

The Gospel of Isaiah

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Within the span of 700 years, Judah and Israel would witness how quickly the title of “world-leader” could transition. For the Hebrew nation, they were merely pawns in the game of ruling authorities. In 732 BCE, Assyria attacked Israel and began their reign over the Jews. Shortly after, the nation of Judah would also fall victim to this treacherous army. Some 130 years later, and Assyria would fall to the mighty nation of Babylon. Not long after Babylon rose up, the Persians began their rule of the ancient world, and then the Greeks.

This futile quest for being the strongest, mightiest, and most prosperous nation has been going on for centuries. Nations will rise, and within a blip of time, they will fall. While there is nothing wrong in trying to aspire for greatness in life, one must understand that this quest for being the “greatest” is worthless, for the mark of history is a testimony to its vanity.

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Isaiah was writing his letter somewhere around the 700BCE time-frame. In his literature and prophecy, he considers how the nations would experience judgment from God (Isaiah 13-24). He impressively prophesies how God would use men such as Cyrus, who were estranged from His majesty in order to accomplish His will (Isaiah 45:1-4). In addition to all he saw, Isaiah unfolds a truth that should be of great comfort to those who read his scroll.

The term “gospel” literally means “good news.” What was the good news for a poverty-stricken nation, who was ripped from their homeland of Jerusalem, and subjected to the will of other nations? The gospel of Isaiah is found in Isaiah 52:7:

*How beautiful upon the mountains
Are the feet of him who brings good news,
Who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness,
Who publishes salvation,
Who says to Zion, “Your God reigns”*

The good news that Isaiah was broadcasting to the people was the message: “Your God reigns.” As we watch calamity and prosperity take their course on mankind, we know God is still reigning. When blessing strikes us and suffering humbles us, we know God reigns. When war is waged and peace is

embraced, God still reigns. He has reigned, and He'll continue to reign. That's good news to you and me.