



The Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 53:6; 45:22; & 9:2, 6-7

“Ready Handsome?” Woodstock asked his friend, Handsome the Hand. Woodstock was feeling a bit nervous as he checked the computer one last time. A few hours earlier, he and Handsome had sent his nephew Shiloh back to 700 B.C., which was almost 700 years before Jesus was born. This was the first time they had tried sending someone back in time. Handsome waved the remote in the air to show he was ready while Woodstock checked one more piece of data on the monitor. “All right, hit it!” he instructed Handsome. Handsome promptly hit the return button.

A red strobe light flashed as the computer voice announced, “Time Travel Alert! Time Travel Alert! We have a time travel visitor in 3-2-1!”

Woodstock fidgeted. “Here he comes!”

Shiloh slid down the time travel tube and landed on his backside with a thud on the metal floor. Unaffected, he jumped up. “Whoa, Uncle Woody! That was like freak-a-docious!”

“Shiloh, did you go back in time?” Woodstock asked impatiently.

Shiloh grinned, his shoulder-length hair a mess. “I totally did! I met this dude named Isaiah.”

“Isaiah?!” Woodstock leaned forward. “I know him! He’s a prophet!”

“Really?” Shiloh paused. “I thought he was a shepherd with bad eyesight because he kept calling everybody sheep.”

“He called you a sheep? That’s crazy, baby. What do you think he meant?” Woodstock wondered.

Handsome retrieved the Bible from the porthole and held it up. “Good idea, Handsome!” Shiloh took the Bible and opened it to Isaiah 53:6. “Dude, here it is! This is what Isaiah said! ‘We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.’”

The warning siren sounded and the red light flashed. Woodstock tapped his chin. “Oh, I get it. That’s the warning! Isaiah wasn’t calling us sheep. He was saying people are like sheep because sometimes we wander away and don’t pay attention to what’s important.”

“Right! And what’s important is Jesus!” Shiloh added. “But, what’s an iniquity?”

"Iniquity means sin. You know, like when we do stuff we're not supposed to," Woodstock explained.

Shiloh nodded. "I can relate, brother. I do wrong stuff all the time."

"Yeah, but the good news is Jesus took those sins on Himself," Woodstock offered.

Shiloh frowned. "But, I thought Jesus always obeyed God?"

"He did, man, and that's why He was the only perfect one who could take our sins to the cross and get rid of them once and for all!"

"Man, you got to love that Jesus," Shiloh said.

"I do! He came to save us, dude!" Woodstock exclaimed. "You know, Shiloh, prophets were always warning God's people to get ready for the Savior. "

"Yeah, that's probably why Isaiah was always trying to get people to turn to God." Shiloh jumped as the choice bell sounded and the red and green lights flashed. "Wow, that was the choice? I wasn't expecting that one!"

"Far out, man! That's the choice Isaiah gave God's people." Woodstock told him to turn to Isaiah 45:22. He looked over Shiloh's shoulder and read, "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other."

"You can say that again!" Shiloh declared.

"Turn to me and be ..."

"No! Uncle Woody!" Shiloh interrupted, laughing. "I just meant that's something we all need to hear."

Woodstock nodded. "Amen, brother."

"Especially me." Shiloh sat down and looked up at his uncle. "Uncle Woody, can I be frank with you?"

"Yeah, dude!" Woodstock sat down next to him. "You can be Frank. You can be Sammy or Jerry or Dean. You can be whoever you want, man."

Shiloh rolled his eyes. "I mean, can I be honest with you?"

Woodstock leaned forward. "Oh, sure dude. Go ahead."

"Sometimes, I do bad things even when I don't want to."

"Dude, that's nothing new! We all sin. Like Isaiah said, we are all just like sheep wandering away from God to do our own thing."

As Woodstock finished talking, Handsome popped up holding a flashlight. He turned it on and flashed it around the ceiling like a searchlight. Shiloh and Woodstock looked up and followed the beam as they tried to figure out what Handsome was searching for. "What's up, Handsome?" Shiloh finally asked.

"Dude, I don't know what you are looking for, but that's a great light. Can I see it?" Woodstock asked. As soon as the flashlight touched his hand, the sound of hands clapping filled the air and a flashing green light brightened the room. Handsome waved excitedly.

"Uncle Woody, you've got it! You have the promise!" Shiloh pointed to Isaiah 9:2a in the Bible he was holding and read, "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light." He looked at Woodstock. "Dude, that's like code for Jesus. Jesus is like the light that shows us the way to God."

"He's even more than a light; He is God's Son," Woodstock added.

"Excellent! There's even more to this promise." Shiloh continued to read, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." He stopped and exclaimed, "Uncle Woody, I get it! He came to bring peace between us and God. Jesus is God's Son who saves us from our sins! I'm going to remember Isaiah's warning and turn back to Jesus with all my heart."

Woodstock smiled. "Dude, that's the best choice you will ever make! I promise."

"You can say that again!" Shiloh exclaimed.

"Ha! Ha!" Woodstock laughed. "No matter where you are in time, God is good all the time!"