

# *Series: Looking At The Ending of Isaiah*

## *Chapters 40-66*



**This seal bulla was discovered in 2018 in Jerusalem, it is possibly the Prophet Isaiah's.**

Isaiah prophesied during the reigns of 5 Jewish Kings, Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah and Manasseh. Isaiah was likely born sometime around 758 BC and died after 687 BC. He was probably around age 80 at his death. His ministry had begun around 742 when Uzziah died.

According to Jewish tradition Isaiah was executed by King Manasseh by being sawn in two.

It is believed that Manasseh was co-regent with Hezekiah for about 10 years before Hezekiah's death around 687.

# *“Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”*

*Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*



The Last  
Judgement  
by a Dutch  
artist from  
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# “Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”

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The Last Judgement by a Dutch artist from the 1600s

Throughout Christianity there have been dark times when people have believed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming was at hand. As we see darkness gathering on the horizon again we too struggle, is this Christ’s Return. The people of Judah during the last years of Isaiah’s life turned themselves over to evil practices. They followed their king.

Oct. 30, 2022

## **Isaiah 59:4-8 [ESV]**

**4 No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity.**

**5 They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched.**

**6 Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands.**

## Isaiah 59:4-8 [ESV]

7 Their feet **run to evil**, and they are **swift to shed innocent blood**; their thoughts are **thoughts of iniquity**; **desolation and destruction** are in their **highways**.

8 The **way of peace** they do not know, and there is **no justice** in their paths; they have **made their roads crooked**; no one who treads on them knows **peace**.

# “Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”

*Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*



This is the handle off a royal storage jar from the time of Hezekiah or Manasseh, it was a time of remarkable prosperity.

King Hezekiah following the defeat of the Assyrian army lived in prosperity and peace through the end of his life.

In 2 Chronicles 32:31 there is an enigmatic verse concerning Hezekiah’s final years of rule. It was a time of great blessing and prosperity but also a time of slow drift and spiritual slide.

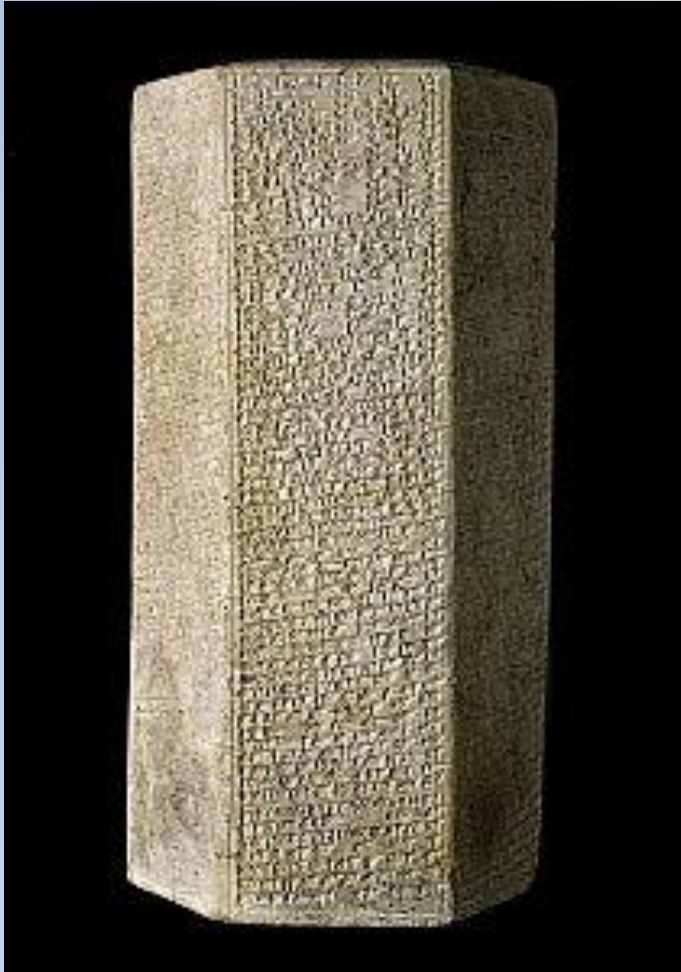
## **2 Chronicles 32:31**

**31** And so in the matter of the envoys of the princes of Babylon, who had been sent to him to inquire about the sign that had been done in the land, God left him to himself, in order to test him and to know all that was in his heart.



# *“Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”*

*Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*



Manasseh became sole ruler in 689, nine years later Esarhaddon became the King of Assyria. He reasserted authority over the kingdoms of the Levant including Judah. This may have been when Manasseh turned away from God and sacrificed his sons in the fire. As he turned away from God he turned toward the dead for answers. This road leads to evil in a society.

The Annals of Assyrian King  
Esarhaddon [680-669]  
Garrison Church of God

Oct. 30, 2022



## Isaiah 59:1-3 [ESV]

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or his ear dull, that it cannot hear;

2 but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies; your tongue mutters wickedness.

# “Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”

*Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*



God through Isaiah describes the image of people collecting snake eggs and incubating with the intent of eating them. The concept is one of pushing danger to the limits to enjoy the thrill. Snakes have been a symbol of chthonic forces [spirits of the underworld] since ancient times.

*Daboia palaestinae [Palestine Viper] the most common venomous snake in Israel and an important cause of poison snake bite. The mating season is in April resulting in a clutch of 7-22 eggs. The eggs take up to 62 days to hatch.*

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## Isaiah 59:14-15 [ESV]

14 Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands far away; for truth has stumbled in the public squares, and uprightness cannot enter.

15 Truth is lacking, and he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice.



*“Viper Eggs Don’t  
Make A Good  
Omelette” ”*

*Isaiah 59:4-8 &  
1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*

**Viper Eggs hatching.**

When a society chases after evil it spirals down into the abyss. We attempt to eat nearly hatching viper eggs only to be bit in the tongue. Or we desperately try to stamp them out only to have them bit our ankles as vipers emerge from the crushed eggs. We can’t find what is right, truth is relative, justice is twisted out of recognition and integrity doesn’t even come into play. The person who tries to do right becomes a target.

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## **2 Kings 21:6 & 16 [ESV]**

6 And he burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with necromancers. He did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger.

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16 Moreover, Manasseh shed very much innocent blood, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another, besides the sin that he made Judah to sin so that they did what was evil in the sight of the LORD.

## **2 Chronicles 33:9-10 [ESV]**

9 Manasseh led Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem astray, to do more evil than the nations whom the LORD destroyed before the people of Israel.

10 The LORD spoke to Manasseh and to his people, but they paid no attention.

# “Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”

*Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*



This is a “Brown Widow” spider a member of the Black Widow family. Black Widow spiders are native to Isreal the Brown Widow is an invasive species likely from Africa or South America. Isreal since ancient times has had 4 species of Black Widow spiders. A 5<sup>th</sup> species arrived this century with the North American Black Widow. Likely this family of spiders is what Isaiah is referring to.

Venomous house spiders are a continual fear in most countries. They were often seen as evil weavers of fabric. Isaiah pictures spiderwebs as woven clothing. In 59:6 Isaiah uses a word 3 times which is translated “deeds” and “works”. It is a word in Hebrew used for the task of embroidery.

## 1 Timothy 4:1-5 [ESV]

1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, 2 through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared, 3 who forbid marriage and require abstinence from foods that God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth. 4 For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, 5 for it is made holy by the word of God and prayer.

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We know that people committed to evil practices try to dress it up in order to conceal its real nature under a cloak of spirituality or false piety. By beautiful colors and careful artifice they try to disguise their evil actions and intentions. Isaiah tells us that such attempts are futile, for evil will be known for what it is.



## **1 Thessalonians 5:8-11 [ESV]**

8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,

10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.

11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

# “Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”

Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11



This is believed to be King Manasseh’s [697-643] royal seal. This seal was found on the antiquities market so its discovery location is unknown, but most scholars believe it to be authentic.

Living in evil times requires that we maintain our faith in God’s grace. We are not destined to wrath but salvation this should be a comfort to us no matter how difficult the situation becomes.

## Isaiah 59:17-19 [ESV]

17 He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.

18 According to their deeds, so will he repay, wrath to his adversaries, repayment to his enemies; to the coastlands he will render repayment.

19 So they shall fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun; for he will come like a rushing stream, which the wind of the LORD drives.

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Christ will eventually step into this world's darkness with true justice and bring righteousness and truth. Integrity will no longer be mocked and derided in the culture. Through out history as the Gospel message has gotten into the hearts of people they have changed the culture for good but there will come a day when that is no longer possible. Till that time we witness like Isaiah to the truth of the Gospel in this world.



## Psalm 86:5 [ESV]

5 For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you.

## 1 John 1:8-9 [ESV]

8 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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*Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*



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We should never give up hope. Isaiah had watched Manasseh grow up. He had likely prayed for him and hoped he would change. He may have prayed for him as Manasseh's henchmen murdered him.

As Christians we never lose hope because there is such a thing as repentance, forgiveness and grace for every sinner who admits their sin and accepts God's grace. It is our hope for all humanity.

## Isaiah 59:20-21 [ESV]

20 "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD.

21 "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore."

# “Viper Eggs Don’t Make A Good Omelette” ”

*Isaiah 59:4-8 & 1 Thessalonians 5:8-11*



This prophecy may have been delivered shortly before Isaiah’s death. In his frustration with evil and the culture of evil surrounding him, Isaiah never lost faith in God’s ability to redeem people who are lost in their own sin. It is a confidence we too should share in the dark times that appear to be on the horizon.

This is believed to be King Manasseh’s [697-643] royal seal.



## 2 Chronicles 33:11-13 [ESV]

11 Therefore the LORD brought upon them the commanders of the army of the king of Assyria, who captured Manasseh with hooks and bound him with chains of bronze and brought him to Babylon.

12 And when he was in distress, he entreated the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers.

13 He prayed to him, and God was moved by his entreaty and heard his plea and brought him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

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Esarhaddon's son Ashurbanipal [668-627] fought a civil war with his brother who ruled the province of Babylon from 652-647. As the war wound down He evidently brought captive to Babylon client kings he suspected of disloyalty. Manasseh was likely one of these. The city of Babylon was being razed in 648 and this is probably why Manasseh was brought there to be imprisoned until condemned. It is here Manasseh repented, and God was gracious.

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The Last Judgement by a Dutch artist from the 1600s

When people depend on evil to protect and enrich them they end up being ensnared in that evil. But even in the midst of such evil God offers grace through Jesus Christ.