

# ADVENT CANDLES

## FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

Isaias is called "The Messianic Prophet" because he makes many prophecies of the coming of the Messiah into the world. "Messias" means "the anointed one."

Isaias prophesied during the rule of four different kings of Juda. They were Ozias, Joatham, Achaz and Ezechias. Isaias was born in Jerusalem about 760 B.C. Micheas, Amos, and Osee were other prophets of God who lived during Isaias's lifetime.

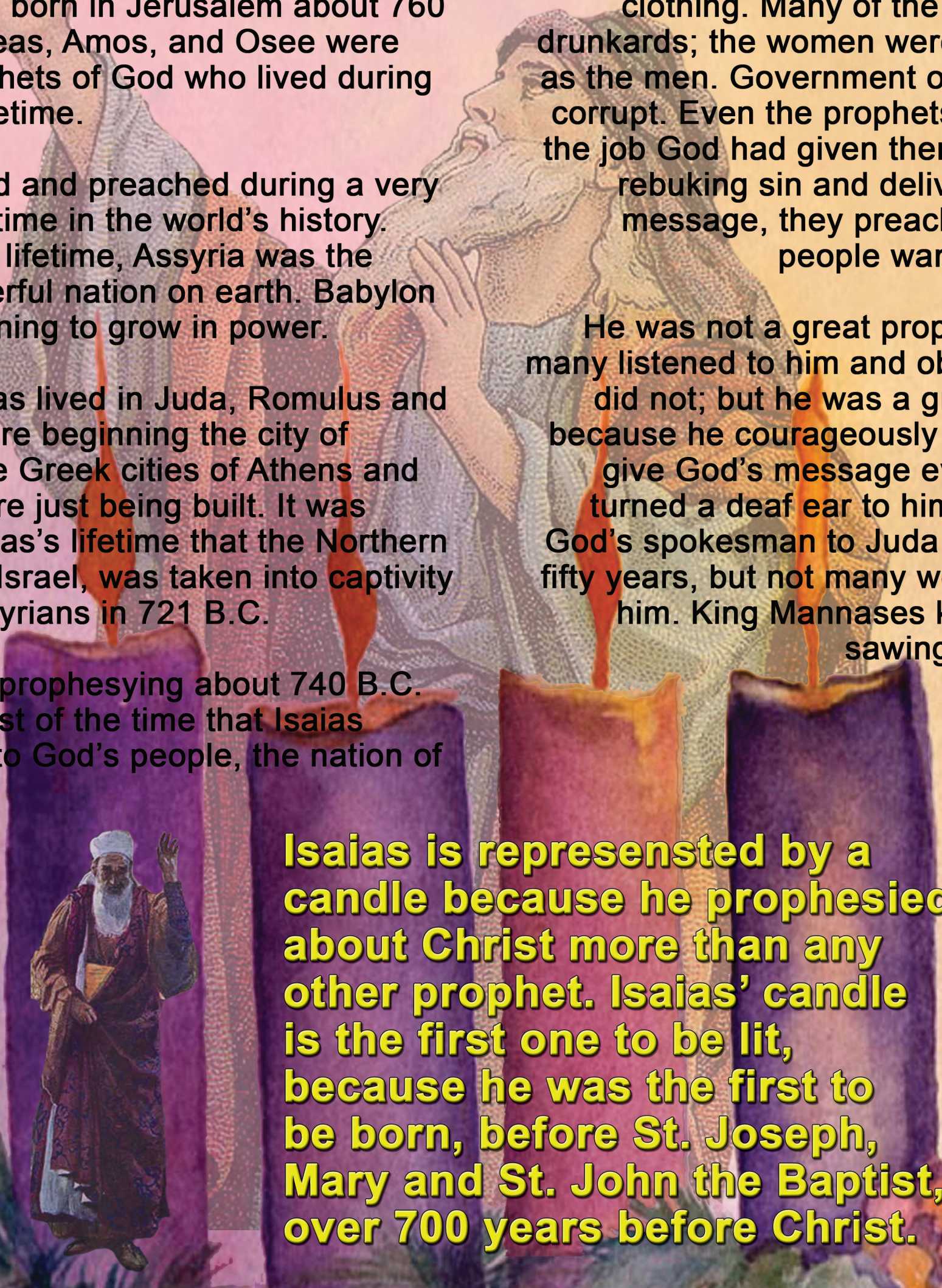
Isaias lived and preached during a very important time in the world's history. During his lifetime, Assyria was the most powerful nation on earth. Babylon was beginning to grow in power.

While Isaias lived in Juda, Romulus and Remus were beginning the city of Rome. The Greek cities of Athens and Sparta were just being built. It was during Isaias's lifetime that the Northern Kingdom, Israel, was taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 721 B.C.

He began prophesying about 740 B.C. During most of the time that Isaias preached to God's people, the nation of

He began prophesying about 740 B.C. During most of the time that Isaias preached to God's people, the nation of Juda was very prosperous. People forgot about God because they were so involved in the things of this world. The rich people lived in luxury and idleness. The poor suffered from lack of food and clothing. Many of the people were drunkards; the women were just as bad as the men. Government officials were corrupt. Even the prophets failed to do the job God had given them. Instead of rebuking sin and delivering God's message, they preached what the people wanted to hear.

He was not a great prophet because many listened to him and obeyed—most did not; but he was a great prophet because he courageously continued to give God's message even if people turned a deaf ear to him. Isaias was God's spokesman to Juda for well over fifty years, but not many would listen to him. King Mannases killed him, by sawing him in two.



**Isaias is represented by a candle because he prophesied about Christ more than any other prophet. Isaias' candle is the first one to be lit, because he was the first to be born, before St. Joseph, Mary and St. John the Baptist, over 700 years before Christ.**

# The Prophet Isaias