

The Unity Of Isaiah

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Isaiah spoke of the Messiah, and the Messiah spoke of Isaiah. It was not until the nineteenth century when men began to question the unity of the book of Isaiah. The change of subject matter between chapter 39 and chapter 40 is viewed by those who would challenge the authorship of Isaiah to establish a basis of proof for two writers posing as one instead of a single author, an actual person named Isaiah. In this brief article, we will establish based upon the strength of the understanding the Messiah had of Isaiah and his prophecy that the book stands as a unity, in total written by one man, the prophet Isaiah. Scripture selections from both sections of Isaiah will serve as evidence testified to by none other than the Lord himself.

SECTION 1: Chapters 1-39

Isaiah 6:9

“And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.”

Jesus Christ

“And in them is fulfilled *the prophecy of Isaiah*, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive” (Mt. 13:14, emphasis added).

Isaiah 29:13

“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men.”

Jesus Christ

“Ye hypocrites, well did *Isaiah prophesy* of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoreth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me” (Mt. 15:7-8, emphasis added; cf. also Mk. 7:6).

SECTION 2: Chapters 40-66

Isaiah 42:1-4

“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.”

Jesus Christ

“And charged them that they should not make him known: That it might be fulfilled which was *spoken by Isaiah the prophet*, saying, Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall show judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust” (Mt. 12:16-21, emphasis added).

Isaiah 61:1-2

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.”

Jesus Christ

“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him *the book of the prophet Isaiah*. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Lk. 4:16-19, emphasis added).

Conclusion

The word of the Lord Jesus Christ guarantees that one man, namely the prophet Isaiah, wrote the book that bears his name as a unit of 66 chapters.