

CONTENTS



Preface	xi
List of Abbreviations	xiii
ISAIAH 40–55: A TRANSLATION	1
INTRODUCTION	39
1. Isaiah 40–55 as Part of the Book of Isaiah	41
What Is a Biblical Book?	41
Isaiah 40–55 in Relation to Isaiah 35	42
Isaiah 40–55 in Relation to Isaiah 36–39	46
Linguistic, Stylistic, and Thematic Features	48
Prophecy and Fulfillment	50
Isaiah 40–55 and the Deuteronomists	51
2. Isaiah 40–55 as Part of the Biblical Canon	54
Isaiah 40–55 is <i>Canonically</i> Independent of Isaiah 1–39	54
Isaiah 40–55 in Latter Prophets	55
When Did Isaiah Become Canonical?	57
3. The Literary Character of Isaiah 40–55	59
Structure	59
Rhetorical Resources	61
The Question of Literary Genres	65
Isaiah 40–55: Poetry or Prose?	66
4. The Formation of Isaiah 40–55	69
How the Issue of the Formation of Isaiah 40–55 Arose	69
Coherence or Fragmentation?	71
Arrangement in Large Units	73
Addenda	74
The Four “Servant Songs”	76
5. Chapters from the History of Interpretation	81
The Earliest Stages	81
Septuagint, Targum, and Later Jewish Interpretations	82
The Isaian Servant in the Later Second Temple Period	84
Isaiah 40–55 in Early Christianity	87

6. Isaiah 40–55 in Its Historical Context	92
The Career of Cyrus and the Collapse of the Babylonian Empire	92
Neo-Babylonian Judah	95
The Jewish Diaspora	99
Was Second Isaiah Composed in Babylonia, Judah, or Elsewhere?	102
7. Aspects of the Theology of Isaiah 40–55	104
Coping with Disaster	104
The God of Israel and the Babylonian Gods	105
Divine Titles and Attributes	110
Narrative Traditions in Isaiah 40–55	111
Jerusalem/Zion as the Goal of the Journey	114
Is the Author of Isaiah 40–55 a Spokesman for Religious Universalism?	115
Servants of God in Isaiah 40–55	118
8. The Text of Isaiah 40–55 and the Ancient Versions	121
9. A Prefatory Word about Reading	124
 A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY	 127
Commentaries	129
Text and Versions	133
Monographs and Articles	138
Isaiah 40–55 in General	138
The Servant in Isaiah 40–55	166
 TRANSLATION, NOTES, AND COMMENTS	 175
Prologue: The Revival of Prophecy (40:1–8)	177
Good News for the Cities of Judah (40:9–11)	184
A Disputation about the Power of Israel's God (40:12–31 + 41:6–7)	187
A First Mock-Trial Speech (41:1–5)	195
Words of Encouragement to Israel, the Servant (41:8–16)	198
Ecological Transformation of the Land (41:17–20)	202
A Second Mock-Trial Speech (41:21–29)	203
The Commissioning of Yahveh's Servant (42:1–9)	207
New Events Call for a New Song (42:10–17)	212
The Spiritual Imperception of the Servant (42:18–25)	216
Divine Reassurance: All Will Be Well (43:1–7)	219

The God of Israel and the Gods of the Nations (43:8–13)	222
Something New: A Way into the Future (43:14–21)	225
The Case against Israel Raised and Dismissed (43:22–44:5)	228
Israel Called to Witness to Yahveh as the One God (44:6–8, 21–23)	234
Polemic against Cult Images (44:9–20)	238
Cyrus My Anointed (44:24–45:8)	243
Yahveh Cannot Be Called to Account for Choosing Cyrus (45:9–13)	250
The God Who Hides Himself (45:14–19)	255
Salvation Offered to the Nations (45:20–25)	260
The Defeated and Exiled Babylonian Gods (46:1–7)	263
Reassurance for the Doubters (46:8–13)	270
Queen Babylon Dethroned (47:1–15)	274
The Argument from Prophecy Reiterated (48:1–11)	284
Once More and Finally: The Mission of Cyrus (48:12–22)	290
The Servant's Address to the Nations (49:1–6)	297
Two Comments about the Servant (49:7–13)	302
The Woman Zion and Her New Family (49:14–23)	307
Further Reassurance Given and Objections Answered (49:24–50:3)	313
The Prophetic Servant Opposed and Abused (50:4–11)	317
Three Words of Comfort for the Well-Disposed (51:1–8)	323
An Urgent Prayer for Divine Intervention (51:9–16)	329
The Cup of Wrath (51:17–23)	335
The Coming of the Kingdom (52:1–12)	338
The Servant: From Humiliation to Exaltation (52:13–53:12)	344
Apostrophe to Zion (54:1–17)	357
A Concluding Invitation to Faith in the Prophetic Word (55:1–13)	366

INDEXES

Index of Subjects	375
Index of Biblical and Other Ancient References	392
List of Key Hebrew Terms	410