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THE444 The Messiah

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Kingdom of God I: The Content of the Messianic Movement

This week we see in Luke 4:16-30, Jesus went to Nazareth the place he was raised and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue. As Jesus stood up to read the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. He then read a short verse and sat back down. This was actual fulfillment of what the prophet Isaiah had spoken about. The scroll mentioned setting the oppressed free and making the blind see. It was time and the Lord's favor was upon them.

The text of the prophet Isaiah is known as one of the most foretelling events in history. Isaiah was believed to have lived in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. He was a prominent figure in the court of King Uzziah and was known for his prophetic visions of the coming Messiah. It was during this time in the 8th century BCE that he wrote the texts that became the book of Isaiah in the Bible. There are some theories on how the scrolls were preserved and kept in royal archives of the Kings of Judah. If so, this would explain how they were passed down and used by scholars and scribes. It could also have been that some copies were made and shared to other areas in Judah. During the time of the Babylonian exile the people of Judah held tight to Isaiah's writings for hope and inspiration. The texts have been interpreted and reinterpreted for years.

Isaiah's prophetic book in the Old Testament contains many of the prophecies concerning the Messiah's birth, mission, and suffering. Isaiah was chosen by God to communicate His message to His people. He was a faithful man of God as well committed to serving and following. He did as he was told by God even if it was difficult, his devotion made him a chosen

spokesperson for God's message about the coming Messiah. He was a man who could be trusted with God's work. Isaiah also had the gift of prophecy which opened the door to his direct communication with God. This unique gift helped him understand the will of God, interpreting and sharing the message. Isaiah's message was of hope and salvation and deliverance for God's people past and present. The book of Isaiah still brings comfort to people. Another reason Isaiah was chosen was because of his accuracy. Many of the prophecies were fulfilled in detail. Isaiah predicted the Messiah would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), and this was fulfilled when Jesus was born to Mary. The prophecies were so true they were used to demonstrate truth in the Bible.

In Garcia's article it mentions the five texts in the New Testament that preserve the idiom "treasure in heaven." Garcia explains due to Matthew's lack of explanation for what this expression of "treasure in heaven" shows how he assumes the readers would simply understand the idiomatic usage. This teaching of Jesus Christ shares the importance of prioritizing eternal rewards over worldly gains. According to Jesus what we invest in heavens has lasting value and endures forever. That is why it is crucial for believers to invest in heaven by following Christ in this world.

Isaiah 45:3 "I will give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. Matthew and Isaiah, both have spoken about treasure in heaven. Both were based on the same teaching of prioritizing heaven and God's valuable's instead of earthly ones. However, treasures in heaven are eternal and cannot be taken away. These are rewards that we will receive in the after life for living a righteous life here on earth. This leads us to believing in Jesus Christ, surrendering, and repenting for our sins. Then following God's ways and being obedient, never putting anything before God.