

HORIZONTAL of ISIAAH

based on Dorsey ; Literary structure of the Old testament

A	B	C	CENTRE:	C'	B'	A1
1:1 – 12:6	13:1-27:13	28:1-35:10	36:1-39:8	40:1-48:22	49:1-54:17	55:1-66:24
Introductory messages of : Condemnation, Pleading and Future restoration	Oracles to Nations : Humiliation of King of Babylon	Collections of woes : don't trust in earthly powers!	historical narratives	Yahweh's supremacy over idols: don't trust in idols	Servant messages Exaltation of humble servant	Concluding messages of Condemnation, Pleading and Future restoration

Note the fall of Babylon at beginning 13-14, the middle 21, and the end 24 of section.

Note the future restoration of Jerusalem at beginning 49 Middle 51 and end 54

1The historical narratives at centre underscore the central message: trust Yahweh alone rather than earthly powers or other gods. Pivot function: transition from Assyria threat of first division and Babylonian captivity of 2nd division.

Chapters 28-55 / 40- 48 may suggest that their respective themes- the warning against trusting earthly powers such as Egypt and the warning against trusting worthless idols – represent 2 sides of the same coin.

The match up of 13-27 and 49-54 highlight the ironically contrasting fates of two cities the exalted city of Babylon will fall, and the humbled city of Jerusalem will be exalted. Note two contrasting personalities and fates of two main characters: the haughty king of Babylon who “ smote the nations and exalted himself, and Yahweh’s humble servant who was smitten for his people and remained quietly submissive as he was humiliated. In the end Yahweh will bring the mighty king of Babylon down in humiliation and he will raise up and highly honour this suffering servant.