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Dear Associates and Friends,

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The article this month, "[Isaiah, Part 2](#)," continues the study of the Book of Isaiah first presented by Dr. Ernest L. Martin in audiotape lectures in 1998. Again, like the first presentation, "[Introduction to Isaiah](#)," this material will greatly expand your knowledge of Isaiah the man, his prophetic message, and how that message was used in the New Testament, particularly by the apostle Paul. I will quote again what I wrote in the "[September 2010 Newsletter](#)":

"The central message of the Book of Isaiah is that trust must be placed in YHWH alone and not in individual men, nations, or other elohim (other gods). YHWH is Israel's king, He created Israel, and He is Israel's Elohim. Keep this in mind as you read Isaiah, and as you read Dr. Martin's and my information."

There can be no salvation without YHWH. Remember that Isaiah's name means "YHWH saves" or "YHWH is salvation." Just as you cannot know important information about creation without God's revelation (due to limitations of our senses as determined by God), so too, you cannot understand the prophecies or the salvation of God written in Isaiah unless you acknowledge that they were given by a God who exists, a God who is active in the lives of His people, and a God who will save.

All creation outside of mankind acknowledges God and that He is sovereign, but only a portion of that creation obeys God. They do, however, pay attention to the actions and words of YHWH:

"Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for YHWH has spoken, I have [1] nourished, and [2] brought up children, and [3] they have rebelled against me."

• *Isaiah 1:2*

The prophecies given to Isaiah were witnessed by an audience in the heavens and earth.¹ What message does He present to those in the heavens and the earth? First, there are the three things that I numbered above. Then God goes on to inform the reader or listener how ignorant Israel is, as shown by their disobedience. They do not know YHWH, so Isaiah lists the wickedness of Israel. They are: sinful, iniquitous, evildoers, corrupters, forsakers of YHWH, deliberate provokers (to anger), and backsliders (Isaiah 1:4). That is quite a list, and this is only in verse 4 of the first of 66 chapters in Isaiah.

What Good Is Prophecy?

What is the value of prophecy? Some prophecies, particularly long, comprehensive, and complex prophecies (like those in the Book of Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel) are difficult to understand. They give information about events in the near future and also the distant future, often within a few verses. Some prophecies have a former fulfillment and a latter fulfillment. God tells us through Isaiah:

"Remember the former things of old ["from the eon," *olam*]: 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

¹ Besides humans on earth, these words are addressed to spirit beings on earth and in the three heavens. "Heaven" is always plural in the Hebrew Scriptures. It should be translated "heavens." All the heavens as well as earth are inhabited, and in Isaiah 1:2 they are told to bear witness to what "**YHWH has spoken**." This is not just poetic literary language (Colossians 1:16, 20, etc.).

times the things that are not yet done, saying, My COUNSEL shall stand [it shall be done], and I will do all my PLEASURE: Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executes my COUNSEL from a far country: 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*

Prophecy gives us God's perspective on historical events reported in the Bible. Prophecy also tells us about events before they happen so mankind has no excuse, especially those to whom the prophecies are given. Prophecy is also a witness to those in the heavens and the earth (Isaiah 1:2), that God exists, that YHWH is the true and only God, and that His word is sure and trustworthy.

The apostle Paul refers to this passage in Ephesians chapter 1. He uses many of the same terms (in capital letters below) that are used in the Greek LXX version of the Old Testament of Isaiah 46:9–11:

“Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good PLEASURE which he has PURPOSED in himself. That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the PURPOSE of him [God] who works all things after the COUNSEL of his own will.”

• *Ephesians 1:9–11*

God's will, pleasure, purpose, and the counsel of His will, interact through prophecy to ensure that what God says shall be accomplished.

“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his COUNSEL, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which [1] it was impossible for God to lie, [2] we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul ...”

• *Hebrews 6:17–19*

Just as Isaiah wrote, Paul says in Hebrews 6:17–19 that God's counsel is “immutable,” which means it is unchangeable. Furthermore, regarding God's immutable counsel, He **“confirmed it by an oath,”** an oath to Himself. Remember also that God **“works all things after the COUNSEL of his own will.”** Paul also says in Hebrews 6:18 that God's truth telling is also immutable, unchangeable. In other words, God cannot lie. We can take great consolation (comfort) in that knowledge, **“which hope we have as an anchor of the soul.”**

Thank You

Truly, our faith and our hope and our consolation are in God the Father who uses Christ Jesus as His willing agent to give you salvation and to fulfill His prophecies. Your salvation is already accomplished in fulfilled prophecies of Isaiah and the other prophets. The prophecies are given to all mankind and to you.

One purpose of ASK is to explain those prophecies to you. Dr. Martin's extensive research is not the last word on the prophecies of Isaiah or any of the other prophecies in the Bible. There are nuances that we will discover up to and beyond Christ's return to this earth. After our resurrection we will be stunned how God's prophecies have been precisely fulfilled, in spite of translation difficulties, insertions, and deletions in texts. God takes this matter of deliberate changes to His Word very seriously, see Revelation 22:18–21 for one example regarding the Book of Revelation.

No one has all the answers, and decades of in-depth study remain to discover the truths of prophecy. We recognize and value your help and funding so we can press on to provide this valuable information. Whether you have provided funds to cover the costs of your own reception of Dr. Martin's research, or whether you have provided funds for others to benefit from this information — you cause us to give our thanks to God. You also have our deep personal gratitude for your continued support.

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