





















Revealing the Rescuer Seeing Jesus in Isaiah

# WHATISTHE BOOK OF ISAIAH ALL ABOUT?

Southern Kingdom (Judah) falls to the Babylonians 586BC

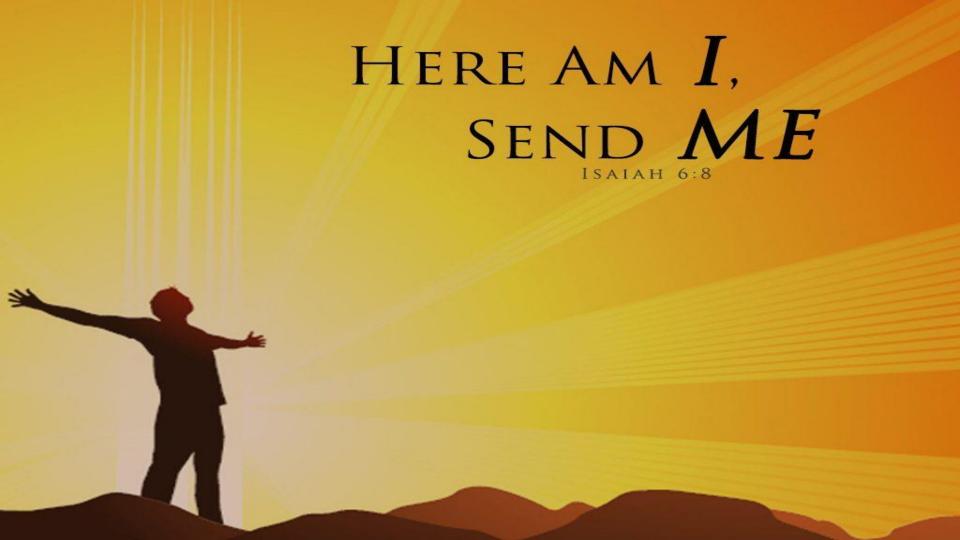
KINGDOMS OF Isaiah's Ministry from 740

Northern Kingdom (Isreal) falls to the Assyrians 720BC

681BC

"The Call of Isaiah"
Isaiah 6:1-8





## The ineffectiveness of Isaiah's message

#### Isaiah 6:9-10

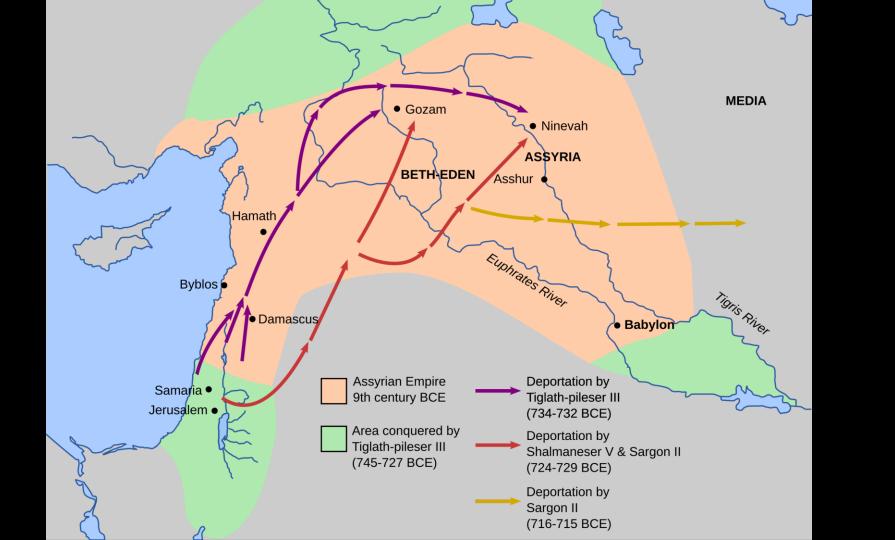
<sup>9</sup>He said, "Go and tell this people:

"'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.' <sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

## And, it pretty much goes that way!

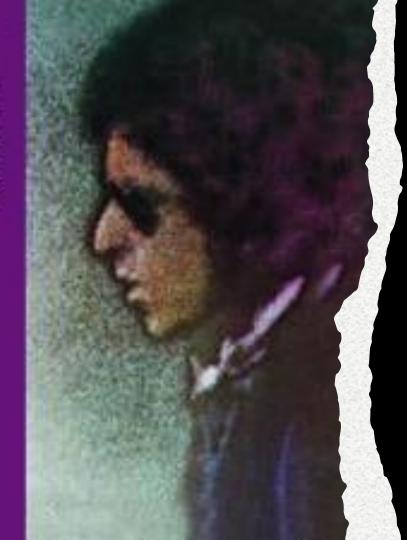
#### Isaiah 36:1

In the fourteenth year of King Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib king of Assyria attacked all the fortified cities of Judah and captured them.





Isreal going into Assyrian exile 734-715BC



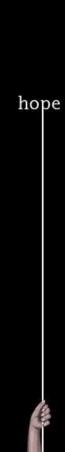
They say the darkest hour is right before the dawn

They say the darkest hour is right before the dawn

But you wouldn't know it by me

Every day's been darkness since you been gone







## Comfort is coming!!

What's that gonna look like? How is sin paid for double?

#### Isaiah 40

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

## The Glory of God will be revealed!

But how? By who?

#### Isaiah 40

<sup>3</sup>A voice of one calling: "In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. <sup>5</sup>And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

## What's the message?

We are mortal.

God and His word is not.

### Isaiah 40

<sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the Lord blows on them. Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever."

## God is coming, and will gather his people!

#### Isaiah 40

<sup>9</sup>You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. <sup>11</sup>He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

## And yet, Israel is still complaining? Why does God still care?

### Isaiah 40

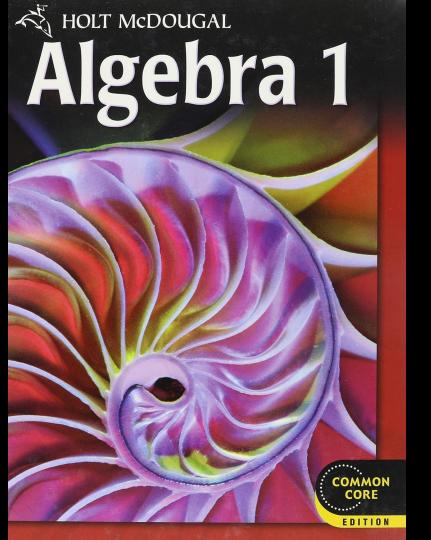
<sup>27</sup>Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God"? <sup>28</sup>Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. <sup>29</sup>He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. <sup>30</sup>Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

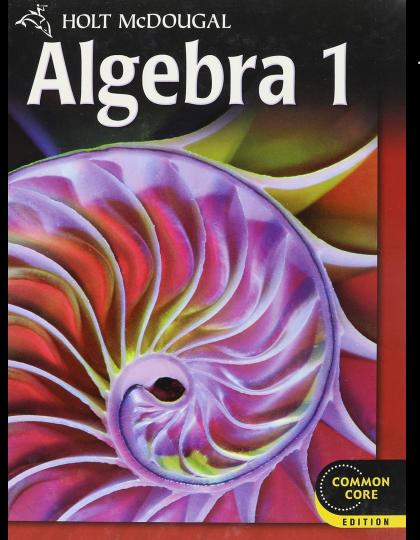
#### **OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY - LAYERS OF FULFILMENT**



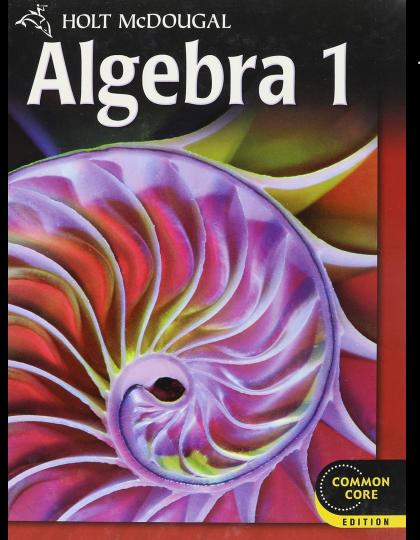
① |s+ |ayer of prophecy fulfillment in the immediate context ie. with the people of Israel. 2nd layer of prophecy fulfillment through Tesus' life, clearth, resurrection and the Holy Spirit's work thru the church. 33rd layer of prophecy
fulfillment through
Jesus' 2rd consing as larg
and Judge of all the
universe.





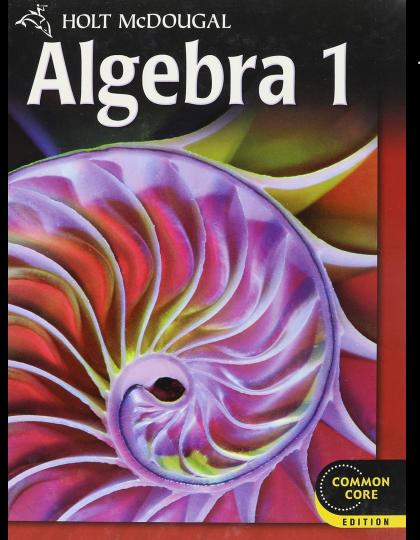


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What was wrong with Israel?



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2. Why is this a hopeful passage, since nothing really happens for Israel as a nation from 720BC to 1948 AD?



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## The ineffectiveness of Isaiah's message

#### Isaiah 6:9-10

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"'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.' <sup>10</sup>Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Isaiah's message (9) and his task (10) constitute, at first sight, the oddest commission ever given to a prophet: to tell people not to understand and to effect hearthardening and spiritual blindness! There is, however, no way to evade the plain meaning of the verses... According to the criticism levelled at him in 28:9–10, Isaiah taught with such simplicity

and clarity that the sophisticates of his day

scorned him as fit only to conduct a

kindergarten...

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#### **Isaiah 28:9-10**

<sup>9</sup>Who is it he is trying to teach? To whom is he explaining his message? To children weaned from their milk, to those just taken from the breast?

10For it is:
Do this, do that,
a rule for this, a rule for that;
a little here, a little there."

It is clear that Isaiah did not understand his commission as one to blind people by obscurity of expression or complexity of message. He, in fact, faced the preacher's dilemma: if hearers are resistant to the truth, the only recourse is to tell them the truth yet again, more clearly than before. But to do this is to expose them to the risk of rejecting the truth yet again and, therefore, of increased hardness of heart. It could even be that the next rejection will prove to be the point at which the heart is hardened

~ J. Alec Motyer, *Isaiah: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 20, Tyndale Old Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999), 78-79

beyond recovery.

An Introduction & Commenta

J. Alec Motyer

## John 12:37-43

<sup>37</sup>Even after Jesus had performed so many signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. <sup>38</sup>This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet:

"Lord, who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?" [Isaiah 53:1]

<sup>39</sup>For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere

## John 12:37-43

40"He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn—and I would heal them."

[Isaiah 6:9-10]

The same sun which melts wax hardens clay. And the same Gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins.



~ Charles Spurgeon, **The Lesson of the Almond Tree**, sermon preached at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, April 7, 1881

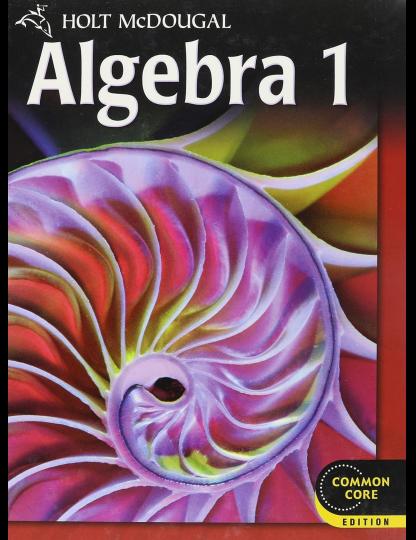
#### John 12:37-43

<sup>41</sup>Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

<sup>42</sup>Yet at the same time many even among the leaders believed in him. But because of the Pharisees they would not openly acknowledge their faith for fear they would be put out of the synagogue; <sup>43</sup>for they loved human praise more than praise from God.



TIEPOLO, Giovanni Battista, The Prophet Isaiah 1726-29 Fresco 200 x 250 cm Palazzo Patriarcale, Udine



1. Why would Isaiah have such an ineffective ministry?
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#### The "Voice" is revealed

#### Luke 3:1-9, 15-16, 21-22

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar... the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup>As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

### The "Voice" is revealed

### Luke 3:1-9, 15-16, 21-22

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth. <sup>6</sup>And all people will see God's salvation.' "

[Isaiah 40:3-4]

### The "Voice" has the same problem Isaiah had

### Luke 3:1-9, 15-16, 21-22

<sup>7</sup>John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire..."

# The "Voice" is not the Messiah, the revealed Glory of the Lord

#### Luke 3:1-9, 15-16, 21-22

<sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup>John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire..."

#### The well-loved Son is on the Scene!!

### Luke 3:1-9, 15-16, 21-22

<sup>21</sup>When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup>and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven:

"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."





Galatians 4:4-5

<sup>4</sup>But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Three Big Take Aways:

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1. On our own, our hearts are no different than Israel's in 740BC or 30AD.

# Three Big Take Aways:

2. Jesus Christ is the glory of God revealed, and the "coal" of our salvation.

## Three Big Take Aways:

3. What's our response?

"Yeah, but..."

or

"Here am I. Send me!"