

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.