

**ISAIAH**

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**A ROOT, A BRANCH, AND A SAVIOR FOR ALL**

**THE PROPHETS SPEAK OF JESUS**

*Jesus said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”*

LUKE 24.44

*This salvation was something even the prophets wanted to know more about when they prophesied about this gracious salvation prepared for you. They wondered what time or situation the Spirit of Christ within them was talking about when He told them in advance about Christ's suffering and his great glory afterward.*

1 PETER 1.10-11

## THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH

- ▶ Isaiah's prophetic ministry spanned four Judahite kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, and approximately 50 years of ministry
- ▶ Jewish tradition records that Isaiah's life ended when Manasseh, Hezekiah's son and successor, ordered the killing of Isaiah by having him sawed in half
- ▶ Isaiah is quoted more times by NT writers than any other OT prophet
- ▶ The Prophecy of Isaiah is sometimes called the Fifth Gospel because of its Messianic content and the clarity of the prophecies about Christ

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- ▶ Isaiah spoke this prophecy during the reign of King Ahaz, eleven generations after David—to whom God made a promise:

*I will maintain My love to him forever, and My covenant with him will never fail. I will establish his line forever, his throne as long as the heavens endure. If his sons forsake My law and do not follow My statutes, if they violate My decrees and fail to keep My commands, I will punish their sin with the rod, their iniquity with flogging; but I will not take My love from him, nor will I ever betray My faithfulness. I will not violate My covenant or alter what My lips have uttered.*

PSALM 89.29-34

- ▶ Isaiah's prophecies extensively detail the soteriological (salvation) and eschatological (end of time events) work of Christ.

## A ROOT

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse . . .*

- ▶ Jesse was the father of King David, and in this usage, represents the family tree of David. All that is left of the family tree is a stump; the tree itself has been cut down. When Ahaz received word of an impending invasion, he and his people were shaken in fear like a tree in the wind (Isaiah 7.2). Instead of trusting the Lord, he allied himself with the idolatrous Assyrians. God declared that “the holy seed will be a stump” (6.13). Sin will always cut us off from God (see Isaiah 59.1-2).

## A BRANCH

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

- ▶ God had promised David that His covenant would never be rescinded, despite the sin of his descendants and their consequential judgment. From the root would come a Branch—one who would be the fulfillment of the promise:

*And I will appoint him to be my firstborn,  
the most exalted of the kings of the earth.*

- ▶ The Branch would be characterized by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and by a ministry of righteousness (11.2-3).

## A SAVIOR FOR ALL

*In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.*

- ▶ The apostle Paul quoted this verse to the church at Rome as he described the work of salvation accomplished by Jesus:

*And again, Isaiah says,*

*“The Root of Jesse will spring up,  
one who will arise to rule over the nations;  
in him the Gentiles will hope.”*

## WHAT DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND?

- ▶ God will always fulfill His promises—whether promises of judgment or promises of salvation and blessing.
- ▶ Jesus is God's ultimate promise and blessing. If we have Jesus, we have "God's Everything".
- ▶ Jesus is the only source of salvation from sin and judgment; there is no hope outside of him.
- ▶ Jesus is the Savior-King and at the end of human history, he will establish his kingdom and will rule as the Prince of Peace (9.6-7).  
Will His kingdom will include you?