Quarter Four: *The Gift of Prophecy*

Jill Morikone

Lesson 2—The Call of a Prophet

Tuesday: Isaiah, the Gospel Prophet

October 6, 2026

- **Last Week:** "The Creator Speaks"
  - Gen 1 – 3: God's original plan of communication with His people
    - Sin's disconnection & God's plan to reunite us with Himself
    - Prophecy utilized to reestablish communication with humanity

- **This Week:** "The Call of a Prophet"
  - Multiple Scriptures: a prophet's life & calling
    - Call of a prophet
    - Difficulties of a prophet – often, physical persecution & rejection of counsel given
    - Times in history that God called prophets to realign His people with Himself

Memory Text: "Also 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, NKJV).

The week in brief:

- **1. Sunday:** Abraham, Defender of the Covenant (SQ)
  - Gen 15 – Abraham's call for service, & faith in coming Messiah; Abraham's life & ministry & parallels between his day & ours
- **2. Monday:** The Elijah Message (John L)
  - 1 Kings 18 – Elijah's prophetic role on Mt Carmel, calling the people to repentance & worship of the one true God & comparison to the role of the Elijah message today
- **3. Tuesday:** Isaiah, the Gospel Prophet (Jill)
  - Isa 6 & 53 – calling of Isaiah to prophetic ministry & his foretelling, esp the Messianic prophecies
- **4. Wednesday:** Daniel, the Faithful Seer (James)
  - Dan 1 - 6 – Daniel's faithful life as a prophet, & his foretelling, esp prophecies of end-time events
- **5. Thursday:** John the Baptist, Preparing a People (Ryan J)
  - Mark 1 & Matt 1 – John the Baptist's role of calling people to repentance; Jesus' reaffirmation of John's prophetic role & John's faithfulness, even to death
- **6. Friday:** Called to Prophetic Ministry (John L)
  - The prophetic call of EGW as a non-canonical prophet & her first vision

Tuesday: Isaiah, the Gospel Prophet

Isa 6:1 – 8; Isa 53; Isa 2:4, 5:20; Rom 6:23

- Isaiah = perhaps one of the greatest of the Biblical prophets
    - (Exception of John the Baptist, whom Jesus called the greatest; Moses who was the meekest man on the earth; Elijah….)
    - Called the "Gospel Prophet" or the "5th Gospel"
        - Writing contains the most vivid, detailed prophecies of Jesus in the OT
        - Written 700 years before Jesus (Isaiah = foretelling)
            - Lineage
            - Birth
            - Ministry
            - Death

        - Isaiah is highly quoted OT book in the NT (55 – 66 direct quotes; allusions = 350 - 419 times)
            - Book of Psalms = highly quoted OT book (68 – 79 direct quotes; 330 – 413 allusions)
            - Deuteronomy = 3rd highly quoted book in the NT

    - Name means, "the Lord saves / salvation of Yahweh" – fitting for theme of the book (2 volumes)
        - Book of judgment
        - Book of comfort & restoration
        - **Timeline**
            - Isaiah stretches in time from 740 BC to the creation of a new heaven & a new earth

        - Writing: "Even in translation, which loses the evocative word plays and alliterations of the Hebrew, the book of Isaiah has few peers in the history of literature, whether secular or sacred."

    - Time period:
        - Written in Judah (call of Isaiah around 740 BC)
            - Problems
                - Assyrian Empire rising to power
                    - Northern Kingdom taken captive about 722 BC
                - People of Judah sinking into moral weakness
                - Isaiah labored for decades years to bring the nation back to God

    - Some **Themes** / **theology** of the book
        - **Book of judgment**
            - We find judgment against not just God's people, but other nations, too.
                - Babylon & Assyria, Philistia & Moab, Syria
                - Israel
                - Ethiopia & Egypt, Babylon & Edom, Arabia
                - Jerusalem
                - Tyre & whole earth

        - **Book of comfort**
            - We find God's promises of healing & comfort
                - Of deliverance & salvation
                - Of forgiveness & restoration

- **Book of salvation**
  - We find Jesus, our Messiah
    - Suffering Servant & Messianic King
      - 4 servant songs
        - Isa 42, 49, 50, 52 – 53

  - Isa 53 - most well-known Suffering Servant chapter
    - Picture of Messiah more clearly revealed than anywhere else in the Old Testament
    - This is the final, longest, & most crucial of the 4 Servant Songs
    - Isa sees the Servant, the Messiah, as central to Israel's restoration (& ours)

Call of Isaiah (about 740 BC)

- **Isa 6 = four takeaways from the call of Isaiah**
  - **1. Encountered God's holiness**
    - Vs 1 – "In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple."
      - Isaiah caught of glimpse of who God really is
      - **Revelation** precedes service

  - **2. Confessed his sinfulness**
    - Vs 5 – "So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.'"
      - Recognized his sinfulness & confessed that sin
      - **Confession** precedes cleansing (not cleansed automatically)
        - Need to recognize sin & ask for forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

  - **3. Received God's cleansing**
    - Vs 6, 7 – "Then one of the **seraphim** flew to me, having in his hand a **live coal** which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. (7) And he touched my mouth with it, and said, 'Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged.'"
      - Seraphim = lit, "burning ones"(can be linked with a poisonous serpent; shared root idea of "burning" links the pain of the serpent's bite with the burning purity of the celestial ministers)

      - Isaiah wanted to offer incense; now Isaiah became the incense
      - Symbol of cleansing
        - Blood of Jesus that cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7)
      - **Cleansing** precedes commissioning

  - **4. Answered God's call**
    - Vs 8 – "Also 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.'"
      - Ready for service – ready to answer the call
      - **Availability** precedes ministry

- Isa 53 = the most well-known Suffering Servant chapter
    - Picture of Messiah more clearly revealed than anywhere else in the Old Testament
    - This is the final, longest, & most crucial of the 4 Servant Songs
    - Divided into 5 sections (3 verses each)
        - #1 – Isa 52:13 – 15 – Glory & exaltation of the Servant
        - #2, Isa 53:1 – 3 – Descent to sorrow & rejection
        - #3, Isa 53:4 – 6 – Substitutionary death - His suffering is our punishment, which He bears to heal us
        - #4, Isa 53:7 - 9 – Innocent Servant's descent to the grave
        - #5, Isa 53:10 – 12 – Servant ascends to the exalted reward, with His sacrifice being to save others

Isa 53: 4 takeaways from the Suffering Servant (Messianic Prophecy)

- **1. Jesus' character shines from within**
    - Vs 2 – "….He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him."
        - No outward show or beauty (not a Messiah that would outwardly impress)
        - Jesus doesn't look the part or do the expected

- **2. Jesus came not as a conquering King, but a suffering Servant**
    - Vs 3 – "He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief…"
        - Jesus knows what it's like to be despised & downtrodden

- **3. Jesus took my place (substitutionary atonement)**
    - Vs 4 – "Surely He has **borne** our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted."
        - Bore – Heb, "bear, carry"
            - Forgiveness is not mere dismissal; it is active removal
            - What humanity cannot carry, God in grace takes up
            - Jesus, as the willing Servant, voluntarily taking my heaviest burden, sin
            - Vs 4 focuses more on consequences for the sin (emotional weight of it)

        - Same word as Moses interceding for the children of Israel, after golden calf
            - Ex 32:32 – "Yet now, if You will **forgive** their sin—but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."

    - Vs 5 – "But He was wounded for our **transgressions**, He was bruised for our **iniquities**; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him and by His **stripes** we are healed."
        - Vs 5 focuses on the actual sin itself
        - Transgressions ="rebellion, sin, transgression" – willful sin
        - Iniquities = "fault, iniquity, mischief, punishment of iniquity, sin"
        - Stripes = wounds

    - Vs 6 – "**All** we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us **all**."
        - Universal nature of sin = all have gone astray
        - Universal nature of the Cross = Lord laid on Him iniquity of us all
        - He took my place = substitutionary atonement

            - Rom 6:23 – wages of sin = death; gift of God = eternal life
        - Heb 9 & 10 – not possible for the blood of bulls & goats to take away sin
        - 1 John 1: 7 – blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin

    - 2 Cor 5:21 – "God made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us"
        - Substitutionary atonement

- **4. Jesus willingly died for me**
    - Isa 53:7 – "He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a **lamb** to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth."
        - Where is the Lamb?
            - He's going to be killed
            - He does not resist
            - He does not fight back
            - He willingly goes to die for me