



IN
OUT

English Standard Version

Isaiah

Part 2

COMFORT MY PEOPLE

IN AND OUT[®]
English Standard Version
ISAIAH PART 2
COMFORT MY PEOPLE

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Comfort, Comfort My People

What a privilege—to be called by God to comfort His people, especially when you’ve also been the messenger of His displeasure and His forthcoming judgment.

If you studied Isaiah Part 1 (chapters 1–39), you sensed its stern tone—like a father’s lecture before discipline.

The tone of the second segment which we are about to study, chapters 40–66, is entirely different. It is more like *after*—when your Father takes you in His everlasting arms drawing you so close you can feel the beat of His heart as your head rises and falls with His every eternal breath.

TAKING IT IN

1. First, let’s make sure you know the essential who and when of the book of Isaiah.
 - a. Read Isaiah 1:1-2. Note below the answers to these Ws.
 - 1) Who is speaking and for whom?
 - 2) To whom? Who does this vision concern?
 - 3) When is it given?
 - b. Look at the “The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah” in the Appendix of this book.
 - 1) Note where the kings mentioned in Isaiah 1 appear on the historical chart.
 - 2) Read Isaiah 6:1 and 14:28. Who among those mentioned in Isaiah 1:1 dies? Write their names.



- 3) Now read Isaiah 39:1-8. Write the name of the king of Judah at this time and the name of the foreign power who visits him. Also note what Isaiah says is going to happen with respect to this foreign power and Israel. (By the way, Isaiah 36–39 focuses on a portion of this king's reign.)

 - 4) Finally look at the historical chart again and list the dates of the three stages of Judah's captivity.

 - 5) Does Isaiah prophesy before or after the captivity?
2. Before observing Isaiah 40, make a Key Word Bookmark with the following key words and color-code them the way you want to mark them. Cut out the bookmark on the back cover of this workbook and use the blank side.

Throughout this study, an asterisk [*] denotes a key word frequently used throughout the Bible which has a suggested marking on the reverse side of the bookmark.

- a. *Jerusalem, * Zion*
- b. *nations**
- c. *iniquity, sin**
- d. *comfort* (You might use a pink cloud).
- e. *glory* (Do not mark *glorious, glorified, etc.*)
- f. references to *the coming of the Lord**
- g. *idol* (You might use a big **I** in black over the I of idol)
- h. references to *God**—Seeing what you learn from each occurrence helps you develop your systematic theology on the person of God.
- i. *fear* (Watch for the phrase “Do not fear.”)



- j. references to time*
 - k. geographical locations*
3. Now observe Isaiah 40. In the Appendix you'll find Observation Worksheets to use—the Bible text printed with space between the lines and wide margins, so you can “work” on them.

Mark the key words on your bookmark including synonyms and pronouns. If you've done this before, you know marking key words helps you focus on and retain what God is saying.

4. Let's evaluate this chapter's contents.
- a. Look at what you learn from marking “comfort.”
 - 1) Who is to be comforted?
 - 2) Who is giving the order? Who says they need to be comforted?
 - 3) What brought or created the need for comfort?
 - 4) How are they to be comforted?
 - 5) Now look at the other words you marked and see what you observe about them.
 - b. Read Isaiah 40:1-11.
 - 1) What is to be spoken in 40:1-2?



-
- 2) What is the voice crying in Isaiah 40:3-5? Or to put it another way, what is it saying?

 - 3) What is the cry, the message of Isaiah 40:6-8?

 - 4) Now who is to speak in Isaiah 40:9-11, what is the message and to whom is it to be spoken?

 - 5) Think through your observations regarding these voices (messages). Do any of them have anything in common? If so, what?
- c. What do you learn from marking references to the revelation of the Lord's glory, the Lord God coming in Isaiah 40:1-11?

 - d. Now read Isaiah 40:12-31. Record below what is dealt with in each paragraph. You want to see what God is doing at this point. Consider who God is speaking to and what He has said so far in this chapter.



- 1) 12-17
 - 2) 18-20 (watch the contrast in this paragraph)
 - 3) 21-24
 - 4) 25-26
- e. In Isaiah 40:12-26, through a set of questions and statements, God causes His people to think about who He is. Then comes Isaiah 40:27-31. What is God bottom-lining and for whom?
- f. Record the main theme of Isaiah 40 on the “Isaiah at a Glance” chart in the Appendix under chapter themes. This will become an invaluable chart helping you to see the content and flow of material in Isaiah. To do this, use a few words from the text that indicate the main subject or event in the chapter.
5. Now we’re moving on to Isaiah 41, so observe this chapter using your Observation Worksheets.
- a. Add the following to your Key Word Bookmark and mark them along with those words already on your bookmark:
 - 1) *servant*—Note who the servant is and what you learn about him.
 - 2) *Redeemer, redemption, redeemed* (see *redeem**)



- 3) *righteousness (righteous*)*
 - 4) *chosen*
 - 5) *declare* (in any form when it is a declaration of God)
 - 6) *listening,* hearing or not hearing*. For *deaf* or *not hearing/listening*, also put a slash through the word.
 - 7) *water(s) (rivers, springs, thirst, thirsty)* Some mark it with a blue line like waves above the word: *water*.
- b. Record the theme of Isaiah 41 on the At a Glance chart.
6. Now think “context,” the setting of Isaiah 41. Let’s see what is happening—what God is doing. Note what happens in the following verses:
- a. 1
 - b. 2-4
 - c. 5-7
 - d. 8-16
 - e. Isaiah 41:17-20—Answer the following questions:
 - 1) 17—What is the condition?
 - 2) 18-19—the answer?



3) 20—the end result?

f. 21-24

g. 25-29

LIVING
IT OUT

Let's think "application." What has God done in your mind and in your heart? Has He spoken to you to any way? Brought questions to your mind? Stirred your heart? What have you heard (learned) from listening to His voice? And what difference might it make if you live in light of it? Would it change anything? Would it please God? Talk to God about it.

You have just completed your first lesson! We're proud of you. Press on!



IN
OUT

Isaiah Part 2
Lesson 1, Isaiah 40–41



ISAIAH 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

- 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth;
for the LORD has spoken:
“Children have I reared and brought up,
but they have rebelled against me.
- 3 “The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master’s crib,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.”
- 4 Ah, sinful nation,
a people laden with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers,
children who deal corruptly!
They have forsaken the LORD,
they have despised the Holy One of Israel,
they are utterly estranged.
- 5 Why will you still be struck down?
Why will you continue to rebel?
The whole head is sick,
and the whole heart faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head,
there is no soundness in it,
but bruises and sores



and raw wounds;
they are not pressed out or bound up
or softened with oil.

7 Your country lies desolate;
your cities are burned with fire;
in your very presence
foreigners devour your land;
it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.

8 And the daughter of Zion is left
like a booth in a vineyard,
like a lodge in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.

9 If the LORD of hosts
had not left us a few survivors,
we should have been like Sodom,
and become like Gomorrah.

10 Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!
Give ear to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

11 “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

12 “When you come to appear before me,
who has required of you
this trampling of my courts?



- 13 “Bring no more vain offerings;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.
- 14 “Your new moons and your appointed feasts
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
- 15 “When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
- 16 “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
- 17 learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow’s cause.
- 18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
- 19 “If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
- 20 but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”



- 21 How the faithful city
has become a whore,
she who was full of justice!
Righteousness lodged in her,
but now murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become dross,
your best wine mixed with water.
- 23 Your princes are rebels
and companions of thieves.
Everyone loves a bribe
and runs after gifts.
They do not bring justice to the fatherless,
and the widow's cause does not come to them.
- 24 Therefore the Lord declares,
the LORD of hosts,
the Mighty One of Israel:
"Ah, I will get relief from my enemies
and avenge myself on my foes.
- 25 "I will turn my hand against you
and will smelt away your dross as with lye
and remove all your alloy.
- 26 "And I will restore your judges as at the first,
and your counselors as at the beginning.
Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness,
the faithful city."
- 27 Zion shall be redeemed by justice,
and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
- 28 But rebels and sinners shall be broken together,
and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed.



- 29 For they shall be ashamed of the oaks
that you desired;
and you shall blush for the gardens
that you have chosen.
- 30 For you shall be like an oak
whose leaf withers,
and like a garden without water.
- 31 And the strong shall become tinder,
and his work a spark,
and both of them shall burn together,
with none to quench them.



ISAIAH 40

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

COMFORT, comfort my people, says your God.

- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
 and cry to her
 that her warfare is ended,
 that her iniquity is pardoned,
 that she has received from the LORD's hand
 double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries:
 "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
 make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 "Every valley shall be lifted up,
 and every mountain and hill be made low;
 the uneven ground shall become level,
 and the rough places a plain.
- 5 "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
 and all flesh shall see it together,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- 6 A voice says, "Cry!"
 And I said, "What shall I cry?"
 All flesh is grass,
 and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades
 when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
 surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
 but the word of our God will stand forever.



- 9 Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
 lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
 “Behold your God!”
- 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
 and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
 and his recompense before him.
- 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
 he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
 and gently lead those that are with young.
- 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
 and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
 and weighed the mountains in scales
 and the hills in a balance?
- 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,
 or what man shows him his counsel?
- 14 Whom did he consult,
 and who made him understand?
Who taught him the path of justice,
 and taught him knowledge,
 and showed him the way of understanding?
- 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
 and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
 behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.
- 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
 nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.



- 17 All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.
- 18 To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?
- 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.
- 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering
chooses wood that will not rot;
he seeks out a skillful craftsman
to set up an idol that will not move.
- 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
- 23 who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
- 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- 25 To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
- 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,



by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.

- 27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
- 29 He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
- 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
- 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.



ISAIAH 41

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- LISTEN to me in silence, O coastlands;
let the peoples renew their strength;
let them approach, then let them speak;
let us together draw near for judgment.
- 2 Who stirred up one from the east
whom victory meets at every step?
He gives up nations before him,
so that he tramples kings underfoot;
he makes them like dust with his sword,
like driven stubble with his bow.
- 3 He pursues them and passes on safely,
by paths his feet have not trod.
- 4 Who has performed and done this,
calling the generations from the beginning?
I, the LORD, the first,
and with the last; I am he.
- 5 The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
the ends of the earth tremble;
they have drawn near and come.
- 6 Everyone helps his neighbor
and says to his brother, “Be strong!”
- 7 The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith,
and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil,
saying of the soldering, “It is good”;
and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved.



- 8 But you, Israel, my servant,
 Jacob, whom I have chosen,
 the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
 and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, “You are my servant,
 I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
10 fear not, for I am with you;
 be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
 I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- 11 Behold, all who are incensed against you
 shall be put to shame and confounded;
those who strive against you
 shall be as nothing and shall perish.
- 12 You shall seek those who contend with you,
 but you shall not find them;
those who war against you
 shall be as nothing at all.
- 13 For I, the LORD your God,
 hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, “Fear not,
 I am the one who helps you.”
- 14 Fear not, you worm Jacob,
 you men of Israel!
I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD;
 your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
- 15 Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge,
 new, sharp, and having teeth;
you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,
 and you shall make the hills like chaff;



- 16 you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away,
 and the tempest shall scatter them.
And you shall rejoice in the LORD;
 in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.
- 17 When the poor and needy seek water,
 and there is none,
 and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them;
 I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
- 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights,
 and fountains in the midst of the valleys.
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
 and the dry land springs of water.
- 19 I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
 the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive.
I will set in the desert the cypress,
 the plane and the pine together,
- 20 that they may see and know,
 may consider and understand together,
that the hand of the LORD has done this,
 the Holy One of Israel has created it.
- 21 Set forth your case, says the LORD;
 bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.
- 22 Let them bring them, and tell us
 what is to happen.
Tell us the former things, what they are,
 that we may consider them,
that we may know their outcome;
 or declare to us the things to come.



- 23 Tell us what is to come hereafter,
that we may know that you are gods;
do good, or do harm,
that we may be dismayed and terrified.
- 24 Behold, you are nothing,
and your work is less than nothing;
an abomination is he who chooses you.
- 25 I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
from the rising of the sun, and he shall call upon my name;
he shall trample on rulers as on mortar,
as the potter treads clay.
- 26 Who declared it from the beginning, that we might know,
and beforehand, that we might say, "He is right"?
There was none who declared it, none who proclaimed,
none who heard your words.
- 27 I was the first to say to Zion, "Behold, here they are!"
and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good news.
- 28 But when I look, there is no one;
among these there is no counselor
who, when I ask, gives an answer.
- 29 Behold, they are all a delusion;
their works are nothing;
their metal images are empty wind.



ISAAH AT A GLANCE

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes	
Judah and Jerusalem's sin, coming judgment, and restoration	DISCOURSES REGARDING JERUSALEM	GOD'S CHARACTER AND JUDGMENT	1 You've despised the Holy One of Israel
Isaiah's vision and calling			2 In the last days the nations come to Zion
Judgment of Ephraim, then Assyria/Israel's restoration			3 God's pending judgment on Jerusalem
Oracles of judgment against nations	ORACLES		4 The branch of the Lord will be beautiful
			5 Woe to the vineyard of the Lord
			6 Isaiah's vision, confession, and commission
			7 Ahaz told of Assyrian attack and Immanuel
			8 Swift is the booty but God is with us
			9 Light for those in darkness—a Child is born/His anger
			10 Woe to Assyria/A remnant will return
			11 A shoot from Jesse/A highway for the remnant
			12 God is my salvation: The Holy One is in our midst
			13 Oracle re: Babylon—used and destroyed by God
			14 Taunt against king of Babylon (Oracle against Philistia)
			15 Oracle re: Moab
			Destruction of earth/Lord will reign on Mount Zion
17 Oracle re: Damascus/Events in that day			
18 Word to Cush (Ethiopia)			
19 Oracle re: Egypt and its future faith			
20 Assyria will lead away captives of Egypt and Cush			
21 Oracles re: wilderness of sea, Edom, and Arabia			
			22 Oracle re: Valley of Vision/Key of David
			23 Oracle re: Tyre
			24 When the Lord lays the earth waste
			25 When the Lord's hand rests on the mountain
			26 The way of the righteous
			27 The day He punishes the Leviathan

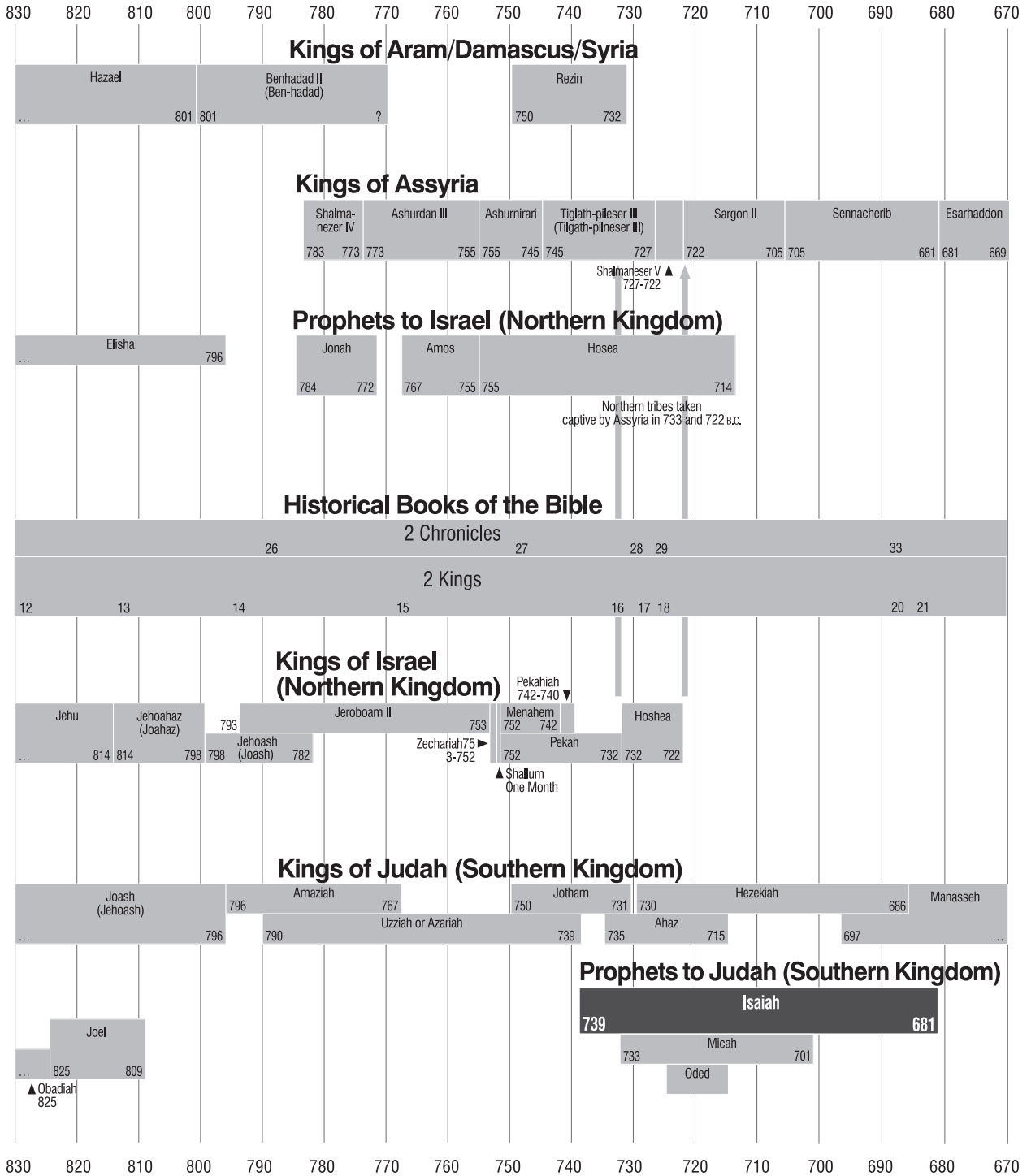


Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes	
Woes/the coming King and Kingdom	WOES	GOD'S CHARACTER AND JUDGMENT	28 Woe to the proud/Cornerstone to be laid in Zion
	Promises for the future re: the King, Edom, the Arabah		GOD'S RANSOM
30 Woe to rebellious who follow their own plan			
31 Woe to those who go to Egypt—Return to Him			
32 When the King reigns righteously			
33 Those who live with the consuming fire, who see the King in His beauty			
34 God's judgment on the nations and Edom			
35 God's recompense comes/Ransomed walk Highway of Holiness			
36 Rabshakeh asks Hezekiah to surrender Jerusalem			
37 Hezekiah's prayers and God's promise			
38 Hezekiah's illness, prayer, and deliverance			
HISTORICAL INTERLUDE	DISCOURSES REGARDING:	39 Hezekiah receives Babylonians/Isaiah prophesies Babylon's conquest of Judah	
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Isaiah Part 2

The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah





Isaiah Part 2

The Historical Chart of the Kings and Prophets of Israel and Judah

