CONTENTS

List of Illustrations ix  
Preface xi  

A. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND LITERARY DEVELOPMENT 1  
1. Isaiah and His Circle of Disciples in the Assyrian Period 1  
   1.1. Isaiah’s Activity in the Early Phase of his Proclamation 4  
   1.2. Isaiah’s Activity During the Syrian–Ephraimite War 5  
   1.3. Isaiah’s Activity Before and During the Philistine Revolt 8  
   1.4. Isaiah’s Activity During the Siege of Sennacherib 9  
   1.5. Further Effects of the Isaiah Tradition up until the First 
        Deportation in 597 BCE 12  
2. Exiled Temple Singers in the Babylonian and Early Persian 
   Periods 15  
   2.1. Excursus: Background of the Deutero-Isaiah Hypothesis 15  
3. Scribal Prophecy in the Persian and Early-Hellenistic Periods 20  

B. THE BOOK OF ISAIAH AS A LITERARY CATHEDRAL 23  
1. Act I: Chapters 1–12. Zion and Jerusalem between Judgement 
   and Salvation 24  
   1.1. The Double Overture (1.2–4.6)—Jerusalem’s Sin, 
       Purification, and Future Salvation 25  
   1.2. The Multi-Framed Immanuel Document (5.1–10.4) 30  
2. Act II: Chaps. 13–27. Zion’s Enemies and Friends—the 
   Kingship of Yhwh 36  
   2.1. Isaiah 13–23: The Oracles of the Nations in the book 
       of Isaiah 37  
   2.2. Isaiah 24–27: Eschatological Perspective on History 39  
3. Act III: Chaps. 28–35. The Divine King and the Congregation 
   of Zion 40  
4. Act IV: Chapters 36–39. The Threat and Deliverance of 
   Jerusalem and Zion 42  
5. Act V: Chaps. 40–48. Jacob/Israel in Babylon and His 
   Liberation by Cyrus 47  
   5.1. Isaiah 40: The Two-Part Overture to Zion/Jerusalem 
       and Jacob/Israel 48  
   5.2. Isa. 41.1–42.12: The Impotence of the Nations and their 
       Gods—Yhwh’s Renewed Commitment to Jacob/Israel 49  
   5.3. Isa. 42.13–44.23: Yhwh’s Dispute with the Deaf and 
       Blind servant 51
5.4. Isa. 44.24–45.25: Yhwh's Triumph Through Cyrus and the Persians 53
5.5. Isaiah 46–48: The Downfall of Babylon and its Gods; the Purification of Jacob/Israel 57
6.1. Isaiah 49: The Mission of the Servant and the Scepticism of Zion 62
6.2. Isa. 50.1–51.8: The Servant and the Doubt of the Children of Zion 64
6.3. Isa. 51.9–52.12: The Wake-Up Call and Yhwh's Victorious Homecoming 65
6.4. Isa. 52.13–53.12: The Unexpected Success of the Servant 67
6.5. Isaiah 54–55: The Restoration and Future of Zion/Jerusalem 70
7. Act VII: Chaps. 56–66. The Division of the Community into the Wicked and the Righteous 72
7.1. Isa. 56.1-8: The Admittance of Foreigners and Eunuchs 73
7.2. Isa. 56.9–57.13: Complaints Against the Upper Classes and the Entire People 74
7.3. Isaiah 58–59: True Fasting, Keeping the Sabbath, and a Collective Prayer of Repentance 74
7.4. Isaiah 60–62: The Manifestation of Light Over Zion and Jerusalem 77
7.5. Isaiah 60: The Future Glory of Zion and Jerusalem 77
7.6. Isaiah 61: The Gift of the Spirit to the Righteous 78
7.7. Isaiah 62: Zion's and Jerusalem's Future Glory 80
7.8. Isa. 63.1-6: The Judgement of Edom 81
7.9. Isa. 63.7–64.11: The National Prayer of Complaint 81
7.10. Isaiah 65–66: Renewed Complaints, Judgement of the Sinners in Jerusalem, and an Image of Salvation 82
7.11. Isaiah 65: The Separation of the Servants and Adversaries in the New Jerusalem 83
7.12. Isaiah 66: A Final Obstacle Before the Inbreaking of Eschatological Salvation 84

C. THE HISTORY OF THE INTERPRETATION OF ISAIAH AND HIS BOOK 88
1. Old Testament 88
2. Vitae Prophetarum 89
3. Flavius Josephus 90
4. Septuagint 92
5. Qumran 93
   6.2. Paul 104
7. Rabbinic Tradition 108
8. Patristic Literature 111
9. Visual Arts and Music 118
9.1. The Plastic Arts 118
9.2. Music 123

Bibliography 147
Index of Biblical References 151