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THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

General Structure and Background

The book of Isaiah has a different literary style from most of the other books of the Old Testament. ¹ Even a casual reader ^{is immediately} is conscious of a great change in following either the Hebrew order and going from the book of Second Kings to the book of Isaiah, ^{It is almost like going} or following the English order and going from the Song of Solomon to Isaiah, one is conscious of a marked change of style. It is as if one were to go ⁴ from Mexico into the United States, ^{no ff} for he would immediately notice that the language is different (although of course in the case of Isaiah it is the same language, but a different type of expression). ³ The same thing is true when one gets to the end of the book and begins to read Jeremiah, ^{for there one notes at once a marked difference in style.}

One outstanding difference is the number of different words. [#] Jeremiah presents ideas in fairly simple language, but Isaiah reiterates his thoughts in similies and metaphors, and employs many interesting and beautiful turns of expression. He is not content with describing his sorrow, ^{over something;} he laments in poetic language. When he comes to passages of joy, he sings great songs of rejoicing.

^{Isaiah} He has a style all his own, ^a His style is so unique that it is easy to distinguish it from other parts of Scripture. This is one reason why it is extremely unlikely that the view of the higher critics is true, that the book of Isaiah was written by two or more men. Some have even suggested that as many as thirty or forty writers may have written parts of the book, but it would be extremely improbable that a number of ^{people} different writers would write in such a unified style.

An essential to understanding the book is to know something of its