



MATTHEW 6

## *The Lilies of The Valley*

### **"Give us a King"**

The story of in Genesis 12 tells us how YHVH chose Abraham after the scattering of Babylon and promised to make him into a large nation that would mediate divine blessing to all of the nations. (Genesis 12:1-3, 22:15-18).

That promise got developed as Abraham's family grew, ended up in slavery in Egypt, and then was rescued out of slavery and brought to the foot of Mt. Sinai (Exodus 1-18). There, at the mountain, YHVH asked the Israelites to obey all the terms of the covenant so that they could be YHVH's priestly representatives to all the nations (Exodus 19:1-6). Since Moses would not enter the promised land, Joshua was appointed to be Israel's Leader. Numbers 27:12-23.

YHVH raised up David, a royal leader who would be faithful on behalf of the unfaithful people. Yet, even David had his failures. YHVH promised that the ideal leader for Israel would come in the future, from David's line. The key story was where YHVH promised that a faithful king would arise and lead Israel towards faithfulness. This king would rule over the nations forever and ever. In the book of Isaiah, we're anticipating this promised king from the line of David who will fulfill the ancient promises of YHVH to Abraham, Israel, and David.

YHVH promised He would purify Israel with a coming act of divine justice, and only the repentant would be redeemed. Isaiah's hope for a future ruler is introduced in the opening chapter: (1:26). "I will restore your rulers as in the beginning... and you [Jerusalem] will be called 'city of righteousness, the faithful city'"

With all the suffering in the world, the evilness increased and people are facing the prophecies of Revelations falling into place. We can't deny the fact that in this time of this pandemic, many started seeing how the pressure is coming to reality. The period of the Mark of The Beast will soon prevent everyone his or her freedom as the one world order will be forced upon every living soul. We all looking forward to the coming King.

YHVH allows this period to go through the fire and come out the other side purged and faithful. Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I Am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous.

Our King, was given extremely exalted titles: "Mighty God," "Eternal Father," and famously, "Prince of Peace." When this King arrives, He will be the embodiment of the power and presence of the God of Israel, and He will bring about the fulfillment of YHVH's promise to David.

In Isaiah (11:1), the coming King will not just provide a solution to the immediate threat of the people, but His arrival will bring about a renewal of creation itself. The Scripture describes this king as the "shoot from the branch of Jesse"

Jesse was king David's father, and it was David's family who was threatened by Assyria and would later be taken captive to Babylon, effectively cutting off hope for the future. YHVH promises that a "new David" will grow out of Jesse's family line. This king is endowed with the "seven-fold" Spirit of YHVH (Isaiah 11:2-3), which empowers him to rule Israel together with all nations and bring about perfect justice. Not only that, but creation itself will undergo a transformation (Isaiah 11:6-9). This is prophecy depicted by showing the most violent creatures of their imaginations (lions, bears, wolves, cobras) playing and snuggling with the weakest and most vulnerable creatures they could think of (lambs, calves, baby humans). The king who brings about this transformation will become a uniting point for all of the nations (Isaiah 11:10).

With all of this hope, we venture into the rest of Isaiah looking for the identity of this king. Who will it be?

The next Davidic king we meet is named Hezekiah, whose story is told in Isaiah 36-39 and he is legit. He's the king ruling Jerusalem when the Assyrian war machine arrives (Isaiah 36-37). His response is the very opposite of Ahaz, his father, whose failure was told in Isaiah 7

Hezekiah heads right into the temple and prays that the God of Israel would deliver him, and that's exactly what happens. That night, a mysterious plague spreads through the Assyrian camps outside the city and Hezekiah wakes up and looks out on the corpses of thousands of Assyrian soldiers surrounding the city. The king of Assyria retreats. We are left thinking to ourselves, this Hezekiah is a boss! Surely he is the prince of peace and the shoot from the stump of Jesse.

As always in the Bible, the following story throws a wrench in this positive depiction of Hezekiah. Isaiah 39 tells a story about a group of Babylonian ambassadors who arrive in Jerusalem to court Hezekiah. Let us recall from 2 Kings 18-25 that the Babylonians, Assyria's neighbors, were secretly plotting to topple the Assyrian empire. They were going around forming alliances all over the ancient world to help them pull off this coup. They arrive in Jerusalem. He relied upon the God of Israel at the moment of crisis, but once a better political option shows up, Hezekiah crumbles.

The possibility of having Babylonian military firepower in his pocket was more attractive than going through another Assyrian crisis on his knees in prayer. Isaiah then confronts Hezekiah (Isaiah 39:3-4) and tells him there will be serious consequences for this faithless act.

These Babylonians he wants to ally with will turn on him in just a few generations, and Babylon will actually become Jerusalem's destroyer. Hezekiah's royal descendants will be taken captive and hauled off in the Babylonian exile (Isaiah 39:5-8).

Those days many had hoped that Hezekiah was the promised king, then he failed too, just like David, and Solomon, and all the rest. Those divine promises of a future king from earlier in the book (Isaiah 1, 9, 11) are left hanging open and unfulfilled.

However, as we come to understanding Isaiah 40-66, developed in a surprising direction observing the nature of "messianic prophecy" in Isaiah 1-39. Isaiah wants us to see that the hope for a faithful king who would bring the Kingdom of YHVH. It appears that this promise stood as a potential reality for each generation of David's descendants, but one by one they all struck out. Hezekiah came close, but in the end, even he was disqualified by his selfishness and sin. The future promise were delayed into a distant future.

Yeshua was that faithful king from the line of David. He was the one to whom this entire story had been pointing all along. Not because of Isaiah's predictive prophecy, but because Yeshua arrived and began doing all the things YHVH promised to David and Abraham.

### No Matter What, YHVH's Purposes Will Be Fulfilled

It appears that the Israelites still bitter about the exile, think they've been ignored and abandoned by their God. YHVH says He is going to do "a new thing, hidden and unknown to you" (Isaiah 48:6). In Isaiah 48:16 "Behold, the sovereign YHVH has sent me, endowed with His Spirit." He was endowed with YHVH's Spirit seven times over. Isaiah 11:1-3

Isaiah 49:7 we discover that this servant is "despised and abhorred by the nation." The servant tells us that his message is rejected by his fellow Israelites, and he's beaten and forsaken (Isaiah 50). Nonetheless, the servant has a message of good news: YHVH is going to fulfill His great promises and bring His kingdom over all nations (Isaiah 51-52). This is going to happen in a surprising way. We're told that YHVH is going to send messengers with good news!

"Your God reigns as King! YHVH will lay bare His Holy arm in the sight of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation of our YHVH."  
Isaiah 52:9-10

Just like Joseph and his brothers who planned evil to destroy him, YHVH orchestrated their evil to result in good ( Genesis 50:20). It was actually YHVH's mysterious purpose that the servant would die at the hands of Israel, because of their sin and on behalf of their sin (Isaiah 53:10 His death would play the role of a sacrificial guilt offering (Leviticus 5-6) providing atonement for their evil.

Thankfully, this isn't the end of the servant's story. After his rejection and death, we all of a sudden read that the servant will "look upon descendants and live long days" and "see the light and be satisfied" (Isaiah 53:10-11). Guilty Israel, who not only ended up in exile for their sins, but also killed God's servant sent to them, is pronounced "righteous," not for anything they have done, but because of what the servant did on their behalf.

Isaiah shows how the servant then forms a group of "descendants" (literally in Hebrew, "seed"), who will listen to his voice and follow him into YHVH's new creation. They will face persecution in the dark days that lie ahead (Isaiah 56-59 and 63), but ultimately they will inherit the new Jerusalem that YHVH has in store (Isaiah 60-62). The story ends with YHVH bringing final justice and a renewed creation (Isaiah 65-66), where all nations are invited into the Kingdom of YHVH's servants.

The book of Isaiah is truly remarkable and summed up the Kingdom of YHVH'S mission. Isaiah was included in the books of the Hebrew Bible that Jesus surveyed with his disciples after the resurrection, showing them that everything had been anticipated in the "Torah, the prophets, and the Psalms" (Luke 24:44-49). The book of Isaiah was foundational for the early followers of Yeshua and helped motivate their mission to bring good news to the nations (Acts 13:47).

Keeping this verse near your heart. "The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them"

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture." (*John 10:9*)

Yeshua HaMashiach will one day become known by His brethren as this door, and they will praise and thank Him for it.

We are eagerly looking forward to our Sovereign and Almighty King. We prepare with hope and faith, being ready for the new Jerusalem.

Be Blessed and stay blessed!