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## Foregleams of Christ

by Bill Lockwood

Isaiah is rich in Messianic material which the New Testament writers, under inspiration of the Spirit, applied to Jesus Christ. Note the following examples.

1. **His Name (Isaiah 7:10-16).** Verse 14 is paramount. *“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign,”* Isaiah informed Ahaz the king, *“Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”* The apostle Matthew quotes the prophecy as having specific application in Jesus’ birth to Mary. *“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us”* (Matthew 1:22,23). Whatever doubters might believe regarding Isaiah’s promise, inspired Matthew shows us to whom the reference applies and calls the mother of the child “a virgin.” Thus, we have a marvelous promise of the Word who would “become flesh and dwell among us” (John 1:14).
2. **His Titles (Isaiah 9:6-7).** *“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall perform this.”* This remarkable prediction was mentioned by Luke as having been spoken by the angel in his statement to Mary (Luke 1:32-33). Isaiah’s mentions are perfectly fulfilled in the blessed Redeemer whose work is still universally known as that of the “Prince of Peace.” Note also the prophet’s mention that Jesus would be “Mighty God.” A clearer prediction of the deity of Jesus Christ cannot be found.
3. **His Advent, or Arrival (Isaiah 40:3-5).** *“A voice cries in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”* The prophet continues that the “glory of the Lord” shall be revealed “and all flesh shall see it together.” All four Gospel records reference this passage at the coming of John the Baptist as the forerunner of Jesus Christ (Mt. 3:3; Mark 1:2-3; Lk. 3:4-6; John 1:23). The original setting of the message was designed to show Israel that a day of comfort was approaching. That comfort would find ultimate fulfillment in *“the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world”* (John 1:29).
4. **His Mission. (Isaiah 61:1).** Jesus Himself reads this promise of Isaiah while in the synagogue at Nazareth: *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those*

*who are bound...'* Today has this Scripture been fulfilled in your ears", announced the Lord (Luke 4:18-21). The phrase "good tidings" was found earlier in Isaiah (40:9) and became the core of the message of the Savior. Glad tidings to mankind, deriving from the word "Good-spell." Primarily the Hebrew word means "to make smooth, or brighten," and so "to gladden." Thus, the gospel is good news to gladden the heart. Only the message of Jesus so cheers the "fainthearted" and releases "captives to sin" by releasing mankind from its prison. Truly, the mission of the Son of God "gladdens the heart."