

Bible Accent

Isaiah is one of the most important prophets of the Old Testament. Although we might think that a prophet is someone who can predict the future, in the Bible prophets were people chosen by God to bring his message to his people.

Isaiah set a good example of obedience when God asked, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" and Isaiah answered, "Here I am; send me."

In the Book of Isaiah are many passages promising a Messiah that will come to save God's people, including some beautiful names that have been given to Jesus. A very famous verse about Jesus is in Isaiah 9: "And his name shall be called wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace." Jesus, his disciples and the writers of the New Testament often quoted from Isaiah, because they knew the people were familiar with his writings.

St. Oswald

Oswald was a Christian in a non-Christian family. Before his small army of soldiers had to fight against the powerful army of Cadwallon, Oswald erected a cross on the battlefield and instructed all of his men, even those who were not Christian, to kneel down while he prayed for God to protect them. Later that night Oswald received an answer to his prayer when he had a dream that he would win the battle.

Oswald used the victory to spread the Gospel and good will throughout his territory. He enlisted the aid of Aidan, an Irish monk who was later declared a saint. Just before Oswald was killed in a battle in 642 at age 38, he invoked the spirit of the apostle Stephen when he said, "O God, be merciful to their souls."

We honor him on Aug. 9.

Isaiah volunteers to speak God's word

Joe Sarnicola/Contributing writer

My name is Isaiah, my father was Amoz. I have always been a peaceful man, and I had very few ambitions, except to perform my duties well. But everything in my life changed the year King Uzziah died. I saw a vision of the Lord on a throne surrounded by angels. They were chanting, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts! All the earth is filled with his glory!"

This serene and sacred vision was shattered by a sound like an explosion that appeared to shake the foundation of the temple. My eyes were soon blinded by smoke that engulfed everything. I was terrified. "Woe is me, I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips ... yet my eyes have seen the ... Lord of hosts!"

Then an angel touched my lips with a burning ember from the fire that had been burning in front of the altar. I expected to be burned as a punishment for my sins, but there was no pain at all. "... Now that this has touched your lips," the angel told me, "your wickedness is removed, your sin purged."

Immediately I heard the voice of the Lord. "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?"

And I replied, "Here I am; send me!"

Since that day the Lord has given me many messages to deliver to his people. Sometimes they are blessings, sometimes they are prophecies, sometimes they are warnings. But always they are true.

Here is a message God has sent to all who listen to his word.

"I come to gather nations of every language; they shall come and see my glory. ... They shall proclaim my glory among the nations. They shall bring all your brethren from all the nations as an offering to the Lord. ... The new heavens and new earth which I will make shall endure before me, ... all mankind shall come to worship before me."

I have learned never to question



Illustration by Linda Jeanne Rivers

Kids' Chronicle

what the Lord tells me. More than once I have been afraid, but God's love is stronger than my fear, so I obey the Lord. And more than once I have cried to the Lord that the people do not listen to his words. Again God comforts me with the knowledge that my ministry is to share his words with his people, who are my

people, my family and my friends, and he will deal with them, because he loves them as much as he loves me.

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Isaiah 6 and 66

Q&A

1. Why did Isaiah think he was doomed?
2. Who did God say would come to worship him?

Kids' Club

You can win a \$50 savings bond by writing an essay (100 or fewer words) in response to **The New Testament tells us about the life and teachings of Jesus. Select one person in the Old Testament other than Isaiah and tell why he or she is important.**

Send your essay — including name, home address, telephone number, school & grade — to Catholic Courier, P.O. Box 24379, Rochester, NY 14624. Deadline for entries is Aug. 18. The winner, whose essay will be published in an upcoming issue of Kids' Chronicle, will be notified by phone.

Last month's winner was Mary Plum, a fifth-grader at Victor Central School. In response to **Why are our religious-education classes so important to us?** she wrote, "Religious education classes are important to us because we learn about God as our creator and his love for us. We learn how to pray and believe in God. It also helps children understand what the readings and the Gospels mean. We learn more about God and his holy family in an easier way. Just like the disciples learned from Jesus, it is a way to learn about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and have even more reason to follow them."

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Puzzle

Cross out the names in the list below that are not books of the Bible. Answers on page B18.

Leviticus	Marcus	Psalms
Paul	Isaiah	Princes
Antonius	Acts	Obadiah
Luke	Oscar	Kings