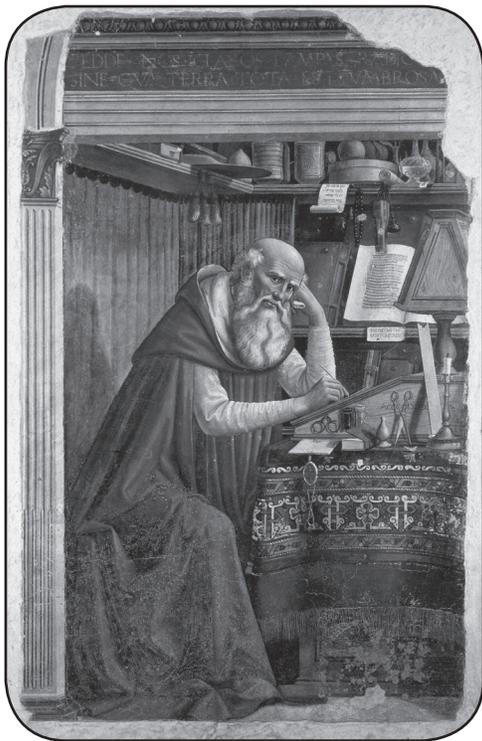


# Book of Isaiah



## Introduction

The scroll of Isaiah is the longest of all the prophets and is the second longest book of the Bible (Psalms is more than twice the length). Its importance for communities of faith was recognized very early, as evidenced by more copies of the Isaiah scroll being found among the Dead Sea Scrolls than any other book, and it is the second most cited Old Testament book in the New Testament (63 citations; Psalms has 67).



St. Jerome

**The Patron Saint of Catholic Scripture Study International, St. Jerome, viewed Isaiah as the Gospel in Old Testament form.**

Isaiah has a prominent place in the Church:

- It is the second longest book of the Bible.
- It is the second most cited book of the Old Testament.
- It contains 63 citations.
- It is used in numerous Mass and Liturgy of the Hours Readings.

When St. Jerome penned his famous line “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ,” he wrote it in his introduction on Isaiah, which he saw as the Gospel in Old Testament form. Isaiah remains prominent in the Church, as indicated by the large number of Mass readings from Isaiah during Advent and Holy week, as well as other times. In addition, it is the main source in the Liturgy of the Hours’ Office of Readings throughout Advent and the Christmas season. Treasured by both Jews and Christians, this is a book that should be studied well.

The reader of the Hebrew text does notice a variety of writing styles in various sections of the book. The historian of the ancient world recognizes that some sections of the book refer to events in the mid through late eighth century BC, while other parts contain historical references to the 540s BC, and still others assume a situation in the late sixth or early fifth centuries.