

“BUT THOSE WHO TRUST IN THE LORD WILL FIND NEW STRENGTH. THEY WILL SOAR HIGH ON WINGS LIKE EAGLES. THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY. THEY WILL WALK AND NOT FAINT.”
ISAIAH 40:31



Isaiah

“They Were Told”

“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, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah was considered by some to be the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. The one prophecy that stands out from the others is the birth of Christ. The problem he had at the time was that he was prophesying something that wasn't going to happen for seven to eight hundred years. While Isaiah was blessed to have been the one to tell of this great prophecy, he may have also sometimes felt cursed. In Isaiah 7:14 he told the people “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” He didn't tell them when. They had been waiting for something to happen. At first the people respected him, but eventually he became unpopular because things weren't happening.

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 Genesis 12:3 the people had been told that Abram descendants would be blessed. They had not felt very blessed. They wanted it to happen then, not later. They wanted an earthly king that would help them, not some baby being born to a virgin.

Isaiah was committed to God. In Isaiah 6:8 he said “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!’” Isaiah 6:8 That was a dangerous commitment but one He was willing to take.

The 53rd chapter of Isaiah tells about the life of Christ on the earth and how He would suffer when He did come to earth. Isaiah quotes “*He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before*

her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.” Isaiah 53:3-7

Keep your face always toward
the sunshine - and shadows will
fall behind you.

Walt Whitman

Today, we can see that Isaiah's prophecies did come true. We know that Christ came to earth and was crucified. Christ took on our sins. We can see the worldwide dispersion of Jews, the worldwide persecution of Jews, the recent worldwide migration of Jews back to Israel, the recent re-establishment and restoration of Israel, and the worldwide impact that Jews have had on the world just as Isaiah had prophesied. Little could the people of his time realize how right the prophecies



*For I am the LORD your God,
who takes hold
of your right hand
and says to you,
Do not fear;
I will help you.*
~ Isaiah 41:13



were. In fact, today people still don't want to believe.

Isaiah was blessed, but we are even more blessed. We have the same responsibility to tell others. We have seen the prophecies come true. We have the proof, a Savior who came and died for us and rose to go to prepare a place for us.

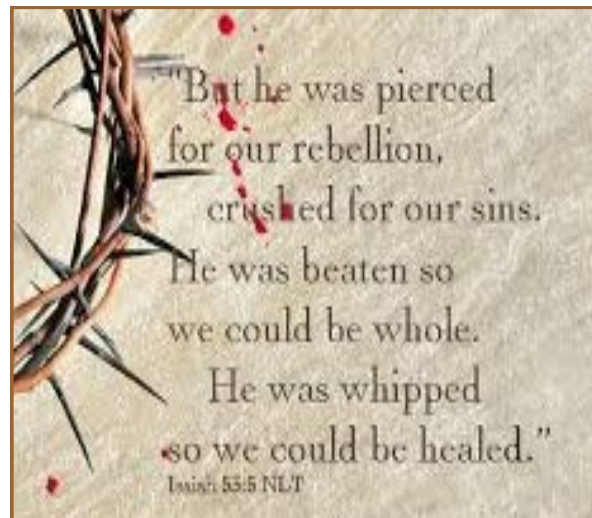
God asks us each day the same as he asked Isaiah "*Whom shall I send?*" Do we want to answer as Isaiah did? I know that I don't always want to answer in the affirmative. I sometimes have other plans or other obligations that I feel are important.

We are only human and so was Isaiah. He had some problems along the way, but God was there to help him, just as He is there to help us.

Today, Isaiah is revered in many religions, but then he was looked at by the people as a heretic. He was prophesying things that weren't happening. We pray for faith and then want everything to happen immediately much like the often quoted line "God, I want patience, and I want it right now."

We are so blessed to have lived after the birth, death and resurrection of Christ. We know from history what Isaiah only knew on blind faith.

We are told in Isaiah 41:13 not to fear, but we do it all the time. The NIV tells us 70 times not to be afraid. I was reminded recently that we are given those commands more often in the Bible than any other command, yet we falter and we fear the unknown. Many times that command is followed by "*do not be discouraged.*" We need to be reminded time and time again. Romans 8:31 tells us "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*"



Prayer: Heavenly Father, You have given us such great knowledge, sometimes much more than we can absorb. You gave Isaiah such great prophecies. 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. Would you have wanted the knowledge/responsibility given to Isaiah?
2. Do you have that same responsibility today?
3. Can you understand why the people were upset with his prophecy?
4. With wars and rumors of wars, why did God pick that time to have Isaiah reveal the wonderful happenings of the future?
5. Why is it not told to us in a more simple way?
6. If a prophet told you of a wonderful coming event, how would you receive this news? Have you ever seen a prophecy come true?
7. What does the prophecy of Isaiah mean to us today?

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