

The prophetic books have much to say about Him. Time after time he appears in Isaiah. In Is. 2 we see a picture of His great millennial reign. In Is.4 we see Him present to protect His people in all ages. In ch.7 and 8 He appears as the virgin born Immanuel. In ch.9 He is appears as the Child who is born and the Son who is given, whose name is Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Ch. 32 begins with a picture which combines His reign as King with His activity as Good Shepherd caring for His people. Ch. 53 gives a picture of His atoning death so clearly one ~~XXXXX~~ would think Isaiah was actually observing it. Ch. 55 contains as wonderful a Gospel call as can be found anywhere in the Bible.

Micah predicts His birth in Bethlehem and declares, "He shall stand feed in the strength of the Lord." Incidentally this word "feed" we think of as meaning eat but the Heb. word is like feeding cattle; He is caring for His people. He shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord. In the majesty of the Name of the Lord His God, for now He shall be great unto the ends of the earth, and this man shall be the peace. The great Christians through the ages have loved Jesus Christ. If we are truly to accomplish anything it must be not because we are serving a system of doctrine, not simply trying to advance scholarship, not simply trying to get people to subscribe to a system, but first loving Him and knowing Him, and second making Him known.

I have here two hymns written in the Middle Ages that to me express the thought of our relationship to Christ in a very unique way. They are found in many of our Hymn books. I think they are far superior to most of the hymns we sing today. I'd like to read you these two written in the Middle Ages. Some people think of Christianity as not beginning until the Reformation. God gave the great Reformers a great understanding of the ~~g~~ truth. It was presented perhaps more clearly than it had been since the downfall of the Roman Empire, but in the Middle Ages there were those who truly loved the Lord and some of them expressed it most beautifully. I would like to ~~f~~ read these two hymns. First,

Jesusthou joy of loving hearts, thou fount of life thou light of men. From the best bliss that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to Thee again.

Thy truth unchanged hath ever stood. Thou savest those that on Thee call. To them that seek thee thou art good. To those that find Thee all in all.

We taste Thee O Thou Living Bread, and long to feast upon Thee still. We drink of Thee the fountain head and thirst our souls on Thee to fill.

Our restless spirits yearn for thee, where'er our changeful lot is cast. Glad when Thy gracious smile we see; blest when our faith can hold thee fast.

And the other:

How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear. It soothes his sorrow, heals his wounds and drives away his fears.