

Isaiah's Life

Isaiah's name means "Jehovah is salvation", "Jehovah saves" or "the Lord is salvation". He is one of the greatest among the prophets; even the Savior affirmed the importance of Isaiah's writings. He is quoted extensively, in fact more often than any other prophet. There are 66 chapters in the Book of Isaiah, a total of 1292 verses. The Book of Mormon quoted 414 of them and paraphrased at least another 34 verses. About 35% of Isaiah is quoted in the valuable space they had on the plates. (Nephi recorded 13 consecutive chapters of Isaiah.) The New Testament quotes Isaiah at least 57 times. The Doctrine and Covenants quotes or paraphrases Isaiah about 100 times, as well as giving keys and interpretations. Even Moroni quoted Isaiah to Joseph Smith at the opening of this dispensation.

- He recorded the important details of human history for the next 2700 years.
- He wrote the longest prophetic book in the entire canon of Bible.
- Isaiah lived the last half of the 8th century.
- Several prophets saw the panorama as Isaiah did, Adam, Enoch, Nephi, John the Revelator, and the Brother of Jared, but only Isaiah, Nephi and John were allowed to reveal any amount of details.
- He had an unusually brilliant mind, which is reflected in his extremely advanced literary skills. He had all the advantages of education and refinement that Judah's civilization could bestow. (50:4)
- Isaiah was born about 770 BC during the reigns of two strong Israelite kings, Jeroboam II and Uzziah. He was reared in Jerusalem, and nearly all his prophetic activities appear to have centered there.
- Many scholars believe that Isaiah's ministry took place between the years 750 or 740 and 700 BC; he ministered 40-48 years, maybe longer.
- He was a seer and a prophet (37:2, 38:1, 39:3), and had profound humility. He felt completely overwhelmed when the Lord called him, and could have rejected it, but not without jeopardizing his salvation, which he would not do.
- He was called much like Noah, Abraham, Jeremiah, and Mormon. He was to bear testimony against a people he knew would reject his message. He was subjected to all the abuse the apostates he lived among could heap upon him, but he didn't turn away. (50:5-6)
- He received great visions after he received the second comforter. Teachings, p. 151
Isaiah saw the Lord. (6:1, 2 N 11:2)
- He served as a prophet during the reign of several kings in Judah: Uzziah (784-741 B.C.), Jotham (740-735 BC), Ahaz 735-715BC), and Hezekiah (715-697BC).
- He was the son of Amoz, who was the brother of Amaziah, the father of Uzziah, which would make Isaiah of royal lineage and a cousin of Uzziah.
- Isaiah's wife was called a "prophetess" (8:3); a noble woman of deep spirituality and had the gift of revelation.
- Isaiah's wife was a daughter of one of the kings of Judah, making Isaiah a member of the royal family by marriage.
- He and his wife have at least two sons. They (at least their names) served as prophetic signs to Israel, as did Isaiah and his wife. (8:18) Their names were:

Shear-jashub = *the remnant shall return*, and Maher-shalal-hash-baz = *to speed the spoil, he hastened the prey* (8:1)

- Isaiah stood as a type of God the Father, his wife, the Prophetess was a type of Mary, the mother of Christ, and one of their sons stood as a type of Jesus Christ.
- According to Josephus, he was martyred along with the righteous men of Israel and the prophets by Hezekiah's son, Manasseh, Judah's most wicked king. Legend has it he placed Isaiah in a hollow tree and had him sawn asunder (in half) with a wooden saw. (Heb. 11:37)
- He lived to see the 10 tribes (721BC) taken away into captivity as well as the fulfillment of many of his prophecies. He was the last major prophet to teach all the Israelite tribes before they began to scatter from the Holy Land.
- The bulk of Isaiah's prophecies deal with the coming of the Redeemer, both his first appearance and the Second Coming.