CONTENTS

	List of Abbreviations	page xiii
	Preface	xix
	Acknowledgments	xxi
	Introduction	1
1	The Problems in Isaiah 36–37	12
	1.0 Introduction	12
	1.1 Parallel Accounts in Isaiah and 2 Kings	12
	1.2 A Multiplicity of Sources or a Coherent Narrative?	12
	1.3 Dating, Historicity, and Sitz im Leben	13
	1.4 Duplications and Repetitions in the Narrative	13
	1.5 Breaks in the Narrative	17
	1.6 Contradictions and Inconsistencies	19
	1.7 Grammar	21
	1.8 Lexicon	22
2	Previous Solutions	23
	2.0 Introduction	23
	2.1 Parallel Accounts in Isaiah and 2 Kings	24
	2.2 A Multiplicity of Sources or a Coherent Narrative?2.3 Suggested Dates for the Sources, Their Purpose	31
	and Historicity	38
	2.4 Duplications and Repetitions in the Narrative	48
	2.5 Breaks in the Narrative	52
	2.6 Contradictions and Inconsistencies	57
	2.7 Grammar	63
	2.8 Summary	64
3	A New Historical-Critical Solution	68
	3.0 Introduction	68
	3.1 Source BI	69

viii	Contents
VIII	Comenis

	3.2 Source BII	70
	3.3 Strand BIII	71
	3.4 Historical Considerations When Dividing the Text	72
4	Source BI	77
	4.0 Introduction	77
	4.1 The Basic Plot of Source BI	77
	4.2 The Arrival of the Assyrian Delegation and the Place	
	of Negotiations (Isa 36:1-2)	78
	4.3 Rāb-šaqê's Second Speech (Isa 36:14-20)	82
	4.4 Reaction to Rāb-šaqê's Words and Reporting the	
	Words of Rāb-šaqê to Hezekiah (Isa 36:21-37:3)	90
	4.5 The Content of Hezekiah's Message to Isaiah (Isa 37:4)	91
	4.6 Isaiah's Answer? (Isa 37:5–7)	92
	4.7 Isaiah Delivers God's Response to Sennacherib's	
	Blasphemous Words (Isa 37:21a)	92
	4.8 The Derisive Song of the Daughter of Zion	
	(Isa 37:22–23)	93
	4.9 A Quote of Sennacherib's Blasphemous Words	
	$(37:24a\beta-25)$	94
	4.10 God's Rebuke of Sennacherib's Words: God	
	Is Responsible for History (Isa 37:26–27)	95
	4.11 God Knows Sennacherib's Actions and Is Angry	
	about Them (Isa 37:28)	98
	4.12 Isaiah's Original (?) Intercessory Prayer to YHWH	100
	(Isa 37:20)	100
	4.13 The Sign (Isa 37:30–32)	102
	4.14 God's Promise to Protect Jerusalem (Isa 37:33–34)	106
	4.15 The Siege of Jerusalem and the Destruction of the	107
	Assyrian Army 4.16 Traces of the Original Ending - The Fulfillment of the	107
	Prophecy? (Isa 37:8, 37a)	109
	4.17 Conclusion	110
	4.17 Conclusion	110
5	The Political Events in the Eighth Century BCE	
,	and the Results of the 701 BCE Campaign	112
	5.0 Introduction	112
	5.1 Historical References to Events in the Reign	112
	of Sargon II	112
	5.2 Sargon's Death	115
	5.3 The Outcome of the 701 Encounter: An Assyrian	113
	Victory	115
	5.4 The Outcome of the 701 Events: An Alleged	113
	Assyrian Defeat/Egyptian Victory	119
	5.5 Conclusion	123
	J.J Conclusion	143

Contents ix

6	Sou	rce BII	125
	6.0	Introduction	125
	6.1	The Arrival of the Assyrians (Isa 36:2/2 Kgs 18:17)	125
	6.2	The Location of the Meeting (Isa 36:2)	127
	6.3	Rāb-šaqê's First Speech (Isa 36:4-10)	127
	6.4	The Dialogue between the Judean Delegation and	
		Rāb-šaqê (Isa 36:11–14): A BIII Interpolation?	133
	6.5	Rāb-šaqê's Speech to the People on the Wall	
		(Isa 36:14–20): Source BI	133
	6.6	Delivering the Message to Hezekiah and Isaiah	
		(Isa 36:22–37:4)	133
		Delivering the Message to Isaiah Again (Isa 37:5)	133
		Isaiah's Response: A Reassuring Prophecy (Isa 37:6–7)	134
		The Fulfillment of the Prophecy (Isa 37:9, 36–38)	139
	6.10	Conclusion	148
7	The	Historical Background of Source BII	
		3–671 BCE)	150
		Introduction	150
	7.1	The Murder of Sennacherib	150
	7.2	The Resumption of Kushite Military Activity	
		in the Levant during Taharqa's Reign	152
	7.3	The Assyrian Defeat in Egypt in 673 BCE	157
	7.4	Assyrian Political Reaction to the Defeat in Egypt	
		in 673 BCE	161
	7.5	Reaction in the Levant to Assyria's Defeat according	
		to Assyrian Sources	165
	7.6	The Assyrian Conquest of Egypt	166
	7.7	Conclusion	167
8	The	BIII Strand	169
	8.0	Introduction	169
	8.1	The Religious Reform (Isa 36:7)	169
	8.2	The Response of the Judean Delegation (Isa 36:11):	
		A BIII Interpolation?	172
	8.3	Rāb-šaqê's Response to the Words of the Judean	
		Delegation (Isa 36:12)	173
	8.4	Jerusalem Will Not Be Given into the Hand of the	
		King of Assyria (Isa 36:14–15)	175
	8.5	Hezekiah Enters the Temple and Sends a Delegation	
		Including Priests to Isaiah (Isa 37:1b, 2b)	177
	8.6	A Message with Sennacherib's Blasphemous Words	
		Warning Hezekiah Not to Trust in His God	
		(Isa 37·9b–13)	177

	8.7 A List of Conquered Cities to Validate the Assyrian	179
	Warning (Isa 37:11–13)	
	8.8 God's Response to Sennacherib's Blasphemous Actions	181
	8.9 YHWH's (?) Response (Isa 37:23)	187
	8.10 An Oracle about Sennacherib's Fate (Isa 37:29)	188
	8.11 The Promise to Protect Jerusalem (Isa 37:35)	189
	8.12 Conclusion	190
9	The Babylonian Period	191
	9.0 Introduction	191
	9.1 The Rise of the Babylonian Empire and the Demise	
	of the Assyrian Empire	191
	9.2 The List of Conquered Cities in Isaiah 37:12-13	100
	and Their Significance for Dating BIII (Isa 37:12–13)	192
	9.3 The Identity of the King of La'ir (Isa 37:13)	195
	9.4 The Historical Reality in the Levant during the Second	107
	Half of the Seventh Century BCE	196
	9.5 The War against Judah and the Conquest of Jerusalem	200
	(588–586)	200
	9.6 Conclusion	202
10	The Question of the Priority of Isaiah 36-37 vs. 2	
	Kings 18:13–19:37	203
	10.0 Introduction	203
	10.1 Differences in Transmission between the Almost	
	Parallel Versions in Isaiah 36-37 and 2 Kings	
	18:13–19:37	203
	10.2 Omissions or Additions of Words	204
	10.3 The Differences between the Parallel Versions of	
	Isaiah and Kings in Light of the New Source Division	204
	10.4 Further Considerations for Rejecting the Priority	
	of Kings	215
	10.5 Conclusion	217
11	Isaiah 36–37 and Their Location in the Literary	
	Unit Isaiah 36–39	221
	11.0 Introduction	221
	11.1 Relationship between Isaiah 36-37 and Isaiah 38, 39	221
	11.2 Differences between 2 Kings 20 and Isaiah 38	225
	11.3 Isaiah 38 and 2 Kings 20: Signs of Redactions	227
	11.4 The Question of the Priority of Isaiah 38 vs. 2	
	Kings 20	232
	11.5 Isaiah 39 and 2 Kings 20:12–19: Some Observations	
	on Signs of Redactions	240

Contents xi

	11.6 The Question of the Priority of Isaiah 39 vs. 2 Kings 20:12–19	244
	11.7 Conclusion	246
12	The Present Location of Isaiah 36-39 in the	
	Book of Isaiah and the Formation of the Book	248
	12.0 Introduction	248
	12.1 Isaiah 36-39 and Vocabulary Connections with the	
	Entire Book of Isaiah	248
	12.2 Isaiah 36-39 and Terminological/Ideological	
	Connections with First Isaiah	249
	12.3 Isaiah 7 and 36-37: The Ahaz and Hezekiah	
	Narratives	253
	12.4 Isaiah 36–39 as Part of a Scroll Containing	
	Narratives about Isaiah	261
	12.5 Isaiah 36-39 as a Bridge between Proto-Isaiah	
	and Deutero-Isaiah	261
	12.6 The Date of Incorporating Isaiah 36–39 into the	
	Book of Isaiah: Scholars' Opinions	264
	12.7 The Date of Incorporating Isaiah 36–39 into the	
	Book of Isaiah: My Opinion	267
	12.8 Conclusion	269
13	2 Chronicles 32 and Its Relation to Isaiah 36–37	271
15	13.0 Introduction	271
	13.1 New Material Absent from Kings and Isaiah	271
	13.2 Exclusion of Information from the Book of Kings	2/1
	(2 Kgs 18:1–9 and 2 Kgs 18:14–16) and the Isaianic	
	Origins of the Narrative in 2 Chronicles 32	274
	13.3 Information from Isaiah that Is Missing in Chronicles	275
	13.4 Ideologically Changed Details in the Narrative	276
	13.5 Basing the Narrative in Chronicles on the Hezekiah-	2,0
	Sennacherib Narrative	277
	13.6 Possible Information Extracted by the Chronicler	
	from Sources A and BII	277
	13.7 Basing the Narrative in Chronicles Mainly on	
	Strand BIII	279
	13.8 Conclusion	286
	Total Continuon	_00
14	Summary and Conclusions	288
	14.1 The Problems and Their Previous Solutions	288
	14.2 The New Historical-Critical Solution	288
	14.3 The Question of the Priority of Isaiah 36-39 vs.	
	2 Kings 18:13-19:37	293

xii Contents

14.4 Isaiah 36-39 and the Formation of the Book of Isaiah	295
14.5 Sennacherib's Campaign against Judah in	
2 Chronicles 32	295
14.6 Conclusion	296
Appendix – Biblical Texts	297
Bibliography	308
Index to Biblical Passages Cited	
Index of Geographic Names and Peoples	338
Index of Names	341