

Character Study: Isaiah

Part 4 – Isaiah's Words of Hope

Isaiah 7-66

What's happening?

- As God's messenger, Isaiah declared coming judgment as well as a future hope. Isaiah gave many prophecies that have made a lasting impression even on believers today.
- God used Isaiah to speak various prophecies concerning the coming Messiah and the future. These messages included:
 - The Messiah would be born to a virgin (7:14).
 - God's Son, the Prince of Peace, would come (9:6-7).
 - The Messiah would be preceded by a messenger (40:1-5, 9).
 - The Messiah would be rejected and put to death, taking on Himself the punishment for our sins (53:1-12).
 - Salvation and peace would come from the Lord, reaching the ends of the earth (49:6; 55:6-7; 57:15-19; 59:1-21).
 - The Messiah would heal the brokenhearted (61:1-2).
 - God will make a new heaven and earth (65:17-25).
- Isaiah's prophecies gave insight into the coming Messiah and the hope of the future. The truths about the Messiah, prophesied over 700 years before Christ, were each fulfilled just as they had been stated. Therefore, we can be confident that Isaiah's other prophecies will be fulfilled as well.

What's God doing?

> Even though the majority of people in Isaiah's day rejected his messages, the prophecies he gave revealed God's plan of redemption. The fact of their fulfillment has opened the eyes of many Jewish people today, as well as countless others who have experienced the saving work of Christ.

What's to learn?

→ The message of God is a message of hope. Isaiah addressed the problem of sin, but not without sharing the message of salvation.

→ We should be messengers of hope. The only true support and lasting encouragement we can offer people is found in the gospel. Concerning this truth, Paul quotes Isaiah 52:7 when he says, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news" (Rom. 10:15; note how believers are described in II Cor. 2:14-17).