

Isaiah gives praise to the Lord

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

"Oh, Lord, you are my God." Isaiah knelt down and bowed his head as he prayed. He was alone. The light of the sun was fading into the west, but the light of his God shone brightly in his heart. "I will extol and praise your name. You have fulfilled your wonderful plans."

Isaiah stood up slowly and looked into the distance where he could see the silhouette of an old city. "You have made the city a heap, the fortified city is no more. The castle of the insolent is a city no more."

Isaiah straightened his shoulders with a deep breath as he put his fist against his chest. "A strong people will honor you, fierce nations will fear you. You are a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in distress."

Isaiah raised both hands toward the sky. "You are shelter from the rain, shade from the heat." Then he pointed his hands toward the ground, stomped one foot and declared, "On this mountain the Lord of Hosts will provide for all peoples a feast of rich food and choice wines."

Isaiah softened his voice to a whisper. "On this mountain he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces." Then he smiled and shouted, as if he were preaching to a multi-



Linda Jeanne Rivers/Catholic Courier

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tude, "The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole Earth; for the Lord has spoken."

Isaiah pointed toward the fading orb that was the setting sun. "On that day it will be said, 'Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us!'" He knelt down and touched the ground

with the palms of his hands. "The hand of the Lord will rest on this mountain, but Moab will be trodden down as a straw is trodden down in the mire." Isaiah leaned back on his knees and extended his hands forward, "The Lord will stretch forth his hands as a swimmer extends his hands to swim."

Isaiah picked up a handful of dust and rubbed it with his fingers. "The high-walled fortress he will raze, and strike it down level with the earth, with the very dust."

Isaiah wiped the dust off of his hands and stood up.

"On that day they will sing a song, on that day they will call upon your name. On that day!"

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Isaiah 25

Q&A

1. What is one thing Isaiah said about God in his prayer?
2. What did Isaiah say God would do with death?

Bible Account

We think we're living a hard day if we miss the school bus or if the family car won't start. Most of the people we read about in the Bible had to walk everywhere they went, and most of the roads they traveled were dusty paths that turned to mud when it rained. There weren't any road signs or distance markers, and there was no shelter from the sun on hot days.

The most common type of footwear was the sandal, which had a sole made of either wood or leather held together by leather straps. Some farmers used donkeys, horses or camels for long journeys, but these animals were expensive to feed and care for.

The next time you read that the Israelites wandered in the desert or that Jesus walked a long way, you can understand a little more about the daily lives of these people.

St. Bernadine Boscadin

St. Bernadine Boscadin was born into a poor Italian family in the late 14th century in a town called Anagni. A local priest believed he had a special ability, that he could be developed. He was sent to a convent to be trained. He was given the name Bernadine. He was a very good student and was given the name Bernadine. He was a very good student and was given the name Bernadine.

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Puzzle

Match the event with the book and chapter of the Bible in which it is written. Answers on page 13.

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| 1. Aaron became the first high priest. | _____ | a. Genesis 1 |
| 2. Elijah rode a heavenly chariot. | _____ | b. Joshua 6 |
| 3. God created heaven and earth. | _____ | c. Leviticus 8 |
| 4. Samson was a very strong man. | _____ | d. 1 Samuel 17 |
| 5. The Red Sea opened. | _____ | e. 2 Kings 2 |
| 6. David defeated Goliath. | _____ | f. Exodus 14 |
| 7. Water flowed from a rock. | _____ | g. Judges 16 |
| 8. Jericho crumbled. | _____ | h. Numbers 20 |

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