

“DISCOVERING THE UNREAD BESTSELLER”

Week 21: Sunday, April 15, 2012

The Books of the Prophets – Book 1 ISAIAH – “THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ISAIAH”

AUTHORSHIP AND BACKGROUND

In Hebrew, “Isaiah” means “_____ is _____”. Isaiah himself has been called “Saint _____ of the Old Testament”. Isaiah came from a distinguished Jewish family, with his education being evident from the Book’s impressive vocabulary and style. Isaiah was _____ (now there’s a word for today!) relaying God’s truth with boldness, sincerity and compassion. He prophesied between 740-680 BC with his message geared to “_____” Judah, a time when the nation of Assyria was in power. Isaiah penned some of the most powerful (and yet familiar) of all _____ prophecies, a remarkable fact given that Isaiah’s words were proclaimed to an audience about _____ years before the birth of Christ. Isaiah’s ministry also spanned the reigns of four (4) different kings of Judah (Uzziah – Jotham - Ahaz - and Hezekiah) collectively covering a period of about _____ years.

SNAPSHOT OF THE BOOK

The Book of Isaiah itself - resembles a miniature _____ (66 chapters and 66 books) and it contains _____ truths. The first 39 chapters of Isaiah (much like the 39 books of the Old Testament) deal with _____ of _____ against an immoral and idolatrous people. Isaiah solemnly warned the nation of Judah of impending judgment based on the nation’s practice of moral depravity, political corruption, social injustice and especially, spiritual idolatry. After Israel’s demise to the north in 722 B.C., Isaiah warned Judah of impending judgment (not by the _____) but rather, by the _____ (even though Babylonia had not yet risen to power). The first 39 chapters of Isaiah pinpoint man’s greatest need; that need being the need for his _____.

But having presenting this greatest need, Isaiah completes his book with a message of _____ and _____. In the final 27 chapters (much like the 27 books of the New Testament) the prophet reveals God’s greatest solution to meet the need of salvation, that being the _____ of a _____.

THE PURPOSE OF ISAIAH IN THE BIBLE

The word _____ appears _____ times in the Book (NIV - 1984) compared to only _____ times in all the other prophetic books combined. While Chapters 1-39 focus on sin and impending judgment, the remaining 27 chapters show that God would remain faithful to His covenant by (1) _____ a godly _____; (2) by promising _____ and _____ through the coming of a _____. The Saviour would come out of _____, the _____ would also come to His light and ultimate blessing and a direction of purpose would finally become a reality for all of humanity.

The Book of Isaiah is quoted in the New Testament far more than any other prophet. He is mentioned _____ times by name and Chapter _____ is quoted (or eluded to) at least _____ times in the New Testament.

THE COMMON THREAD OF JESUS

The Old Testament as a whole contains over _____ prophecies about the _____ advent of Christ and Isaiah contributes a number of them (for example - Isaiah 9:6). Perhaps one of the most powerful prophecies using imagery and word pictures (a prophecy that no reader can ignore) is the one centering on Christ as the _____ (found in descriptive detail in Isaiah 53). Apart from this, Isaiah also relays some of God's most _____ words to be found in all of Scripture (Isaiah 40:25-31 / 42:5-9 / 43:1-3). There are also a number of predictions contained within Isaiah that centre on the Lord's _____ advent/coming.

THE PROMISE OF GOD IN ISAIAH

While the Book of Isaiah records a number of promises, one of the most significant is the promise that God will _____ us and give us a new _____. (Isaiah 1:18)

This promise is repeated again (and expanded) in Chapter 53 which speaks of the Messiah hanging on a Cross – “_____ for our _____” – “_____ for our _____” and concluding the promise of God's atoning grace that “by His _____ we are _____” – (Isaiah 53:5). We can be assured that whenever we are _____ by weakness, whenever we are _____ in sin, whenever we feel low due to _____ we have the _____ that God will pull us through, set us back on our feet and accompany us on the journey.

LESSONS FROM ISAIAH TO APPLY IN LIFE TODAY

1. If _____ impressed upon your heart - the need to enter _____ waters for Him, how would you _____? – (Read Isaiah 6 – esp. v. 5,8)
2. “God Himself, could not _____ this _____” – (boasting the Titanic)
What _____ exists in your life? What should be done about it?
(Read Isaiah 2:17-18)
3. Even after ignoring warnings, both passengers and crew alike were “_____” that little damage had been done by a small iceberg on the Titanic. Are you also _____ into thinking that _____ is _____ and of little _____?
4. Our _____ comes from _____ alone – (Isaiah 53:4-5)
5. _____ that _____ knowing is _____ – (Isaiah 55:8-9)
6. _____ in God's _____ and _____ presence – (Isaiah 43:1-3a);