

Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2022 4:16 PM
Subject: Last Nite's MOB Study on Isaiah Introduction

Welcome fellow MOBsters to MOB and another study of the Bible--this time to the book of Isaiah!

So why, one might ask, are we at IBC so big into studying the Bible?

Because we believe it's God's inspired Word! His special "revelation" to all mankind! That along with His other revelations makes it possible for us not only know to know who He is but to have a personal relationship with Him (which, amazingly, He desires and makes possible), and then to learn what it means to follow Him!

He has revealed Himself, most basically, through the world, and the universe, which He created! Psalm 19:1 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork!" Who cannot see His "handiwork"? Romans 1:20-21 adds: "For His invisible attributes, namely, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made! So that they are without excuse!"

After the "fall" of man in the "garden," and separation from God (because of sin), He (God) revealed Himself again, and made a way to restore that relationship, by sending His Son into the world He created to be the sacrifice for our sin! II Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake He made Him (Christ, the Son) to be sin (for us!) who knew no sin, so that in Him we become the righteousness of God!"

You're familiar with John 3:16, I'm sure, and can probably recite it; but how bout Galatians 4:4-5? "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons!" Wow!

But there's more! Remember how upset the disciples were when Jesus announced to them (in John 14:13-14) that He would be leaving this world (going to the cross), but that He would "ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. (But) you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you!" Then He adds (in 16:13) that "...when He (the Holy Spirit) come, He will guide you into all truth...and will disclose to things to come!"

Later, in His "intercessory prayer" to the Father, just prior to going to the cross (in John 17:17), Jesus prayed: "Sanctify them in the truth, Your word is truth!"

And that brings us back to the Word of Truth--the Bible--which "reveals" all the above and so much more! And explains why we want to be "men of the Word" (MOBsters)! And begin this latest study!

II Timothy 3:16-17 (our memory verse for next week) tells us that, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work!"

And the apostle Peter added: "Knowing this first of all, that no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit!"

And one of those men who spoke for God was the prophet Isaiah--perhaps the greatest prophet of all--who has been called, among other things:

- "The Messianic prophet"!
- "The Paul of the Old Testament"!
- "The Shakespeare of the prophets"!

And the book of Isaiah has also been called "the gospel according to Isaiah"!

So that's where we're going! The MOB study of Isaiah! With an "overview" next week of the first 39 chapters!

Psalms 119:18 says, "Open my eyes to see wonderful things in Your Word!"

May that be the prayer of our hearts as we begin our study of Isaiah!

May God bless your week!

Lowell