

# Isaiah Bible Study

## Isaiah 8-10:4

### Priest, Prophet, and King

- I. **Isaiah 8:1-4** Then the Lord said to me, “Take a large tablet and write upon it in common characters, ‘Belonging to Ma’her-shal’al-hash”-baz.” And I got reliable witnesses, Uriah the priest and Zechariah the son of Jeberechiah, to attest for me. And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said to me, “Call his name Ma’her-shal’al-hash”-baz; for before the child knows how to cry ‘My father’ or My mother,’ the wealth of Damascus and the spoil of Samaria will be carried away before the King of Assyria.”
- II. **Eusebius of Caesarea, *The Proof of the Gospel*, 3.8.1-4** This prophecy is connected with the previous one. For she who was called a virgin in 7:14, and was said to bear God with us, is here called a prophetess. And if one should ask how she could conceive without being married, the prophecy now explains: And I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and bore a son. These things must be understood to be about the Holy Spirit under whose influence the prophet spoke. This same Holy spirit then himself confesses that he went into the prophetess, and this reached its fulfillment in the birth of our savior Jesus Christ.’
  - a. Blessed Virgin Mary is the prophetess
  - b. **Luke 1:35** “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”
- III. Uriah the priest, Zechariah the prophet, and Ahaz the king
  - a. **John 6:14-15** When the people saw the sign which he had done, they said, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!” Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.
    - i. Prophet and King linked together
  - b. **Deuteronomy 18:15** “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren – him you shall heed”
  - c. **Deuteronomy 18:18** “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.”
  - d. **Revelation 19:13-16** ...and the name by which he is called is The Word of God. And the armies of heaven, wearing fine linen, white and pure, followed him on white horses. From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to strike the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty. On his

robe and on his thigh he has a name inscribed, King of kings and Lord of lords.

### **Priesthood of the First-born**

- I. Father was the priest in the family and this was passed down to the first-born son
- II. First-born son abandons inheritance through sin
  - a. **Genesis 4:4-5** The Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had not regard.
  - b. Ishmael and Isaac
  - c. Esau and Jacob
  - d. Adam and Jesus
- III. **Genesis 14:17-20** After [Abraham's] return...the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Vally of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was priest of God Most High. And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, maker of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

### **The Tribe of Levi and the Priesthood**

- I. **Exodus 4:21-23** "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do before Pharaoh all the miracles which I have put in your power....And you shall say to Pharaoh, "Thus says the Lord, Israel is my first-born son, and I say to you, "Let my son go that he may serve me"; if you refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay your first-born son.""
  - a. Israel is God's first-born son
- II. **Exodus 32:1-2, 4-6** When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered themselves together to Aaron, and said to him, "Up, make us gods, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." And Aaron said to them, "Take off the rings of gold which are in the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me."....And he received the gold at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, and made a molten calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, "Tomorrow shall be a feast to the Lord." And they rose up early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.
- III. **Exodus 32:19-24** And as soon as he came near the camp and saw the calf and the dancing, Moses' anger burned hot, and he threw the tables out of his hands and broke them at the foot of the mountain. And he took the calf which they had made,

and burnt it with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it upon the water, and made the sons of Israel drink it.

And Moses said to Aaron, “What did this people do to you that you have brought a great sin upon them?” And Aaron said, “Let not the anger of my lord burn hot; you know the people, that they are set on evil. For they said to me, ‘Make us gods, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.’ And I said to them, ‘Let any who have gold take it off’; so they gave it to me, and I threw it into the fire, and there came out this calf.”

- IV. **Exodus 32:26** Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, “Who is on the Lord’s side? Come to me? And all the sons of Levi gathered themselves together to him.
- V. **Exodus 32:29** “Today you have ordained yourselves for the service of the Lord, each one at the cost of his son and of his brother, that he may bestow a blessing upon you this day.”
- VI. **Numbers 8:14-18** “Thus you shall separate the Levites from among the sons of Israel, and the Levites shall be mine. And after that the Levites shall go in to do service at the tent of meeting...For they are wholly given to me from among the sons of Israel; instead of all that open the womb, the first-born of all the sons of Israel, I have taken them for myself. For all the first-born among the sons of Israel are mine...and I have taken the Levites instead of all the first-born among the sons of Israel.”

### **High Priest, Ministerial Priesthood, and Common Priesthood**

- I. High Priesthood - Aaron
- II. Ministerial Priesthood - Aaron’s sons
- III. Common Priesthood - All Israel
- IV. **Exodus 28:1** “Then bring near to you Aaron your brother, and his sons with him, from among the sons of Israel, to serve me as priests...”
- V. **Exodus 19:5-6** You shall be my own possession among all peoples; for all the earth is mine, and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.

### **New Testament Priesthood**

- I. Jesus fulfills the Law and the Prophets and this includes the Priesthood
- II. **Hebrews 3:1** Therefore, holy brethren, who share in a heavenly call, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession.
- III. **Romans 15:15-16** But on some points I have written to you very boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

- IV. **1 Peter 2:5** And like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- V. **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that you may declare the wonderful deeds of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

### **Korah's Rebellion**

- I. **CCC 1578** No one has a *right* to receive the sacrament of Holy Orders. Indeed no one claims this office for himself; he is called to it by God. Anyone who thinks he recognizes the signs of God's call to the ordained ministry must humbly submit his desire to the authority of the Church, who has the responsibility and right to call someone to receive orders. Like every grace this sacrament can be *received* only as an unmerited gift.
- II. **Jude 11** Woe to them! For they walk in the way of Cain, and abandon themselves for the sake of gain to Balaam's error, and perish in Korah's rebellion.
- III. **Numbers 16:1-3** Now Korah the son of Izhar, son of Kohath, son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, and On the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men; and they rose up before Moses, with a number of the sons of Israel, two hundred and fifty leaders of the congregation, chosen from the assembly, well-known men; and they assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron
- IV. Israel (Jacob)
  - a. Reuben
    - i. Pallu
      - 1. Eliab
        - a. Dathan
        - b. Abiram
  - b. Levi
    - i. Kohath
      - 1. Amram
        - a. Moses
        - b. Aaron
      - 2. Izhar
        - a. Korah
- V. **Numbers 16:3** assembled themselves together against Moses and against Aaron and said to them, "You have gone too far! For all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the Lord is among them; why then do you exalt yourselves above the assembly of the Lord?"
- VI. **Numbers 16:4-7** When Moses heard it, he fell on his face; and he said to Korah and all his company, "In the morning the Lord will show who is his, and who is holy, and will cause him to come near to him; him whom he will choose he will

cause to come near to him. Do this: take censers, Korah and all his company; put fire in them and put incense upon them before the Lord tomorrow, and the man whom the Lord chooses shall be the holy one. You have gone too far, sons of Levi!”

VII. **Numbers 16:8-11** And Moses said to Korah, “Hear now, you sons of Levi: is it too small a thing for you that the God of Israel has separated you from the congregation of Israel, to bring you near to himself, to do service in the tabernacle of the Lord, and to stand before the congregation to minister to them; and that he has brought you near him, and all your brethren the sons of Levi with you? And would you seek the priesthood also? Therefore it is against the Lord that you and all your company have gathered together; what is Aaron that you murmur against him?”

VIII. **Numbers 16:16-19, 24, 27-32, 35-38, 40** And Moses said to Korah, “Be present, you and all your company before the Lord, you and they, and Aaron, tomorrow; and let every one of you take his censer, and put incense upon it, and every one of you bring before the Lord his censer, two hundred and fifty censers; you also, and Aaron, each his censer.” So every man took his censer, and they put fire in them and laid incense upon them, and they stood at the entrance of the tent of meeting with Moses and Aaron. Then Korah assembled all the congregation against them at the entrance of the tent of meeting. And the glory of the Lord appeared to all the congregation.

...And the Lord said to Moses, “Say to the congregation, Get away from about the dwelling of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.”

...So they got away...And Moses said, “Hereby you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works, and that it has not been of my own accord. If these men die the common death of all men, or if they are visited by the fate of all men, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth, and swallows them up, with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the Lord.”

And as he finished speaking all these words, the ground under them split asunder; and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households and all the men that belonged to Korah and all their goods...And fire came forth from the Lord, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men offering the incense.

Then the Lord said to Moses, “Tell Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest to take up the censers out of the blaze...the censers of these men who have sinned at the cost of their lives; so let them be made into hammered plates as a covering for the

altar... Thus they shall be a sign to the sons of Israel... to be a reminder to the sons of Israel, so that no one who is not a priest, who is not of the descendants of Aaron, should draw near to burn incense before the Lord, lest he become as Korah and as his company.

- IX. **Jude 12-13** These are blemishes on your love feasts, as they boldly carouse together, looking after themselves; waterless clouds, carried along by winds; fruitless trees in late autumn, twice dead, uprooted; wild waves of the sea, casting up the foam of their own shame; wandering stars for whom the deepest darkness has been reserved for ever.
- X. **CCC 875** No one can give himself the mandate and the mission to proclaim the Gospel. The one sent by the Lord does not speak and act on his own authority, but by virtue of Christ's authority; not as a member of the community, but speaking to it in the name of Christ. No one can bestow grace on himself; it must be given and offered. This fact presupposes ministers of grace, authorized and empowered by Christ.

### **The Messianic King**

- I. **Matthew 4:12-17** Now when [Jesus] heard that John [the Baptist] had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee; and leaving Nazareth he went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, toward the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."
- II. **Proclus of Constantinople, Homily 4.3 on the Nativity of the Lord** Today the sun of justice sprang from the virginal cloud: The people that sat in darkness have seen a great light. Today the unsown seed grew up out of the uncultivated plain, and the hungry world rejoices for it. Today, without conjugal relations, a birth sprang from an uncorrupt womb, and all creation brings gifts to the child who has no father. The earth offers a manger; the rocks offer jars of water; the mountains, a cave; the cities, Bethlehem; the winds, obedience; the sea, submission; the waves, calm; the depths of the ocean, fish; the fish, a coin; the rivers, the Jordan; the wells, the Samaritan woman; the desert, John; the beasts, a foal; the birds, a dove; the Magi, their gifts.

The women offer Martha; the widows, Anna; the barren, Elizabeth; the virgins, Mary, Mother of God; the shepherds, a hymn of praise; the priests, Simeon; the children, palms; the persecutors, Paul; the sinners, the publican; the Gentiles, the Canaanite woman; the woman with a hemorrhage, her faith; the sinful woman, ointment; the trees, Zacchaeus; wood, the cross; the cross, the thief; the east, a star;

the air, a cloud; Gabriel, his greeting: 'Rejoice, full of grace, the Lord is with you', and the Lord is from you, and the Lord is before you.

He came unto you according to his good pleasure; he came from you as he willed; he came before you, before every thought of mind, having been generated by God the Father ineffably, immutably, wondrously, impassibly, without corruption, without witnesses, without mediators, without supervisors, unspeakably and divinely. In heaven without a mother, on earth without a father. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased, now and forever.

- III. **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
- IV. **Tertullian, *Against Marcion*, 3.19.1-3** Which king ever displayed the sign of his dominion upon his shoulder, and not in a crown upon his head or a scepter in his hand, or some mark of appropriate apparel? No, only the new king of the new ages, Christ Jesus, the king of new glory, has lifted up upon his shoulder his own dominion and majesty, which is the cross.