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Isaiah, The Prophet of Salvation



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PMN: 331 NA Hermeneutics

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18 December 2020

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BIB 331 RA Hermeneutics/Exegetical Paper

17 December 2020

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The book of Isaiah was written by king Hezekiah around 720 – 687 bc. He was king over Judah, which was in the southern kingdom. The prophet Isaiah was a major prophet during this ancient near eastern time. The scripture of focus is Isaiah 41:10-11. The illustration of this scripture demonstrates an oral futuristic prophecy with a subgenre of salvation and hope. The hermeneutic explanation reveals the strength of this prophecy and unveils a timeless message to Gods people. It is a prophecy that displays the salvation of the Lord Jesus Christ, yesterday and today and forever. Moving to the unique life of the mighty king Hezekiah.



King Hezekiah was the 13<sup>th</sup> king of Judah who reigned from 715 - 686 bc., he was married to Isaiah's adopted daughter, Hephzibah, who bore him two children, he wrote the book of Isaiah which focused on Jerusalem, and was the son of king Ahaz who was the 12<sup>th</sup> king of Judah at 20 years old. Hezekiah is a Hebrew name, that means Yahweh's Strength, which is the strength of God. This was a very astute and honorable man of power, and from a blood line of kings. His father, king Ahaz , disobeyed God, bringing Judah into captivity, yet Hezekiah eventually obeyed God, when he was king, bringing Judah into freedom as he followed the prophecies of Isaiah. Hezekiah wrote about Isaiah from a king's perspective with vision and clarity. He had a close relationship with him, during a time of great distress from the Assyrian government. Moving into the life of the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah was a major prophet, the son of Amoz who was the first to have a prophetic book named after him, Isaiah's name comes from the Hebrew word Yesha'yahu, which means, God is salvation. He is known as the prophet who declared timeless messages from God speaking of the salvation of the Lord. He was a prophet of hope, strength, and deliverance speaking Gods word to Judah during a time of great distress. He was married to a woman that was called the prophetess and he prophesied to the tribe of Judah during the abusive Assyrian rule.

The tribe of Judah was located in the southern part of the coastal plains near the Mediterranean Sea. This land was called the fertile crescent, a very fruitful land, but not as fruitful as the northern king (Israel). It functioned as a land bridge between Egypt and Asia and many kingdoms wanted, and did, conquer this land because of its location and prosperity. This is the land of milk and honey that God promised Abraham in Genesis 15:18-21. Israel and Judah were divided kingdoms. Israel was on the Northern coast and Judah was on the Southern coast.

The historical events show that the tribe of Judah had to follow specific guidelines under the covenant of God to keep their land holy and fruitful. Jehovah gave them specific instructions on how to tend to the land, in order to receive increase from God. During this time King Hezekiah was under captivity by the Assyrians, under king Sennacherib. The Assyrian Empire terrorized the population of the ancient near eastern, bringing Judah under total control. Making them pay taxes for their own land and abusing their hard labor. The people were abused and over powered, being forced to live a life of destruction because of their sins against God, under king Ahaz, around 730 -720 bc. The Assyrian government was a total violation to the covenant God made to his people. Isaiah calls for the coastal plains to gather together and hear what the Lord has to say to them and gives a timeless futuristic prophecy of hope and salvation from God.

Although the king of Persia was not yet here, Isaiah begins to speak into the future against the king of Persia, king Cyrus. Using sarcasm, mockery and imagery to describe the false strength of this kingdom. It would be under this king that God will send deliverance to Judah. He then encourages Judah to not be intimidated by the idols or false power of Assyria, because God will deliver them from these paganistic kingdoms. (Isaiah 41:4-7) Isaiah moves into a prophetic announcement of Salvation and judgment. In Isaiah 41:10-11 he says, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.” He is prophesying to Judah telling them, not to fear or be distressed, God is their protector and will give them strength, by holding them up with His righteous hand of judgement. He goes on to say, all that are angry and against them will be ashamed and dishonored, and those that contend with them shall be no more. The Hebrew interpretation reads, “Let there not be reverence or respect for them, because I am your God, do not look away in anxiety, for I am your God, I will make you strong, I will help you, I will hold you up in righteous judgement,” (<https://biblehub.com/parallel/isaiah/41-10.htm>) This scripture demonstrates the characteristic of a kingdom oracle, taking us into the eschatological future of humanity.

Isaiah 41:10 -11, Hezekiah uses literary figures to convey his message of Isaiah’s prophecy. Imagery, with a concrete characteristic, that demonstrates a kingdom oracle with an apocalyptic vision. Because Hezekiah is a leader, the king of Judah, he was able to view Isaiah’s prophecy with these characteristics from the perspective of a visionary. It is clear that the people followed Isaiah and was comfortable with his ministry. Their hope in God was broken and their self-value

and direction was stolen. Isaiah was experiencing the same afflictions, but continued to be obedient to the instructions of God. It is important to try and enter into the ancient near eastern time, to see what Isaiah's audience was looking at in order for us to get a better understanding of the scripture. We know Hezekiah was a part of this audience, we know everyone was afflicted, we know the Assyrians were abusive and built their false gods, violating the covenant of God. Judah was experiencing hard labor, over worked, and had to pay a tax to the Assyrians for protection or be deported out of their own country. We know that God sent a message through this great prophet Isaiah. A message of hope, change, and salvation. The audience was looking at a man of great faith, gifted by God. They were looking at a man that believed God, taking a stand for righteousness, in the face of great danger and abuse. It's not easy encouraging people when you are in the same situation as they are. People tend to get discouraged when there is no visible proof. This audience knew God sent judgement on them in the past due to their family history of disobedience. Yet also knew one day God would deliver them, but didn't know when. King Hezekiah was able to catch the vision of this prophecy and take action, believing God was with Isaiah because one visionary knows the next. Hezekiah was a man of vision and a king that knew how to lead under God's will. The book of Isaiah is a book of salvation and deliverance to Jerusalem, that extended to the Apostle Paul in the New Testament saying, "However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, "LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ." The Apostle Paul references Isaiah in his teaching as an example of delivering the good news from God. It is the good news of salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah understood that not all of God's people took him seriously when he prophesied, but he continued to deliver the good news from God.

What is the good news? Jesus Christ pay the price for our sins and has risen from the dead. The Bible says in John 3:16, For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. Not everyone is willing to receive the love of Christ and the gift of salvation. Although we no longer live under the old covenant and are culturally different from the ancient near eastern time, we continue to follow God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the New Testament, under the new covenant. Isaiah 41:10-11 is still speaking to us today in the New Testament. The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 2:4-10 saying, "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this *is* not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them."

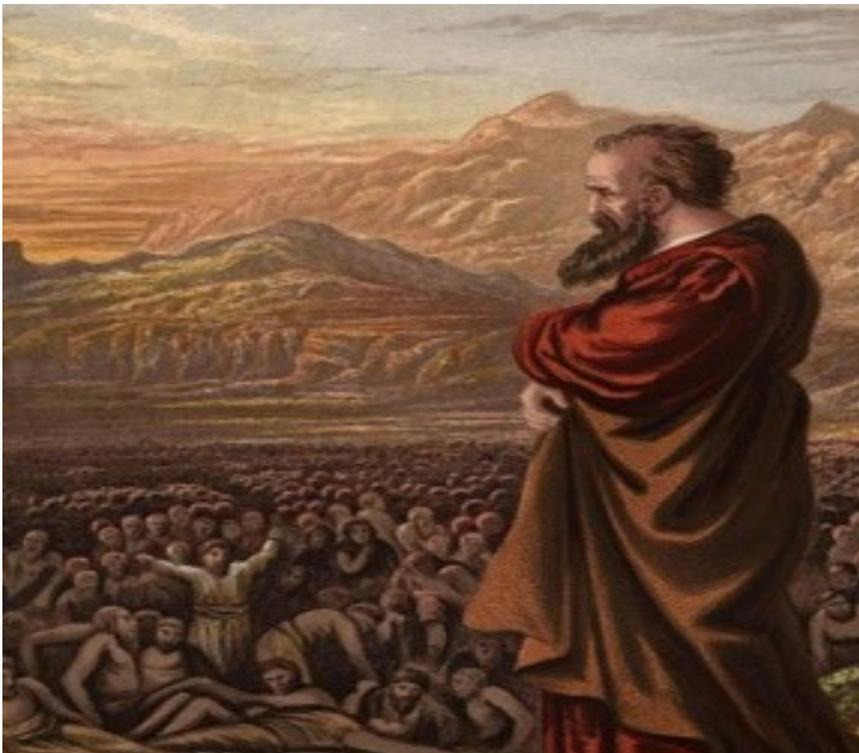
Jesus Christ laid His life down for us, so that we may have life. His love, grace and mercy are freely given to us in spite of our sins. We were also dead in our trespasses to God, yet He saw fit

to send His only begotten son as a living sacrifice for us. Giving humanity hope for eternal life, therefore, we should not fear or be discouraged, but trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We see the same grace and mercy being given to the tribe of Judah under king Hezekiah in the ancient near eastern time. When the Lord tells them not to fear, for He is with them and is their God that will give them strength. That word fear means reverence or honor. God was saying, do not give honor to no other God, but him. It is important for the believer of Christ Jesus to take heed to Isaiah 41:10-11 because it applies to us today. This particular prophecy was timeless, speaking into the future referencing the king of Persia, king Cyrus, who would come up against Judah years later. God was telling his people that giants will come again and again, yet the time will come when we will no longer be defeated by them any longer. The king of Persia was an example of sin, the continued attacks on Judah, but this attack will not succeed. Just like the attacks of sin in the world was defeated, by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Although sin still abides, we are no longer subjected to its power, we should not honor it, bow down to it, admire it, or even be intimidated by it, because humanity is no longer bound to the authority of sin. Jesus Christ defeated sin through his death and rising again.

In conclusion, God is the same yesterday today and forever. The prophetic word from Isaiah 41:10-11 was delivered as a futuristic kingdom oracle that spoke life into the tribe of Judah during the ancient near eastern time. This prophecy was timeless and demonstrated a concrete characteristic with a structured parallelism. The imagery was concise and figurative. The Assyrian Empire terrorized the population of the ancient near eastern, bringing Judah under total control. Making them pay taxes for their own land and abusing their hard labor. In Isaiah 41:10-11, he prophesies to Judah saying, “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand

of my righteousness. Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.” He is telling them, not to fear or be distressed, God is their protector and will give them strength, by holding them up with His righteous hand of judgement. He goes on to say, all that are angry and against them will be ashamed and dishonored, and those that contend with them shall be no more. The Hebrew interpretation reads, “Let there not be reverence or respect for them, because I am your God, do not look away in anxiety, for I am your God, I will make you strong, I will help you, I will hold you up in righteous judgement,” Isaiah is speaking into the future, seeing the salvation of the Lord Jesus being manifested in the future. King Cyrus of Persia had not yet come, but was presented to Judah as a defeated giant. We all have giants in our lives and may seem as though we are losing but we are not. We are not to fear or be intimidated by those who have no love for the light of God. We must tell others of the good new of Jesus Christ and walk this walk as soldier in love and in the beauty of his holiness.



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