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*An angel touches Isaiah's lips with a live coal, saying,
"Your sins shall be taken away."*

38. ISAIAH AND JEREMIAH

GOD sent many prophets to the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. One of the greatest of these was a nobleman from Jerusalem. His name was Isaiah. He served as a prophet of God while four kings ruled over Judah.

One day Isaiah had a beautiful vision. He saw a high throne upon which the Lord was sitting. The robes of the Lord filled the Temple. Angels stood about the throne and sang, “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts, all the earth is full of His glory!”

The Temple shook with the sound of their voices and was filled with a bright cloud. Isaiah was afraid. He did not feel worthy to see such a vision, but one of the angels took a live coal from the altar. With it he touched the lips of Isaiah and said, “Your sins shall be taken away.”

Besides bringing God’s messages to the kings, Isaiah also preached to the people. He foretold that, like the kingdom of Israel, Judah also would be destroyed, but that a few people would be saved. Out of this small number God would make a new people who would serve Him faithfully. Isaiah spoke more about the Messiah and His kingdom than any other prophet.

After serving as God’s prophet for many years, Isaiah was put to death by the wicked king, Manasseh.

Jeremiah was another of the great prophets. An angel touched his mouth and said, “Behold, I have put my words in your mouth.” At the same time Jeremiah had a vision. He saw the message he was to carry to the nations. The prophet showed the people how ungrateful they had been to God. He told them that God was inviting them to come back to Him. Through Jeremiah, God made it known that He would destroy the country and send the people into captivity, but that God would restore to Jerusalem a few of His Chosen People. He would make them into a great nation which would have as its leader the Messiah Himself. Many times Jeremiah had to suffer because his message from God did not please the leaders. In his suffering Jeremiah was like our Lord.



After blessing a piece of bread, Jesus breaks it and gives it to His Apostles, saying, "Take and eat; this is My Body."

54. THE INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST AT THE LAST SUPPER

NOW the moment for which Jesus had waited so long had come. He kept the promise He had made in the synagogue at Capernaum. He took a piece of bread, blessed it, and broke it. Then He gave it to the Apostles and said, “Take and eat; this is My Body.”

Then He took a cup with wine in it, blessed it in the same way and said, “All of you drink of this, for this is My Blood of the new covenant, which is being shed for many unto the forgiveness of sins . . . Do this in remembrance of Me.”

Our Lord changed bread and wine into His Body and Blood and offered Himself to God. This was a sacrifice. At the same time He told the Apostles that He would die on the next day. This would be the bloody sacrifice, but Jesus wanted this unbloody sacrifice to continue on earth until the end of time. When He told the Apostles to do as He had done, He made them priests who could offer this sacrifice. They could pass this power on to their successors. After our Lord returned to heaven, the Apostles continued to offer this Eucharistic Sacrifice. They ordained other priests. In this way Jesus gave us the priesthood and the Mass.

Finally, Jesus gave the Apostles His last instructions. He said, “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: that as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this will all men know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

Jesus said, “I am the vine, and you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit, for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he shall be cast outside as the branch and wither. They shall gather them up and cast them into the fire, and they shall burn. If you abide in Me, and if My words abide in you, ask whatever you will and it shall be done to you.”