

Isaiah said these things because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about Him.

³⁹*This was the reason why they could not believe. For Isaiah said again:* ⁴⁰ *“He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, so that they may not see with their eyes, and that they may not understand with their hearts, and may not be converted, that I should heal them.”* ⁴¹ *Isaiah said these things because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about Him.* John 12:39-41

The faith of many on Palm Sunday was fickle. Although Jesus had done His miraculous signs in their presence, including the raising of Lazarus, they continued not to believe in Jesus.

This too fulfilled messianic prophecy. Anticipating these days, the prophet Isaiah had asked, *“Who has believed our message?”* (53:1). Even though the Pharisees feared Jesus' popularity, in reality the people were rejecting Jesus' teaching.

Many of these people, especially the Jewish leaders, had become hardened in their hearts against Jesus. They didn't acknowledge the arm of God at work in His miracles. Finally, as He once did with Pharaoh at the time of Israel's exodus from Egypt, God blinded the eyes of those who refused to see and closed the hearts of those who had locked Jesus out.

Isaiah had prophesied this unbelief (6:10), and Jesus had quoted him elsewhere (Matthew 13:14-15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10) to show why many Jews didn't recognise His messianic claims and believe. They were locked away in their own unbelief. Isaiah prophesied these things because he had seen the glory of the Lord, the same glory that belonged to Jesus; Jesus was his Lord.

In these words the mystery of Jesus' divinity surfaces again, and the promise of His exaltation is affirmed. Isaiah spoke about Jesus. Isaiah's vision saw the Messiah's great suffering to achieve our salvation and the Messiah's glory, restored in the resurrection and ascension.