

INTRODUCTION TO ISAIAH: **Old Familiar Challenges, New Hopes and Dreams**

How and when the Messiah would come was debatable. Theories as to what he would be like multiplied and overlapped: a great warrior king like David, a great priest like Melchizedek, a great prophet like Elijah. Who could possibly say? But whatever he was, his name would be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace," and "of the increase of his government and of peace there would be no end" (Isaiah 9:6-7). Handel set him to music. On Passover eve to this day an extra cup is placed on the table for Elijah in case he stops in to say the Messiah is here at last. The door is left open. (F. Buechner)

OVERVIEW of ISAIAH STUDY:

Jan 25: Messianic Themes in *Isaiah*
Feb 1: *Isaiah* in the New Testament

TODAY'S CLASS:

- I. Perspectives on Prophecies: *Double Vision*
- II. Advent Redux: *Isaiah 7 & 9*
- III. Not What We Ordered—*The Suffering Servant Songs: Isaiah 49 & 52 - 53*

ISAIAH 7:10-14: Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." Then Isaiah said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals that you weary my God also? **Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.**

ISAIAH 9:1-7: But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² **The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;** those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.

³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in

blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

**⁶ For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

⁷ Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ISAIAH 49:1-7

The Lord called me before I was born;

while I was in my mother's womb he named me. ...

**³ And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."**

⁴ But I said, "I have labored in vain;

I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord and my reward with my God."

⁵ And now the Lord says who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him, and that Israel might be gathered to him, ...

"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant

to raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the survivors of Israel;

I will give you as a light to the nations,

that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

⁷ Thus says the Lord, the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,

to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations, the slave of rulers,

"Kings shall see and stand up; princes, and they shall prostrate

themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful,

the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

ISAIAH 53

He was despised and rejected by others;

a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity ...

⁴ Surely he has borne our infirmities and carried our diseases,
yet we accounted him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the punishment that made us whole,

and by his bruises we are healed.

...the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.