

Walking With God

Prophets: Isaiah



Prayer Starter

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit...
Dear Lord, in the spirit of your great prophets, show us, too, how to share the message of your good news. We pray that your guidance helps us to understand our faith and find the best in ourselves and in the people around us. Amen.

Hye-Q

Moses or Joshua?

Circle the name of the person who did the following:

1. Brought the Ten Commandments from Mt. Sinai

Moses

Joshua

2. Sent spies into the city of Jericho

Moses

Joshua

3. Saved a woman named Rahab

Moses

Joshua

4. He and his men walked around the walls of the city with the Ark of the Covenant

Moses

Joshua

5. Taught a younger man to lead his people

Moses

Joshua



What's A Prophet?

Prophet Markareh Uurquunt

- are called by God to express his will to others
- share God's plans and promises as revealed to them by God
- remind people very boldly of how they are or are *not* following God's ways

Daily Bread

Some of God's special messengers in the Bible were called "prophets." God chose them to remind the people about the right way to live or even to scold them when they were behaving badly. God also often shared what could happen if believers forgot what it meant to be good and to act wisely.

Isaiah is a prophet who lived about 2800 years ago in the Kingdom of Judah.





During his lifetime, Judah and Israel were at war. He must have been sad to look around him and see that he and his countrymen were not living in the way that God asked them to. They were certainly not following the greatest gift God gave them, the Ten Commandments! He thought that he himself did not live a clean life.

One day, he had a vision. He saw God on a big throne with angels all around him. He was filled with awe. The angels came down from the altar with a burning coal and touched his lips and told him that he was forgiven of anything that he did or said before that was bad. He had a chance now to do good things.

At that moment, God called him to serve in helping people understand how to live according to God's ways. He became God's messenger. Isaiah wrote everything down.

God told Isaiah that the people of his country and the countries around his would have a bad time in the future.

He also said that from those bad times would grow a better time for the whole world. He gave Isaiah many details of things that would happen in the future.

In Isaiah's writings, he described the virgin birth of a baby in the family of David and described some of the things in the life of Jesus Christ that would not happen until over 700 years later.



Well Versed

I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

Isaiah 6:8

SCRIPTURE SOURCE

"The wolf and the lamb will feed together. The lion will eat hay like a cow. But the snakes will eat dust. In those days no one will be hurt or destroyed on my holy mountain. I, the LORD, have spoken!" *Isaiah 65:25*

All of the things that Isaiah wrote were supposed to be sharing a vision of the future through the words of God. In this passage, God tells Isaiah that after many wars and hard times and after the arrival of a Savior (Jesus), all the creatures of the world, including people, will live in peace and no longer fight with each other. God wants our cooperation to fulfill this prophecy. We, as Christians, want to remind the world about this message of peace. Can you be a messenger of God?



Celebrate with God

Isaiah describes his vision of God in the Bible (Isaiah 6:1-7)

1. I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple.
2. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew.
3. They were calling out to each other, 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!'
4. Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke.
5. 'Woe to me!' I cried. 'I am ruined! I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.'
6. Then one of the seraphs flew to me with a live coal in his hand which he had taken with tongs from the altar.
7. With it he touched my mouth and said, 'See this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for.'

Imagine you are Isaiah. What do you tell a friend about what you saw, heard, felt, and smelled as described in the verses above?



BIBLE BYTES

Seraphim is a plural form of the word "Seraph." Isaiah describes what they look like in the Bible verse above. His description does not fit our perception of angels as cute little winged creatures with baby faces! Seraphim were fierce and majestic-looking. They were always at God's side, praising him constantly.

St Nersess Soorp Nersess

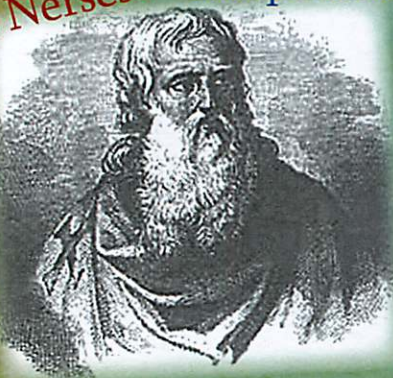
In the Armenian Tradition

St. Nersess Shnorhali was Catholicos* of the Armenian Church in the 12th Century. He worked very hard to lead the people of Armenia to a deeper Christian faith, filled with prayer and worship and right living. He wrote countless poems, prayers, hymns, and essays, most of which are still in use today. Here is one of those prayers we use often in Sunday School. It appears in the Rest Service, one of the daily Armenian worship services (known as the "hours"). It is one of a set of 24 prayers popularly known as "I Confess With Faith"

meant to be prayed at every hour of the day.

*"Catholicos" is the title for the leader of all Armenian churches in the whole world. He is elected for life by the National Ecclesiastical Assembly, which consists of clergy and laypeople representing Armenian churches throughout the world. He resides in Etchmiadzin, Armenia. The first Catholicos was St. Gregory the Enlightener.

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An Exercise In Prayerful Thinking

Jesus, Wisdom of the Father

Write each line in your own words

O Jesus, Wisdom of the Father, grant me wisdom

That I may always think, speak and do

That which is good in your sight

Save me from evil thoughts, words and deeds

And have mercy upon me, a great sinner, Amen.

We remember Isaiah's vision every Sunday at our Divine Liturgy! The angels' song of praise - "Holy, holy" - has become our beautiful church hymn "Soorp, Soorp."

Did you know...!?

Family Focus

Today students learned that a prophet is more than someone who knows God's plans for the future. More importantly, prophets remind us of how to live godly ways. We talked about the most important prophet, Isaiah and students drew their interpretation of his amazing encounter with God. They also learned a prayer by St. Nersess Shnorhali that was all about living right.

Living Your Faith

1. Take the drawing done by your child and place it in a location where other members of the family can see it and talk about it.
2. Look up the website of the Armenian Holy See (www.armenianchurch.org) with your child. Show them a photo of the Catholicos and discuss his role in the Armenian Church.
3. Recite the prayer "Oh Jesus, Wisdom of the Father" together often, in English or Armenian.