

My Word Shall Accomplish

Commentary for December 1, 2011 — ... That Which I Please

In the Book of Isaiah God speaks through His prophet about the effectiveness of His Word in creation. Let me show you a passage where God draws an analogy between His physical creation, in which all things accomplish their purpose, and His Word which is just as effective:

“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and returns not thither, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

So [likewise] shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth:

it shall not return unto me void, but

it shall accomplish that which I please, and

it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

For you shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace.”

• *Isaiah 55:10–12*

Read the “[December 2011 Newsletter](#)” where I briefly discuss literary forms in Isaiah, which Dr. Ernest L. Martin writes about in this month’s article “Isaiah, Part 4.” God’s Word is used to communicate to the world when God wants that communication to be received, and not before. Note how God supports His Word and those who speak His Words. Pay attention to each item in this list:

“Thus says YHWH, your redeemer, and he that formed you from the womb, I am YHWH

- **that makes all things;**
- **That frustrates the tokens of the liars, and**
- **makes diviners mad;**
- **that turns wise men backward, and**
- **makes their knowledge foolish;**
- **that stretches forth the heavens alone;**
- **that spreads abroad the earth by myself;**
- **That confirms the word of his servant, and**
- **performs the counsel of his messengers;**
- **that says to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be inhabited’; and**
- **[says] to the cities of Judah, ‘You shall be built,’ and**
- **[says] ‘I will raise up the decayed places’ thereof:**
- **That says to the deep, ‘Be dry,’ and I will dry up your rivers:**
- **That says of Cyrus [some 150 years before Cyrus lived], ‘He is my shepherd, and [he] shall perform all my pleasure’:**
- **even saying to Jerusalem, ‘You shall be built’; and**
- **[saying] to the temple, ‘Your foundation shall be laid.’”**

• *Isaiah 44:24–28*

Each of these statements is important, they are statements regarding the past and future in Isaiah's time. God is clearly showing He is in total control of every situation, when He chooses to be in control. He not only can do all things according to the counsel of His will, but He shall do all things according to the counsel of His will (Ephesians 1:5, 9–12).

Elsewhere Isaiah tells about God's ability to accomplish what His Word says will occur:

“Tell you, and bring them [idols] near; yea, let them take counsel together [metaphorically mocking, as if dumb idols could do so]:

who has declared this from ancient time? who has told it from that time? have not I YHWH? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Savior; there is none beside me.

Look unto me, and be you saved, all the ends of the earth¹: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear [quoted by Paul in Philippians 2:10–11].

... In YHWH shall all the seed of Israel be justified, and shall glory [glory in God, cited in Romans 11:26].”

• *Isaiah 45:21–23, 25*

Note how these Isaiah passages are used and cited in the Bible, particularly in the New Testament. As Dr. Martin says: **“Isaiah uses methods of teachings which the apostles and Jesus Himself used to teach the real gospel of Jesus Christ.”** As a major source of prophecy the Book of Isaiah constantly highlights and honors and upholds the Word of God and foretells its eventual fulfillment.

Our lot in life today is just like that of Isaiah, the other Old Testament saints, and the New Testament saints. We are to be patient and wait on God's fulfillment of His Word.

“... for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying,

'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure. Calling a ravenous bird from the east [if I wish], the man that executes my counsel from a far country [if necessary]: yea,

I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass;

I have purposed it, I will also do it.

• *Isaiah 46:9–11*

Again, we must trust God to fulfill His Word. Patience produces hope as we trust God, even though patience is so very difficult.² A proper understanding of the Book of Isaiah can help us understand the future fulfillment of its prophecies. May God speed that Day.

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¹ This is referred to in Acts 13:46–47, and in many other verses of Isaiah and Acts.

² In particular see Psalm 25:3, 21, 27:14, 37:34, 69:6; Proverbs 20:22; and Hosea 12:6. Then look at the many verses that refer to patience, to be patient, or to wait patiently.