

## Deutero-Isaiah

### Chapters 49 & 50

August 2023

#### Learning objectives

- Outline: Deutero-Isaiah 49 & 50.
- Identify: Three voices who speak.
- Identify: 'My servant, Israel'.
- Explain: Hebrew verb tense in Poetry.
- Find: Variants in ancient manuscripts.
- Classify: Stages of fulfilled prophecy.

#### 2 Isaiah 47 Structure

1-7 Yahweh converses with his servant.

1-4 About his origins.

5-6 About his task.

7 About his reward.

8-21 Yahweh converses with his people.

8-13 About their return to Judea.

14-23 About their expansion.

24-26 About their oppressors.

#### Yahweh's servant, a title of honor, in Isaiah

1. Humble birth and growth.
2. Will suffer and will die.
3. Gives his life as a sacrifice for others.
4. Buried, risen, and prolongs his days.
5. Draws Gentiles from all nations.
6. Will rule the world with power.
7. Serves as a covenant between God and humanity.

J.B. Payne, *Encl. of Bib. Proph.* (1973), 314f

#### Hebrew verbs in poetry

1. Have neither tense nor time. Time, if any, must be inferred from context.
2. Usually have another verb in parallel that modifies or limits their meaning.
3. Are sometimes archaic, unusual, or foreign, to please or surprise hearers.
4. Can recall an idea from a distant or separate book or context.

#### Types of fulfilled prophecy

1. Prediction and detailed fulfilment.
2. End-time scenarios partly fulfilled.
3. End-time scenarios not yet fulfilled.
4. Timeless promise, fulfilled anytime.
5. Figurative types and antitypes.

6. Past events and later analogies.
7. Detailed description with a singular historical fulfilment.

#### 49:12 'the land of Syene'

Masoretic Hebrew: 'the land of Sinim'.

DSS 1QIsa<sup>a</sup>: 'the people of Syene'.

Greek LXX: 'the land of the Persians'.

Latin & Syriac: 'the land of the south'.

19th century conjecture: 'the land of the Chinese'.

Syene = modern Aswan, Egypt, an ancient Persian military colony, southern limit of the civilized world.

#### 49:17 'your builders'

MT, Greek, Syrian, Aramaic Targum: 'your sons outdo your destroyers'.

DSS 1QIsa<sup>a</sup>, LXX, Latin: 'your builders outdo your destroyers'.

#### 49:21 'exiled and put away'

21 Then you will say in your heart, "Who has borne me these?"

I was bereaved and barren, exiled and put away...

MT & most versions: 'I was exiled and removed'.

1QIsa<sup>a</sup>: 'And I was exiled, removing'.

LXX: (Missing both words.)

#### So, who is this 'servant, Israel'

1. Cyrus the Great?
2. National Israel?
3. Ethnic Israel?
4. A righteous remnant?
5. End-time Israel?
6. A king of Israel?
7. An Israelite prophet?
8. A future 'messiah' called Israel?

#### 2 Isaiah 50 Structure

1-3 About his past actions.

1-11 Yahweh's servant speaks.

4-6 He learns from Yahweh.

7-9 He depends on Yahweh.

12-21 Isaiah speaks.

10 To the faithful.

20-21 To the wicked.

#### 50:11 'Walk in the flame of your fire'

MT, 1QIsa<sup>a</sup>, Targum: 'Walk in the flame of your fire' (Heb: בָּאוּר, b<sup>e</sup>-<sup>2</sup>ōr).

LXX, Latin, Syriac: 'Walk in the light of your fire' (Heb: b<sup>e</sup>-<sup>2</sup>ūr, בָּאוּר).