

**Title: “*The Apologetics of Isaiah*”**

**Sub-Title: “*Understanding the Book of Isaiah*”**

***Introduction:*** The study of the book of Isaiah is one of an historical account of fulfilled prophecies. Fulfilled prophecies are by all accounts a biblical apologetic. There are by definition two types of views of this program, there are saints or those who are searching. Apologetics will confirm and make stronger the faith of the believer, and encourage the one that is searching to place their faith in Jesus Christ.

All of our study to this point has prepared us to look at the apologetics of Isaiah through the prism of fulfilled prophecy. We will experience the power of these historic accounts of prophecy will encourage our faith in Jesus Christ and the Bible as the inspired, infallible, inerrant, preserved Word of God.

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J. Vernon McGee explained the power of fulfilled prophecy this way, “Fulfilled prophecy is the one proof that you can’t escape, you can’t get around. And the Bible is filled with prophecy. One-fourth of the Scriptures, when it was written, was prophetic; it announced things that were to take place in the future.”<sup>1</sup>

Any account from Scripture that is proof of the validity of Christianity is a biblical apologetic, and certainly would be considered a presuppositionalism.

McGee discussed the importance of a true prophet and the consequences of a false prophet in biblical times. He stated, “If he was not accurate, he was to be put to death as a false prophet. God told His people that they would be able to distinguish a false prophet from a true prophet. A true prophet must first speak into a local situation, which Isaiah did. When that prophecy came to pass, they would know they could trust him to speak concerning the future, as Isaiah did. We can look back now and know that it was fulfilled.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>. Ibid., McGee, 9.

These recorded biblical events should be affirming to the believer and persuasive to the one that is searching. McGee further argued,

“The Bible has moved into that area of absolute impossibility, (referring to the probability of prophecies being fulfilled) and that to me is absolute proof that it is the Word of God. There is nothing to compare to it at all. I have given very few examples of fulfilled prophecy, but there is in the Word of God prophecy after prophecy, and they have been fulfilled—literally fulfilled. And by the way, I would think that that indicates the method in which prophecy for the future is yet to be fulfilled.”<sup>2</sup>

At this point it is important to point out that, as McGee had stated one quarter of the Bible is prophecy, while Scripture as a whole is historical documentation. As the saying goes, the Bible is His-story.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid., McGee, 7.

***The Key verse in the Book of Isaiah: 9:6*** “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Now according to Adam Clarke's dating of this passage in Isaiah 9:6, he has this passage taken place at 740 B.C. This passage is a favorite passage to site around Christmas time, but furthermore it is a favorite of many Christians as a fulfilled prophecy it is affirming to the believer's faith in Jesus Christ.

One does not have to be a theologian to appreciate this prophetic passage. At first blush, this passage jumps off the page at its reader as a profound, Divine, declarative statement. This passage demands answers: Who is this child? Who are the parents? Will this child be a prophet or a political leader? What kind of leaders is this that would be called, Wonderful, Counsellor?

One could certainly argue that the Prince of Peace is a clear reference to Jesus. Second, The Everlasting Father has to refer to God the Father. The outstanding question in this key verse in Isaiah is whether or not The Mighty God is a reference to the Holy Spirit? That would be the position that I would take on this passage.

After considering the key verse of Isaiah, let's begin our study of the apologetics of Isaiah in chapter one. The first question to ask relative to Isaiah chapter one is, Who was the original audience? The chapter was addressing the Jewish people of Jerusalem and Judah, vs.1. ***“The vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.”*** Now remember the date of this writing, 760 B.C. Now in the Old Testament the years go from higher to lower as one approaches the birth of the Messiah. Now God's people were referred to as the Hebrews prior to 586 B.C. which was the fall of Babylon. After that point they were called the Jewish people.

At the very beginning of the book of Isaiah we see that Isaiah has been given a vision of Jerusalem and Judah. The Lord has given an appeal for Israel to listen to what the Lord was saying. vs.2. ***“Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me.”*** What we see being described here is the spiritual condition of Israel, and it was pretty bleak. Isaiah describes a people that do not even know the one who made them. vs.3 ***“The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider.”*** It should be mentioned the cultural background of the audience of Isaiah. We know already that they are known as the Hebrew people at this point, but also their culture was agrarian. They were primarily farmers.

The entire spiritual portrait of Israel was total devastation, except for one thing, “a very small remnant” vs. 9. God has promised a remnant in every dispensation of time. A remnant = believers. From Adam and Eve in

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Genesis to the two olive-skinned preachers in Revelation God has always left a remnant. Ultimately believers' faith is based on divine promises made, and promises fulfilled by the Lord God. With every fulfilled promise demonstrated and revealed to the searching one the apologetic argument for a personal relationship with the Lord increases with every fulfilled promise.

The Lord is the Apologist. He is reasoning with the Hebrew people that they might place their faith in the Living God. Vs.18-20 *"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it."*

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Cornelius VanTil addresses the universal and timeless problem of rebellion this way, “The natural man knows that he is the creation of God. He knows also that he is responsible to God. He knows that he should live to the glory of God. He knows that he should stress that the field of reality which he investigates has the stamp of God’s ownership upon it.”<sup>2</sup> God’s Creation demands that man have a relationship with Him. ***Romans 1:20-21 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.”***

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<sup>2</sup> Cornelius VanTil, *The Defense of The Faith* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P& R Publishing), 124.



**Conclusion:**

1. Prophecies fulfilled
2. The Remnant promised
3. Promises fulfilled
4. The Creation demands a response

## **Applications:**

1. Download Knight's Notes on: Excellent Way.tv.
2. Read Isaiah chapter two and look for arguments for faith in the Lord.
3. Memorize Isaiah 9:6.
4. Study and discuss Isaiah chapter One with family and friends. White down questions that you have relative to the book of Isaiah.
5. Share our ministry website on you social media.

**Where we began:**

- Prophecies fulfilled
- The forsaking of the Lord
- The promised remnant
- Promises fulfilled
- Background of Isaiah
- The Apologetics of Creation

**Next time:**

- The Apologetics of Isaiah
- The Day of the Lord