

STUDY GUIDE FOR THE WEEK OF: April 13, 2008
THE PROPHETS
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WEEK 3 OF THE SERIES

“ISAIAH THE PROPHET”

Scripture: Isaiah 6:8-13

8 Then I heard the Lord asking, “Whom should I send as a messenger to this people? Who will go for us?” I said, “Here I am. Send me.” 9 And he said, “Yes, go, and say to this people, ‘Listen carefully, but do not understand. Watch closely, but learn nothing.’¹⁰ Harden the hearts of these people. Plug their ears and shut their eyes. That way, they will not see with their eyes, nor hear with their ears, nor understand with their hearts and turn to me for healing.”¹¹ 11 Then I said, “Lord, how long will this go on?” And he replied, “Until their towns are empty, their houses are deserted, and the whole country is a wasteland; 12 until the LORD has sent everyone away, and the entire land of Israel lies deserted. 13 If even a tenth—a remnant—survive, it will be invaded again and burned. But as a terebinth or oak tree leaves a stump when it is cut down, so Israel’s stump will be a holy seed.

Study Notes

Isaiah’s call as a prophet is to preach a message that nobody will hear or comprehend. He is told that he will watch the demise of God’s people and although he will speak the truth, it will make no difference. All that will remain is a holy seed and the restoration of Israel will come from that seed. Hundreds of years later in the New Testament (see Matthew 13:10-17) Jesus will refer to this passage in Isaiah and declared it fulfilled in the Son of God coming to earth. Jesus is the holy seed. Isaiah does not get to see it, but he is playing a very significant role in preparing the way for Jesus, the savior of the world. All Isaiah gets to see is the holy seed. He is a small part in the big picture of what God is doing to bring restoration to earth. As people who don’t get to physically see Jesus walking around, we know what it is like to only see the holy seed. We see brokenness all around us and feel powerless. We too are small in the big picture of what God is doing. But when we choose to embrace a holy seed mentality we are able to be faithful to God no matter the results. We are free of discouragement. We find our solace in the seed—knowing God will use it to redeem the world, whether we get to witness it or not.

Questions for Further Reflection

1. Read Isaiah 6:1-13. What do you think Isaiah was thinking, feeling, experiencing when the Lord gives him this specific call in verses 9-13? What motivates Isaiah to stay faithful to his call as a prophet?
2. Read Matthew 13:10-17. How does Jesus factor into the prophecy of Isaiah?
3. What does a holy seed mentality lived out look like for you?