. [[Rom 9:29](#)]

God Condemns Religious Activities Done With an Unrepentant Heart

- 10 Hear the word of Yahweh, rulers of Sodom!
Listen *to* the teaching of our God, people of Gomorrah!
- 11 What *is the* abundance of your sacrifices to me? says Yahweh.
I have had enough *of* burnt offerings of rams
and *the fat of* fattened animals
and I do not delight in *the* blood of bulls
and ram-lambs and goats.
- 12 When you come to appear before me,
who asked for this from your hand:
you trampling my courts?
- 13 You must not continue to bring offerings of futility,
incense—it *is* an abomination to me;
new moon and Sabbath, *the* calling of a convocation—
I cannot endure iniquity with *solemn* assembly.
- 14 Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates;
they have become to me like *a* burden,
I am not able to bear *them*.
- 15 And when you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I *will* not be listening.
Your hands are full of blood.
- 16 Wash! Make yourselves clean!
Remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes!
Cease to do evil!
- 17 Learn to do good!
Seek justice! Rescue *the* oppressed!
Defend *the* orphan! Plead for *the* widow!
- 18 “Come now, and let us argue,” says Yahweh.
“Even though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white like snow;
even though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.
- 19 If you are willing and you are obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land.
- 20 But if you refuse and you rebel, you shall be devoured *by the* sword.
For the mouth of Yahweh has spoken.”

God Promises to Purge the Wicked Rulers from Judah

- 21 How has a faithful city become like a whore?
Full of justice, righteousness lodged in her, but now murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become *as* dross;
Your wine *is* diluted with waters.
- 23 Your princes *are* rebels
and companions of thieves.
Every one loves a bribe
and runs after gifts.

- They do not defend *the* orphan
and *the* legal dispute of *the* widow does not come before them.
- 24 Therefore, the declaration of the Lord Yahweh of hosts, the Mighty One of Israel:
“Ah, I will be relieved of my enemies,
and I will avenge myself on my foes.
- 25 And I will turn my hand against you;
I will purify your dross like lye,
and I will remove all *of* your tin.
- 26 And I will restore your judges, as at the first,
and your counselors, as at the beginning.
After this you will be called the city of righteousness,
faithful city.
- 27 Zion will be redeemed by justice,
and those of her who repent, by righteousness.
- 28 But *the* destruction *of* rebels and sinners *shall be* together,
and those who forsake Yahweh will perish.
- 29 For you will be ashamed of *the* oaks *in* which you delighted,
and you will be disgraced because of the gardens that you have chosen.
- 30 For you shall be like an oak withering its leaves,
and like a garden where there is no water for her.
- 31 And the strong *man* shall become like tinder,
and his work like a spark.
And both of them shall burn together,
and there is not one to quench *them*.”

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

Isaiah 2–4

The Future Millennial Kingdom

2:1 The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

- 2 And it shall happen in the future of the days
the mountain of the house of Yahweh *shall* be established;
it will be among the highest of the mountains,
and it shall be raised from *the* hills.
All of the nations shall travel to him;
- 3 many peoples shall come.
And they shall say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of Yahweh,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
and may he teach us part of his ways,
and let us walk in his paths.”
For instruction shall go out from Zion,
and the word of Yahweh from Jerusalem.
- 4 He shall judge between the nations
and he shall arbitrate for many peoples.
They shall beat their swords into ploughshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
A nation shall not lift up a sword against a nation,
and they shall not learn war again.
- 5 House of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of Yahweh. [compare Isaiah 2:1–5 with [Micah 4:1–5](#)]

The Coming “Day of the LORD”

- 6 For you have forsaken your people, house of Jacob,
because they are full from *the* east,
and *of* soothsayers like the Philistines,
and they make alliances with the offspring of foreigners.
- 7 And its land is filled *with* silver and gold,
and there is no end to its treasures;

- and its land is filled *with* horses,
and *there is* no end to its chariots.
- 8 Its land is filled *with* idols;
they bow down to the work of their hands,
to what they made *with* their fingers.
- 9 So humanity is humbled;
everyone is humbled,
and you must not forgive them.
- 10 Enter into the rock
and hide yourself in the dust
from the presence of the terror of Yahweh
and from the glory of his majesty.
- 11 The haughty eyes of humanity will be brought low,
and the pride of everyone will be humbled,
and Yahweh alone will be exalted on that day.
- 12 For *there is* a day for Yahweh of hosts
against all of *the* proud and *the* lofty
and against all that is lifted up and humble,
13 and against all the lofty and lifted up cedars of Lebanon,
and against all the large trees of Bashan,
14 and against all the high mountains,
and against all the lofty hills,
15 and against every kind of high tower,
and against every kind of fortified wall,
16 and against all the ships of Tarshish,
and against all the ships of desire.
- 17 And the haughtiness of the people shall be humbled,
and the pride of everyone shall be brought low,
and Yahweh alone will be exalted on that day.
- 18 And the idols shall pass away entirely,
19 and they will enter into *the* caves of *the* rocks
and into *the* holes of *the* ground
from the presence of the terror of Yahweh
and from the glory of his majesty
when he rises to terrify the earth.
- 20 On that day humanity will throw away its idols of silver
and its idols of gold,
which they made for it to worship,
to the rodents and to the bats—
21 to enter into the crevices of the rocks
and into the clefts of the crags
from the presence of the terror of Yahweh
and from the glory of his majesty,
when he rises to terrify the earth.
- 22 Turn away from humanity,
who *has* breath in its nostrils,
for by what *is* it esteemed?

Removal of Judah's Male Leaders

- 3:1 For look, the Lord Yahweh of hosts *is* removing every source of support
from Jerusalem and from Judah:
all of *the* supplies of bread
and all of *the* supplies of water,
2 mighty warrior and man of war,
judge and prophet,
and diviner and elder,
3 captain of fifty and the honorable men of rank,
and counselor and skillful magicians and skillful enchanter.
4 And I will make boys their princes,

- and children shall rule over them.
- 5 And the people will be oppressed by each other
and a man by his neighbor.
The boy will act arrogantly toward the elder,
and the dishonorable toward the honorable.
- 6 Indeed, a man will seize his brother
in the house of his father:
“You have a cloak;
you shall be a leader for us,
and this heap of ruins *shall be* under your hand!”
- 7 He will lift up *his voice* on that day, saying,
“I will not be a healer;
in my house there is no bread
and there is no cloak.
You shall not make me *the* leader of *the* people!”
- 8 For Jerusalem has stumbled,
and Judah has fallen
because their speech and their deeds *are* against Yahweh,
defying the eyes of his glory.
- 9 The look on their faces testifies against them
and they declare their sin like Sodom;
they do not hide *it*.
Woe to their soul!
For they have dealt out evil to themselves.
- 10 Tell *the* innocent that *it is* good
for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds.
- 11 Woe to the wicked! *It is* bad!
For what is done *by* his hands will be done to him.
- 12 My people—children are their oppressors,
and women rule over them.
My people, your leaders are misleading *you*,
and they confuse the course of your paths.
- 13 Yahweh takes his stand to conduct a legal case
and takes his stand to judge *the* peoples.
- 14 Yahweh enters into judgment with the elders of his people and its princes.
“And you! You have devoured the vineyard;
the spoil of the poor *is* in your houses!
- 15 Why do you crush my people
and grind *the* face of *the* poor?”

declares the Lord Yahweh of hosts.

Removal of Judah’s Proud Women

- 16 And Yahweh said: “Because the daughters of Zion are haughty,
and they walk *with* outstretched neck,
and they give flirting glances *with their* eyes,
mincing along as they go,
and with their feet they rattle their bangles,
17 the Lord will make the heads of the daughters of Zion scabby,
and Yahweh will lay their foreheads bare.”
- 18 In that day the Lord will take away the finery of the anklets
and the headbands and the crescent necklaces,
19 the pendants and the bracelets and the veils,
20 the headdresses and the armlets and the sashes,
and the perfume boxes and the amulets,
21 the signet rings and the nose rings,
22 the festal robes and the mantles,
and the cloaks and the handbags,
23 and the mirrors and the linen garments,

- and the turbans and the wraps.
- 24 And this shall happen: There will be
a stench instead of perfume,
and a rope instead of a sash,
and baldness instead of a well-set hairdo,
and a clothing wrap of sackcloth instead of a rich robe,
branding instead of beauty.
- 25 Your men shall fall by the sword,
and your warriors in battle.
- 26 And her gates shall lament and mourn,
and she shall be banished;
she shall sit upon the ground.
- 4:1 And seven women shall grasp at one man on that day, saying,
“We will eat our own bread,
and we will wear our own clothing;
only let us be called by your name!
Take away our disgrace!”

The Millennial Glory of Jerusalem

- 2 On that day the branch of Yahweh shall become beautiful and glorious,
and the fruit of the land *shall become the* pride and glory of the survivors of Israel.
- 3 And this shall happen: He who is left in Zion
and he who remains in Jerusalem will be called holy,
everyone written for life in Jerusalem,
- 4 when the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion
and cleansed the blood of Jerusalem from her midst
by a spirit of judgment
and by a spirit of burning.
- 5 Then Yahweh will create over all of the site of Mount Zion
and over her assembly a cloud by day
and smoke and the brightness of flaming fire *by* night.
Indeed, over all *the glory there will be* a canopy,
- 6 and it will be a shelter for shade from *the* heat by day,
and a refuge and a hiding place from rainstorm and from rain.

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

Isaiah 5

The Song of the Vineyard

- 5:1 Let me sing for my beloved
a song of my love concerning his vineyard:
My beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.
- 2 And he dug it and cleared it of stones,
and he planted it *with* choice vines,
and he built a watchtower in the middle of it,
and he even hewed out a wine vat in it,
and he waited for *it* to yield grapes—
but it yielded wild grapes.
- 3 And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.
- 4 What more *was there* to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it?
Why did I hope for *it* to yield grapes, and it yielded wild grapes?
- 5 And now let me tell you what I myself am about to do to my vineyard.
- I will* remove its hedge, and it shall become a devastation.
I will break down its wall, and it shall become a trampling.
- 6 And I will make it a wasteland;
it shall not be pruned and hoed,

and it shall be overgrown *with* briars and thornbushes.
 And concerning the clouds, I will command them not to send rain down upon it.

- 7 For the vineyard of Yahweh of hosts *is* the house of Israel,
 and the man of Judah *is* the plantation of his delight.
And he waited for justice,
 but look! Bloodshed!
 For righteousness,
 but look! A cry of distress!

Woe Oracles against the Wicked

- 8 Ah! Those who join house with house,
 they join field together with field
 until there is no place
 and you are caused to dwell alone in the midst of the land.
- 9 Yahweh of hosts *said* in my ears:
 Surely many houses shall become a desolation,
 large and beautiful *ones* without inhabitant.
- 10 For ten acres of vineyard shall yield one bath,
 and *the* seed of a homer will yield an ephah.
- 11 Ah! Those who rise early in the morning,
 they pursue strong drink.
 Those who linger in the evening,
 wine inflames them.
- 12 And *there* will be lyre and harp,
 tambourine and flute,
 and wine *at* their feasts,
 but they do not look at the deeds of Yahweh,
 and they do not see the work of his hands.
- 13 Therefore my people will go into exile without knowledge,
 and their nobles *will be* men of hunger,
 and their multitude *is* parched *with* thirst.
- 14 Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat,
 and it has opened wide its mouth without limit,
 and her nobles will go down, and her multitude,
 her tumult and those who revel in her.
- 15 And humankind is bowed down,
 and man is brought low,
 and *the* eyes of *the* haughty are humiliated.
- 16 But Yahweh of hosts is exalted by justice,
 and the holy God shows himself holy by righteousness.
- 17 And then *the* lambs will graze as *in* their pasture,
 and fatlings, kids will eat among the sites of ruins.
- 18 Ah! Those who drag iniquity along with the cords of falsehood
 and sin as with rope of the cart,
 19 those who say,
 "Let him make haste;
 let him hurry his work
 so that we may see it
 and let it draw near
 and let the plan of the holy one of Israel come
 so that we may know *it!*"
- 20 Ah! Those who call evil good and good evil,
 those who put darkness for light and light for darkness,
 those who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- 21 Ah! *Those who are* wise in their own eyes
 and have understanding in their view!
- 22 Ah! Heroes at drinking wine,

- and men of capability at mixing strong drink!
- 23 Those who acquit the guilty because of a bribe
and remove *the* justice of *the* innocent from him.
- 24 Therefore as the tongue of fire devours the stubble,
and dry grass sinks down *in the* flame,
so their root will become like *the* stench,
and their blossom will go up like *the* dust.
For they have rejected the instruction of Yahweh of hosts,
and they have treated the word of the holy one of Israel with contempt.
- 25 Therefore Yahweh's wrath was kindled against his people,
and he stretched out his hand against them and struck them,
and the mountains quaked,
and their corpses were like refuse in *the* middle of *the* streets.
In all of this his anger has not turned back,
and still his hand is stretched out.

An Army's Destruction of Judah

- 26 And he will raise a signal for a nation from afar,
and he will whistle for it from the end of the earth.
And look! It comes quickly, swiftly!
- 27 None *is* weary,
and none among him stumbles;
none slumbers and none sleeps.
And no loincloth on his waist is opened,
and no thong of his sandals is drawn away.
- 28 Whose arrows are sharp,
and all of his bows are bent.
The hoofs of his horses are reckoned like flint,
and his wheels like the storm wind.
- 29 His roaring *is* like the lion,
and he roars like young lions.
And he growls and seizes his prey,
and he carries *it* off,
and not one can rescue *it*.
- 30 And he will roar over him on that day
like *the* roaring of *the* sea,
and *if* one looks to the land, look! Darkness! Distress!
And *the* light grows dark with its clouds.

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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) Chronology of 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 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.

- (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.