

The Meaning of Christmas

Waiting for the Messiah

What does the Messiah do?

A Prophecy of Christ

A very specific word – μογιᾶλος – “speech impediment”

This word shows up only twice in the entire Bible, here and in Isaiah 35:6.

Isaiah 34 – a prophecy of total judgment

34:1-7 → against evildoers

34:8 → against the land

34:9 The streams turned into tar, soil into sulfur, land set on fire

34:10 The fire will go on forever, from generation to generation

34:11 It will be inhabited only by unclean beasts (compare to Rev 18:2), filled only with confusion and emptiness

34:12 All nobles and princes are brought to nothing

34:13 Strongholds and fortresses covered in thorns, filled with jackals

34:14 Wild animals devoured by hyenas, birds of prey make their nests

34:17 This is their appointed fate, forever

Isaiah 35 – a prophecy of future restoration

Special notes – “the tongue of the mute sing for joy”

- “the unclean shall not pass over it”

- “sorrow and sighing shall flee away”

The Character of Christ

The miracle

*Taking him aside privately...
Fingers into the ears, spitting on the tongue*

Why like this?

His empathy

The Work of Christ

The sigh

Why did he sigh? Literally groan. Is used for things like childbirth, mortal conflict, emotional pain when someone dies.

“Sighing [indicates] a condition of oppression under which man suffers and from which he longs to be free because it is not in accord with his nature, expectations, or hopes.” -TDNT

Jesus sighs, so that sighing would be no more.

So?

Head – understand that Jesus came to deliver from judgment

Heart – fall in love with who he is, find hope in a broken and sinful world

Hands – be sacrificial for others like Christ.

Also, verse 36. “The more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.”

Questions for Personal Study

1. What does Isaiah’s prophecy reveal to us about Jesus?
2. What is most beautiful to you in this passage? How does it help you worship Jesus?
3. How might you react to this passage: head, heart, hands (thinking, feeling, doing?)
4. Construct an I will statement of how you will try to put this statement into action this week.