

Hebrews 11

ISAIAH

Hebrews 11:32

Introduction

Date:	a. 739 - 686 B.C.
Prophesied:	b. To Judah, inc. Benjamin
Other Places Mentioned:	c. 2 Kings 19-20; 2 Chronicles 26:32; 21x in N.T. as Esaias.
Key Messianic Prophecies:	d. Provides the most detailed and complete prophecies concerning Messiah: Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Ch. 53; Ch. 61 etc.
Theme	e. The Message of Salvation
Contemporaries	f. Hosea (to Israel) and Micah (to Judah)

Isaiah prophesied for about 55 years during the time of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (1:1). Here is a prophet that outlived the reign of 5 kings of Judah. His name means “Salvation of the LORD” and this is exactly what he preached to the people of Judah who were ritualistic and idolatrous.

Isaiah was the son of Amoz (not to be confused with Amos) and was married to a *prophetess* (8:3) who bare him two sons. She was a *prophetess* for three possible reasons (1) she prophesied (2)

prophetess was the name received as a wife of a prophet (3) She bore two children who were prophetic pictures of God’s judgement. The first of Isaiah’s sons was *Shearjashub* (7:3) meaning “a remnant shall return” which prophetically spoke of Israel’s *restoration*. The second son was *Mahershalalhashbaz* (8:3-4) which meant “quick to the plunder, swift to the spoil” referring to the prophecy concerning Assyria’s invasion of Damascus and Samaria (Israel’s capital).

Isaiah prophesied before the Babylonian exile of Judah (approx. 604-586 B.C.) and during the Assyrian captivity of Israel (approx. 734 – 722 B.C.).

Although very little is said of the life of this prophet we can see his faith in three key areas of his life:

Lesson Outline

A. A Willing Faith

B. A Witnessing Faith

C. A Worthy Faith

Memory verse: "He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me." Mark 7:6

I. A Willing Faith

a. Prepared Faith

- i. He Saw the Lord – 6:1
 1. Sitting upon a throne
 2. High and Lifted Up
 3. Holy, Holy, Holy

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims...And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. Isaiah 6:1-3

- ii. He Saw Himself - 6:5
 1. Woe is me!
 2. A man of unclean lips.

- iii. He Saw the People - 6:5
 1. A people of unclean lips.

Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. Isaiah 6:5

**6:7 – Isaiah's iniquity purged and cleansed.*

b. Pronounced Faith

- i. The Call of God – 6:8
 1. "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
 - a. Send to this rebellious house.
- ii. The Cry of Isaiah – 6:8
 1. "Here am I; send me."
 - a. From a cleansed and purified heart he cried
HERE AM I – send me!

iii. The Commission of God – 6:9

1. “Go, and tell this people...”

Lord, Here am I!

*“Master Thou callest I gladly obey, Only direct me and I’ll find Thy way, Teach me the mission appointed for me What is my labor and where it shall be----
Master Thou callest and this I reply, Ready and willing Lord here am I”*

II. A Witnessing Faith

a. *Prophetic Proclamations*

i. Isaiah’s prophetic foresight

1. Future – Movements of God

- a. Faith to see God work before his very eyes.

The people could hold him accountable.

- i. The sign of *Mahershalalhashbaz*, 8:3-4
– before the child could cry Daddy!
Mummy! Damascus and Samaria would be overtaken.

And I went unto the prophetess; and she conceived, and bare a son. Then said the LORD to me, Call his name Mahershalalhashbaz. For before the child shall have knowledge to cry, My father, and my mother, the riches of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria shall be taken away before the king of Assyria. Isaiah 8:3-4

- ii. The victory over Sennacherib and his armies, 37:33-34 – He shall not come into this city, nor battle against it.

Therefore thus saith the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city, nor shoot an arrow there, nor come before it with shields, nor cast a bank against it. By the way that he came, by the same shall he return, and shall not come into this city, saith the LORD. Isaiah 37:33-34

2. Future – Messiah

- a. Full and complete prophecies concerning the Messiah. Detailed prophecies of his death, and glorious kingdom

- i. 1 Peter 1:10-12 – declaring things which they knew in part and of things far beyond their days.
 - 1. Perhaps they knew of the Saviour but much of what they prophesied of was still a mystery to them.
 - 2. 1 Pet. 1:12 – “unto us they did minister...”

Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: 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. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into. 1 Peter 1:10-12

- 3. Future – millennial kingdom and restoration
 - a. In the midst of judgement and destruction – prophesying of future peace and prosperity.
 - b. *Pointed Preaching*
 - i. Judah had transgressed the commandment of the Lord by living wickedly and going after idols. Isaiah referred to the nation as a *diseased body* (1:5-6), a *harlot* (1:21), as *Sodom and Gomorrah* (1:9), a *rebellious* people (1:23), a *useless vineyard* (Ch. 5). He then pronounces also in chapter five six woes upon the people.
 - ii. They were not only idolatrous they were *ritualistic* in their approaching of God. They continued to “seek God” with hearts full of sin and corruption (formalism and religiosity).
 - 1. Their worship rejected: 1:10-18
 - 2. Their fasting and “affliction” rejected: 58:1-8 (v6)

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Matthew 23:27

Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

Matthew 23:25

III. A Worthy Faith

a. Persecuted

i. By Manasseh

1. Who reigned after Hezekiah.

2. A wicked King – 2 Kings 21:1-7; 2 Chron. 33:9

So Manasseh made Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem to err, and to do worse than the heathen, whom the LORD had destroyed before the children of Israel. 2 Chronicles 33:9

3. A slayer of the righteous - 2 Kings 21:16

Moreover Manasseh shed innocent blood very much, till he had filled Jerusalem from one end to another; beside his sin wherewith he made Judah to sin, in doing that which was evil in the sight of the LORD. 2 Kings 21:16

ii. Manasseh would've hated Isaiah and his message which went opposite to his pointed preaching.

iii. Although there is no record of their dealings history informs us that Isaiah was martyred by Manasseh.

b. Promoted

i. "Sawn asunder" - Hebrews 11:36-38

ii. This was a Jewish execution. It was said that Manasseh heard of Isaiah's prophecies and the condemnation pronounced against idolatry and Judah's harlotry and being offended by the prophet he commanded that Isaiah be sawn asunder in the hollow of a tree.

iii. Hebrews 11:38 – "Of whom the world was not worthy."

They were not worthy of the ones whom they persecuted.

1. This is true of Jesus – They crucified the Son of God.

If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. John 15:19-21

Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Matthew 5:11-12

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Matthew 23:37

For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him, and would have killed him... Mark 6:17-19

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Revelation 12:11

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Philippians 1:29

Conclusion

- a. A *willing* faith is made a *witnessing* faith and results in a *worthy* faith.
- b. Isaiah a great prophet of God speaks to us of the importance of these sayings: “Here am I” (Ch. 6) “What shall I Cry?” (Ch. 40), and “Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth...” (Ch. 65)

