

Title: “*The Apologetics of Isaiah*”

Sub-Title: “*The Background of the Book of Isaiah*”

I. Introduction: The study of Isaiah will focus on the passages in this book that deal with the topic of apologetics. We will skip over some passages that do not directly address the topic of apologetics. The passages that do address apologetics will be handled in an expository fashion. We will begin with other explanations of the book of Isaiah and other issues pertaining to biblical apologetics. We may refer to this study as Old Testament biblical apologetics.

II. Define expository teaching: To explain; to define; to develop a text of Scripture. To expound is to ask questions of a text and then search for the answers to those questions.

- **Mark 4:34** “But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.”

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- **Luke 24:27** “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”
- **Acts 11:4** “But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying,”
- **Acts 18:26** “And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.”
- **Acts 28:23** “And when they had appointed him a day, there came many to him into his lodging; to whom he expounded and testified the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus, both out of the law of Moses, and out of the prophets, from morning till evening.”

- **Acts 17:1-3** “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures, Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.”

III. Define Presuppositional Apologetics:

- ***I Peter 3:15*** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”
- ***Colossians 4:6*** “Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”

- ***I Corinthians 15:3-8*** “For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.”

IV. The prophetic book of Isaiah: If one thinks about it prophecy is by itself an apologetic. One of the Old Testament books that stand out as a record of prophecy is the book of Isaiah. Isaiah has pinpointed with incredible accuracy Who the promised Messiah would be; Who the human mother and father of the Messiah would be; who the Messiah would be put to death; and elements regarding the Messiah's resurrection.

V. Background of the book of Isaiah: J. Vernon McGee offer this commentary of Isaiah. He stated,

“Beginning with Isaih, and continuing through the Old Testament, there is a section of Scripture called the prophetic portion of the Bible. Although the predictive element bulks large in this section, the prophets were more than fortune-tellers. actually, they were men raised up of God in a decadent day when both priest and king were no longer worthy channels through whom the expressions of God might flow.”¹

VI. Proof of a prophet: Deuteronomy 18:20-22 “But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the

1. J. Vernon McGee, Isaiah Notes, Thru the Bible Radio.

LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.”

McGee further explained, “If the local event did not transpire just as the prophet predicted, he was labeled as a false prophet and was so treated (usually put to death). You may be sure that the message of the false prophet is not in the library of inspired Scripture. The prophetic books are filled with events that are local and fulfilled. A sharp distinction needs to be drawn between this portion and that which is yet to be fulfilled.”²

McGee advanced prophetic evidence as he stated, “One of the greatest evidences of the fact that these men were speaking the words of God is revealed in the hundreds of prophecies that have been fulfilled literally. Man cannot guess the future. even the meteorologists have difficulty in prognosticating the weather twenty-four hours in advance, although they have the advantage of all sorts of scientific and mechanical devices to assist them.”³

² Ibid., McGee.

³ Ibid.

“No modern weather forecaster could have been an accepted prophet in Israel! The law of compound probability forbids man from consistently fortetelling the truth. Each uncertain element added decreases the chance of accuracy by fifty percent.”⁴

“The example of hundreds of prophecies literally fulfilled has a genuine appeal to the honest mind and sincere seeker after the truth. Fulfilled prophecy is one of the infallible proofs of plenary, verbal inspiration of Scripture.”⁵

II Peter 1:19-21 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.”

⁴ Ibid., McGee.

⁵ Ibid.

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The theme McGee explained, “As the New Testament presents the Lord Jesus Christ as its theme, so Isaiah presents the Lord Jesus Christ as his theme. Isaiah has been called the 5th evangelist; the Book of Isaiah has been called the 5th Gospel. Christ’s virgin birth, His character, His life, His death, His resurrection, and His second coming are all presented in Isaiah with definiteness and clarity.”⁶

We see a prophecy of Christ’s second coming here in *I Peter 1:10-11* “Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.”

The study of Isaiah proves a very powerful point relative to prophecy. It is the aspect of Scripture being plenary, inerrant, infallible, and verbal inspiration.

⁶ Ibid., McGee.

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Notice in, *II Timothy 3:16-17* “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”

Applications:

1. Go to Knight's Notes on Excellent Way.tv
2. Begin reading the Book of Isaiah and seeing it through the lens of a prophetic account of Christ's soon coming return.
3. Write down questions about the teaching and/or reading that you are doing in the book of Isaiah.
4. Start discussions with family and friends about the proofs of Scripture based upon fulfilled prophecies that you have learned in the book of Isaiah.

Where we began:

- Supremacy of Scripture
- Bible Doctrines #'s 1-7
- Defining Hermeneutics
- Principles of Hermeneutics
- The Background of the Book of Isaiah
- Explanation of Expository teaching
- Explanation what presuppositional Apologetics

Next time:

- The Apologetics of Isaiah
- The Background of the Book of Isaiah