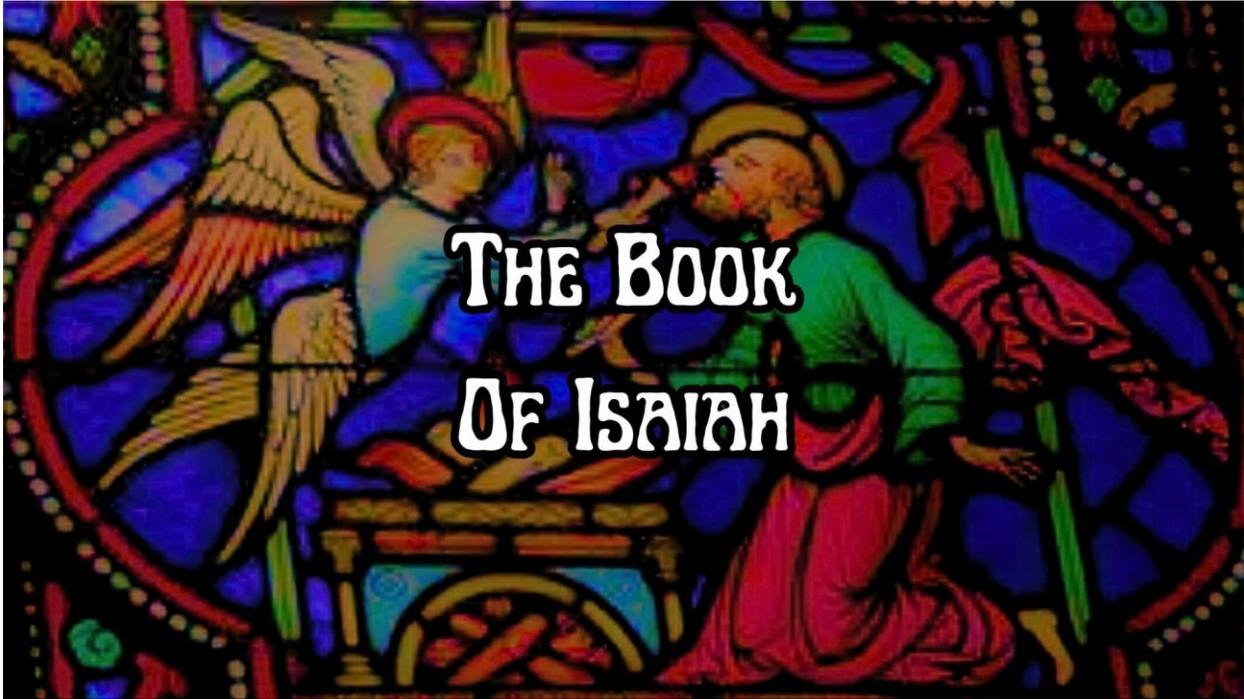


Small Group Guide: Prophecy Fulfilled - The First Coming of Christ



Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to His truth.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when someone predicted something about your life that came true. How did that make you feel about that person's insight or wisdom?

Key Scripture References

- Luke 4:16-22
 - Isaiah 61:1-2
 - Isaiah 52:13-15
 - Isaiah 53:1-12
 - Psalm 22
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Sermon Summary

Jesus began His public ministry by reading from Isaiah 61, but He stopped mid-sentence—before "the day of vengeance of our God." This intentional pause revealed that the Messiah would come twice: first to bring salvation, and later to bring judgment. Isaiah's prophecies, written 700+ years before Christ, describe His life, death, and resurrection with stunning accuracy, proving that God knows "the end from the beginning" and that Jesus is the promised Messiah who bridges the gap between humanity and God.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Text

1. **The Strategic Pause:** Why do you think Jesus stopped reading Isaiah 61 where He did? What does this teach us about how to read and interpret Old Testament prophecy?
2. **The Kaleidoscope Illustration:** The pastor compared Old Testament prophecy to looking through a kaleidoscope—seeing patterns but not clarity until you look through the lens of Jesus. How does this help you understand confusing or difficult Old Testament passages?
3. **Isaiah 53 Details:** Which specific detail from Isaiah 53 about Jesus' suffering, death, or resurrection stands out most to you? Why?

Personal Reflection

4. **Missed Expectations:** The Pharisees expected a military conqueror, but Isaiah 53:9 says the Messiah would do "no violence." What expectations about God or Jesus have you had to adjust based on what Scripture actually says?
5. **"For Many Nations":** Isaiah 52:15 says the Messiah's sacrifice would "sprinkle many nations," not just Israel. How does it impact you personally that God's plan always included you, even in prophecies written thousands of years ago?
6. **The Response Question:** The sermon ended by asking, "What is your response?" How do you respond to the overwhelming evidence that Jesus is the promised Messiah? What does that look like in your daily life?

Going Deeper

7. **Historical Certainty:** The pastor mentioned that even atheist and agnostic scholars confirm the historical crucifixion of Christ. How does the historical reliability of

Scripture strengthen your faith? How might you share this with someone who doubts?

8. **Isaiah's Courage:** Isaiah spoke unpopular truth and tradition says he was eventually sawed in half for his faithfulness. What does his example teach us about standing firm in truth when culture opposes us?

Key Takeaways

- ✓ **God knows the end from the beginning** and proves His deity through fulfilled prophecy
- ✓ **Jesus is the lens** through which the Old Testament becomes clear
- ✓ **The Messiah came twice:** first for salvation, later for judgment
- ✓ **Isaiah 53 provides undeniable evidence** of Jesus as the suffering servant who died for our sins
- ✓ **God's plan always included the Gentiles**—salvation was never meant for Israel alone
- ✓ **The evidence demands a response**—we must decide what we'll do with Jesus

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge

Choose one (or more) of the following to put into practice:

1. **Study Isaiah 53 Daily:** Read one verse from Isaiah 53 each day this week alongside the Gospel accounts of Jesus' crucifixion. Journal about the connections you discover.
2. **Share the Evidence:** Identify one person in your life who doubts Christianity or has questions about Jesus. Pray for them daily and look for an opportunity to share about the prophetic evidence for Christ.
3. **Examine Your Response:** Spend time in prayer honestly evaluating your response to Jesus. Are you living like someone who believes He's the promised Messiah? What needs to change?
4. **Memorize Scripture:** Commit Isaiah 53:5-6 to memory this week: "But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and by his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have

gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all."

5. **Gratitude Practice:** Each day, thank God for one specific detail from Isaiah 53 that Jesus fulfilled, recognizing what He endured for your salvation.

Prayer Requests & Closing Prayer

Share and Pray:

- Who in your life needs to hear about Jesus as the fulfillment of prophecy?
- What areas of your life need to better reflect your belief that Jesus is Lord?
- How can we pray for each other this week?

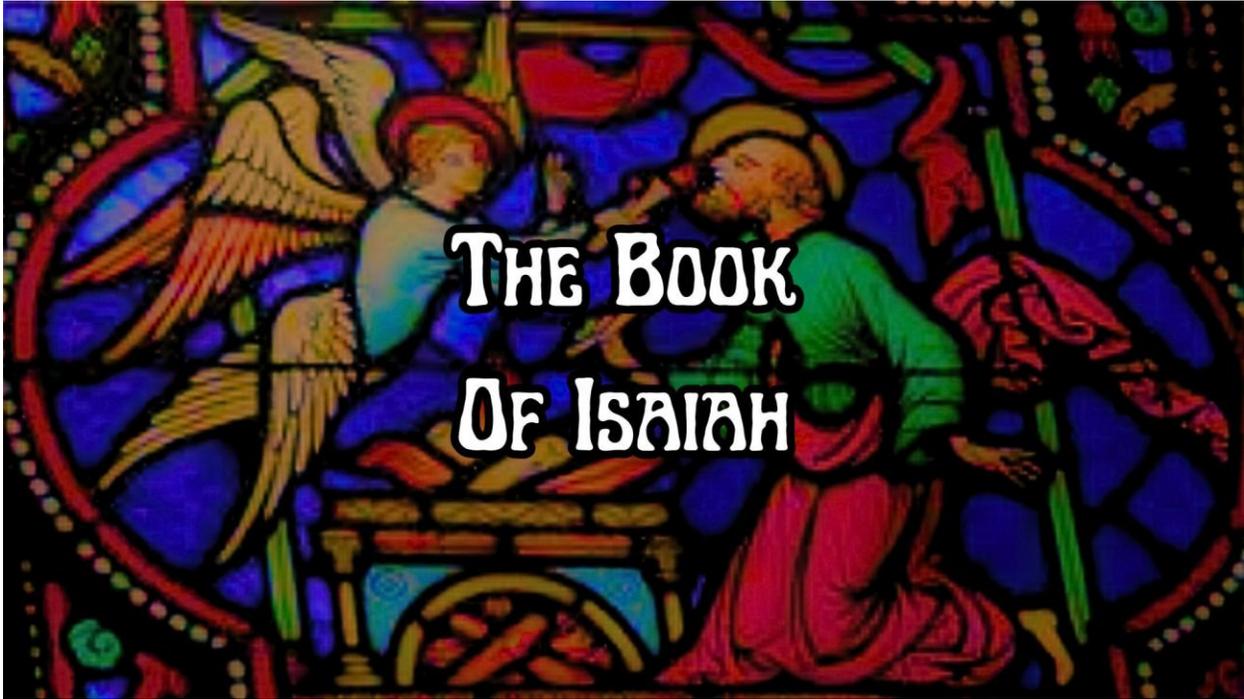
Closing Prayer Focus: Thank God for the clarity of His Word, for Jesus who fulfilled every prophecy, and for the Holy Spirit who helps us understand and respond to truth. Pray for boldness to share this evidence with others and for hearts that are fully surrendered to Christ as Lord.

For Next Week

Be prepared to discuss prophecies about Jesus' second coming and how we should live in light of His return.

"What is your response to the overwhelming evidence that Jesus is the Messiah? Scripture keeps clearly pointing us to Him. So what do we do?"

5-Day Devotional: The Prophetic Portrait of Christ



Day 1: The God Who Knows the End from the Beginning

Reading: Isaiah 46:8-13

Devotional: God's ability to declare the end from the beginning sets Him apart from all false gods and human wisdom. When Isaiah penned prophecies about Christ 700 years before His birth, he demonstrated that our God transcends time itself. This isn't merely about prediction—it's about divine authority and trustworthiness. The same God who orchestrated history to fulfill every detail of Christ's coming is orchestrating your life today. He knows your tomorrow, your struggles, and your victories. This should bring profound peace. When circumstances feel chaotic, remember: the God who predicted the Messiah's suffering and resurrection with perfect accuracy holds your future securely. His plans for you are as certain as the fulfilled prophecies of Christ.

Day 2: The Suffering Servant Who Bears Our Sorrows

Reading: Isaiah 53:1-6

Devotional: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities." These aren't poetic metaphors—they're prophetic declarations of substitutionary love. Seven centuries before Roman soldiers drove nails through Jesus' hands, Isaiah saw the cross. The Messiah wouldn't conquer through military might but through sacrificial suffering. He would bear what we deserved. Consider this: your specific sins, your particular shame, your individual guilt—all were carried by Christ. When you feel the weight of past failures, remember that "by His stripes we are healed." This healing isn't just spiritual theory; it's historical fact purchased at Calvary. Today, let the reality of Christ's suffering penetrate your heart. He didn't just sympathize with your pain—He absorbed it.

Day 3: Silent Before His Accusers

Reading: Isaiah 53:7-9; Matthew 27:11-14

Devotional: "He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth." This prophetic detail reveals Christ's character under pressure. When falsely accused, He remained silent. When mocked, He didn't defend Himself. This wasn't weakness—it was sovereign restraint. Jesus could have called legions of angels, yet He chose silence because your redemption required His submission. How do you respond when misunderstood or falsely accused? Our natural instinct is self-defense, justification, and retaliation. Christ models a different way—trusting the Father's vindication rather than demanding our own. Today, when tempted to defend yourself, remember the silent Savior who entrusted Himself to the righteous Judge. His silence purchased your salvation.

Day 4: Death, Burial, and the Promise of Prolonged Days

Reading: Isaiah 53:10-12; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8

Devotional: Isaiah's prophecy contains a stunning paradox: the Servant would die, be buried, yet "prolong His days." This is resurrection hope embedded in ancient text. The same chapter that predicts Christ's death simultaneously promises His victory over it. For believers, this changes everything. Death isn't the end; it's a comma, not a period. The tomb couldn't hold Him, and because He lives, we too shall live. Whatever "death" you're facing—of dreams, relationships, health, or hope—remember that our God specializes in resurrection. The crucifixion looked like defeat until Sunday morning. Your current circumstances may appear hopeless, but the God who raised Jesus specializes in bringing life from death. Hold fast to resurrection hope today.

Day 5: Your Response to Fulfilled Prophecy

Reading: Luke 4:16-22; John 1:29-34

Devotional: When Jesus read Isaiah 61 in the Nazareth synagogue, He stopped mid-sentence and declared, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." The prophetic kaleidoscope suddenly came into focus—Jesus is the lens through which all prophecy becomes clear. Now the question confronts us: what will we do with this evidence? The historical accuracy of fulfilled prophecy demands a response. You cannot remain neutral toward Christ. The details are too precise, the fulfillment too exact, the implications too significant. Isaiah suffered greatly to deliver these prophecies; Jesus suffered infinitely to fulfill them. Will you trust the God who knows the end from the beginning? Will you submit to the Servant who bore your sin? Today isn't just about intellectual acknowledgment—it's about personal surrender. What is your response to the Christ of prophecy?