

## Isaiah

### 1. Authorship:

This book is named after its author. The name Isaiah means “Yahweh is salvation,” which is essentially what the name “Joshua” means. Isaiah has been called the Prince of the Old Testament Prophets, the Saint Paul of the Old Testament, and the greatest prophet. This man was a theologian, reformer, statesman, historian, poet, orator, prince, and patriot. Isaiah was the son of Amoz. Isaiah served as court historian during the reigns of Jotham and Hezekiah (2 Chronicles 26:22; 32:32). Isaiah was married and he had at least two sons. He was called to the prophetic ministry in the year that King Uzziah died. Jewish tradition says he died by being sawn in two by wicked King Manasseh.

### 2. Background:

Isaiah has been called *the great central prophet*. He moved across the stage of history approximately half way between Moses and Jesus Christ. Isaiah’s ministry centers around two crises in the history of Judah. First, in 734 BC Judah was invaded by the kings of Israel and Damascus. Their intent was to remove Ahaz, the rightful king, and replace him with a man more inclined to join them in resisting Assyria. Isaiah offered Ahaz encouragement to trust in God against his foes. Ahaz, however, chose to negotiate for assistance from the Assyrians rather than follow the path of trust promoted by Isaiah. The second crisis came in 701 BC when Judah was invaded by the massive Assyrian army led by King Sennacherib. The Assyrians quickly conquered all the outlying villages of Judah. King Hezekiah holed up behind Jerusalem’s walls. Isaiah assured him that the Assyrians would not fire one arrow against Jerusalem. That night the angel of God passed through the Assyrian camp. He killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Sennacherib was forced to make a hasty withdrawal with what was left of his army.

### 3. Special Features:

--The longest word in the Bible is the name of Isaiah’s son: Maher-shalal-hash-baz.

--According to one tradition, Isaiah was the nephew of King Uzziah of Judah.

--Isaiah is like a miniature Bible. It breaks into two main divisions of thirty-nine chapters judgment followed by twenty-seven chapters of comfort. The Bible also breaks into two main sections of thirty-nine books (Old Testament) followed by twenty-seven books (New Testament).

--Isaiah walked barefoot and “naked” (minus his outer garment) for three years to foretell the fate of Egypt and to warn Judah not to join the Egyptians in a rebellion against Assyria (20:1-6)

### 4. October Reading Guide

Week of Sep 25-Oct 1	Isaiah 1-14
Week of Oct 2-8	Isaiah 15-27
Week of Oct 9-15	Isaiah 28-40
Week of Oct 16-22	Isaiah 41-53
Week of Oct 23-29	Isaiah 54-66