

# ISAIAH

## Visions of Things to Come

### THEME

God predicts His coming Suffering Servant.

### PASSAGE/REFERENCE

Isaiah 7:14; 9:2-7; 53:1-12

### BACKGROUND

In about 740 BC, nearly a century after Elijah and a couple of decades after Jonah, a prophet named Isaiah had an encounter with God. He saw God on His throne in His temple, with angels declaring His holiness and glory. Deeply humbled, Isaiah received his calling to go to the nation and declare both judgment and hope. He would urge the people to repent, predict a downfall and a restoration, and look far into the future to see a coming Savior and an eternal kingdom.

### PRE-STORY DIALOGUE

Do you ever wish you could know the future? Sometimes God gives us glimpses of what He is going to do. In today's session, we'll see some remarkable prophecies from a man who lived several hundred years

before the Messiah would come, yet he predicted the Messiah in great detail. As you listen, see if you can recognize the child he foretells and the suffering servant he describes.

## TELL THE STORY

Today we are looking at three prophecies from Isaiah, the first two about a birth. In the first, the prophet tells us that the Lord would give a sign: A virgin would conceive and give birth to a son, and He would be called Immanuel (“God with us”).

The second prophecy says that a people walking in darkness have seen a great light. God has enlarged the nation and increased joy; the people rejoice as they do when they are harvesting or dividing plunder after a battle. Isaiah speaks of God shattering the yoke that burdens His people, delivering them from oppression. The garments of warfare will be burned up because the battle is over. Then he says,

*For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

And His righteous reign would always increase; He would rule forever on David’s throne. God’s own zeal would make sure of it.

The third prophecy pictures a death. It tells us about someone who would grow up like a tender shoot, a root out of dry ground—someone humble in appearance without any particular beauty or majesty: “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering.” People would hide their faces from Him and despise Him. But He would carry our sickness and sorrow. He would be pierced for our sins, and the punishment He bore would bring us peace and heal

our wounds. All of us have gone our own way like wandering sheep, but the Lord would lay our sin on Him for Him to carry instead. He would be oppressed but would refrain from protesting: “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.” He would be carried away, cut off from the land of the living, and put in a grave among the wicked and with the rich, even though He had done nothing wrong—no violence, no deceit. But it would be God’s will to crush Him with suffering and make His life a guilt offering. Even so, God would prolong His days and He would prosper in God’s will. After His suffering, He would see life and be satisfied. He would justify many and bear their sins. God therefore would give Him the rewards of greatness and the spoils of victors—because He gave up His life among sinners.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Who do these prophecies seem to be describing?
- How do the birth prophecies describe the Messiah? What characteristics does He have?
- What does “Immanuel” mean? In what ways is this name a comfort to us? At what times in your life would it be most encouraging to depend on the truth of this name?
- Of all the names listed for the child who would be born—Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace—which one is most meaningful to you? Why?
- How long does the Messiah’s reign last? What does it mean that His reign will always increase? How is that possible? In what ways does that encourage you?
- How is the Messiah described in the prophecy of His death? What characteristics does He have? What does He experience?
- What are the benefits of the Suffering Servant’s death for God’s people? What did His death accomplish for our “sorrows” and “infirmities”?

- Why do you think the Messiah had to suffer? What does it mean that He was a “guilt offering”? Thinking back to the laws of Moses, do you remember what kind of sacrifice was required to cover sins? How did Jesus fit the description of this sacrifice?
- Why did we need this Servant to suffer? In what way does Isaiah compare us to sheep? In what way does he compare Jesus to a lamb?
- What rewards does the Suffering Servant receive at the end of this prophecy?
- Why is it significant that these prophecies were given hundreds of years before Jesus’ birth?
- What do these prophecies tell us about God’s plan to redeem humanity? What kind of preparation went into His plan?
- What do these prophecies teach us about God’s sovereignty over the future? How do they encourage us personally about God’s control of our future?

## QUESTIONS FOR FAMILIES/CHILDREN

- In the prophecies that tell us a baby will be born, how is that child described? What names is He given? What’s special about this baby?
- How long is the Messiah going to live and rule?
- According to Isaiah’s prophecies, would Jesus be impressive to look at? Did He look like an ordinary man, or was it obvious He was God’s Son?
- What did Jesus need to do for our sin? How are we like sheep? In what ways did He suffer for us?
- According to the prophecy, had Jesus done anything wrong? Why did He let people kill Him?
- How far into the future can God see? What do you think He

knows about your future? How well do you think He is planning for your future?

## **MEMORY VERSES**

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.

ISAIAH 53:5-6

## **KEY APPLICATION**

God has sent Jesus, His Suffering Servant, to die for us.