



BIBLE RADIO PRODUCTIONS

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BIBLE ADVENTURES SCRIPT:

A1912 ~ The Vision of Isaiah.

Welcome to Bible Adventures. Help for today. Hope for tomorrow. Jesus is Lord of all.

From the beginning of King David's reign in Judah, in 1010 BC, until King Hezekiah died in 686 BC, our *Bible Adventures* programs have only covered 325 years of the history of the kings of Judah. During these years, much bloodshed occurred between Judah and neighbouring countries, fortunes were made and lost, God's chosen people were faithful at times to their covenant with Him while at other times, they completely turned their backs. When the people were unfaithful, God sent other nations to attack them and prophets to encourage them to return to their one true God and serve Him.

During this time in the history of the Hebrew people, the greatest Old Testament prophets were: Elijah, Isaiah and Daniel. This *Bible Adventure* starts by looking at the life of Isaiah and the book, named 'Isaiah', that he wrote containing future prophecies of what God had revealed to him. Isaiah's name means 'The Lord is Saviour'. His prophetic work began in the last year of King Uzziah's reign, and continued through the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah. His long service extended from 740 BC to 681 BC and it's believed that Isaiah was put to death by Hezekiah's evil son, Manasseh.

Isaiah firstly began prophesising over his own people of Judah in Jerusalem, for he lived there. The Lord had condemned them, he said, because of their religious hypocrisy and moral corruption. Yet Isaiah also called them to genuine repentance, as God was offering them forgiveness and hope for the future, when He would restore true righteousness, with its centre in Jerusalem. This is recorded in the first five chapters of Isaiah's book.

Isaiah then wrote about his own feelings of sin and condemnation when he had a vision of standing before the Lord in His Temple. This sense of guilt led him to confess his sinfulness, from which he received assurance of God's cleansing and forgiveness. Then he responded to God's call on his life and was commissioned to be God's prophet. This is recorded in Chapter 6.

DRAMA - [The Bible In Living Sound](#).

The book of Isaiah is divided into three parts: from chapters 1 to 35, there are prophecies of judgment; from chapters 36 to 39, historical events and the prediction of exile; and from chapters 40 to 66, prophecies of restoration and redemption. The book is primarily a message of hope and encouragement for those who put their trust in the Lord, even though it warns of God's judgment on evil doers and the enemies of His people.

There are passages all the way through the book of Isaiah which point to Christ. Christ Jesus will one day bring about the true fulfilment of the Israelites' hope for restored conditions of peace and joy among God's true people. God's actions, both in judgment and salvation, will eventually apply to all nations and the whole earth. As had been the case with the prophet, Hosea, the names of Isaiah's wife and their two sons had prophetic significance, warning of God's judgment.

In the 2nd section, the Lord calls on Judah and the other nations to recognise that He alone is God, the earth's Creator and Sovereign. He's the only one who could ever save any of them. The people will testify that these things were true, as only the Lord alone can tell what will happen in the future, for He planned it all. The Babylonians' gods won't be of any help to them when the Lord acts in judgment against them. But God will bring back His exiled people from Babylon and use King Cyrus of Persia as His servant to make that happen.

Yet God tells us that He has a greater Servant than Cyrus. This Servant would suffer and die as an innocent victim to win God's forgiveness for the people's sins. God would then raise up this Servant again to life, and give him a place of high honour, for He would carry out God's plans for the salvation and restoration of His people.

The last 26 chapters of the book contain prophecies of restoration of the Jewish people. These are important today because there's a doctrine preached in some churches that the church has now replaced God's chosen people and that His promises to the Jews have been passed onto Christians in the church. This isn't true. There are three groups in the Scriptures: the Jews, the church and those who are unsaved Gentiles or everyone else. Prophecy clearly says that the church will be taken out of the world at the time of Christ's rapture. Only God knows when the Rapture will take place; but in the meantime we're to be busy with God's plan for our lives, as well as warning our relatives, friends and neighbours to prepare themselves for heaven.

After the Rapture, God will then deal with the Jews during a time of tribulation and they will recognise Jesus Christ as their Lord and Messiah. During that terrible time, as written in the last book of the Bible called The Revelation of Jesus Christ, there's not one mention of the church in chapters 6 to 19. The church simply isn't there. Those who believe in the Lord Jesus will have been taken up to heaven to be safe with Him while many devastating trials will come on the people left behind.

More than 700 years before the birth of the Lord Jesus, God gave Isaiah a sign about Jesus, as recorded in Chapter 8: "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Israel has always been God's time-piece regarding key world events, and today, we need to watch what's happening in Israel and in the surrounding nations.

Many of the Bible's remaining unfulfilled prophecies are happening quickly. The alliances between the nations close to Israel are coming together for the prophesied wars which will take place. At present some nations teach their children that Jewish people should all be killed and the Jewish state should be destroyed. But God will have the final say on how things turn out. Nations often confidently go to war expecting a good outcome, like King Sennacherib of Assyria, only to have their armies destroyed by God Himself.

The last 7 years of Daniel's prophecy, in the book of Daniel, will be most difficult for Israel. Christians, on the other hand, don't know when the Lord Jesus will call them out but we're warned to be ready at all times. Meanwhile, we're to be watchmen for all those in our sphere of influence, and warn them of their need to get right with God while there's still time to do so. God sends people warnings in advance to let them know that something terrible is going to happen if they don't turn to Him and forsake their idol worship. We see in our *Bible Adventures* that the times the people put God first again in their lives, God held off sending the punishment that He was planning for them.

During the same period as Isaiah lived, the minor prophet, Micah, along with Amos and Hosea, were active for God. Micah prophesied in Judah towards the end of the 8th Century BC, and he began by calling all the people of the earth to listen to the charges which the Sovereign Lord was bringing against them from His throne in heaven. God was coming to act in judgment against the whole northern nation of Israel because of their sin, and He would destroy Samaria and its idols. He was also sending disaster on Judah that would reach the gates of Jerusalem.

Micah later wrote that it would be the Assyrian army that would capture the towns of Judah, as God would act in judgment against His people because of their evil doing. Micah revealed that the leaders and rich people were dishonest, for they told lies, used false weights and measures, and they took bribes. They also cheated the poor and took away their homes and land. They refused to listen to prophets like himself, who were the Lord's true messengers, and only took notice of those prophets who said things they liked to hear.

Because the people had no change of heart, they would experience ruin and destruction. Their enemies would take away their land and exile them in Babylon; even Jerusalem would be destroyed. What the Lord wanted from all the people on earth wasn't religious rituals and sacrifices and offerings, but a right attitude of heart toward Him and His ways. Micah wrote in Chapter 6 of his book, Micah: "The Lord has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with our God."

Micah said that one day, the Lord would punish His people's enemies for their evildoing too, after He'd regathered the few Jewish people who were left. They would come back to Him, wanting to learn His ways. He would forgive their sins, restore their greatness and rule over them with a descendant of David as their king, just as He had promised King David. This king would be born in Bethlehem and His kingdom would become worldwide and bring peace. All nations will one day honour this king, seek His counsel and be subject to Him.

As a result of Micah's warnings, the leaders of Judah under King Hezekiah turned back to the Lord. So God didn't send the punishment that He'd threatened the people of Judah with at that time. Living for God is all about believing what God says in His Bible and then obeying it. If we don't obey what's in God's book, we'll be like people who repeat a cycle of history without learning its lessons. God's commandments aren't difficult obligations but rather, pathways to joyful, meaningful and satisfying lives. Yet loving and obeying God is the only way to stay in fellowship with Him.

God's call for your first love and obedience is based on His own commitment to your wellbeing. Since God is the Creator of life, He knows how He designed life to work. Obedience demonstrates our willingness to follow through on what He says; you trust that God's way is the best for you and your desire is to have a close relationship with Him.

In the Congo, a missionary's young son was playing under a tree near his house. Suddenly, his father called to him to obey him instantly to get down on his stomach. The boy reacted at once and his father commanded the boy to crawl to him quickly. The boy again obeyed. After the child had come halfway toward his father, the missionary called out for the child to stand up and run to him. When the boy reached his father, he looked back to see hanging from a branch of the tree he'd been playing under, a 15-foot snake.

Are we always as ready to obey? Or do we say: "First tell me why I should?" "Explain your reason to me" "I will obey after a while and when I can." Let your obedience be based on love for Him and the same as what Samuel was instructed to do in 1st Samuel, Chapter 3, Verse 9: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

The drama is from The Bible In Living Sound.

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