

Transforming Daily

“... a Son ...”

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6

The overarching message of Isaiah is one of judgment and redemption as are all the books of the prophets, and for that matter the entire Bible. Isaiah, as the mouthpiece of God, calls Israel to repentance. He reminds them of who their God is and who they are. The book is 66 chapters long and is said by some scholars that each chapter corresponds to each book of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. But the main emphasis of Isaiah is the gospel (Is.7:14; 9:6).

Isaiah calls out to the people of Israel as God had chosen him to do, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” (Is. 6:8) The rebellion and defiance of the children of Israel was in God’s face, but His compassion and grace was extended to them through Isaiah by means of the gospel. Isaiah was calling out for the Israelites to repent and return to their God or otherwise experience His judgment. All but a remnant chose poorly, and Judah (as well as the Northern kingdom, Israel) experienced the wrath of God by means of captivity and exile.

In one of the Indiana Jones’ movies, *The Last Crusade*, Jones and his father, Jones Sr., join forces to find the Holy Grail. The movie portrays it as the cup that Jesus used at the Last Supper. The bad guys in the movie are looking for the cup also, but not for the same reason. The bad guys want it because they believe that drinking from it will give them eternal life. At the end of the movie, Jones and the bad guys find themselves in a small room filled with multiple cups, some big, small, large, thin, ornate and plain. The bad guys choose first and base their decision on what a king would drink from. The leader of the bad guys chooses the most ornate cup on the table. He fills it with water and drinks from it. A few seconds later he is annihilated, turned to dust. The knight who is charged with watching over the cups simply says, “He chose poorly.”

Though the Indiana Jones movie is filled with fiction and folklore, one thing is true, and that is the need for good decision making, that is, right choices regarding God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Like the poor choice made in the movie, Israel continued to make bad choices based on what they thought to be for their best interest. The bad guy in the movie was looking for eternal life, but he didn’t exercise faith in the right fountain of Living Water. Israel kept looking to other sources and means to bring them joy, peace, and happiness all the while turning from God who offers ultimate joy, peace and happiness through Jesus Christ. As a result, Israel was destroyed, led into captivity. They are still suffering today for their unrepentant ways.

The Christian can learn from these lessons. The believer is subject to the same enticements and entanglements that would undermine their faith and confidence in Jesus Christ. The church can be deceived by means and resources that are contrary to God just as easily as Israel was. Believe it or not, God is using you to turn Israel back to Himself through the testimony and witness of a Son.