

**HOW TO READ ISAIAH: BEING THE
PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH
ARRANGED IN ORDER OF TIME
AND SUBJECT, WITH
EXPLANATIONS AND GLOSSARY**

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How to Read Isaiah: Being the Prophecies of Isaiah Arranged in Order of Time and Subject,
with Explanations and Glossary by Buchanan Blake

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BUCHANAN BLAKE

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HOW TO READ ISAIAH

BEING THE

PROPHECIES OF ISAIAH

(CH. I.-XXXIX.)

ARRANGED IN ORDER OF TIME AND SUBJECT,

WITH EXPLANATIONS AND GLOSSARY

(PART II. OF "HOW TO READ THE PROPHETS.")

BY THE

REV. BUCHANAN BLAKE, B.D.,

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INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

THE aim of this manual is to place within the reach of the people at large, some of the chief results of modern investigations into the life and times of the great prophet Isaiah. While special qualifications are necessary for the following out of the processes through which critics work their way, all may understand results, and should know them. This, at least, in a broad general view: for absolute certainty or agreement as to all details of an age so long gone by can never be expected, and, perhaps, might not be of any particular value if it were possible. For the right reading of Scripture, some simple and easily followed arrangement of the prophecies should be carried out. In presenting the Second Edition of "How to read Isaiah" to the public, it is felt that others feel this need as much as the author did. And he would take this opportunity of saying that this fact, along with the pleasure and profit he himself derived from such a study, has led him to apply the same principles and adopt the same method of treatment in regard to the other prophetic books of Scripture as he has followed here. In accordance with this plan, this volume becomes the second part of "How to read the Prophets."

This is not a commentary. It is rather a historical representation of the teaching and environment of a great prophet, very much in the words of his own choosing, or in the literature of his own time and country. Hence we place at the beginning the Text of Scripture in an unbroken continuity, save so far as paragraph headings are concerned. Explanations and references are given in a Glossary at the end; while in the second division is found a historical account of the circumstances in which he

spoke, and of what he said. The chapter and verse divisions, which so often give a mechanical appearance to Scripture, have been omitted, and thus an effort has been made to set forth the Text in the natural form of delivery. The aim is to allow the prophet to speak directly to us now, as he once spoke to his own people. By getting into closer touch with the living prophet, the reader is brought into closer fellowship with the living God, who spoke to and through him. In this way the devotional reading of Scripture will be aided : and this is really our great aim. And just as the power to bring sweetest music out of an instrument depends not only upon the instrument, but also upon the performer, so the power to use Scripture aright, even with all present day aids, depends on the reader being divinely influenced by that same Holy Spirit by whom in the olden time men from God were moved to speak. The more we are in touch with the inspiring Spirit, the more will we understand the inspired Word. A firm persuasion, on our part, that the principles of truth and righteousness, once borne witness to by Isaiah, and enshrined in his prophecies, are eternal in character and universal in application, will bid us learn to apply them to our own life, as we read how in the former time they were so applied by him. In regard to the Text, it is a matter of deep regret that the Revised Version could not have been used throughout. Some of the changes made in it have not helped the meaning, while not unfrequently the translation that most aptly brings it out is found in the margin. In some places the Hebrew Text is very uncertain, and emendations are numerous. Hence we could not content ourselves with the Authorised Version ; and the placing of certain passages in poetic form rendered changes absolutely necessary. To get some clear teaching from every passage must be our first concern, that so we may know "what the Lord saith."

The Book of the Prophecies of Isaiah, as now extant, contains prophecies by several prophets, even as the Book of Psalms contains Psalms by many psalmists, and the Book of