



Reformation History

Isaiah

Interpreting the Text:

1. How did the prophecies of Isaiah serve the various needs of the reformers?
2. How did the reformers understand the function of biblical prophecy, and how do we understand it today?
3. Is it reasonable to read Christ or the New Testament back into the prophecies of the Hebrew Bible? What did the reformers think of this practice?

Applying the Text:

1. The reformers understood that the books of prophecies, like Isaiah, would pose somewhat of a threat to political elites. How can prophecy still serve a radical function in today's society? Are there people today who function as the ancient court prophets did?
2. Is it possible to read Isaiah as a Christian and not hear Handel's Messiah and picture Christmas festivities? How do you experience texts like Isaiah 40?
3. In the video, Isaiah is referred to as the "prince of prophets." Do you agree with this statement? What makes Isaiah stand out to you?