

General Church Education



Family Lesson: Isaiah 6-7

The Prophet Isaiah

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Family Lesson 13 - A

The Prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 6, 7

Family Talk:
ISAIAH

Rev. Alfred Acton

In the seventh chapter of Isaiah, honey is mentioned twice. We just read about the first time. There Isaiah, talking about the Lord as a child, prophesied: “Butter and honey shall He eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good (*Isaiah 7:15*). Later in the chapter Isaiah goes on to say: “Butter and honey shall every one eat that is left in the land” (*Isaiah 7:22*).

What do you think honey means spiritually? Honey is sweet and delightful. To angels, spiritual “honey” is the good things people do to make life delightful. Let’s talk about choosing between evil and good, but first let’s see why butter is mentioned as well as honey. Adding the idea of butter to the idea of honey is a way of saying that it is something that will last, not something that will quickly pass away. If something is only fun or delightful for a very short time and then it is gone, then it is not very valuable. The Lord said once that people should not labor for the food that perishes, but for that food which endures to everlasting life (*Arcana Coelestia 680*).

If heaven is called a land flowing with milk (from which butter is made) and honey (see *Arcana Coelestia 5620:9, 6857*), then we can see that milk, or butter, and honey mean much enjoyment that really lasts and does not pass away and that heaven is a place of lasting happiness. Given a choice between honey and vinegar, the sweet or the sour, the good or the evil, heaven or hell, which would we choose?

We would choose heaven. We would choose the lasting delight rather than choose what might be fun for a short time. Choosing between delights brings us to a true story. There was once a man who had thought much about heaven and hell ever since he was young. When he woke up in the spiritual world, he had a very strong wish to know the quality of heaven and the quality of hell. He prayed to the Lord that he might be given to know and understand this. An angel was sent to him, and the angel told him that if he went around and asked and found out what **delight** is, then he would know about heaven and hell (*The True Christian Religion 570, Conjugal Love 461*).

Imagine being told that if you found out what **fun** is, then you would know what heaven and hell are. Well, this man started going around and asking people in the world of spirits what delight is (or what fun is). Some said that this was a strange question. They said that all fun or all delight is the same.

But the man was wise enough not to accept that as an answer. Isn't it true that some people think that being very mean and cruel is fun? Well, then, that proves that fun is not all the same. There is good fun or good delight, and there is also evil delight. And when you taste good delight, spiritual butter and honey, you start to know about choosing good and refusing evil.

Did you know that there is a wonderful quiet force drawing us all in the direction of heaven? It may be compared to a river which carries us along. Because it is the Lord's Providence, and because the Lord is in it wishing to give us true delight, we may compare it to a river of honey and butter. We do not see the flowing of the Divine Providence, but we should take joy in knowing that it is there from the Lord's love of bringing us to happiness.

But how do we find this wonderful river of spiritual butter and honey? How can we know if the Lord is leading us? In looking for an answer to this question, think of the prophet Isaiah. The prophet Isaiah was called by the Lord. The Lord spoke to him, and asked him to become His prophet. The Lord wanted Isaiah to do special things for Him. The Lord also calls each of us. There is a voice of His love inside us that, if we pay attention, we can hear. A voice of love, the way we feel about things. But even though the Lord called Isaiah, Isaiah had to answer. The Lord's call would have meant nothing had Isaiah not answered it. So it is with us. We must want the spiritual honey that the Lord can give us. We must want to respond to the Lord's love when it is inside us. We must want to do what the Lord teaches us to do in His Word. We must have the courage of the prophet Isaiah, the courage to speak out, even to the Lord.

And what did Isaiah say when the Lord called him? Listen to the answer as found in the Lord's Word. Isaiah is speaking. **“Also I heard the voice of the Lord saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then I said, ‘Here am I, send me’”(Isaiah 6:8).** What special words. What important words! Do we have the courage to say the same thing when we hear the Lord calling us, asking us to obey His commandments, asking us to do what He teaches in His Word? Do we have the courage to respond with those simple words, “Here am I, send me”?

The Prophet Isaiah

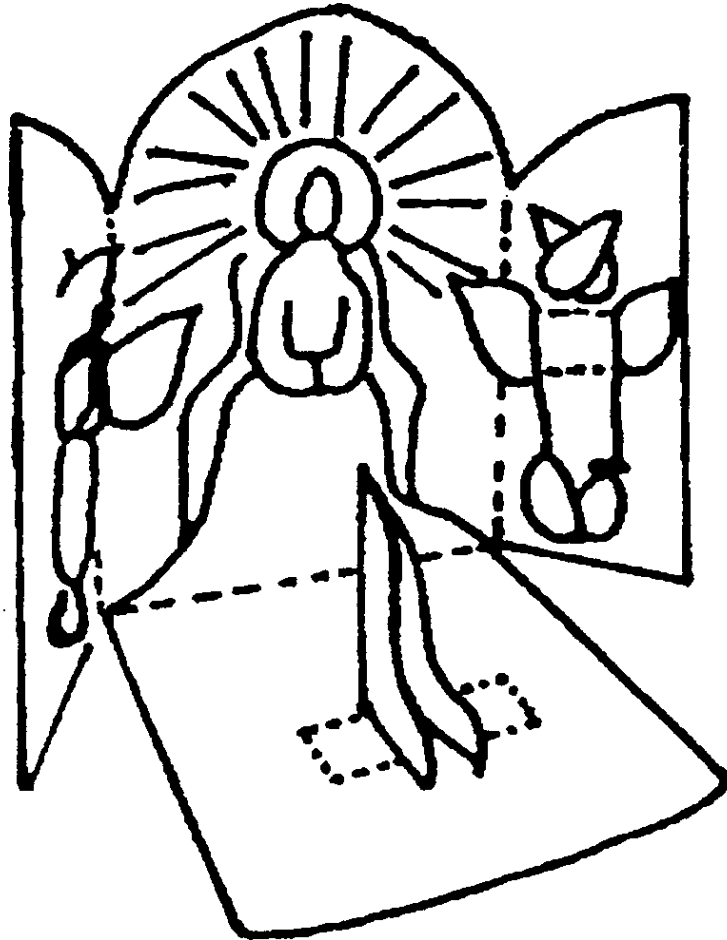
Isaiah 6-7

LEVEL 2 – ISAIAH BEFORE THE LORD

MATERIALS NEEDED

Crayons, Glitter, Glue, and Scissors

INSTRUCTIONS



1. Color the picture on page 3, leaving the Lord's garment white. You can glue glitter on the throne if you have it.

Color the hot coal in the seraph's hand in warm glowing colors like red and orange. Draw rays from it if you like.

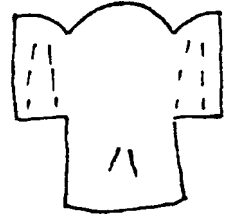
Color Isaiah.

Color the wings if you like.

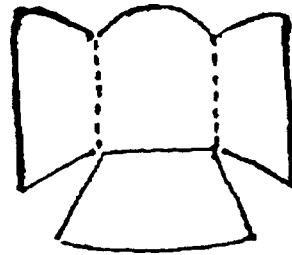
2. Cut out the picture on the heavy lines, like this:

Cut out Isaiah and the wing shapes.

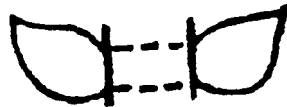
Cut the slits for the wings of the seraphim, and the slits for Isaiah in the floor part of the Lord's garment. You may need help with the slits.



3. Fold the picture on the dotted lines so it looks like this, and it stands up:



4. Fold the wings on the dotted lines and put them through the slits like this:



5. Fold the head and foot wings so they cover the seraphim's heads and feet.

Fold Isaiah on the dotted line down the middle. Fold the tabs outward:



6. Put the tabs into the slits on the floor part of the picture:



7. Tape or glue the tabs and wings in place on the back if you need to.

The Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 6-7

LEVEL 3 – FOUR PROPHETS

Materials Needed

A pencil or pen, Crayons or markers
The Word or a Bible
Recipe and cooking ingredients

You have two projects for this lesson:

- 1) A map project on pages 1 and 2
- 2) A Scripture cake for you to make (p.3)

MAPWORK

Fill in the answers to the questions.

Fill in the **names of the places** (_____) and find them on the map on page 2.
Highlight these names on the map with colors.

1. The four major prophets are _____, _____, _____, _____.
2. **Isaiah** prophesied to the kingdom of _____ and the city of (Isaiah 1:1). Isaiah spoke out bravely against the evils the people were doing.
3. **Jeremiah** prophesied to the kingdom of _____ (Jeremiah 1:1). He told the people they should surrender to the attacking Babylonians. They refused. The country was conquered and all the important people taken captive. Jeremiah decided to stay in Jerusalem, even though he had been granted safe conduct to Babylon. But some of his own countrymen kidnapped him and took him to Egypt. Jeremiah wrote the books of *Jeremiah* and also *Lamentations* as the Lord's servant.
4. **Ezekiel** was a captive in **Babylon**. Ezekiel prophesied to the Hebrew captives. He had a vision in which he was taken to the city of (Ezekiel 8:3). He saw the temple of _____ (Ezekiel 8:16).
5. **Daniel** was a Hebrew prince taken to _____ with other members of the royal family (Daniel 1:3). He could interpret dreams, and had dreams and visions himself.

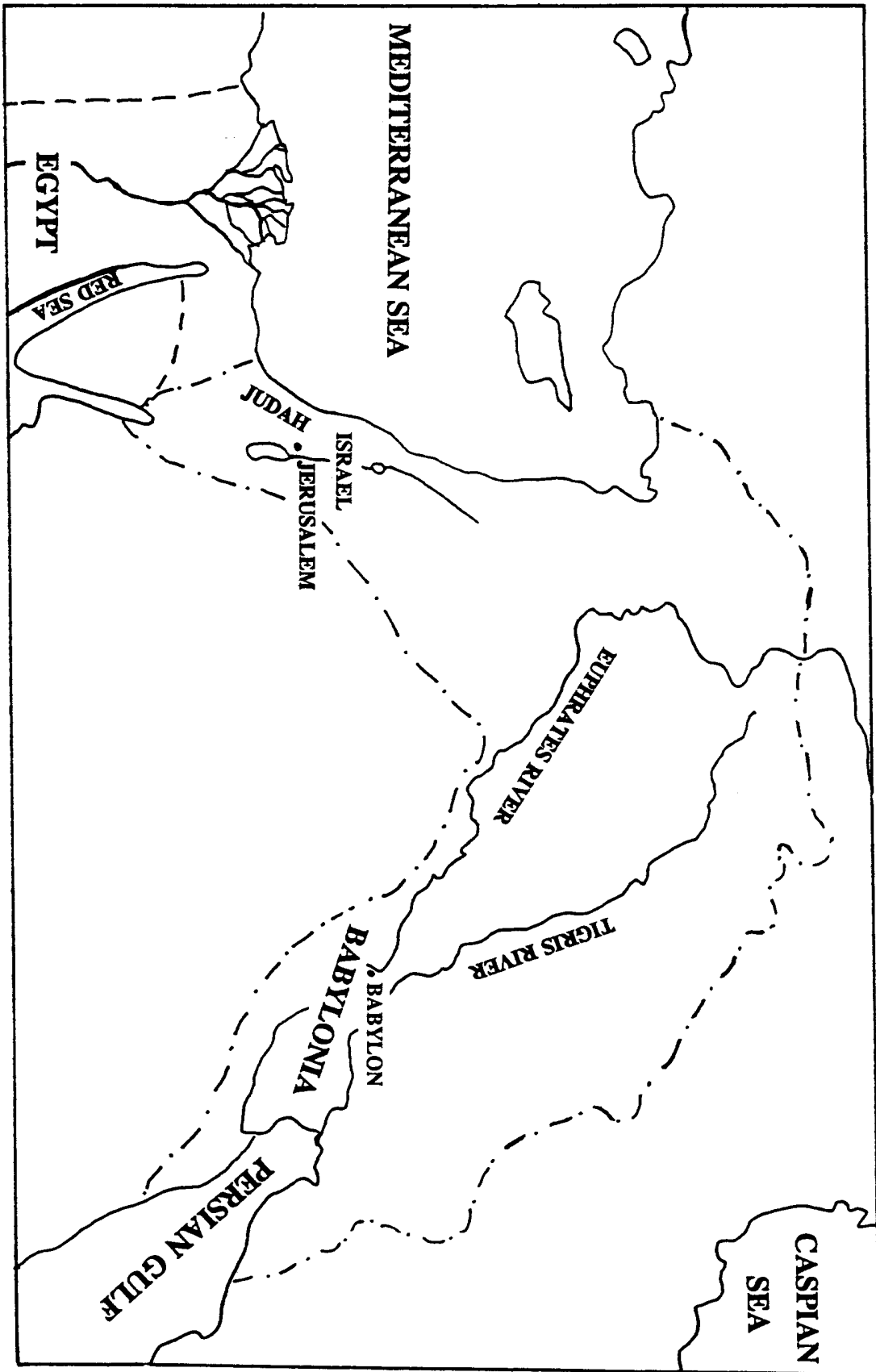
KEY:

__._.__. This line indicates all the land eventually captured by Babylonia.

----- This line indicates the boundaries of Egypt.

(later Babylonia conquered Egypt).

6. Color **Egypt** pink. Color **the area conquered by Babylonia** yellow.



SCRIPTURE CAKE

To make this cake, you need to follow the recipe below. Start by looking up the reference, for example in step #1 below—Psalms 55:21. In this verse, you should see an ingredient that could go into a cake—butter and oil for example. Next you look at the amount given for that ingredient, in this case, 1 cup of the first thing you see and a ½ cup of the next. Now you will know that you need 1 cup of butter and ½ cup of oil for your cake. Continue looking in the Word to find the other ingredients. Follow the directions given below the ingredients, and you will soon have a delicious cake!

Ingredients

1. Psalms 55:21 (1 cup)_____ and ½ cup _____
2. Jer. 6:20 (2 Tbsp)_____
3. Judges 14:18 (1 cup)_____
4. Is. 10:14 (6 beaten)_____
5. Judges 4:19 (½ cup)_____
6. I Kings 4:22 (4½ cups)_____
7. Luke 14:34 (¼ tsp)_____
8. Lev. 23:17 (2 tsp.)_____
9. Ex. 30:23 (4 tsp.)_____
10. I Kings 10:2 (½ tsp.)_____,(2 tsp.)_____ and(1 tsp.)_____
11. II Sam. 16:1 (2 cups)_____
12. II Kings 20:7 (2 cups)_____
13. Num. 17:8 (2 cups)_____
14. Num. 11:8 Follow the directions!

Directions:

1. Ingredients 1-5: beat well.
2. Ingredients 6-13: mix together, then add to ingredients 1-5, then follow directions for number 14.
3. Put into 2 greased loaf pans; then follow directions in Dan. 4:19 (at 325 degrees).
4. Enjoy!

SCRIPTURE CAKE ANSWERS

1. 1 cup butter and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup oil
2. 2 Tbsp. sugar
3. 1 cup honey
4. 6 eggs beaten
5. $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk (or water)
6. $4\frac{1}{2}$ cups flour
7. $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. salt
8. 2 tsp. baking powder
9. 4 tsp. cinnamon
10. $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. nutmeg, 2 tsp. allspice and 1 tsp. cloves
11. 2 cups raisins
12. 2 cups chopped figs
13. 2 cups chopped almonds
14. Beat well and make a cake!

Bake 1 hour at 325 degrees.

The Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 6-7

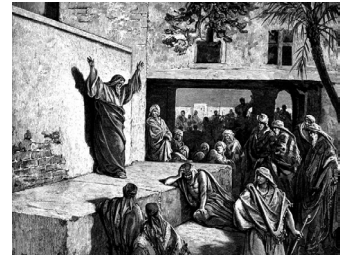
LEVEL 4 – MINOR PROPHETS

The people want a king

After the children of Israel conquered the Land of Canaan under Joshua and the Judges, they set up their own nation under the final judge, Samuel. Samuel was the leader when the people clamored for a king. The Lord allowed them to have one, and their nation developed under the leadership of Saul, David and Solomon. Unfortunately, after Solomon's rule, they began to fall into evils and turn away from the Lord under some of the kings that followed. The nation split into two kingdoms, “Judah” and “Israel,” and strayed farther from the Lord.

The Lord sends prophets

The Lord sent them prophets to warn of their evil ways, but they did not reform, and consequently were overrun by some of the mightier nations around them.



First, Israel was captured and carried away captive by Assyria. Then Judah was overtaken by Babylon, and many of the people were taken away. During all this time, the prophets were actively calling the people back to the worship of the Lord, telling of terrible consequences if they did not return to it, and prophesying the greatest reward if they did—the reward of the coming on earth of the Messiah.

Application

The last seventeen books of the Old Testament were written by these prophets. With the exception of *Lamentations* which was written by Jeremiah, each book carries the name of the prophet who wrote it. The first four are sometimes called the Major Prophets because their books are longer. The next twelve wrote shorter books, so are called Minor Prophets.

- 1) Look in the table of contents of your copy of the Word to find their names and list them on the next page.
- 2) Then see if you can find the names in the word search.

The Major Prophets

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 3. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 4. _____ |

The Minor Prophets

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 12. _____ |

Prophets Word Search

M	L	E	I	K	E	Z	E	A	K	I	A	M
I	D	A	N	I	E	L	J	U	H	M	H	A
N	A	K	L	A	P	O	K	O	O	K	L	J
O	P	R	O	H	E	K	S	N	N	I	N	O
R	O	Z	M	L	A	E	B	J	R	A	A	R
P	B	I	E	B	A	I	S	A	I	A	H	P
R	A	A	A	P	A	N	M	T	R	P	U	R
O	D	H	N	G	H	O	I	E	R	U	M	O
P	I	O	G	I	S	A	H	Z	R	Q	F	P
H	A	A	J	O	E	A	N	I	M	E	E	H
E	H	E	T	S	C	M	A	I	O	R	J	E
T	P	H	A	I	R	A	H	C	E	Z	I	T
S	R	O	M	A	L	A	C	H	I	H	A	S

The Prophet Isaiah
Isaiah 6, 7
LEVEL 5 – INFLUX

Read the following: *Arcana Coelestia* 8478:4

“It should be recognized that Divine providence is overall, that is, it is present within the smallest details of all, and that people in the **stream of providence** are being carried along constantly towards happier things, whatever appearance the means may present. Those in the stream of providence are people who trust in the Divine and ascribe everything to Him. But those not in the stream of providence are people who trust in themselves alone and attribute everything to themselves; theirs is a contrary outlook, for they take providence away from the Divine and claim it as their own. It should be recognized also that to the extent that anyone is in the stream of providence he is in a state of peace; and to the extent that anyone is in a state of peace by virtue of the good of faith, he is in Divine providence.”

This teaching talks about the stream of Providence, which is the river of butter and honey spoken of in the talk.

1. Who is in the stream of Providence?

2. How could you tell if you were in that stream?

Now read these numbers: *Arcana Coelestia* 6472 and 6474

“The nature of the influx of both kinds of life — the life of thought and the life of the will coming from the Lord — has been made known to me through revelation. That is to say, I have been shown that the Lord flows in in two ways — indirectly by way of heaven, and from Himself directly — and that the influx from Himself is both into the rational levels of a person’s mind, which are his interior ones, and into the natural levels of it, which are his exterior ones. What flows in from the Lord is Divine Truth holding Divine Good within it. But the way a person receives them varies, that is to say, his particular character determines how they are received.

[2] The Lord does not compel a person to accept what flows in from Himself but leads him in freedom; and so far as the person allows He leads him by means of freedom to good. (AC 6472)

An experience which lasted for an hour showed me how all a person’s thoughts are governed by the Lord. An influx took place, like the flow of a very gentle, almos indiscernible stream, whose current is invisible but nevertheless guides and drives whatever is in it. What was flowing in from the Lord was in a similar way guiding me towards conclusions in all my lines of thought, doing so gently yet forcefully. I was being led so forcefully that I could not by any means wander away into other thoughts. I was even allowed to try, but all to no avail. (AC 6474)

According to these numbers the Lord leads us by influx which is like a stream. This influx is the stream of Providence.

- 3. What is the stream made of? What is it that “flows in” from the Lord? It is said to be two different things.

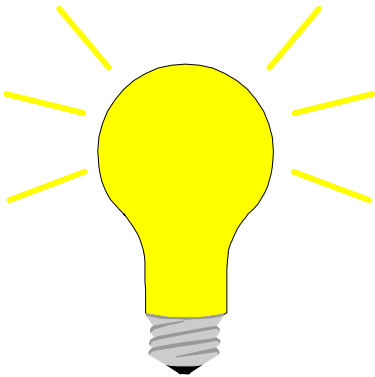
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There are two important truths you should know about influx:

1) influx is according to the form of the receiving vessel

2) influx is according to efflux

(or to put it in other words: what comes in depends upon what can go out.)



Let’s illustrate the two important ideas:

For the light bulb to turn on electricity has to come through a wire from a power source.

How bright will the bulb get?

How bright the “influx” of electricity will be depends on the kind of bulb — the “receiving vessel.” The amount of light given off can tell you how much electricity you have used. The “influx” of electricity can be measured by the “efflux,” or outgo, of light from the bulb.

4. Write out the two laws of influx in your own words.

1.

2.

Now think about Providence as an influx of love (like the electricity), and truth (as an influx making a vessel like the knowledge to make the light bulb). Truth is learned. It comes in from your senses, either directly by experience or indirectly by what you read. It gives your mind form. Your mind is like the light bulb. Because truth gives your mind its shape, the influx of love into your mind must be according to the truth you have, or according to the form of the receiving vessel.

5. How much love will your mind be able to receive? (Remember, influx is not only according to the form of the vessel shaped by truth, but also according to efflux.)

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.....

Now let's think of the prophet Isaiah. His mind, because he spoke for the Lord, was a special vessel. When the Lord used Isaiah's mind He allowed His love to flow through Isaiah. This special influx gave us the book of the prophet Isaiah.

6. Why was the book written in the Hebrew language? (Remember the first law of influx.)

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7. Why were Isaiah's words, "Here am I. Send me." important? (Remember the second law.)

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Please check your answers with the answer sheet on the next page.

Suggestions for ANSWERS

1. People who trust in the Lord. They know He is taking care of them. Even when things go wrong they know the Lord can lead them to heaven. Good can come even from bad things if you cooperate with the Lord.
2. It's how you feel. If you feel content, not worrying about what will happen, but doing your best to do good each day, you are in the stream of Providence.
3. The "stream" is made of the Lord's love which flows into your soul warming your heart.
4. This answer is to be in your own words.
Law 1: you receive love from the Lord only in the way your mind is formed.
Law 2: you get love from the Lord in proportion to the way you give love to others.
5. Your mind will receive only as much love from the Lord as you are willing to share with other people.
6. Hebrew was the language in Isaiah's mind. It was part of the form of his mind. Since influx depends on the form of the vessel, the Lord used Hebrew for this book of His Word.
7. These words show that Isaiah was ready to do what the Lord wanted. Since influx is according to efflux, the fact that Isaiah was ready to do what the Lord wanted shows his willingness to make the "efflux," or actions, happen.