

Reading for our Redeemer in the Old Testament: Isaiah

Introduction: December's memory verse is 1 Peter 1:10-11:

¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

This month we have used this text and John 5:39 as a directive to go from Bethlehem back to the Old Testament. We have seen the prophetic word about prophets and the Mosaic Prophet, Christ. Angels, servants of God, great in power, have been contrasted with the messenger of the Covenant, Jesus Christ. We have seen the work and humility of shepherds and our Good Shepherd, Jesus. We have seen the seeking sages find Wisdom in the the Wise Counselor who lay in a manger. ***Throughout this month, we have found our Savior prophesied in the Old Testament.***

Today, we are looking at the prophet Isaiah to see 1 Peter 1:10-11 in all its fullness. Note.

1. Prophets personally encountered God (1 Peter 1:10; Isaiah 6; 36-39)

Prophets were not dry teachers of the law, standing apart from their revelation about God and His plan. They were believers who consented to serve God as He directed. They obeyed God's commission and related God's message.

Isaiah gave the message of deliverance and the coming Messiah to King Ahaz in Isaiah 7:3.

Isaiah was personally involved in Hezekiah's learning of God's deliverance from Assyria (Isaiah 37).

On a more embarrassing note, the Lord directed Isaiah to go around naked to role-play how God would judge wicked nations of Egypt and Ethiopia (Isaiah 20).

Reading for our Redeemer in the Old Testament: Isaiah

2. Prophets purely prophesied by the Spirit (1 Peter 1:11a).

The Holy Spirit made their prophecies accurate and profitable (1 Timothy 3:16-17). He carried prophets along, inspiring them so their words were as wonderful and as authoritative as the words Peter heard on the Mount of Transfiguration (2 Peter 1:17-21).

3. The prophets spoke by the Spirit of Christ as He revealed the Triune God.

3.1 Isaiah spoke of the virgin birth (7:14). The eternal Son of God became the Son of Man through the agency of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1). This Messiah is the child, the son who is “Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” the government upon His shoulders continually increases (9:6-7).

3.2 The Messiah is filled with the Holy Spirit (11:1-5). His righteous reign helps rather oppresses the poor (11:4).

3.3 The Messiah is the Servant of the Lord sent by the Father to Redeem the lost by suffering for our sins (the “Servant Songs” of Isaiah are Isaiah 42, 49, 52-53).

4. The prophets spoke of “the glory that should follow”

4.1 The resurrection of Christ is anticipated (Isaiah 53).

4.2 Salvation to the nations through the gospel (Isaiah 55; 56:3-7). The wicked will be converted; the thirsty and spiritually hungry will be satisfied in Jesus Christ (55; Matthew 5:1-11).

The humble will be saved (57:15).

4.3 The wicked will be trampled underfoot (Isaiah 24-27; 57-59; 63).

Reading for our Redeemer in the Old Testament: Isaiah

Isaiah 24-27 is sometimes called “the little Apocalypse” as it goes through the judgment of the nations. It ends with the universal judgment on all the wicked during the Tribulation; see also Revelation 6-19.

4.4 The Millennial rule of Christ is prophesied (Isaiah 11:4-16; 60-62)

1. Nature changed: lions and lambs; children and animals
2. Nations changed: Israel a source of blessing, peace, preeminence restored. Regathered (12). Unity (13).
3. The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord (9)

4.5 The Eternal rule of Christ is described