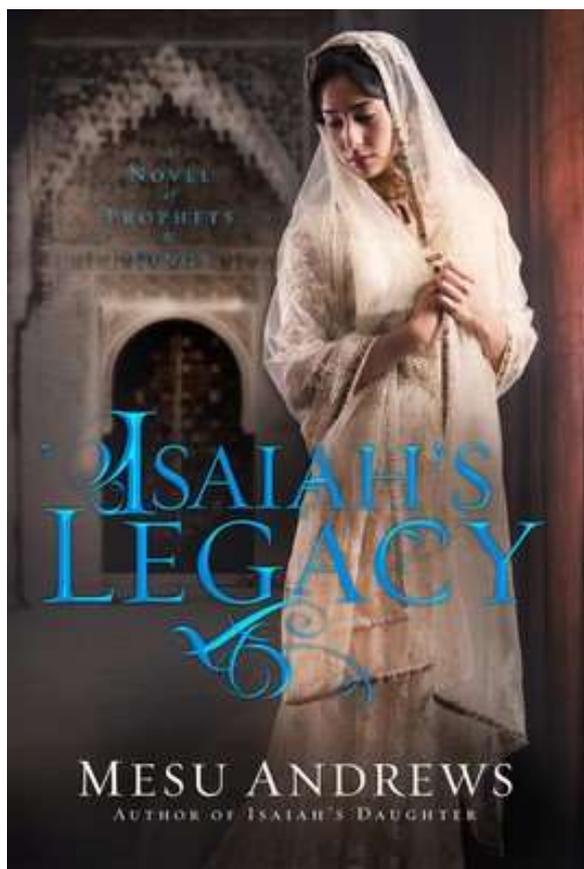


Skilful interweaving of scripture and fiction



Isaiah's Legacy: A Novel of Prophets and Kings

By Mesu Andrews

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This was my first read of 2020, and it completely blew me away. *Isaiah's Legacy* is a story of redemption. It is a story of brokenness and evil beyond belief, and the God whose love, compassion, and power changed everything.

This is also the first book I have read by award-winning Mesu Andrews and I can see why she is rated so highly. It's obvious the author did a lot of research to bring us this book and it's easy to imagine how life was at the time, with the skilful interweaving of scripture and fiction.

In the prologue, Andrews invites the reader to follow her “into King Manasseh’s dark world” and the drama of the Old Testament comes to life as he ascends to the throne. *Isaiah's Legacy* is the story of the cruellest king in the history of Judah, Manasseh. We follow Shulle, a young girl who starts as a devout Jew, but is manipulated and blackmailed to follow darker roads. She is placed strategically with Manasseh by her uncle, because she has experience with the specific troubles Manasseh is having as a high-functioning autistic (this is not named in the book as that would be historically incorrect, of course, but it is clear and it is mentioned in the Author’s Note). We follow both of them through the years and, while this is ultimately a story of redemption, the road they both take is very troubling, as you would expect when Manasseh is described as ‘the most evil king of all’.

I am rarely speechless but after reading this book I didn't have words for it. I was overwhelmed by the undeserved, pursuing love of God. *Isaiah's Legacy* brought to life one of the most profound prodigal stories and a deep expression of God's love. It made me see myself as I am; undeserving but loved with a fierceness greater than any chain, claim or darkness.

The story of King Manasseh and Shulle will drive your heart to God, will convict your heart of sin and open you wide to the Lord who pursues you like you are the only one alive.

Although *Isaiah's Legacy* follows *Isaiah's Daughter*, it can be read as a stand-alone book. Biblical fiction at its best - I couldn't read this fast enough and look forward to Andrews' next book.

Revd Shirley Murphy