

Isaiah: Prophet of Light

Marble Collegiate Church, Sept. 18, 2022

Isaiah 9:1

(1) The people that walked in darkness have seen a brilliant light; On those who dwelt in a land of death's shadow, light has dawned.

ישעיהו ט:א'

(א) הָעַם הַהֲלֹכִים בְּחֹשֶׁךְ רָאוּ אֹר
גְּדוֹל יִשְׁבִי בְּאֶרֶץ צְלֻמוֹת אֹר נִגְהָ
עֲלֵיהֶם:

The Bible's Greatest Prophecy of a Redeemed World

Isaiah 11:1-10

(1) A shoot shall grow from the stump of Jesse, a twig shall sprout from his stock. (2) The spirit of the Lord shall alight upon him: a spirit of wisdom and insight, a spirit of counsel and valor, a spirit of devotion and reverence for the Lord. (3) He shall sense the truth by his reverence for the Lord: He shall not judge by what his eyes behold, nor decide by what his ears perceive. (4) Thus he shall judge the poor with equity and decide with justice for the lowly of the land. He shall strike down a land with the rod of his mouth and slay the wicked with the breath of his lips. (5) Justice shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his waist. (6) The wolf shall dwell with the

ישעיהו י"א:א'-י'

(א) וַיֵּצֵא חֹטֵר מִגֹּזַע יִשְׁי וַנִּצֵּר
מִשָּׁרְשָׁיו יִפְרֶה: (ב) וַנְּחַה עָלָיו רוּחַ
יְיָ רוּחַ חֲכָמָה וּבִינָה רוּחַ עֲצָה
וּגְבוּרָה רוּחַ דָּעַת וַיִּרְאֵת יְיָ: (ג)
וַהֲרִיחוּ בְּיִרְאֵת יְיָ וְלֹא-לְמִרְאֵה עֵינָיו
יִשְׁפֹּט וְלֹא-לְמִשְׁמַע אָזְנוֹ יוֹכִיחַ:
(ד) וְשָׁפֵט בְּצִדְקַת דְּלִים וְהוֹכִיחַ
בְּמִישׁוֹר לְעֵנְוֵי-אֶרֶץ וְהִכָּה-אֶרֶץ
בְּשֵׁבֶט פִּי וּבְרוּחַ שְׁפָתָיו יִמִּית רָשָׁע:
(ה) וְהָיָה צִדְקָתוֹ אֲזוּר מִתְּנָיו וְהֶאֱמוּנָה
אֲזוּר חֲלָצָיו: (ו) וְגַר זֶאֱבֵעִם-כִּכְשׁ
וַנִּמַּר עִם-גְּדֵי יִרְבֵּץ וְעֵלְגַל וּכְפִיר
וּמְרִיא יִחְדּוּ וַנַּעַר קָטָן נִהַג בָּם: (ז)
וּפְרָה וְדָב תִּרְעֵינָה יִחְדּוּ יִרְבְּצוּ
יְלִדֵיהֶן וְאַרְיֵה כִּבְקָר יֹאכְלֵ-תְבוֹן: (ח)
וְשַׁעֲשַׁע יוֹנֵק עַל-חֵר פִּתּוֹ וְעַל

lamb, the leopard lie down with the kid, the calf, the beast of prey, and the fatling^c together, and a little child will lead them. (7) The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; And the lion, like the ox, shall eat straw. (8) A babe shall play over a viper's hole, And an infant pass his hand over an adder's den. (9) In all My holy mountain nothing evil or vile shall be done; for the land shall be filled with devotion to the Lord as water covers the sea.

מְאוֹרֶת צִפְעוֹנִי גָּמוּל יָדוּ הָדָה: (ט)
 לֹא-יִרְעוּ וְלֹא-יִשְׁחִיתוּ בְּכָל-הָרָר
 קִדְשִׁי כִּי-מִלְאָהּ הָאָרֶץ דָּעָה אֶת-יְיָ
 כַּמַּיִם לַיָּם מְכַסִּים: {ס}

Where Have You Heard These Words Before?

Isaiah 40:1-5

(1) Comfort, oh comfort My people, Says your God. (2) Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and declare to her that her term of service is over, that her sin is atoned; for she has received at the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice rings out: "Clear in the desert A road for the Lord! Level in the wilderness a highway for our God! (4) Let every valley be raised, Every hill and mount made low. Let the crooked ground become level and the stony ridges become a plain. (5) The Presence of the LORD shall appear, and all flesh shall see it together, for the Lord has spoken."

יִשְׁעִיהוּ מִי: אִי-הִי

(א) נַחֲמוּ נַחֲמוּ עַמִּי יֹאמַר אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:
 (ב) דַּבְּרוּ עַל-לֵב יְרוּשָׁלַם וְקְרְאוּ
 אֵלֶיהָ כִּי מִלְאָהּ צָבְאָהּ כִּי נִרְצָה
 עֲוֹנָהּ כִּי לָקַחְהָ מִיַּד יְיָ כַּפְלָיִם
 בְּכָל-חַטָּאתֶיהָ: {ס} (ג) קוֹל
 קוֹרֵא בַּמִּדְבָּר פִּנוּ דֶּרֶךְ יְיָ יִשְׁרוּ
 בְּעֲרֹבָה מְסֻלָּה לְאֱלֹהֵינוּ: (ד)
 כָּל-גִּיא יִנְשָׂא וְכָל-הָר וּגְבָעָה יִשְׁפְּלוּ
 וְהָיָה הָעֵקֶב לְמִישׁוֹר וְהָרְכָסִים
 לְבָקְעָה: (ה) וְנִגְלָה כְבוֹד יְיָ וְרָאוּ
 כָּל-בְּשָׂר יַחְדָּו כִּי פִי יְיָ דִבֶּר: {פ}

Isaiah 42:5-7

(5) Thus said God the LORD,
Who created the heavens and stretched them out,
Who spread out the earth and what it brings forth, who gave breath to the people upon it and life to those who walk thereon: (6) I the Lord, in My grace, have summoned you, and I have grasped you by the hand. I created you, and appointed you a covenant people, a light of nations (7) Opening eyes deprived of light, Rescuing prisoners from confinement, from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.

ישעיהו מ"ב:ה-ז

(ה) כֹּה־אָמַר ה' אֱלֹהֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל
הַשָּׁמַיִם וְנִטְיָהֶם רָקַע הָאָרֶץ
וְצִפְּצָאֶיהָ גִתָּן נִשְׁמָה לְעַם עֲלֶיהָ
וְרוּחַ לְהִלְכִים בָּהֶּ: (ו) אֲנִי יי
קִרְאתִיהָ בְצַדִּיק וְאַחֲזֶק בְּיָדָהּ וְאַצְרֶהָ
וְאַתְּנֶנָּה לְבְרִית עִם לְאֹר גּוֹיִם: (ז)
לְפַקֵּחַ עֵינַיִם עֹרְוֹת לְהוֹצִיא מִמִּסְגָּר
אֶסִּיר מִבַּיִת כָּלֵא יִשְׁבִי חֹשֶׁךְ:

How do the Ritual and Ethical Elements in Religion Work Together?

Isaiah 58:1-14

(1) Cry with full throat, without restraint; raise your voice like a ram's horn! Declare to My people their transgression, to the House of Jacob their sin. (2) To be sure, they seek Me daily, eager to learn My ways. Like a nation that does what is right, that has not abandoned the laws of its God, they ask Me for the right way, they are eager for the nearness of God: (3) "Why, when we fasted, did You not see? When we starved our bodies, did You pay no heed?" Because on your fast day

ישעיהו נ"ח:א-י"ד

(א) קְרָא בְגֵרוֹן אֶל־תַּחֲשֶׁה כְּשׁוֹפָר
הָרֶם קוֹלְךָ וְהִגַּד לְעַמִּי פִשְׁעָם וּלְבַיִת
יַעֲקֹב חַטָּאתָם: (ב) וְאוֹתֵי יוֹם יוֹם
יְדַרְשׁוּן וְדַעַת דְּרָכַי יַחֲפֹצוּן כִּגְאִי
אֲשֶׁר־צָדָקָה עָשָׂה וּמִשְׁפָּט אֶלְקִיו לֹא
עָזַב יִשְׂאֵלוּנִי מִשְׁפָּטֵי־צְדָק קִרְבַּת
אֶלְקִים יַחֲפֹצוּן: (ג) לָמָּה צִמְנוּ וְלֹא
רִאִיתָ עֲנִינוּ נִפְשָׁנוּ וְלֹא תִדְעַ הֵן בְּיוֹם
צִמְכֶם תִּמְצְאוּ־חֶפֶץ וְכֹל־עֲצִבֵיכֶם
תִּנְגְּשׁוּ: (ד) הֵן לְרִיב וּמִצָּה תִצְוּמוּ
וְלִהְיוֹת בְּאִגְרֵךְ רָשַׁע לֹא־תִצְוּמוּ

You see to your business and oppress all your laborers! (4) Because you fast in strife and contention, and you strike with a wicked fist! Your fasting today will not make your voice heard on high. (5) Is that the fast I desire, a day for starving your bodies? For bowing the head like a bulrush and lying in sackcloth and ashes? Do you call that a fast, a day of divine favor? (6) No, this is the fast I desire: to unlock shackles of wickedness, and untie the cords of the yoke, to free the oppressed; to break every yoke. (7) To share your bread with the hungry, and to take the wretched poor into your home; when you see the naked, to clothe him and not to ignore your own kin. (8) Then will your light burst through like the dawn and your healing spring up quickly; your righteousness will march before you, the Presence of the Lord as your rear guard. (9) Then, when you call, the Lord will answer; when you cry, He will say: Here I am. If you banish the yoke from your midst, the menacing hand, and evil speech, (10) offer your compassion to the hungry and satisfy the famished creature, then shall your light shine in darkness and your gloom shall be like noon. (11) The Lord will guide you always; He will slake your thirst in parched

כִּיֹּם לְהִשְׁמִיעַ בְּמִרוֹם קוֹלְכֶם: (ה)
הַכֹּזֵה יִהְיֶה צוֹם אֲבַחְרֶהוּ יוֹם עֲנוֹת
אָדָם נִפְשׁוֹ הִלְכֶף כְּאֲגַמְזן רֹאשׁוֹ וְשִׁק
וְאֶפֶר יִצְיֵעַ הַלֵּזָה תִּקְרָא-צוֹם וַיּוֹם
רָצוֹן לִי: (ו) הַלֹּא זֶה צוֹם אֲבַחְרֶהוּ
פִתְחֵה חֲרָצְבוֹת רִשְׁעֵה הַתֵּר אֲגָדוֹת
מוֹטֵה וְשִׁלַּח רְצוּצִים חֲפָשִׁים
וְכָל-מוֹטֵה תִּנְתְּקוּ: (ז) הַלֹּא פָרַס
לָרַעַב לַחֲמֶה וְעֲנִיִּים מְרוּדִים תִּבְיֵא
בֵּית כִּי-תִרְאֶה עָרֹם וְכִסִּיתוֹ וּמִבְּשָׂרָה
לֹא תִתְעַלֵּם: (ח) אֲנִי יִבְקַע כִּשְׁחָר
אוֹרָה וְאֲרַכְתָּהּ מִהֲרָה תִצְמַח וְהִלָּךְ
לְפָנֶיהָ צִדְקָה כְּבוֹד יִי יֵאֱסֹפֶה: (ט)
אֲנִי תִקְרָא וַיִּי יַעֲנֶה תִשְׁנַע וַיֵּאמֶר
הֲנִנִי אִם-תִּסְיֵר מִתּוֹכָהּ מוֹטֵה שְׁלַח
אֲצַבֵּעַ וּדְבַר-אֲוֹן: (י) וְתִפֵּק לָרַעַב
נִפְשָׁה וְנִפֶּשׁ נַעֲנֶה תִשְׁבִּיעַ וְזָרַח
בַּחֲשֵׁךְ אוֹרָה וְאִפְלָתָה כְּצִהְרִים:
(יא) וְנַחֲהָ יִי תָמִיד וְהִשְׁבִּיעַ
בְּצַחְצָחוֹת נִפְשָׁה וְעֲצַמְתֶּיהָ יַחֲלִיץ
וְהִיִּתְּ כִגְזֵן רוֹה וְכִמוֹצָא מַיִם אֲשֶׁר
לֹא-יִכָּזְבוּ מִימָיו: (יב) וּבָנוּ מִמֶּה
חֲרָבוֹת עוֹלָם מוֹסְדֵי דוֹר-וָדוֹר
תִּקּוּמָם וְקִרְא לָהֶּ גִדְרַ פָּרִץ מִשִּׁב
נְתִיבוֹת לְשִׁבְתָּ: (יג) אִם-תִּשְׁבִּיב
מִשִּׁבְתֵּי רִגְלֶה עֲשׂוֹת חֲפָצָה בַיּוֹם
קִדְשִׁי וְקִרְאֵת לְשִׁבְתֵּי עֲנָג לְקִדּוֹשׁ יִי
מִכְבֹּד וְכִבְדוֹ מִעֲשׂוֹת דְּרָכֶיהָ
מִמִּצְוֹת חֲפָצָה וּדְבַר דְּבַר: (יד) אֲנִי

places, and strengthen your bones. You shall be like a watered garden, like a spring whose waters do not fail. (12) Your people will rebuild ancient ruins, you shall restore foundations laid long ago. And you shall be called “Repairer of fallen walls, restorer of lanes for habitation.” (13) If you refrain from trampling the sabbath, from pursuing your affairs on My holy day; if you call the sabbath “delight,” the Lord’s holy day “honored”; if you honor it and pursue not your selfish ways nor look to your own affairs, nor strike bargains, (14) then you can seek the favor of the Lord, I will set you astride the heights of the earth, And let you enjoy the heritage of your father Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

תִּתְעַנֵּג עַל־יְיָ וְהִרְפֵּיתִי עַל־[בְּמִתִּי] (במִוְתִי) אֶרֶץ וְהֵאֲכִילִי נַחֲלִתִי יַעֲקֹב אָבִי כִּי פִי יִדְבֵּר: {פ}

Natural and Spiritual Light

Isaiah 60:19-22

(19) No longer shall you need the sun for light by day, nor the shining of the moon for radiance [by night]; For the Lord shall be your light everlasting, your God shall be your glory. (20) Your sun shall set no more, your moon never wane, for the Lord shall be your light forever, and your days of mourning shall be

ישעיהו ס':י"ט-כ"ב

(יט) לֹא־יְהִי־לָךְ עוֹד הַשֶּׁמֶשׁ לְאֹר יוֹמָם וּלְנֹגַהּ הַיָּרֵחַ לֹא־יֵאָדָר לָךְ וְהָיָה־לָךְ יְיָ לְאֹר עוֹלָם וְאֶלְקִיךָ לְתַפְאֲרֶתְךָ: (כ) לֹא־יָבוֹא עוֹד שֶׁמֶשׁ וְיָרֵחַ לֹא יֵאָסֵף כִּי יִהְיֶה־לָךְ לְאֹר עוֹלָם וְשִׁלְמוֹ יִמְנֵי אֲבִלָּה: (כא) וְעַמְּךָ כָּלָם צַדִּיקִים

ended. (21) And your people, all of
them righteous,
Shall possess the land for all time;
They are the shoot that I planted,
My handiwork in which I glory. (22)
The smallest shall become a clan;
The least, a mighty nation.
I the Lord will speed it in due time.

לְעוֹלָם יִירְשׁוּ אֶרֶץ נִצֵּר (מטעו)
[מטעי] מַעֲשֵׂה יָדַי לְהִתְפָּאֵר: (כב)
הַקָּטָן יִהְיֶה לְאֵלֶּף וְהַצָּעִיר לְגוֹי
עָצוּם אֲנִי יי בְּעֵתָהּ
אַחֲשִׁינָהּ: {ס}