

I am the Royal Prophet, Isaiah. I am so named because I was of royal blood. Uzziah, that great King of Judah, was my cousin. His father, Amaziah, and my father Amos were brothers. Does it seem strange to you that a man of royal blood, who perhaps could have been a king of Judah, would be a prophet?

I saw so many visions of the Christ that some of your modern commentators insist that much of my book had to have been written *after* the time of the Christ. They say that no one could have seen what I saw of the Christ unless I was there in person to see it. Those commentators received quite a shock, when in 1947, a scroll was found that had been put into a pottery vessel filled with pitch. That scroll, found near the Dead Sea, contained my entire prophecy. That scroll, nearly 24 feet long, was written long before the time of Christ. Ah, yes, I saw it all before it happened. I pray that comforts you and assures you that it was the Lord who showed me everything, and that the Christ whom you worship is the Savior of the world.

I am anxious to tell you my story. When my cousin, King Uzziah, was king in Judah, he was a great king. But one day he became very proud of his successes and took credit for things that the Lord had done for him. He went into the temple in that weak moment and stretched forth his hand and did what only a priest was allowed to do. The Lord had always assigned jobs to different people, and each was to do his own job. The king was to be king, and the priest was to be priest, and neither was to interfere with the job of the other. My cousin, Uzziah, was given great success as king, but he became proud-so proud, in fact, that he thought he had a right to function also as a priest. He felt, because of the successes that the Lord had given to him, that he had earned the right to take unto himself the task of doing sacred things that the priests alone were consecrated to do.

While he was in the temple performing priestly duties, he was struck with leprosy. Shortly after that he died. I had a difficult time with that, and I thought my world had ended. Uzziah was not only my cousin, but he was my good friend. After he died, I went into the temple, not to carry on the priestly functions, but simply to pray. While I was there, I saw the Lord for the first time!

I saw the Lord, high and lifted up, and His train filled the temple. Above Him stood the seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their face, with two wings they covered their feet, and with two wings they flew. One called to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory!" The foundations of the threshold shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

You can imagine how I felt! I felt as if I would die! I felt unclean, and that the people with whom I lived were unclean. I thought that I would surely die!

Then one of the seraphim took tongs and went up to the altar in the temple and took a piece of burning coal from the altar, and he touched my lips with it and said to me: "Your lips are clean." Then He who sat on the throne said: "I have a message to give to the people. Whom shall I send?" I said, "Here am I, send me." I volunteered!

It is strange how my life changed from that moment. Before this time, I would look around and see things going bad, and I would say to myself, "Why doesn't someone do something about it?" Now I realized that it was my responsibility to try to do something myself. Now it was not someone else—it was I to whom the responsibility was given. Everything was so different now.

I will never forget how I felt when I saw the Lord the first time. How unclean I felt! How unworthy! But how clean I felt when the Lord told me I was clean! I never forgot that. All those visions I saw of the Christ made me feel the same way.

So many of the visions that I had of the Christ were inserted into other visions about my nation and world events. It was as if the Lord was saying that when the Messiah comes, He will come right in the middle of great world events, and that He would deal with the problems of the world right in the middle of the common events of mankind.

There was that day, for instance, when my king, King Ahaz, had lost heart. Syria was attacking Judah and they joined forces with Israel to the north of us. King Ahaz could not see how we could ever survive those enemies together. I said to him, "Don't worry, the Lord will save us," but he could not believe me. So I said to him, "I will show you a sign. The Lord will show you any sign you wish—just name it and the Lord will show that sign to prove to you that Syria and Israel will not conquer you." But he was shy and did not want the Lord to show him a sign. I said to him again, "The Lord has said He will give you any sign you wish, even if it is as deep as hell." But he did not want to put the Lord to the test. So I said to him that the Lord would give him a sign anyway. "Behold," I said, "a virgin will conceive and bear a Son, and will call His name Immanuel, which means 'God with us.'"" And there Christ was introduced.

Another time the Lord told me what was going to happen. These people of Mine, He said, are terribly rebellious. Do not be like them! They are unfaithful! They are going to false gods everywhere! They are consulting mediums and witches, they are consulting false prophets, but they do not call upon Me. For that reason, He told me, they would look everywhere for help when destruction comes to them, but they will not be able to find it. They will turn their faces upward and from side to side on earth, but behold, all will be darkness to them. Then He said this great thing to me: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.... For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government

will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this" (Isaiah 9:2, 6-7).

But I must tell you, I always wondered how He would do it. How could He save these people? What was the comfort I could give them? They would be so hard to save! How could He save them?

Then He showed me! I could hardly believe it! I could not make anyone in my day believe it. But I saw how He was going to do it. He was going to send His promised Messiah into the world as a servant! The Lord Himself would come to save them! The Son of David who was to be such a great King-a King greater than David-He was to be a Servant, and a suffering One at that!

I thought, "Who would believe our report?" I was astonished! The heavens were astonished! The Lord bared His arm and was going to act! He would make known His works to all nations. He said to me, "Watchman, lift up your voice and tell them that the Lord will act!" I thought: "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good tidings, who publishes peace" (Isaiah 52:7).

But who would believe our report? To whom is the arm of the Lord revealed? I saw this One-I saw the Lord Himself grow up before us like a tender plant and like a root out of a dry ground. He had no form or comeliness, that we should look at Him, and no beauty that we should desire Him. I saw that He would be despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. As I watched Him in my vision, I knew why He said He would startle the nations when He acts, for as I looked at God Himself here on earth, and what He bore, I hid as it were my face from Him. His appearance was so marred-beyond human semblance-as He would suffer. I began to understand why He said that kings shall stop their mouths at it.

I saw Him oppressed and afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth. Like a sheep before its shearer is dumb, so He opened not His mouth. He was like a lamb led to slaughter. I saw my Lord, stricken, smitten, afflicted! Although there was no deceit in His mouth, and He had done no violence, He was cut off from the land of the living.

I could hardly bear the vision! I wanted to escape the scene, until I suddenly discovered that it pleased the Lord to bruise Him! He, the Lord, had put Him to grief! For He had become the offering for sin. Be astounded, O heavens! Be confounded, O nations! Be confused, O rulers! The Lord has found a way to save His people. He shall see the affliction

of His Servant and shall see the travail of His soul, **and the Lord shall be satisfied**. "The Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all" (Isaiah 53:6). "Surely, He has borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. Upon Him was the chastisement that made us whole, and with His stripes we are healed" (Isaiah 53:4-5).

Then I saw Him dead! I saw the Lord dead! They made His grave with the wicked, and with a rich man in His death, although there was no deceit in His mouth and He had done no violence. I saw the Lord, high and lifted up on the cross, and I saw the Lord lowered from the cross and put in a grave. No wonder we hid our faces from Him. He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities, and by His stripes we are healed. Who would believe it?

That is why I could say, "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy, and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. It is free—this peace with God. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Hearken diligently to me and eat what is good and delight yourselves in fatness. Incline your ear, and come. Hear that your soul may live. [The Lord has found a way to save His people]" (Isaiah 55).

Jesus, the Suffering Servant, was bruised and wounded and whipped and lifted up from the earth on a cross for you. All of that to cancel your sin. All of that to make you whole and to give you healing, because the servant Jesus removed every obstacle between you and your Father in heaven. Who has believed our report? Who would believe such a thing? Do you?