

## THE ISAIAH TRAIL/THE JERUSALEM ROAD

God wants us to experience joy and peace; He wants us to experience a relationship with Him

- Psalm 16:11 – “Thou wilt show me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.”
- Isa. 26:3 – “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee.”
- This kind of life is the result of a close relationship with God.
  - “In Thy presence. . . .” and “at Thy right hand. . . .” speak to a personal relationship with God.
  - God called Abraham His friend, Isa. 41:8.

Man has separated himself from God

- Lev. 19:2 – “Ye shall be holy: for I the Lord your God am holy.”
- Eccl. 7:20 – “For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not.”

Because God is holy, He must judge man’s sin

- Jer. 31:30 – “But everyone shall die for his own iniquity.”
- Isa. 59:2 – “Your iniquities have ever made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have caused Him to hide His face from you.”

Man cannot remove the sin barrier by his own effort

- Isa. 64:6 – “We are all as an unclean thing and all our righteousnesses are as a filthy garment.”
- Psa. 49:8-9 – “No one can in any wise redeem his brother, nor can he give to God redemption for himself; for the ransom of their soul is too costly.”

The sin barrier can only be removed by believing in and accepting God’s provision in the blood of the atonement

- Lev. 17:11 – “For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.”
- Gen. 15:6 – “And he believed in the Lord; and He (God) counted it to him for righteousness.”

God has provided the blood of atonement for today

- Isa. 53:6, 8, 12
  - “All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.”
  - “For He was cut out of the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people was He stricken.”
  - “And He took off the sin of many.”

- In the prologue to Isaiah 53 (Isaiah 52:13-15), the author identifies the “He” of these passages. He is described as God’s Servant Who will be exalted. In other parts of the book of Isaiah, Isaiah equates this Servant of God with Messiah (Isa. 42:1)

God made sure we could recognize the Messiah by certain specific identifying marks.

These are described by the prophets of Israel

- His ancestry was from the family of David – Jer. 23:5-6
- The city of His birth was Bethlehem – Micah 5:1 (2)
- He had a supernatural nature – Jer. 23:5-6; Micah 5:1 (2); Isa. 9:5-6
- The manner of His execution was crucifixion – Psa. 22:14-17
- He rose from the dead – Psa. 16:10, Isa. 53:10
- The time of His coming was before the destruction of Herod’s Temple in 70 AD – Dan. 9:26

History tells us that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled these and many other prophecies

- There are at least 48 specific prophecies concerning the Messiah which Jesus fulfilled. The probability that one person could fulfill all 48 prophecies is 1 out of 10 with 157 zeros after it!

Since the blood of atonement has been provided through the Messiah Jesus, there is only one thing left for you to do – by faith receive Jesus into your life so that you may have a personal relationship with God and find peace and joy

- John 1:12 – “To all who received Him (the Messiah), to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God”

All quotations are taken from the Jewish Bible.