

IN &
OUT

Isaiah

Part 1

THE WORD OF THE HOLY ONE TO
ISRAEL, THE REMNANT,
AND THE NATIONS . . .
AND THE PROMISE OF THE CHILD
TO BE BORN

IN & OUT®
ISAIAH PART 1
THE WORD OF THE HOLY ONE TO ISRAEL, THE REMNANT,
AND THE NATIONS . . . AND THE PROMISE OF THE CHILD TO BE BORN

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A Must-Read Before You Begin

Could it be that in picking up this Bible study on Isaiah that *YOU* are our answer to prayer? That we have “discovered” one another?

We have asked God to direct men and women to us from all walks of life who hunger for truth, who long for another dimension in Bible study—a way to study God’s Word that will enable them to discover truth for themselves, then, knowing that it is absolute truth, will confidently view all of life biblically and order their lives accordingly no matter the cost, people whose ambition is to be pleasing to God (2 Corinthians 5:9).

Have we discovered one another? Oh, how we pray so.

The Crown Jewel of Prophets

You are about to study the crown jewel of Old Testament prophets, a book that strikes awe in the heart of its reader. The words of Isaiah were often found on the lips of the Christ, the Messiah prophesied in Isaiah. Think then, if Jesus, God incarnate, honored this grand and glorious book so highly, how we ought to do the same. In its 66 chapters lies the destiny of nations, the future of all mankind . . . including yours and mine, Beloved. Is it any wonder Isaiah is mentioned by name 54 times in the Bible including all the Gospels, Acts, and Romans?

The Structure of Isaiah

While it would be great to read Isaiah before we begin, we’re going to take it chapter by chapter. Basically the book can be divided into two parts, chapters 1–39 and chapters 40–66. It’s structured like the Bible itself: 39 chapters in the Old Testament and 27 chapters in the New Testament.

Our Strategy

The number of chapters we cover in each lesson will vary according to the structure of Isaiah, the flow of thought, and what can be reasonably accomplished in a week’s lesson. So if we ask you to do three Old Testament chapters in one week, don’t collapse in a heap.

And don’t go by the number of pages in a lesson! It has nothing to do with the amount of work. Do what you can week by week. And if you don’t complete a lesson, don’t look at what you didn’t finish! Rather consider what you accomplished! Train yourself to persevere—to finish what you started. That, in itself, is commendable in these days and is the “stuff” that moves us towards godliness.

If you have studied New Testament courses with Precept but never an Old Testament course, you’ll soon realize that observing Old Testament books is different from observing New Testament Epistles, mainly because you are dealing with different kinds of literature.

Isaiah, Yesha'yahu, means "Jehovah saves" or "salvation of Jehovah." And this is what will unfold so beautifully in this book filled with Hebrew poetical parallelism. It's a poetry which states a truth and then often repeats it immediately, saying much the same thing but in different words.

You will see the Lord "high and lifted up," (KJV) sitting on His throne and you will understand why night and day the heavenly host cries, "*Holy, Holy, Holy*" as they worship the Holy One of Israel. You're going to gain a firsthand knowledge of God that you have never had before—and this by itself is reason enough to do this study.

As You Begin

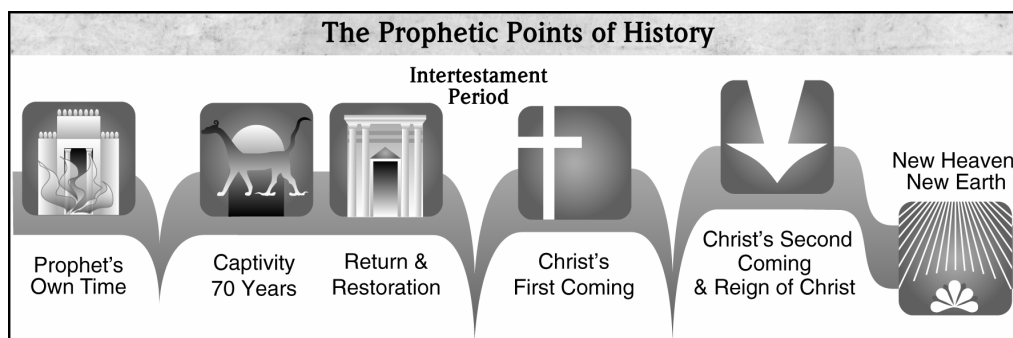
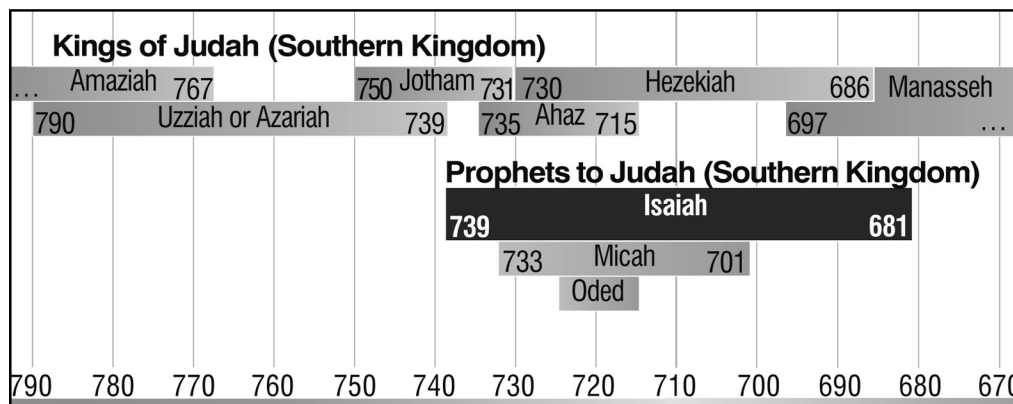
- Remember when you go to the Word of God itself (study inductively) God Himself is your Teacher. This study will help you say with the psalmist, "I have not turned aside from Your ordinances, for You Yourself have taught me" (Psalm 119:102).
- **You'll need a Bible and colored pencils for this study.** Consider using what we think is the best study Bible, *The New Inductive Study Bible* (NISB). You can get it from Precept at www.precept.org, by calling 800-763-8280.
- **Your study time will not go unchallenged.** The enemy of your soul, the prince of this world, does not want you to discover truth for yourself. Satan is a liar and the father of lies and he knows truth sets you free. Persevere—every believer is an overcomer (1 John 5:4-5).
- **You will see us calling you "Beloved."** That is because you are—to God and to the Precept family. Believe it or not, feel it or not, you are beloved. You'll find it throughout the New Testament Epistles. We're in good company—right there with Peter, Paul, John, and Jude, men who used the term frequently! You need to know you're beloved.

So welcome, *Beloved of God*, to Part 1 of Isaiah.

- May discovering the truth of Isaiah for yourself be a lifetime blessing causing you to know Him and understand His ways in a dimension greater than you ever expected.
- May it challenge you to place "the government of your life" on the shoulders of the Son of God to order all your life in light of the day when all nations will come and see His glory (Isaiah 9:6; 66:18).
- May it give you a steadfast hope that will cause you to see the Lord's rainbow in every stormy event of your life and in the collision course of history.

Minister To Others

Bring along another with you to the study. People long to be mentored in the issues of life and you couldn't do it any better way. We are so eager to hear what God does. Please let us know. You are prayed for.



The Holy One of Israel

Question of the week:

How does the Holy One of Israel deal with those who claim Him as their God but don't honor Him as God in the way they live?

The same thing is happening today. What's the answer?

TAKING IT IN

God has a legal case against His people and He's about to take them to His holy court! What's the problem—and what does it have to do with us today? That is what we are about to discover over the next two weeks as we study the first five chapters of Isaiah.

You will want to begin in prayer, Beloved. Remember it is God, by His Spirit, who is your Teacher, the One who searches the hearts and minds of men and who

sends His Word to heal them and give them His wisdom and understanding. Therefore, make it your habit to begin each day of study in prayer.

1. Look at Isaiah 1:1.
 - a. Why is Isaiah 1:1 so important? What insight does it give you? Or to put it another way, what role does this verse play in understanding Isaiah?
 - 1) Who is writing? And what do you learn about him?
 - 2) What is he writing?
 - 3) Who does it concern?
 - 4) When was it “seen”?
 - b. Now, let’s get down the details of Isaiah 1:1. (You may have answered these questions above. We just want to make sure you don’t miss anything.)
 - 1) Who is writing? And what do you learn about him?
 - 2) What is he writing?
 - 3) Who does it concern?
 - 4) When was it “seen”?
 - c. You just saw that Isaiah prophesied during the reign of four kings of Judah. Now, let’s see where the names of those kings are mentioned in Isaiah 1–39. Read the following scriptures, record what it says about the king, who he is and what is happening. Then note their names on the first column of segment divisions, *Kings of Judah*, on the “Isaiah at a Glance” chart in the Appendix next to the chapter you find that information in. Do it in pencil in case you want to change or move anything later.

As you’ll see, the At a Glance chart is a great way to keep a summary of the framework of Isaiah. Among other things it will help you see the segment divisions of the first 39 chapters and give you a better understanding of the big picture of Isaiah.

- 1) Isaiah 6:1
 - 2) Isaiah 7:1
 - 3) Isaiah 14:28
 - 4) Isaiah 36:1
- d. Comparing what you just saw in Isaiah with Isaiah 1:1, what king's name is missing in the text of Isaiah? Who reigns before him and after him?
- e. There's a wonderful "Isaiah's Timeline" chart in the Appendix and at the beginning of each lesson that will give you a visual overview of the times of Isaiah's ministry.
- 1) Look for Isaiah on the timeline. Record the years of Isaiah's ministry below and on the *At a Glance* chart under *Dates*. Then you might want to write these dates in your Bible next to Isaiah 1:1.
 - 2) Locate the kings mentioned in Isaiah 1:1 on the timeline. Then record the dates of their reigns below and next to the information you put on your *At a Glance* chart under *Kings of Judah*. You will notice overlapping dates which show the father and son ruled jointly for a period of time.
2. You can discover some great insights when you color-code the texts. Identify speakers by coloring references to them (names, pronouns, synonyms) with one color, then those they are speaking to in another. Color-coding is an effective identification tool.

- a. Read Isaiah 1 and color references to:
- 1) *Israel*, the sinful nation, in one color. Mark synonyms (e.g., *people*) and pronouns. If you need a suggestion, use blue. Blue is the color of the star on Israel’s flag.
 - 2) the *Lord* in another color, for example yellow (since God is Light!)
- b. After you’ve marked the text, see what you learned about those you marked. For example, when you marked the LORD, did you notice that He’s referred to several different ways? List these ways below. (By the way, when you read LORD in the text of Scripture in all caps, it is the translation of YHWH [Yahweh]. If it’s printed Lord, it is the translation of Adonai which means “master.”)
3. Now let’s make sure we have the broad historical context of Israel’s history after Solomon’s death.

After the death of Solomon (David’s son and the third king of Israel), Israel became a divided nation in 931 B.C. Look at another chart we have for you at the end of the lesson, “Israel’s Division and Captivity,” and fill in the blanks from the information on the chart. It is taken from *The New Inductive Study Bible*.

- a. The Northern Kingdom of Israel made Samaria its capital. It was taken into captivity by _____ in _____ B.C. Was this during, before, or after Isaiah’s time? Circle the right answer.
- b. The Southern Kingdom of Judah had Jerusalem (Zion, God’s holy mountain), as its capital. God placed His name in Jerusalem and subsequently Solomon also built the temple there. Judah was taken captive by _____ in _____ B.C. Was this during, before, or after Isaiah’s time? Circle the right answer.
- c. Because the Northern Kingdom was called *Israel*, when you read Isaiah it is necessary to discern whether a reference to Israel is to the whole nation or to the Northern Kingdom. This is determined by context.

- d. You can tell from the chart that when Isaiah begins his prophecy, the Northern Kingdom has not yet gone into captivity under the Assyrians. Therefore in light of what Isaiah 1:1 says and the chart you are looking at, is “Israel” in 1:3 a reference to the Northern Kingdom or the whole nation?
4. Next we’re going to read Isaiah 1 again, this time marking key words.
- a. First make a **Key Word Bookmark**. It’s quite simple but let us take you first-timers by the hand and walk through the process step-by-step.

On the back cover of your workbook is a Key Word Bookmark. On the blank side, write the key words listed below. A **key word** is an important, frequently repeated word or phrase that helps you unlock the meaning of the text. By the way, leave room to add to the bookmark as you proceed through Isaiah.

Mark each word or phrase in its own distinctive color, color combination and/or symbol on the Key Word Bookmark as you want to mark it in your Bible or on your Observation Worksheet. Suggestions for marking some frequently used words are on the front of your Key Word Bookmark. Marking enables you to easily spot every occurrence of the word in the text.

- 1) *word of the Lord* (and references to the Lord speaking).
- 2) *sin* (and synonyms like *sinful*, *sinner*, *iniquity*, *transgression*, *doing evil*, *wicked*)*
- 3) *land*,* when it refers to the land God promised Israel by covenant.
- 4) *city* (*Zion*, *Jerusalem*, *mountain* when it refers to the mountain of the Lord; see Isaiah 2:3 and 66:20).
- 5) *righteousness* (*righteous*)*
- 6) *fire and burning* when it refers to destruction by fire/burning and when it refers to the Lord.
- 7) time references*
- 8) geographical locations*

When you mark key words, also mark their pronouns and synonyms.

An asterisk [*] denotes words that have marking suggestions on your Key Word Bookmark.

- b. Now you are ready to observe and mark Isaiah 1.
5. At the beginning of each lesson and in the Appendix, you'll find "The Prophetic Points of History." As we study Isaiah, we will see that Isaiah refers to each of these time periods. For example, in chapter 1, you may have noted a change in the chapter between verses 23 and 24. In verses 1-23, Isaiah speaks God's message concerning the condition of Israel during Isaiah's time. The repeated phrase, "I will," beginning in verse 24 shows that these words of God through Isaiah are about a future time.

Read verses 24-31. Have the events described happened yet? If not, we know that they will fit into either Christ's Second Coming and Reign of Christ or New Heaven/New Earth.

As you continue studying Isaiah, keep referring to "The Prophetic Points of History."

6. Now let's move to Isaiah 2, an absolutely incredible chapter. You'll soon see why. Observe the chapter, asking the 5 Ws and H.
 - a. Add the following key words and phrases to your bookmark, then mark them in the text:
 - 1) *in the last days* (Mark this in a way to distinguish it from ordinary time phrases.)
 - 2) *nations**
 - 3) *the house of the Lord* (see *tabernacle**)
 - 4) *lofty* (*proud, pride, haughty*) (You could use an upward arrow ↑ over the word.)
 - 5) *humbled* (*abased*) (You could use a downward arrow like this ↓.)
 - 6) *idols*
 - b. Now, divide chapter 2 into paragraphs. Then summarize the content of each in as few words as possible. You can do this on your Observation Worksheet or write below with the verse numbers. The NASB uses a bold verse number to show the beginning of a paragraph.

7. Finally, record the themes of Isaiah 1 and 2 on the “Isaiah at a Glance” chart in the Appendix. The theme is the main subject of the chapter—what the chapter is about.

The At a Glance chart is a very important tool in inductive Bible study—it helps you discern the structure of a book: how the material is laid out, how the content of each chapter relates to the whole, and how the book divides into segments.

8. Now, Beloved, let’s reflect on what you observed in Isaiah 2.
- a. How does Isaiah 2 begin? Look at the first four verses.
- 1) What’s going to happen? To whom?

 - 2) When?

 - 3) Where?

b. Now let’s compare Isaiah 1 and 2:1-4. Is there any promise or glimmer of hope for *anyone* in Isaiah’s message in chapter 1?

 - 1) Where is it? What is it? Who benefits?

9. Let's look at the time phrase *the last days* and see what we can learn about them. There's more to come, but we'll start here.

Review what the text says about the last days in Isaiah 2:2-4.

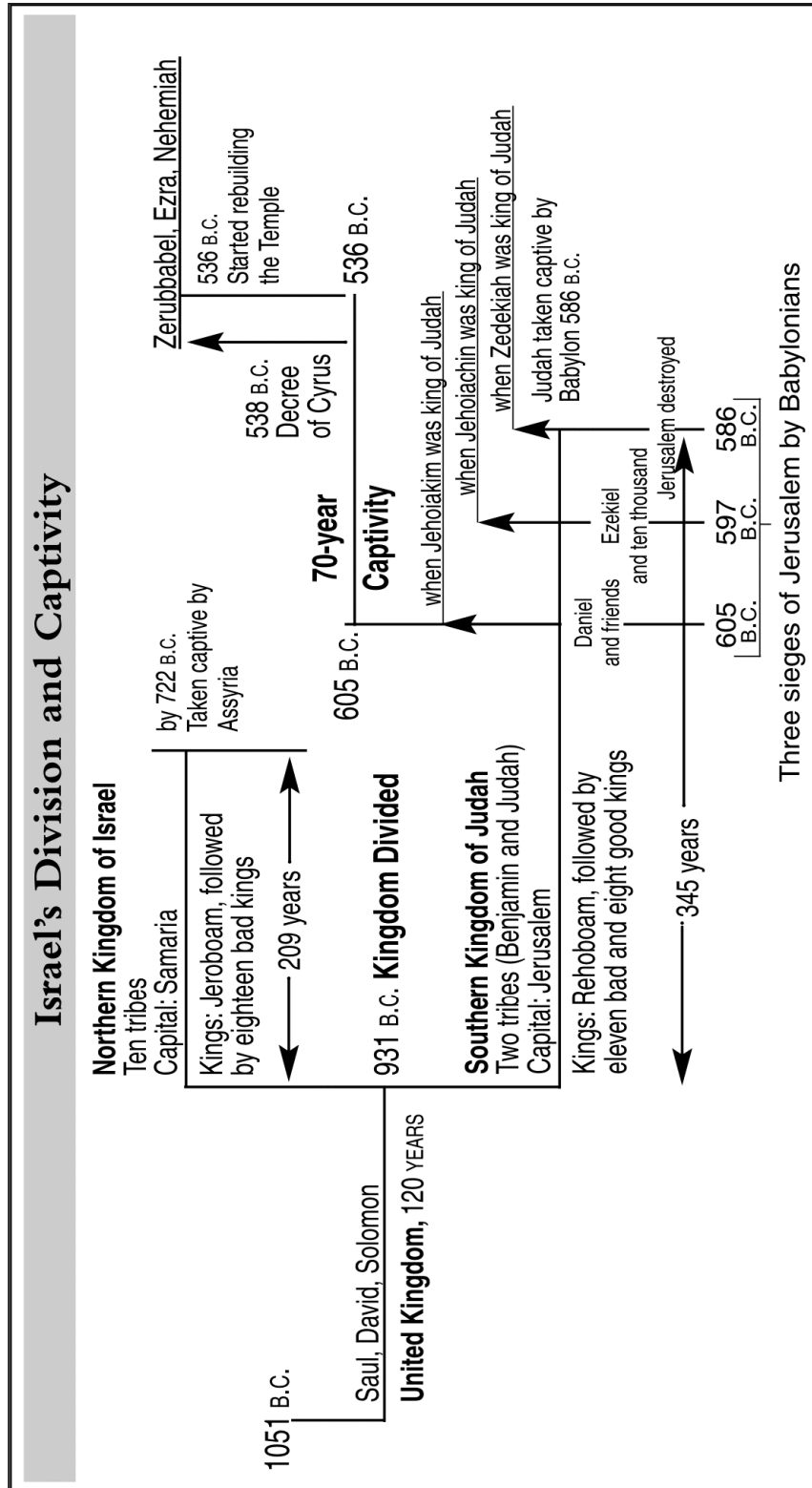
- a. According to Hebrews 1:2, when did the last days begin?

 - b. Now, in light of these insights, *when* are you living, Beloved of God?
10. Now look at "The Prophetic Points of History." Where do the sections of this chapter fit? Record in the margin of your Observation Worksheet or your Bible the points referred to. It's all right if you're unsure at this point. You'll have an opportunity to talk about this in your group discussion.

LIVING IT OUT

1. Now, reflect on why the LORD God describes Himself with the title He uses in Isaiah 1:4. It's used twenty-seven times in Isaiah, far more than in any other place in the Word of God. It connects with God's message to His people through Isaiah. Whenever you see it, remember, Beloved, this *is* who God is today. God never changes—He's immutable.
 - a. How does God refer to Himself in Isaiah 1:4?

 - b. How should remembering this and taking it to heart affect your behavior? Notice we said "should," not "would." If we're true children of God, we're not slaves to sin but we're still able to do it—it's a matter of choice. Just remember, God tells us, "be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23). A holy God cannot overlook sin!



ISAIAH 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 2

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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.
- 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.

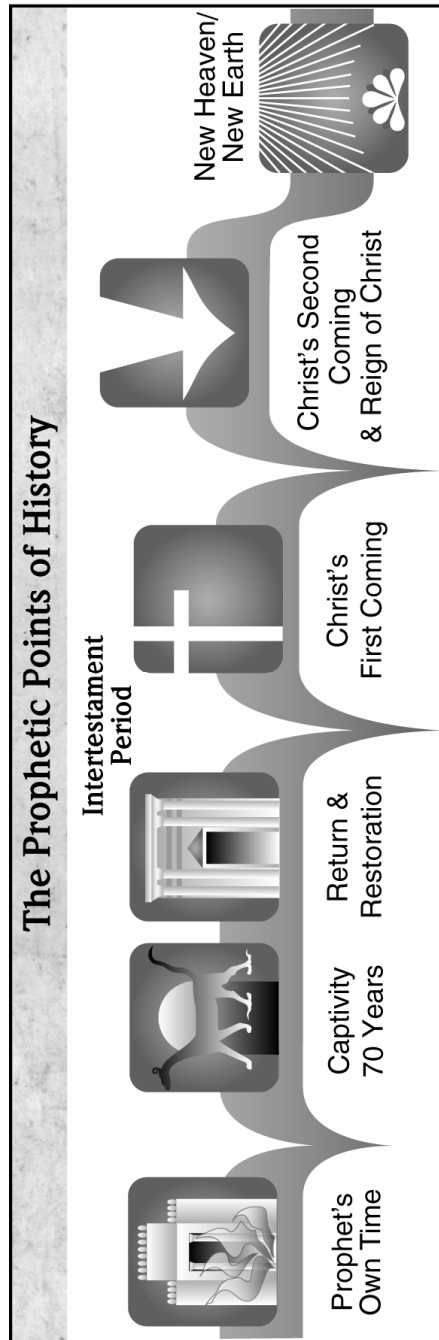
- 7 Their land has also been filled with silver and gold
And there is no end to their treasures;
Their land has also been filled with horses
And there is no end to their chariots.
- 8 Their land has also been filled with idols;
They worship the work of their hands,
That which their fingers have made.
- 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,

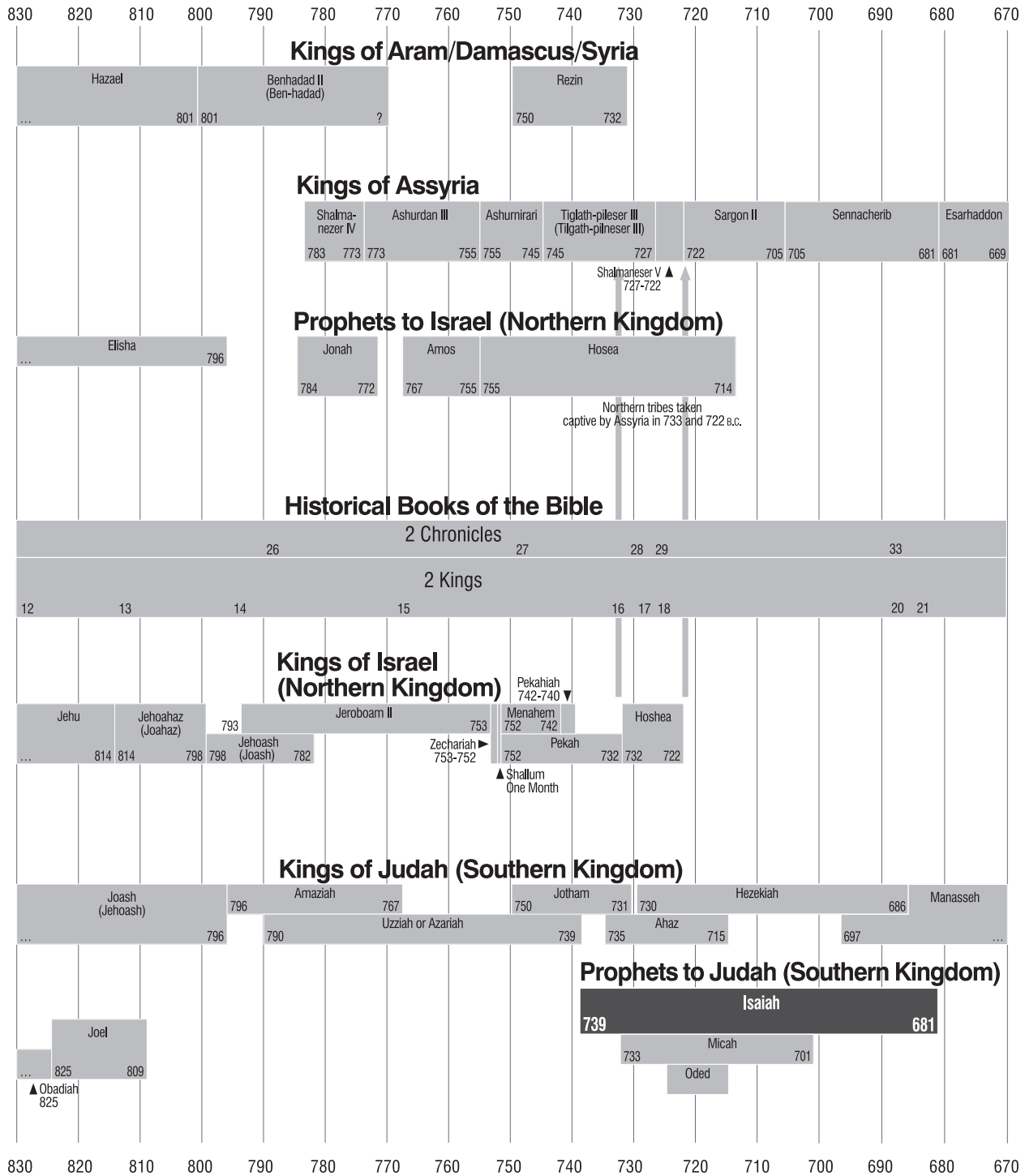
- 18 But the idols will completely vanish.
- 19 *Men* will go into caves of the rocks
And into holes of the ground
Before the terror of the LORD
And the splendor of His majesty,
When He arises to make the earth tremble.
- 20 In that day men will cast away to the moles and the bats
Their idols of silver 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?

ISAIAH AT A GLANCE

		Segment Divisions		
		Kings of Judah		
	Chapter Themes			
Author:	1			
	2			
Dates:	3			
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Purpose:	5			
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Key Words:	7			
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Chapter Themes	Segment Divisions	
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Isaiah Part 1 Timeline

