

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 Book of the Chronicles of the Kings of Israel?
22 And Menahem slept with his fathers, 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 son of Menahem became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* two years.
24 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

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

2 Kings 15:25–26

25 Then Pekah son of Remaliah, his officer, conspired against him and struck him in Samaria, in the castle of the king's house with Argob and Arieah; and with him were fifty men of the Gileadites, and he killed him and became king in his place.
26 Now the rest of the acts of Pekahiah and all that he did, behold they are written in the Book of the Chronicles 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 son of Remaliah became king over Israel in Samaria, *and reigned* twenty years.
28 He did evil in the sight of the LORD; he did not depart from the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, which he made Israel sin.

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

Isaiah 1

Title

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

God's Accusations of Rebellion against Judah

- 2 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth;
For the LORD speaks,
"Sons I have reared and brought up,
But they have revolted against Me.
- 3 "An ox knows its owner,
And a donkey its master's manger,
But Israel does not know,
My people do not understand."
- 4 Alas, sinful nation,
People weighed down with iniquity,
Offspring of evildoers,
Sons who act corruptly!
They have abandoned the LORD,
They have despised the Holy One of Israel,
They have turned away from Him.
- 5 Where will you be stricken again,
As you continue in *your* rebellion?
The whole head is sick
And the whole heart is faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head
There is nothing sound in it,
Only bruises, welts and raw wounds,
Not pressed out or bandaged,

- Nor softened with oil.
- 7 Your land is desolate,
Your cities are burned with fire,
Your fields—strangers are devouring them in your presence;
It is desolation, as overthrown by strangers.
- 8 The daughter of Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard,
Like a watchman’s hut in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.
- 9 Unless the LORD of hosts
Had left us a few survivors,
We would be like Sodom,
We would be like Gomorrah. [[Rom 9:29](#)]

God Condemns Religious Activities Done With an Unrepentant Heart

- 10 Hear the word of the LORD,
You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the instruction of our God,
You people of Gomorrah.
- 11 “What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?”
Says the LORD.
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle;
And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.
- 12 “When you come to appear before Me,
Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?
- 13 “Bring your worthless offerings no longer,
Incense is an abomination to Me.
New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies—
I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.
- 14 “I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts,
They have become a burden to Me;
I am weary of bearing *them*.
- 15 “So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Yes, even though you multiply prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.
- 16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.
Cease to do evil,
- 17 Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow.
- 18 “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the LORD,
“Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool.
- 19 “If you consent and obey,
You will eat the best of the land;
- 20 “But if you refuse and rebel,
You will be devoured by the sword.”
Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

God Promises to Purge the Wicked Rulers from Judah

- 21 How the faithful city has become a harlot,

- She *who* was full of justice!
 Righteousness once lodged in her,
 But now murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become dross,
 Your drink diluted with water.
- 23 Your rulers are rebels
 And companions of thieves;
 Everyone loves a bribe
 And chases after rewards.
 They do not defend the orphan,
 Nor does the widow's plea come before them.
- 24 Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts,
 The Mighty One of Israel, declares,
 "Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries
 And avenge Myself on My foes.
- 25 "I will also turn My hand against you,
 And will smelt away your dross as with lye
 And will remove all your alloy.
- 26 "Then I will restore your judges as at the first,
 And your counselors as at the beginning;
 After that you will be called the city of righteousness,
 A faithful city."
- 27 Zion will be redeemed with justice
 And her repentant ones with righteousness.
- 28 But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together,
 And those who forsake the LORD will come to an end.
- 29 Surely you will be ashamed of the oaks which you have desired,
 And you will be embarrassed at the gardens which you have chosen.
- 30 For you will be like an oak whose leaf fades away
 Or as a garden that has no water.
- 31 The strong man will become tinder,
 His work also a spark.
 Thus they shall both burn together
 And there will be none 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 which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

- 2 Now it will come about that
 In the last days
 The mountain of the house of the LORD
 Will be established as the chief of the mountains,
 And will be raised above the hills;
 And all the nations will stream to it.
- 3 And many peoples will come and say,
 "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
 To the house of the God of Jacob;
 That He may teach us concerning His ways
 And that we may walk in His paths."
 For the law will go forth from Zion
 And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
- 4 And He will judge between the nations,
 And will render decisions for many peoples;
 And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.
 Nation will not lift up sword against nation,

And never again will they learn war.

- 5 Come, house of Jacob, and let us walk in the light of the LORD. [compare Isaiah 2:1–5 with [Micah 4:1–5](#)]

The Coming “Day of the LORD”

- 6 For You have abandoned Your people, the house of Jacob,
Because they are filled *with influences* from the east,
And *they are* soothsayers like the Philistines,
And they strike *bargains* with the children of foreigners.
- 7 Their land has also been filled with silver and gold
And there is no end to their treasures;
Their land has also been filled with horses
And there is no end to their chariots.
- 8 Their land has also been filled with idols;
They worship the work of their hands,
That which their fingers have made.
- 9 So the *common* man has been humbled
And the man *of importance* has been abased,
But do not forgive them.
- 10 Enter the rock and hide in the dust
From the terror of the LORD and from the splendor of His majesty.
- 11 The proud look of man will be abased
And the loftiness of man will be humbled,
And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day.
- 12 For the LORD of hosts will have a *day of reckoning*
Against everyone who is proud and lofty
And against everyone who is lifted up,
That he may be abased.
- 13 And *it will be* against all the cedars of Lebanon that are lofty and lifted up,
Against all the oaks of Bashan,
- 14 Against all the lofty mountains,
Against all the hills that are lifted up,
- 15 Against every high tower,
Against every fortified wall,
- 16 Against all the ships of Tarshish
And against all the beautiful craft.
- 17 The pride of man will be humbled
And the loftiness of men will be abased;
And the LORD alone will be exalted in that day,
- 18 But the idols will completely vanish.
- 19 *Men* will go into caves of the rocks
And into holes of the ground
Before the terror of the LORD
And the splendor of His majesty,
When He arises to make the earth tremble.
- 20 In that day men will cast away to the moles and the bats
Their idols of silver and their idols of gold,
Which they made for themselves to worship,
- 21 In order to go into the caverns of the rocks and the clefts of the cliffs
Before the terror of the LORD and the splendor of His majesty,
When He arises to make the earth tremble.
- 22 Stop regarding man, whose breath *of life* is in his nostrils;
For why should he be esteemed?

Removal of Judah’s Male Leaders

- 3:1 For behold, the Lord GOD of hosts is going to remove from Jerusalem and Judah
Both supply and support, the whole supply of bread
And the whole supply of water;
- 2 The mighty man and the warrior,

- The judge and the prophet,
The diviner and the elder,
3 The captain of fifty and the honorable man,
The counselor and the expert artisan,
And the skillful enchanter.
4 And I will make mere lads their princes,
And capricious children will rule over them,
5 And the people will be oppressed,
Each one by another, and each one by his neighbor;
The youth will storm against the elder
And the inferior against the honorable.
6 When a man lays hold of his brother in his father's house, *saying*,
"You have a cloak, you shall be our ruler,
And these ruins will be under your charge,"
7 He will protest on that day, saying,
"I will not be *your* healer,
For in my house there is neither bread nor cloak;
You should not appoint me ruler of the people."
8 For Jerusalem has stumbled and Judah has fallen,
Because their speech and their actions are against the LORD,
To rebel against His glorious presence.
9 The expression of their faces bears witness against them,
And they display their sin like Sodom;
They do not *even* conceal *it*.
Woe to them!
For they have brought evil on themselves.
10 Say to the righteous that *it will go well with them*,
For they will eat the fruit of their actions.
11 Woe to the wicked!
It will go badly with him,
For what he deserves will be done to him.
12 O My people! Their oppressors are children,
And women rule over them.
O My people! Those who guide you lead *you* astray
And confuse the direction of your paths.
13 The LORD arises to contend,
And stands to judge the people.
14 The LORD enters into judgment with the elders and princes of His people,
"It is you who have devoured the vineyard;
The plunder of the poor is in your houses.
15 "What do you mean by crushing My people
And grinding the face of the poor?"
Declares the Lord GOD of hosts.

Removal of Judah's Proud Women

- 16 Moreover, the LORD said, "Because the daughters of Zion are proud
And walk with heads held high and seductive eyes,
And go along with mincing steps
And tinkle the bangles on their feet,
17 Therefore the Lord will afflict the scalp of the daughters of Zion with scabs,
And the LORD will make their foreheads bare."

18 In that day the Lord will take away the beauty of *their* anklets, headbands, crescent ornaments,
19 dangling earrings, bracelets, veils,
20 headdresses, ankle chains, sashes, perfume boxes, amulets,
21 finger rings, nose rings,
22 festal robes, outer tunics, cloaks, money purses,
23 hand mirrors, undergarments, turbans and veils.

- 24 Now it will come about that instead of sweet perfume there will be putrefaction;
 Instead of a belt, a rope;
 Instead of well-set hair, a plucked-out scalp;
 Instead of fine clothes, a donning of sackcloth;
 And branding instead of beauty.
- 25 Your men will fall by the sword
 And your mighty ones in battle.
- 26 And her gates will lament and mourn,
 And deserted she will sit on the ground.

4:1 For seven women will take hold of one man in that day, saying, “We will eat our own bread and wear our own clothes, only let us be called by your name; take away our reproach!”

The Millennial Glory of Jerusalem

2 In that day the Branch of the LORD will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth *will be* the pride and the adornment of the survivors of Israel.

3 It will come about that he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy—everyone who is recorded for life in Jerusalem.

4 When the Lord has washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and purged the bloodshed of Jerusalem from her midst, by the spirit of judgment and the spirit of burning,

5 then the LORD will create over the whole area of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, even smoke, and the brightness of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory will be a canopy.

6 There will be a shelter to *give* shade from the heat by day, and refuge and protection from the storm and the rain.

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

Isaiah 5

The Song of the Vineyard

- 1 Let me sing now for my well-beloved
 A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard.
 My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.
- 2 He dug it all around, removed its stones,
 And planted it with the choicest vine.
 And He built a tower in the middle of it
 And also hewed out a wine vat in it;
 Then He expected *it* to produce *good* grapes,
 But it produced *only* worthless ones.
- 3 “And now, O 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, when I expected *it* to produce *good* grapes did it produce worthless ones?
- 5 “So now let Me tell you what I am going to do to My vineyard:
 I will remove its hedge and it will be consumed;
 I will break down its wall and it will become trampled ground.
- 6 “I will lay it waste;
 It will not be pruned or hoed,
 But briars and thorns will come up.
 I will also charge the clouds to rain no rain on it.”
- 7 For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel
 And the men of Judah His delightful plant.
 Thus He looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed;
 For righteousness, but behold, a cry of distress.

Woe Oracles against the Wicked

- 8 Woe to those who add house to house *and* join field to field,
 Until there is no more room,
 So that you have to live alone in the midst of the land!

- 9 In my ears the LORD of hosts *has sworn*,
“Surely, many houses shall become desolate,
Even great and fine ones, without occupants.
- 10 “For ten acres of vineyard will yield *only* one bath of wine,
And a homer of seed will yield *but* an ephah of grain.”
- 11 Woe to those who rise early in the morning that they may pursue strong drink,
Who stay up late in the evening that wine may inflame them!
- 12 Their banquets are *accompanied* by lyre and harp, by tambourine and flute, and by wine;
But they do not pay attention to the deeds of the LORD,
Nor do they consider the work of His hands.
- 13 Therefore My people go into exile for their lack of knowledge;
And their honorable men are famished,
And their multitude is parched with thirst.
- 14 Therefore Sheol has enlarged its throat and opened its mouth without measure;
And Jerusalem’s splendor, her multitude, her din of *revelry* and the jubilant within her, descend *into it*.
- 15 So the *common* man will be humbled and the man of *importance* abased,
The eyes of the proud also will be abased.
- 16 But the LORD of hosts will be exalted in judgment,
And the holy God will show Himself holy in righteousness.
- 17 Then the lambs will graze as in their pasture,
And strangers will eat in the waste places of the wealthy.
- 18 Woe to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood,
And sin as if with cart ropes;
- 19 Who say, “Let Him make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see *it*;
And let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near
And come to pass, that we may know *it!*”
- 20 Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;
Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness;
Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
- 21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes
And clever in their own sight!
- 22 Woe to those who are heroes in drinking wine
And valiant men in mixing strong drink,
- 23 Who justify the wicked for a bribe,
And take away the rights of the ones who are in the right!
- 24 Therefore, as a tongue of fire consumes stubble
And dry grass collapses into the flame,
So their root will become like rot and their blossom blow away as dust;
For they have rejected the law of the LORD of hosts
And despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.
- 25 On this account the anger of the LORD has burned against His people,
And He has stretched out His hand against them and struck them down.
And the mountains quaked, and their corpses lay like refuse in the middle of the streets.
For all this His anger is not spent,
But His hand is still stretched out.

An Army’s Destruction of Judah

- 26 He will also lift up a standard to the distant nation,
And will whistle for it from the ends of the earth;
And behold, it will come with speed swiftly.
- 27 No one in it is weary or stumbles,
None slumbers or sleeps;
Nor is the belt at its waist undone,
Nor its sandal strap broken.
- 28 Its arrows are sharp and all its bows are bent;
The hoofs of its horses seem like flint and its *chariot* wheels like a whirlwind.
- 29 Its roaring is like a lioness, and it roars like young lions;
It growls as it seizes the prey

And carries *it* off with no one to deliver *it*.
 30 And it will growl over it in that day like the roaring of the sea.
 If one looks to the land, behold, there is darkness *and* distress;
 Even the light is darkened by 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) 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.