19th July, 2020 Bukit Mertajam Gospel Centre

Series: **Perplexing Prophecies in Isaiah**

**Part I:** **P**erspective of **P**rophetic **P**rinciples **I**n **I**nterpreting **I**saiah.

**Part II:** “**P**roblematic” **P**rophecies in **I**saiah.

An **E**xample of a **P**erplexing **P**rophecy in Isaiah. Isa. 66:7, 8

***B****efore she travailed, she brought forth;*

***B****efore her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.*

*8****W****ho hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things?*

***S****hall the earth be made to bring forth in one day?*

***S****hall a nation be born at once?*

*for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*

(1) Its **P**rofundity.

(2) Its **P**erplexity.

(3) Its **P**oints in the **P**rophecy.

**Part I:** **Perspective of Prophetic Principles In Interpreting Isaiah.**

Introduction and Background: **RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE WORD OF TRUTH**

**II Timothy 2:14-18**

*14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.*

*15* ***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth****.*

*16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.*

*17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;*

*18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already;*

*and overthrow the faith of some.*

1. **The Three Ethnic Entities in Prophecy: 1 Cor. 10:32**

*Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God:*

1. The Jew – God’s Covenanted **P**eople **P**romised to Abraham and his **P**osterity. Gen. 12

The Unconditional **P**erpetual **P**romise

Of a Great **N**ation. Gen. 12:2a

Of a Great **N**ame. Gen. 12:2b

Of a Great **L**and in a **N**ight Vision. Gen. 15:18ff

1. The Gentile: the Nations outside Israel – Eph. 2:12

*At that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.*

1. The Church of God – Jews and Gentiles in Christ. See #B below.

1. **The Mystery of the Mystical Church.**
2. The **M**ystical Body of Christ – Jews and Gentiles in the One Body. I Cor. 12:12-13

*For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.*

*That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.* Eph. 3:6

1. The **M**eaning of the Church.
2. The Univers**al** Church: – as #1 above. I Cor. 12:12-13
3. The Loc**al** Church *- Unto the church of God which is at Corinth…*

*to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all*

*that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours*

1. A **M**ystery Hidden in the Old Testament. Eph. 3:4-6

*Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ)*

*Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto His holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;* *That the Gentiles should be fellow-heirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel:*

1. **The Law of Double Fulfilment:**
2. The **F**actu**al F**oretelling: Isa. 61:1-2  
   *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me; because the LORD hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;   
   2* ***To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,*** ***and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn.***
3. The Historic**al** **F**ulfilment Lk. 4:17-21

The **P**rimary or **P**artial Fulfilment:

*17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias.*

*And when he had opened the book, He found the place where it was written,*

*18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

*19* ***To preach the acceptable year of the Lord****. 20* ***And He closed the book****.*

1. The Secondary or **F**uture **F**ulfilment - *and the day of vengeance of our God,* Isa. 61:2b
2. The **P**arenthesis (Gap) **P**rinciple in between:

Between… ***the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God;***

1. Cf. also: Isa. 11:1-5; Dan. 2:40-44; Dan 7:7-12
2. I Pet. 1:11 – *the sufferings of Christ* [Parenthesis] *and the glory that should follow*
3. **The three Prophetic Programmes:**
4. **For Israel** –
5. From the **R**ule of Abraham to the **R**eign of David.
6. The Divided Kingdom: North (Israel) and South (Judah)
7. The Assyrian Captivity, the Babylonian Captivity,
8. The Times of the Gentiles – Israel Put **A**side but not Cast **A**way. Rom. 11:1, 2
9. The **R**ejection of Jesus, the World-wide Dispersion in 70A.D.
10. The **R**ecognition of Israel in May 14, 1948 and the **R**eturn to Jerusalem in 1967.
11. The **R**etribution in the Great Tribulation and the **R**eign of Christ in the Millennium.
12. **For the Church** – Birth at Pentecost, The Dispensation of the Church,

The **R**apture of the Church, The **R**eturn of Christ and the **R**eign with Christ.

1. **The Gentiles** – The *Times of the Gentiles* (Lk. 21:24) until the *Fulness of the Gentiles* (Rom. 11:25); the Commencement of the Great Tribulation and their Gathering in the Millennium – the Judgment of the Sheep and Goats. Mt. 25:31-46
2. **The Two-Stage Second Coming of Christ***.*
3. The **R**apture –
4. I Cor. 15:52 - *In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed*
5. I Thes. 4:17 *- Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
6. The **R**evelation.
7. Rev. 1:7 *- Behold, He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they also which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.*
8. Zech.14:4 - *And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.*
9. **The Present Travail and the Travail to Come**
10. **The Tribulation** Jn. 16:33

*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*

1. **The Great Tribulation**
2. **I Thes. 5:3** *For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.*

**Note:** *they* and *them*to exclude Paul and the believers. (ct. *we* in I Thes. 4:15, 17)

1. **Mt. 24:21 -** *For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.*
2. **Rev. 7:14 –** *These**are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.*
3. **Dan. 12:1 -** *and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.*
4. **The Millennium and Eternity**
5. The **M**eaning of the **M**illennium – 1000 years reign of Christ. Rev. 20:6

Is it literal? Cf. 1260 days (Rev. 11:3) = 42 months (Rev. 11:2) Rev. 11:2, 3

2. The **M**anner of the **M**illennium in **R**elation to the **R**eturn of Christ:

a. Post-tribulation PreMillennialism

b.  **Pre-Tribulation PreMillennialism**

c. Post Millennialism

d. A-Millennialism

Con.: **P**roblems in the **P**erplexing **P**rophecy **P**osed by Isa, 66:7

**Isaiah 66:7-8 (NKJV)**   
*7  "Before she was in labor, she gave birth; Before her pain came, She delivered a male child.   
8  Who has heard such a thing? Who has seen such things?*

*Shall the earth be made to give birth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once?*

*For as soon as Zion was in labor, She gave birth to her children.*

Answer next Lord’s Day – Pt. II: **P**roblematic **P**rophecies in Isaiah.