



**THE MESSIANIC
PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH
2015 FALL BIBLE STUDY**

Why Isaiah?

- Isaiah is quoted more in the NT than any other OT book.
- Isaiah leads the “Major Prophets”—the first of the “Big Three”
- The only complete book in the Hebrew Bible preserved in the Dead Sea Scrolls is Isaiah—therefore called “The Great Isaiah Scroll”

Isaiah

- The name "Isaiah" means:
- The Lord (YHWH) is Salvation
- It is similar to Joshua, Hosea, and
- Jesus

Ambrose: Church Father

- Was asked by Augustine which book of the Bible should be read first.
- Isaiah
- Interpreting Isaiah is not easy
- Augustine was thoroughly confused in his attempts to read the book on its own terms

Martin Luther

- The prophets have a queer way of talking, like people who, instead of proceeding in an orderly manner, ramble off from one thing to the next, so that you cannot make heads or tails of them or see what they are getting at!

Isaiah 55

- *For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (55: 8-9)*

The Challenge of Interpretation

- As Christians, we approach this book through the lens of Christian theology
- We must always be careful, to allow Isaiah to enlighten our Christian understanding, rather than imposing our Christian understanding upon the book
- We cannot force our views on Isaiah, we must allow Isaiah to speak for itself

John Sawyer

- *The Fifth Gospel: Isaiah in the History of Christianity*
- The Virgin Birth
- The Messiah
- The Suffering Servant
- Early Christian teachers concluded that Isaiah is a "Gospel" that fully contains the Christian message

How Many Isaiahs?

- There are at least two—probably three
- Chapters 1 -39 The Assyrian Crisis
740-700 BC
- Chapters 40-55, The Babylonian Crisis
585-540 BC
- Chapters 56-66, The Jerusalem Crisis
530-510 BC
- Three Separate Collections

What is Messianic Prophecy?

- Any prophecy that would foreshadow the coming of the Messiah
- Is the Messiah a descendent of David who would reestablish the Davidic kingdom and dynasty as the concrete realization of God's rule on earth? (See chapters 9 and 11)
- Is the Messiah any deliverer of God's people? (See chapters 44-45)

Suffering Servant

- Is the Messiah found in Isaiah 53, the one who suffers for his people?
- From the Jewish point of view, a suffering Messiah was a contradiction in terms so that the preaching of Christ Crucified (Messiah Crucified) became a "stumbling block" to the Jews (1 Corinthians 1:23)

Messianic Hope

- Isaiah is the first prophet to proclaim the coming of a personal Messiah and the advent of an ideal age of righteous and peace.
- But not all of Isaiah's prophecies are Messianic
- Isaiah 2 would be considered Theocentric rather than Messianic

The World Situation

- Isaiah's public ministry begins with the death of King Uzziah in 740 BC (Is 6)
- The years leading up to his death had been a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity
- Assyria was the World Power
- But they were ruled by Kings with their own internal problems and they had no interest in expanding their Kingdom

A Time Of Peace

793-753 Jeroboam II--King in Israel

- 792-740 Uzziah—King in Judah
- Israel & Judah worked together
- They did not have to worry about external threats
- The result was an age of prosperity and peace that had not been known since the reign of Solomon

MAP OF THE PERIOD OF THE KINGS





Caspian Sea

A S S Y R I A

Nineveh

Asshur

River Euphrates

River Tigris

Babylon

BABYLONIA

Damascus

Jerusalem

The Great Sea

Sinai

EGYPT

River Nile

Red Sea

The Lower Sea

The Ancient Near East

0 300 Miles
0 300 Kilometers

Assyria

- In the year 745 everything changed in Assyria
- A ruthless, evil rebel by the name of Tiglath-Pileser III staged a coup, killed the Royal Family and seized power



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Israel's Woes

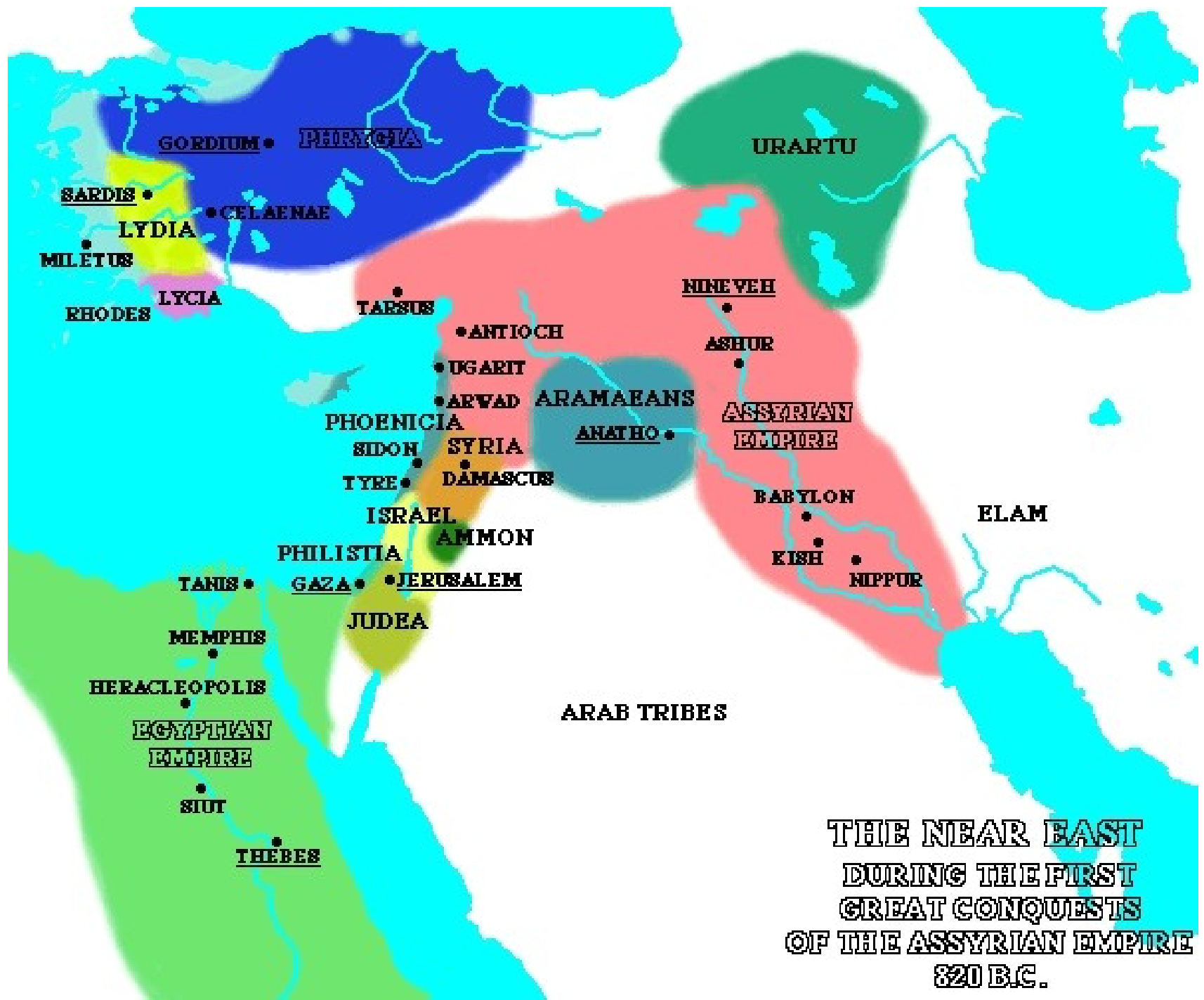
- King Jeroboam II died in 753 BC
- His son, Zechariah became King, ruled for 6 months and was assassinated by one of his army captains, Shallum
- Shallum ruled for one month before he was assassinated by another one of Zechariah's army captains, Menahem
- Menahem reigned for 10 years

2 Kings 15

- ¹⁹ When Assyria's King Tiglath-pileser (Pul) marched against the land, Menahem gave Tiglath-pileser one thousand silver kikkars in order to become his ally and to strengthen his hold on the kingdom. ²⁰ Menahem taxed Israel for this money. All the wealthy people had to give fifty silver shekels each to Assyria's king. So Assyria's king went home and didn't stay there in the land.

Rebellion

- Menahem paid tribute to Tigalth-Pileser throughout his ten-year reign
- His son, Pekahiah, became king upon his death and continued to pay tribute, but there was growing dissent in the land
- Pekah led a coup and assassinated Pekahiah
- He joined forces with Rezin the King of Syria to rebel against Assyria



THE NEAR EAST
DURING THE FIRST
GREAT CONQUESTS
OF THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE
820 B.C.

Meanwhile in Judah

- King Uzziah died in 740 (Chapter 6)
- His son, Jotham became King
- Pekah and Rezin (Syria) tried to get Jotham to join their coalition
- When he refused, Israel invaded Judah
- Around this time Jotham died and was succeeded by his son, Ahaz
- Isaiah counsels Ahaz to avoid the coalition



The Mountain of the Lord

- The word which Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
- ² It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the LORD shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it,
³ and many peoples shall come, and say:
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob;

The Mountain of the Lord



In A World of War

- For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
⁴ He shall judge between the nations,
and shall decide for many peoples;
and they shall beat their swords into
plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

The Vision

- Isaiah “sees” the Word of the Lord
- “the Latter Days” not the end of the world
- Mountain of the Lord will be higher than any other mountain
- All nations will “flow” to it
- Not to offer sacrifices, but to receive the “law” (torah) and the word (dabhar) of the Lord

A Universal Vision

- A scene of judgment
- God will settle all the disputes between nations
- The instruments of death become instruments of life
- The Lord God is God of all nations, not just Israel
- We will walk in the light of the Lord!

Micah 4

- It shall come to pass in the latter days
that the mountain of the house of the LORD
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised up above the hills;
and peoples shall flow to it,
² and many nations shall 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 his ways
and we may walk in his paths.”
For out of Zion shall go forth the law,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.
³ He shall judge between many peoples,
and shall decide for strong nations afar off;
and they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
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neither shall they learn war any more;

Walking in the Light: Liberia

- President Charles Taylor



Swords into Plowshares





A Witness to Peace

- For all our differences and disagreements, we can live in a world of peace--**Pope Francis**

Pope Francis

- "Here, amid pain and grief, we also have a palpable sense of the heroic goodness which people are capable of, those hidden reserves of strength from which we can draw. ... This place of death became a place of life too, a place of saved lives, a hymn to the triumph of life over the prophets of destruction and death, to goodness over evil, to reconciliation and unity over hatred and division."







Prayer for Peace at 9/11 Memorial

- God of peace, bring your peace to our violent world: peace in the hearts of all men and women and peace among the nations of the Earth.

Let Us Go Up to the Mountain of the Lord

