



## Prophet Prophesying Eternal Life



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In 742 B.C., Isaiah felt called to be a prophet after seeing a vision of winged creatures in the Temple. It is believed by Jewish Tradition that Isaiah was of the royal family, his father being brother to king Uzziah. He was certainly much at court, especially in Hezekiah's time, as we find in his story, to which many think it owes that his style is more curious and polite than that of some other of the prophets, and, in some places, exceedingly lofty and soaring. The Spirit of God sometimes served His own purpose by the particular genius of the prophet; for prophets were not speaking trumpets, *through* which the Spirit spoke, but speaking men, *by* whom the Spirit spoke, making use of their natural powers and advancing them above themselves. Living approximately 8 centuries before the coming of the Messiah, it is believed that the majority of Isaiah was written between about 740 BC and 700 BC. Although, Isaiah is most notably quoted for his numerous prophecies on the Crucifixion and Virgin birth, it is important to pay close notice to the prophecies associated with the Glorious Resurrection, as a means of hope and a new beginning.

Modern man thought that in divesting himself of God, he had freed himself from all that stifled and repressed him. Instead, he discovered that in killing God, he had also killed himself. Death is a subject that we don't like to talk about, although, it is one of the sure things in life, and we are told that *'He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign LORD will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The LORD has spoken. In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation.'*" (Isaiah 25:8 – 9) In the Holy Book of Ecclesiastes, it says that there is "a time to be born and a



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time to die". Indeed, there have only been two men who lived and did not die, they were Enoch and Elijah. Because death is sure we are told to prepare for it. The Lord Jesus Christ says in John 9:4 "As long as it is day, we must do the work of Him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work."

Death has always been man's greatest enemy, and every man, no matter how great, eventually dies. The whole world — physical, biological and social — is under the reign of death, imposed by God's curse on man's dominion when he first rejected God's Word and brought sin into the world. But the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God and the world's promised Redeemer, has conquered death, bearing the curse Himself (Galatians 3:13), and thus opening

the way to God and everlasting life for all of the saints, as Isaiah prophesies saying *"Thy dead men shall live, together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead."* (Isaiah 26:19) As the saints who had placed their faith in God were awaiting the coming of the Messiah, *"the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose, and came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."* (Matthew 27:52-53) As a result of this resurrection, those who saw this resurrection believed. It was the experiencing of life renewed, that pierced the hearts of those who witnessed this great miracle.

The bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from the dead is the central fact of the Christian faith. As St Paul wrote: *"And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you*

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Chapter 11: Their Refusal to the Good Shepherd during the Roman Reign. So many gifts the Jews had continuously received from God through the ages yet they refused the Messiah during the Roman reign. So the prophet lamented them (v. 1-3) regretting their own destruction (v. 36), as they deprived themselves of God's grace (v. 7-11), and for their betrayal to the Lord Jesus Christ (v. 12-14) and accepting the Anti-Christ (v. 15-17).

Chapter 12: New Jerusalem and the Evil. As the Jews rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, in turn they themselves were rejected by Him. Chapters 12-14 of the Holy Book of Zechariah tell us about the unbelievers who give no attention to God's gifts.

In this chapter, Zachariah concentrates on the prophecy of the New Jerusalem, i.e., the faithful soul that becomes the New House of Judah. By accepting the Savior, the soul will be revolted by the surrounding nations (sins) (v. 1-3), but the Lord offers her His salvation (v. 4 - 9) and the spirit of grace and supplications (v. 10 -14).

Chapter 13: The Wounded Shepherd. As God offers the spirit of grace and supplications He sanctifies the earth (v. 1-6); i.e., sanctifies our bodies with all its sensations and powers. The Lord Himself declares His wounds which He suffers on our behalf (v. 7-9), (the rejected two - third are the heathens and Jews and the one third is those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ).

Chapter 14: The Cross and Baptism in New Jerusalem. Zechariah starts this chapter by a call to repentance, hoping in the appearance of Christ, the Messiah, or the rider of the red horse. Then he tells us about his visions and prophecies to declare the salvation. Now he concludes that the New Jerusalem, i.e., the Church, enjoys salvation through the water of baptism by the power of the cross.

In (v. 1, 2) Zechariah discusses Jerusalem's exile and accompany us to the Mount of Olives where the Lord carries our sufferings (v. 3 -5), to witness the crucifixion day (v. 6-7), as the well-known day (v. 7). He says "... not day, nor night; but it shall come to pass, that at evening time it shall be light."

It is not a day because of darkness that occurred, and it is not a night because it happened at noon. Lastly he spoke about the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Church as living water (v. 8 - 11), the Spirit who destroys our old man and builds instead the new man in baptism (v. 12-21). ✚

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*are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). The traditional Christian hope of the resurrection tells man that he is no orphan after all, but the personal image of the Creator God of the universe; nor is his life doomed in death, for through the resurrection he may live in the presence of God forever. "But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."*

*(Isaiah 40:31)* It is this hope of a new beginning in the Lord, and living the life of Resurrection, that becomes the source of our strength. By living in the Lord Jesus Christ, may we become released from the desires of this world, respond to the call which St Peter made to "become a witness with us of His resurrection" (Acts 1:22) and allow our lives to reflect the image of our Lord and Savior, as the words of the Prophet Isaiah did many centuries before His Coming, Death and Resurrection. ✚



**The Holy Book of Isaiah. Decorations consist of interlaced circles with a small cross in the center, and the letters a (alpha) and w (omega) written at top and bottom. Dated 1090 A.M. (1373 A.D.)**