



**COMING UP...** JUN 16 NO CLASS (*Father's Day*) JUN 23: Isaiah part 2 (chs. 40-66) JUN 30: Nahum JUL 7: Zephaniah JUL 14: Jeremiah part 1 (chs. 1-33)

### ISAIAH SUMMARIZED IN A WORD OR PHRASE: "Messiah"

#### THE TIMES ...

It's a time of relative peace and prosperity in Israel and Judah  
Israel has heard God's warnings but doesn't believe them ... and hasn't repented  
Ahaz is on Judah's throne and now she's following in Israel and Assyria's footsteps  
Isaiah announces God's plan: *I'm leading you away ... but I don't intend to leave you there*

#### THE BASICS

**Who:** Isaiah ("The Lord is salvation") **When:** pre-exilic (750-685 BC) **Where:** primarily to Judah and Jerusalem (1:1)  
**Why:** "The purpose of Isaiah is to display God's glory and holiness through His judgment of sin and His deliverance and blessing of a righteous remnant." –Charles Dyer

Isaiah isn't Western, but more like a "braid"

**LESSON THEME:** The faithful walk through trials rather than around them

**NOTE:** The events of Isaiah 36-39 were covered in the lesson on 2 Kings 18-20 (2 Kings part 4).

### Judgment on Judah (1-12)

Judah and Jerusalem

They will be judged for their sin

Idolatry, pride and ungodliness

Lack of justice and righteousness

A general lack of reflecting their heavenly Father

But they still have a glorious destiny

Jerusalem will become the world's center of knowledge worship of God

There, He will become a shelter and a refuge for all who seek Him

The Child and the remnant

The Child will be their Leader

His name is Immanuel, "God with us"

He will deliver the faithful and restore God's people

God has and will be with them in spite of their trouble

The remnant will trust and follow Him

Have no other allies; put their trust in no One else

They will walk in faith through the upcoming trial

God is intimately familiar with their situation and sovereignly in control of history

He *has not* and *will not* leave them or forsake them to their own devices or schemes

He's leading them away, but not leaving them

Assyria and Babylon are coming to discipline

### Judgment on the World (13-27)

God will judge Babylon, Assyria and the surrounding nations (13-23)

Then He'll judge the whole world (24-27)

This universal judgment will be followed by the deliverance and restoration of His people

This is to comfort and encourage them. God's purpose and plan will triumph; its outcome is as certain, reliable and unstoppable as He is

## Blessing Follows Chastening (28–35)

Judah's chastening and restoration (28–33)

Sin: her failure to hear and trust now

She's trusting Egypt for deliverance and help; she's become a spiritual prostitute like her sister Israel

Yet God has future blessings reserved for her

Universal judgment and restoration (34–35)

The nations will one day *surely* be judged

And deliverance and restoration will just as *surely* come to Judah as well

## Summary of Isaiah 1–35

God has announced chastening for Judah's sins at the hands of Assyria and Babylon

And though He will lead Judah away, He will not leave her there forever

He will raise up His own Servant (the Messiah) Who'll deliver the believing remnant

And bring them back to the Promised Land ... as well as heap blessings upon them

... but for now it's the "tunnel of chaos"

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**APPLICATION:** *The faithful walk through trials rather than around them*

## Are You In the Tunnel of Chaos?

Are you going through a trial right now ... perhaps even a severe one?

It may be one you didn't expect or don't even think you deserve; it doesn't seem fair or right

You could be like Job; like Joseph; like Joshua

God hasn't left or forsaken you; "Immanuel"

He hasn't *led you there to leave you there*

He's just asked you to follow Him

## How To Go Through the Tunnel

With purpose

A "correcting" trial for sin and/or disobedience

A "perfecting" trial to become more like Jesus

With perspective

On trials

God has called you to more

On sin

He hasn't led you there to leave you there

With hope and faith

Your God sovereignly controls history

His plans and purposes are reliable and unstoppable

He is intimately familiar with your situation; He is "Immanuel" in the midst of your situation

Remind yourself of Him through His Word

Look to Him in prayer

With others (Isaiah 35:3-4)

We are to be there for one another

We are to exhort one another toward the tunnel's exit

We are to encourage one another to patient endurance while yet in the tunnel

*The faithful walk through trials rather than around them*

**FOR NEXT TIME:** \_\_\_\_\_

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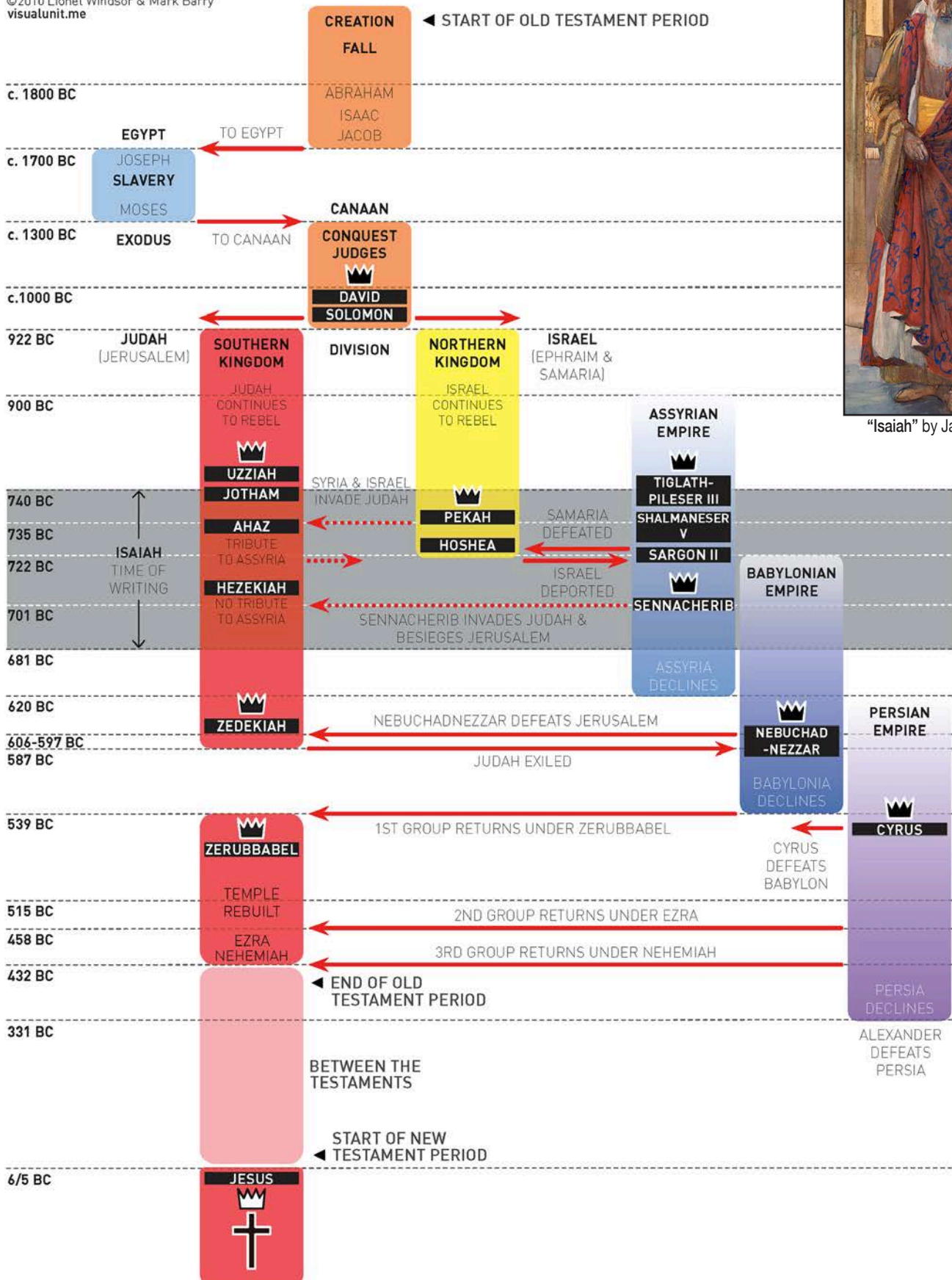
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# ISAIAH TIMELINE

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"Isaiah" by James Tissot



**ISAIAH: SUFFERING SERVANT AND MESSIANIC KING** Isaiah and the Psalms are the Old Testament books most quoted by Jesus, as well as the apostles who wrote the New Testament. More than any other book in the OT, Isaiah focuses on the salvation that will come through the Messiah. But in a seeming paradox, the book of Isaiah also presents the Messiah as one who will suffer; it is through His suffering that our iniquities are taken away. This apparent contradiction is solved in the Person of Jesus Christ. In His first advent, Jesus was the suffering servant of Isaiah 53; in His second advent, Jesus will be the conquering and ruling King, the Prince of Peace (Is 9:6).

Books of biblical prophets are challenging to read. They're written in ancient Hebrew poetry and narrative style, which is very different from modern poetry or narrative. Also these books assume that the reader has a fairly good understanding of the final two centuries that led up to the tragic end of the Israelite kingdoms. 2 Kings 17-25 just narrated the downfall of the northern kingdom of Israel to the Assyrians in 722 BC, followed by the demise of the southern kingdom of Judah to the Babylonians in 586 BC.

The book of Isaiah is truly remarkable, as the entire story of Israel and the Bible itself is summed up and projected into the future. You can see why Jesus chose Isaiah to read aloud when he finally went public with His ministry in Nazareth (Lk 4). The book of Isaiah was foundational for the early followers of Jesus and helped motivate their mission to bring good news to the nations (see Acts 13:47).

This concept of messianic prophecy is very different from the popular idea of prophets (think Nostradamus) who looked into a crystal ball and predicted events far in the future—but that isn't how the biblical prophets worked. Instead they looked to God's promises in the past (to Abraham and David) to generate hope for their own day and beyond. The prophets believed that God's covenant promises called every generation of Israel and its kings to repentance and faithfulness. But none of David's descendants lived up to this call, and then the exile happened. This is how the promise of the Messiah became a hope for the distant future once the kingdom of David was hauled off to Babylon.

This was the story into which Jesus was born. The basic claim of the gospels is that Jesus was that faithful king from the line of David—He was the one to whom this story had been pointing all along. Jesus was accomplishing the things God promised to David and Abraham.

—Text combined and modified from BibleProject.com and GotQuestions.org

