



Isaiah

Old Testament

β 23rd book of the Bible (out of 66)

β 4.15% of the verses in the Bible

β Written by Isaiah

Isaiah was a an 8th century BC prophet to the southern kingdom of Judah. He prophesied for around forty years, during the reigns of four kings. Warnings from God are given to these current kings, along with several passages about a future ruler - the Messiah. His reign will change everything. Who would expect God's Anointed One to be a Servant (chapter 53) though? Once when Jesus was in a synagogue He read from chapter 61 (Luke 4).

The Book can easily be split into two sections - the first 39 chapters and then the remaining 27 chapters. The focus is different between them. The whole book partly confronts and partly comforts. It is partly a protest about the present and partly a prediction about the future. Yahweh is called the 'Holy One of Israel' thirty times in this book, but only a further six times in the rest of the OT. Personification of nature is used several times. Isaiah 37 is almost identical with 2 Kings 19.

Fact: The book of Isaiah is the second most quoted OT book in the NT (after the Psalms).

Assyria is the dominant nation whilst Isaiah is alive. Would the Judean and Israelite kings pay tribute to them or put their God first?

A Jewish tradition says that Isaiah died by being sawn in half as he was hiding in a tree from King Manasseh's men - mentioned in Hebrews 11:37.

Aim to read the whole book over the next two weeks.