


I have called  
you by  
your name;  
you  
are  
Mine.

# isaiah

 Now this is what the Lord says—the one who created you, Jacob, and the one who farmed you, Israel—“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are mine.” 43:1

**ON THE TIMELINE** Isaiah 6:1 records that Isaiah received his prophetic call in the last year of Uzziah's reign over Judah (about 742 BC), and 37:38 suggests that he lived until the death of Sennacherib (681 BC). The events in Isaiah occur between those dates, around the time when the kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by Assyria (722 BC).

**A LITTLE BACKGROUND** The book of Isaiah presents itself as the writing of Isaiah, son of Amoz. Not much is known about Isaiah apart from his prophecy. The superscription (an introductory element common to books of prophecy) in 1:1 dates Isaiah's prophetic activity as covering all or part of the reigns of four kings of Judah: Uzziah (783–742 BC), Jotham (742–735 BC), Ahaz (735–716 BC), and Hezekiah (716–686 BC).

The events prophesied extended beyond the eighth century BC, through the rest of the Old Testament period and beyond. The New Testament authors cited prophecies from Isaiah as finding fulfillment in the events surrounding Jesus Christ.

#### MESSAGE & PURPOSE

Isaiah's message to the nation of Judah is a straightforward one:

1. Isaiah accused God's people of sin and rebellion against the One who made and redeemed them.
2. He instructed them to turn from sin to obedience.
3. He announced God's just judgment on them because of their sin.
4. God revealed His future restoration of the people—the faithful remnant that survived the judgment. This restoration included both judgment on the nations (Is 13–23) and a future turning of the nations to God (Is 2:1–4).

The first part of the book of Isaiah (chaps. 1–39) emphasizes sin, the call to repentance, and judgment. The second part (chaps. 40–66) emphasizes the hope of restoration as revealed by God and foretold by the prophet.

#### GIVE THANKS FOR THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

Many readers are drawn to Isaiah for the passages describing a future anointed king, or Messiah (Is 9:1–7; 11:1–9), and those describing the Servant (Is 42:1–9; 49:1–6; 50:4–6; 52:13–53:12). But a full reading of Isaiah truly enriches our understanding of how these prophecies and more are indeed fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is the Messiah; He is the Suffering Servant.

- NAH
- HAB
- ZEP
- HAG
- ZEC
- MAL
- MAT
- MAR
- LUK
- JHN
- ACT
- ROM
- COR
- GAL
- EPH
- PHI
- COL
- THS
- LAM
- EZE
- DAN
- HOS
- JOE
- AMO
- OBA
- JON
- MIC
- HEB
- JAS
- PET
- IJN
- JUD
- REV

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Repent  
BECAUSE THE  
KINGDOM  
of  
HEAVEN  
HAS COME NEAR

matthew

From then on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven has come near." 4:17

**ON THE TIMELINE** Matthew was written in the first century, around AD 60, before the fall of the temple in Jerusalem (AD 70). The events of Matthew took place during the life of Christ, between roughly 5 BC and AD 33.

**A LITTLE BACKGROUND** Though he did not identify himself in the text, the early church unanimously affirmed that the apostle Matthew authored the Gospel of Matthew. Most scholars believe that Matthew used Mark's Gospel in writing his own. If this is correct, Matthew's Gospel was written after Mark's, though the date of Mark's Gospel is also a bit of a mystery. Irenaeus (ca AD 180) claimed that Mark wrote his Gospel after Peter's death in the mid-60s. However, Clement of Alexandria, who wrote only twenty years after Irenaeus, claimed that Mark wrote his Gospel while Peter was still alive.

**MESSAGE & PURPOSE** It seems fitting that the first book of the New Testament begins with the words: "An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ." This Gospel was written from a strong Jewish perspective to show that Jesus truly is the Messiah and coming King promised in the Old Testament.

Matthew presents an eyewitness testimony of the ministry of Jesus and emphasizes certain theological truths:

1. Jesus is the Messiah, the long-awaited King of God's people.
2. Jesus is the new Abraham, the founder of a new spiritual Israel consisting of all people (both Jews and Gentiles) who choose to follow Him.
3. Jesus is the new Moses, the deliverer, instructor, and mediator of God's people.
4. Jesus is the Immanuel, the virgin-born Son of God who fulfills the promises of the Old Testament.

GIVE THANKS FOR THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

As the first book in the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew serves as a gateway between the two testaments. Of the New Testament books, and certainly of the four Gospels, Matthew makes the most direct connections to the Old Testament. Matthew gave us God's entire plan from Genesis to Revelation, and he referred to Hebrew prophecies about sixty times. He also looked forward by discussing not only the Messiah's coming and His ministry, but also His future plan for His church and kingdom.

- MAT
- MAR
- LUK
- JHN
- ACT
- ROM
- COR
- GAL
- EPH
- PHI
- COL
- THS
- TIM
- TIT
- PHN
- HEB
- JAS
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- 1JN
- JUD
- REV

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