

The Book of Isaiah – a major prophet

Background – 742 – 701 BC

- Attacks social injustice (also the minor prophets Amos, Hosea, and Micah)
- Exhorts the people to trust in an omnipotent God in private and public life
- Thus justice and righteousness, teaching the Word and assurance of divine blessing upon the faithful and punishment on the faithless are recurrent themes in Isaiah's message from The Holy One of Israel to a proud and stubborn people

Three Stages –

- 1.) First prophecies, Chapters 1-39 addressed to the people of Jerusalem before the city fell
- 2.) Chapters 40-55 – prophecies addressed to the people in exile in Babylon
- 3.) Last are the prophecies addressed to Israelites who returned from Babylon to rebuild the Temple and the city (Chapters 56-66) Together these theologically significant sections present a moving vision of the assured hope of God's people in a world whose times are in God's Hands