

Isaiah

“The Faithful”



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah is considered by many to be the greatest prophet of the Old Testament, and many of his prophecies have come true. His most important prophecy and the one that I believe and some others do not, is the birth of Christ. His most often remembered words are in the quote given in the box, mostly because these words were made important to us by Handel in The Messiah. Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of the promise Isaiah wrote. But in all due respect to the people in Isaiah’s time, he was telling these things approximately seven to eight hundred years before the birth of Christ.

A prophet is not a predictor of the future; he gives a promise about the future that he has received from God. In the book of Deuteronomy, we are told that prophets received their revelations of the future from God and if the prophecy did not come true or take place, it was not from God. It is hard to imagine that a man would keep on telling the things he had been told by God when people were refusing to listen and probably treating him like some bum who had too much good wine! We are told that at first many people respected him, but eventually he became unpopular because things weren’t happening. But he didn’t waiver. He had a direct line to God. He talked about salvation, comfort and hope through the coming Messiah. The people were waiting for a king, but not the same one Isaiah was talking about.

In Isaiah 6:8 (NIV) we read “Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’ And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” That is a dangerous commitment but one Isaiah was willing to take.

Isaiah wrote about a person who would come and prepare the way for Christ. That person became John the Baptist who did come to earth and laid the groundwork for Jesus. But he told much more. He showed a mastery of language and poetic skill. His prophecies covered his urging the people of his time to repent from their sins and return to God, but he also foretold the coming of the Messiah and salvation through God. And some of his prophecies, we are told, will not happen until the second coming of Christ.

Isaiah was in Judah most of his life. But he did spend time in Israel. He saw many wars; the most dramatic was the war between Israel and Judah. Scholars feel this was a burden for Isaiah, and he worked hard to try to tell the people that something wonderful was coming. When Jesus was on earth he often quoted from the book of Isaiah because the theme of salvation was present throughout Isaiah’s writings.

One of his prophecies did not come true until 1948. Israel declared independence without a war, but then was engulfed in war, with the surrounding nations, within hours of its declaration. Isaiah wrote in his last chapter, verses 7-10 THE MESSAGE, “Before she went into labor, she had the baby. Before the birth pangs hit, she delivered a son. Has anyone ever heard of such a thing? Has anyone seen anything like this? A country born in a day? A nation born in a flash? But Zion was barely in labor when she had her babies! Do I open the womb and not deliver the baby? Do I, the One who delivers babies, shut the womb? Rejoice, Jerusalem,

We can see now that many of his prophecies did come true. We see the worldwide dispersion of Jews, the worldwide persecution of Jews, the recent worldwide migration of Jews back to Israel during the past century, the recent re-establishment and restoration of Israel, and the worldwide impact that Jews have had on the world. Little could the people of his time realized how right he was. In fact, he probably could not fathom what had been revealed to him by God.

Today, people tell us certain things are going to happen and we think they won’t. This is most often the case of a child who is told by a parent that certain things will happen if they don’t do certain things. The parents know from experience, but the child sometimes has to learn the hard way. This same thing was true of the people in Isaiah’s time. He was telling them what was going to happen, but they didn’t want to hear it.

These were not little things, like if you don't eat carrots that won't have good eyesight, but important things about nations. Today we tell a child to do his homework, but do we do ours? We all know that history seems to repeat itself, yet we don't seem to learn from the past.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, you have given us such great knowledge, sometimes much more than we can absorb. You gave Isaiah such great prophecy. Help us to study Your Word and to try to follow it. Most of all help us to have faith that you will never lead us astray, if we ask for your guidance. Amen

1. With wars and rumors of wars, why did God pick that time to have Isaiah reveal the wonderful happenings of the future? Why is it not told to us in a more simple way?
2. If a prophet told you of a wonderful coming event, how would you receive this news? Have you ever seen a prophecy come true?
3. If you could put yourself in the position of a prophet, how would you feel?
4. What does the prophecy of Isaiah mean to us today?

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