

The Manifesto of the Messiah

Chapter 3

Audio Lesson: Old Testament #63



Objective: To understand the messianic prophecies of Isaiah.



*All we like sheep have gone astray,
Each of us has turned to his own way:
And the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

—Isaiah 53:6

*Seek the Lord while he may be found;
Call on him while he is near.
Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn to the LORD and he will have mercy on him,
And to our God, for he will freely pardon.
“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither my ways your ways,” declares the Lord.
“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways
And my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

—Isaiah 55:6-9

There is more messianic prophecy in the book of Isaiah than in any other book of prophetic literature. Isaiah made it clear that the Messiah would be God in human flesh, and he also tells us the essence of the Spirit that would be expressed through Messiah. Jesus would be the perfect expression of the Spirit of God. His life would become the model by which all of us should live our lives.

Isaiah prophesied that God needed a “highway” on which to travel into this world (40:3-5). That highway would be the life of His Son. Just as building a physical highway requires leveling mountains, filling valleys, straightening crooked places, and smoothing rough places, the Son would level mountains of pride, fill our empty places, straighten out our sinful ways, and smooth out the rough spots of our lives. When God has that kind of highway to travel on in our lives, others will see salvation and the glory of God.

When Jesus described His ministry, He quoted from the book of Isaiah. He brought good news to the afflicted, healed the brokenhearted, proclaimed liberty to captives, and declared that the time of the Lord’s favor had come.

1. True or **false**? Isaiah spoke about food because he was concerned for the diet of his fellow Jews.
2. **True** or false? The Word of God always accomplishes what God wants it to accomplish.



3. True or **false**? Isaiah mainly preached his own opinions, regardless of whether God had spoken to him.
4. **True** or false? There are many similarities between the way Isaiah preached and Jesus taught.

Unless otherwise noted, choose one answer for each question.

5. Which of the following are major themes of Isaiah's preaching? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. **Jesus the Christ**
 - b. Business
 - c. Farming
 - d. **Sin**
 - e. **Repentance**
 - f. Proper rituals
 - g. **Forgiveness and restoration**
 - h. **Worship**
 - i. Self-denial
6. What is the difference between knowledge and wisdom?
- a. Knowledge is practical; wisdom is theoretical.
 - b. Knowledge makes us godly; wisdom makes us intelligent.
 - c. **Knowledge is learning the truth; wisdom is knowing what to do with truth.**
 - d. There is no difference; they mean the same thing.
7. What analogy does Isaiah use to describe God coming into this world?
- a. Digging a well
 - b. **Preparing a main public road**
 - c. Building a bridge
 - d. Climbing a mountain

8. In what ways does God want to use our lives as a “good road”? (*choose all that apply*)
- a. **God wants to take His message to the world through our lives.**
 - b. **He wants to level the mountains of pride in our lives.**
 - c. **Filling the valleys and empty place with His sufficiency.**
 - d. **He wants to straighten our crooked and sinful ways.**
 - e. **He wants to smooth the rough areas in our lives and make them smooth.**

9. Read Isaiah 61:1-2. Which of the following did Isaiah say the Messiah would do? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. Overthrow the Roman government
- b. **Proclaim liberty to captives**
- c. Start a new religion
- d. Provide better housing
- e. **Declare the Lord’s favor**
- f. **Heal the brokenhearted**
- g. **Preach good news**

*“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
Because the Lord has anointed me
To bring good news to the afflicted;
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to
proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to
prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the
Lord.”*

—Isaiah 61:1-2

10. How does the Messiah’s “manifesto” apply to Christians?

- a. It only proves to us that Jesus is the Savior.
- b. It shows us what Jesus wanted to do if He had lived longer.
- c. It shows what we are to demand from our political leaders.
- d. **It is a description of what we are to do, since we are to be like Jesus.**

11. How can we do the works that Jesus called us to do?

- a. **Only by the power of His Spirit**
- b. By being perfect and sinless as He was
- c. By knowing the right words to pray
- d. We cannot do His works because we are not divine like He is.

12. If we have experienced salvation, what ministry does Jesus want to have through us? (*choose all that apply*)

- a. **Bring spiritual sight to those who are spiritually blind.**
- b. **Set those free who are spiritually bound.**
- c. Make the poor prosperous.
- d. **Bring God’s healing to the broken and bruised.**



If God wanted to clear a highway for Himself in your life, what mountains would He need to level? What valleys would He fill out? What crooked places would He straighten, and what rough spots would He smooth out?



If you are hurting, brokenhearted, spiritually blind, or captive, thank God that the Messiah's ministry is meant for you, and ask God to set you free, heal and comfort you. Also pray that He would help you be a highway on which He travels in this world so people will see Him through you.



Going Deeper

1. In addition to literally healing some blind people, how was the Messiah going to give sight to the blind? _____

2. How was He going to set the captives free? _____

3. How would the Messiah heal the brokenhearted? _____

4. Since the most dynamic truth in the New Testament is that Christ the Messiah lives in and through us today and we are literally His body, in what ways does He want to do those same things in and through us? _____

5. The greatest prophet and the greatest man ever born of woman, according to Jesus, came preaching the great sermon of Isaiah about the life of the Messiah being a highway on which God would travel into this world. What are the applications of that highway sermon to your life today? _____

6. What would it be like if you asked God to make your life a highway on which He, through the Christ Who lives in you, would travel into this world? _____

7. If you had the faith and the courage to pray that prayer, what would it be like if God's spiritual bulldozers showed up in your life? _____
