

Isaiah

Sin, Judgment, Redemption



February 2024

Day 1

Would you say the country that we live in is wicked or righteous? I want you to write 3 things to explain your answer.

1.

2.

3.

We live in a country where wickedness runs rampant. Yet in the midst of the wicked thoughts and deeds of man there are those who live for the Lord and desire to serve Him. This month we are going to study the book of Isaiah. Since there is a lot of material that can say similar things in different ways we are going to tackle this book in one month. It is a book that shows the sinfulness of God's people, their impending judgment and how their only hope is through faith in the living God. Ask God to open your heart as you study this important prophetic book of the Bible.

Read Isaiah 1

What are words and phrases we are given to describe God's people in this chapter? Write as many things as you can find.

What does God say about the peoples' prayers and his reaction to them in verse 15. How serious does God take sin?

What does he say the people need to do in verses 16 to 20?

Read Isaiah 2:1-5

What is the picture of heaven that Isaiah paints for us?

Is this something to look forward to? Why?

In the midst of this hope, we have people living in open rebellion against God. I want you to list 3 people you know who are openly rebelling against God. Write next to their name, how you can pray for them in addition to their salvation.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – pray for the 3 people you wrote above.

Day 2

What is the harshest judgment a person has received that you can think of? Why was that so harsh?

In 1994 Charles Scott Robinson received a 30,000 year prison sentence for the abuse of 6 children. He got 5,000 years for each child. He deserved his prison sentence for his crimes. The idea of such a huge sentence is that he will die in prison. All men are sinful and we deserve a sentence like Robinson because of our sin. We deserve to die in the prison of sin. Isaiah 3 talks about the sin of God's people and how God would deal with his people's sin. Ask God to help you see how serious your sin is for you, those around you and your nation.

Read Isaiah 4:2-6

Who is the Branch of the Lord?

What kind of impact with the Branch of the Lord (Jesus) have on all people, the righteous and the unrighteous? How do these things encourage or challenge you in your faith?

Read Isaiah 5:8-10 OR 5:11-17 OR 5:18-21 OR 5:22-30 – WOES!

What sin or sins does your woe address?

What do we see about the character of the men described in your woe?

What do we see about God's standard for His people through that woe?

If you have time, read the other woes you did not write about. How serious does God take sin when you think about all these verses? How is that encouraging and/or challenging to you?

The light is now on you. What is a sin or sins that you are engaging in right now and you have not been repentant? Why have you not repented?

PRAYER – Take time to repent of your sin, and ask God to help you live differently.

Day 3

What is the most vivid dream that you remember? How did you feel when you woke up?

I remember testing my mother's theory that eating a lot of chocolate before bed will give you nightmares while in college. I ate several pieces of her homemade cake before bed. I had 3 nightmares that night. The worst one of them all was when a Satanic cult had me tied down on a table and they were about to cut me with a knife when I woke up. That was a scary dream. No more chocolate cake before bed for this boy. Isaiah had a dream or vision that we are going to look at the next two days. Ask God to show how you can live out the principles of this vision.

Read Isaiah 6:1-7

Describe the Lord and the angels appearance in verses 1 and 2.

What did the angels say about who God is in verse 3? Why is that important? What does that say about the character and work of our God?

What happened next in this vision? How did Isaiah react in verse 5?

Why do you think he said what he said? What did he see about himself?
What did he see about God?

What did the angels do and say next after Isaiah's comment?

Our guilt needs to be taken away. What are ways in which you have experienced God's forgiveness? Name a few. How has that changed you?

PRAYER – Thank God for his forgiveness and second chance. Confess your sin and dependence on God.

Day 4

What do you wish God would tell you in a voice you could hear and understand? Why?

There are a lot of things we wish God would just come out and say to us. We wish he would tell us where to go to college and what to study in college. We wish he would tell us if we should ask that girl to go on a date with us. You will wish God would tell you who to marry, or where to apply for a certain job. It would make things so much easier if God would just tell us. He does, in a lot of ways. Yesterday Isaiah had a vision that shook him to his core. Today we see the profession he made as a result of that experience. Ask God to show you what He wants you to do in order to serve Him.

Read Isaiah 6:8-13

Look at verse 8. What is God's question? When you think of that question, what is he really asking?

What is Isaiah's answer? Why do you think he wants to go? (Think back to what he just experienced in the first part of the chapter.)

How would you summarize the message that God wants Isaiah to share in verses 9 and 10?

Would you be motivated to share that message? Why or why not?

Then Isaiah asks how long, O Lord? How does God answer his question in your own words? How do you think Isaiah felt upon hearing God's answer?

In the midst of this picture of Israel's destruction, is this hope of a tenth that will remain (those who will return from exile) and the holy seed (Jesus) in which all will spring out of. How are you doing in sharing God's message with others? What is stopping you?

PRAYER – Thank God for the hope He has given you Jesus. Pray for boldness to share God's message with a lost world

Day 5

What are things from the Old Testament that predicted who Jesus would be and what he would do? Write whatever you can think of.

There are about 353 prophecies in the Old Testament that came to pass in the life of Jesus. These prophecies started in Genesis and continued through Malachi. The people hoped in the Messiah. This hope was given to them even in the midst of the destruction the prophets wrote would happen to Israel. Today we look at the hope the people had in the midst of the turmoil. Ask God to help you hope and trust in Christ today.

Read Isaiah 7:10-16

God is saying to Ahaz to ask for a sign from God. What is Ahaz's response? Why did he respond that way?

God gave him the sign and promise of Immanuel that literally means, "God with us". What things in these verses point us forward to Jesus?

How does this show us that we can trust the Bible?

Read Isaiah 8:11-15

In the first part of chapter 8, God said the Assyrian army would invade Israel. Now he wants to give them hope. What command does the Lord give to Isaiah?

How does the Lord encourage Isaiah and give him hope?

How does the same promise bring terror to the godless man?

How are you putting your hope in God? How is that a struggle for you?

PRAYER – Ask God to strengthen your faith and hope in Him.

Day 6

What is your favorite Christmas carol? Why?

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen is a great carol. It talks about how we can have rest and peace in the hope and promise that Jesus is the Son of God who was born to take our sins upon himself. That is a hope that will bring us to a state of peace in the midst of the chaos. Many people do not know true peace because they do not know Jesus. They know about Him, but they do not know Him. Ask God to instruct your heart in His truths.

Read Isaiah 9:1-7

Who is this child that is mentioned in these verses?

List the traits Isaiah gives us to describe this King of kings.

Pick 2 traits and describe what they look like in our world today.

1.

2.

Is this a king you would want to follow? Why or why not?

Read Isaiah 11:1-9

The rest of 9 and 10 talk about God's judgment on arrogance, specifically on Assyria. In the midst of that God promised the people would return from exile. Chapter 11 points us forward to Jesus Christ. Look at verses 1 to 5, how does it describe Jesus and what came to do?

What will be the ultimate result of knowing and following Christ according to verses 6 to 9?

How do those last 4 verses give you hope in the midst of a wicked and cruel world?

PRAYER – Use the verses of today to guide you in your prayer.

Day 7

If someone was to ask you to describe Satan, how would you do it?

Many people picture a red demon with horns, a forked tail and pitch fork with a curly black mustache. This is how a lot of pictures are. Who came up with that? I am not sure. The Bible says he comes like an angel of light hoping to deceive people into believing and following Him. Satan does not want anybody to follow Jesus or grow in their faith. He wants stagnant Christians who are comfortable in their Christian bubbles. Don't fall into his trap. Ask God to open your eyes to His truths and help you to apply them to your life.

Read Isaiah 12:1-6 and 14:1-2

According to these verses, what has God done for us?

How do we see these are the works of God and not something we do or that some other person has done?

According to 12:4-6, what do we need to do with these truths of what God has done for us? What is holding you back?

Read Isaiah 14:12-15

How does this describe Satan?

Read Luke 10:17-18. How did Jesus testimony back up what Isaiah wrote in this passage?

It is cool how the whole story of the Bible is connected and flows from Old to New Testament. What are ways you have been encouraged in your faith through reading the word today?

PRAYER – Ask God for opportunities to share these truths with someone.

Day 8

If you had the power to bring destruction and judgment on any nation, what nation would you pick and what would you do?

Now I just gave you a lot of power. More power than one person should have. How many times have we heard the horrible things that a nation or people have done, and we said or thought that country should be wiped off the face of the earth? More often than we probably care to admit. God did that. Do you hear of Assyria today? Do you hear of Babylon or Persia? Where is the Roman Empire? All nations that met their destruction and doom. Today we are going to look at some of the words that God spoke against wicked nations. Ask God to help you listen to those words and make you careful to not repeat their mistakes.

Read Isaiah 14:24-32 OR 15 to 16 OR 17 OR 18 or 19:1-15

What nation(s) did you pick?

Through what you read, what was that nation(s) like?

What did God say was going to happen to that nation as a result of their sin and wickedness?

What lesson can you learn from the wickedness of that nation?

Read Isaiah 19:16-25

God did not leave people without hope, Israel, Egypt or Assyria. How did God give hope to anybody who would turn from their sin and to God?

How have you found your hope in the Lord? Have you thanked Him? Why or why not?

PRAYER – Thank God for His hope and for saving you?

Day 9

What is a task that someone has given you that seemed like it was more than you could handle? Why did you think you could not handle it?

I always wanted to have children. After our firstborn arrived, I was struck with the reality that this responsibility was more than I could handle. I needed to care for this little human being. I needed to provide for him, help and teach him. There is no way I could do it. I couldn't except by the grace and mercy of our God. God called Isaiah to teach hard truths to His people. These truths were full of God's judgment, the loss of their land, yet with a thread of hope through faith in God. Ask God to again instruct you in his hard truths today.

Read Isaiah 20 OR 21 OR 22 OR 23

What nation did you read about?

What kinds of things did you learn about that nation's sin and wickedness?

What kinds of hard things did Isaiah need to do or say to those people?

What do you see about God's holiness and justice from your passage?

How do these things point us forward to hope in Jesus Christ?

How did your passage of study challenge you to take a look at your own sin and struggles? What do you need to do about it?

PRAYER – Confess your sin before the Lord. Ask Him to help you follow His Word and His ways.

Day 10

What do you think it would be like to never die?

This is something that many would long for. It would be great to never die. Yet it could be a curse too. *The Green Mile* was a movie about a prison guard who was given a gift to live a long long long time. What was something good for him was also a curse. The curse was that he saw people he loved and cared for die. Every person who came into his life died at some point and he kept living on. It puts it in perspective. Yet, if we know Jesus, we will live forever. Of course that is not a curse but a great promise. Heaven, forever. I cannot wait! Ask God to help you think about what your hope is in as you read the Bible today.

Read Isaiah 24:1-3, 14-16

What do we see in verses 1 to 3 about God's judgment on the earth?

We see this judgment will impact all people. As you look at verses 14 to 16, what hope do we have as followers of Christ?

What are 3 praises you can say to your God and King today?

1.

2.

3.

Read Isaiah 25:1-9

List all the reasons why we should praise God according to these verses?

The people were sharing what God had done for them in verse 9. They said they waited on God and He delivered them. What a testimony these people had. What are 3 things that you can proclaim to people about the God you know and serve?

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Thank God for these 3 things and pray for 2 people you can share these things with.

Day 11

I want you to list 3 rulers you think were good. Next to their name write down why you think they were good.

1.

2.

3.

My three would be: Abraham Lincoln, Mahatma Gandhi and Ronald Reagan. Lincoln freed slaves. Gandhi stood against the British Empire in a peaceful way. Reagan called for a tearing down of the walls in Germany. All were good leaders. Yet they all have one thing in common. Their leadership reign did not last and they are all dead. Only one ruler never dies, that is King Jesus. Ask God to remind you of the work that He has done in your life through Christ as you read Isaiah.

Read Isaiah 26:11-15

What important things do we see about the leadership, power and authority of God?

What do we see about all other leaders and rulers who have reigned on this earth?

How does God love to work and provide for His people in verse 11?

Read Isaiah 27:10-13

What do we see about God's judgment on the enemies of Israel?

How does God give hope to his people in verses 12 and 13?

Think about it, we are like Israel, scattered in the world. God is going to gather us together to worship Him at Christ's second coming. How should this truth encourage and challenge you to serve Him better today? Write down two ways.

1.

2.

PRAYER – Ask God to use you to share your faith with those who are living all around you.

Day 12

What is the first thing you can remember learning about God? Who taught you?

I remember negatively what someone taught me about God and the Bible. I was taught in the church I grew up in that there was no such thing as Satan. He was something we created him to be. That stuck with me more than any other teaching I received in that church. It was wrong. Satan is very real and he has deceived many people to follow his ways and rebel against God. What has God been teaching you? Ask God to teach you the truth today.

Read Isaiah 28:9, 14-16

The Word of God was heard by everybody. What did evil, scoffing men do with God's Word?

How do we see that God is the one who helps us hear and understand God's Word and brings us to faith and trust in Him?

Read Isaiah 29:13-16

How were the people putting on a show when it came to their faith, all talk and no action? Write what Isaiah says about them.

How do people question God, then and today, like we see in verse 16?

God wants people who are serious about their faith. As you read this section, what does God want from us as His followers?

What is hard in following the Lord with your actions AND your heart?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you follow Him with your actions and heart.

Day 13

I want you to think of someone you would consider rebellious. How would you describe that person?

I can remember the attitude people had towards the children of pastors or missionaries. They were thought to be horrible and rebellious people. Sadly, there were a lot of people who fell into that description. I do not want my children to be one of those typical pastor kids or missionary kids. As followers of Christ we are to be rebellious against the culture but not rebellious against God. Ask God to show you ways you have been rebelling against Him as you read today.

Read Isaiah 30:1-2, 8-11

What were the children of Israel doing to rebel against the Lord?

What are ways in which you fall into this kind of rebelliousness? What are some of your acts of rebellion?

Read 30:18. What do we see about what God wants for his children?
God wants to be gracious to you. How does that encourage and challenge you in your faith?

Read Isaiah 32:1-4

We were all rebellious. How do we see from these verses that God gives those of us who have no hope, hope?

God made a drastic change in our lives. What does this section show us about the power and mercy of God?

How should reading these verses today humble you?

PRAYER – Ask God to humble you and help you see how he has changed you.

Day 14

Who brings you the most comfort (other than God) when you are in trouble? How do they comfort you?

My wife is my best friend and partner. She knows when something bothers me and is there to ask if I am okay and if she can do anything to help me through that struggle. I appreciate her and all she does for me and how she encourages me in my faith, ministry and life. We all need that person who encourages us. I hope that ultimately you find that encouragement and comfort from the Lord. Ask God to help you find your comfort in Him as you read His word today.

Read Isaiah 33:2-6, 20-22

Why can we find comfort in the Lord?

Which characteristic that Isaiah wrote encourages you the most in your faith? Why?

Read Isaiah 35

There is true and total freedom in Christ. According to these verses, what are the different ways in which God sets people free in their lives?

How do we see God alone does this work? What important reminder does this give us about us and about God?

What is our hope as we think about this chapter?

If you are a Christian, you were a slave to sin. You were dead. God gave you life through faith in Jesus Christ. Let that sink in. Write a prayer of thanks as you think about these things.

PRAYER – Use the words you just wrote to guide you in your prayer time.

Day 15

What is a situation in your life where you knew all you could do was pray? Describe that situation. How did it end up?

I imagine sometimes being one of those people on the top of the trade centers after the planes struck them. They would have been stuck, unable to take an elevator or the stairs because of the fire. Nobody could have reached them. They were at the end of their ropes. I am sure some prayed, knowing only God could help them. Sometimes we feel that way in different situation in our lives. I encourage you to read Isaiah 36 to 38 which is the historical account of Sennacherib's invasion of Judah. Chapter 36 is all about his taunting the Israelites and they did not respond. Israel was surrounded. Hezekiah sought Isaiah to inquire of the Lord. He asked for deliverance. God said he would deliver his people. Ask God to show you how he has delivered you from your sin as you read today.

Read Isaiah 37:33-38

What do we see in these verses about the power and promise of God?

What do we see in these verses about how much power God's enemies have? How should that encourage us in our spiritual battles?

Read Isaiah 38:1-8

After Sennacherib was defeated, Hezekiah became deathly ill. What do we see about his plea to God in these verses?

How does God respond to Hezekiah's plea?

These verses could seem to say we can change God's mind but that cannot be true because there are many verses that talk about God's plan for each of us before a day comes to be. God answered Hezekiah's prayer according to his own will and to encourage Hezekiah. How would Hezekiah have been encouraged by this answer? How are we encouraged when God answers our prayers?

God then tells Hezekiah he will deliver him from the numerous Assyrians. This would have been hard to believe with how many there were. What does God do to show his promise is true?

PRAYER – Ask God to grow you through your prayer life.

Day 16

What is the most comforting thing that someone ever shared with you?
Why was it comforting?

I remember when a classmate in college died, someone who I had only really talked to the day before his death, it rocked me to my core. Here was a charismatic, godly man who wanted to serve the Lord. And his life was cut short on this earth. I struggled with my own calling to serve God and struggled with my own mortality. It was through Jim's example that I was challenged to take advantage of every day to serve the Lord, a challenge that is still with me today. I don't know if I have tomorrow. You don't know if you have tomorrow. So let's make the most of today. We left off with Hezekiah praying to God. In chapter 39 he sins by taking pride in all the material possessions and showing them off. Isaiah told him eventually they will all be taken away. Then Isaiah pens a whole lot of encouraging words for a people who are going to struggle mightily. Ask God to encourage you with his word today.

We are going to read various verses from Isaiah 40 and 41. Write next to each verse what it shows you about God and secondly how it encourages you in your walk with Christ.

Isaiah 40:4-5 –

Isaiah 40:7-8 –

Isaiah 40:11-14 –

Isaiah 40:21-23 –

Isaiah 40:28-31 –

Isaiah 41:8-10 –

Isaiah 41:17-20 –

Summarize in one sentence what God means to you in light of these verses you just read.

PRAYER – Use these passages to guide you in prayers of thanks.

Day 17

If you were to sing a song to God today, what would it be? Why?

Thy Word is the song that just popped into my head. Why? I don't know. It just did. It talks about God's word being a light to our feet and a lamp to our path. It shows me that I can only walk in darkness left to myself. But with God and His Word He leads and guides me in the truth and in the light. Only God could do that. I praise Him for His Word and how He helps me know it, understand it and apply it to my life. Ask God to help you know His Word today and how you can apply it to your life.

Read the following passages and next to each one write down what we learn about God and how it should encourage you in your faith.

Isaiah 42: 5-8 –

Isaiah 42:14-17 –

Isaiah 42:24-25 –

Isaiah 43:4-6 –

Isaiah 43:10-13 –

Isaiah 43:22-24

Isaiah 43:25

When you consider all these verses together, who is God?

PRAYER – Use the verses to guide your prayers of thanks to God.

Day 18

What are things other than the true God that people worship? Make a list.

Go back and circle the things on the list that you have worshipped or been tempted to worship. All through the ages people have worshipped other gods. At one time it was idols made of wood and gold and today it is a leather ball or a musical instrument. Not to mention money, relationships, power, material possessions and the list goes on. What or who are you worshipping today? The worship of idols got Israel in trouble. Isaiah has been telling them that judgment is coming. It is the same warning to us today, stop worshipping idols or trouble will come. Ask God to encourage and challenge you in your faith today.

Read Isaiah 44:9-17

Write down what Isaiah tell us about the idols people worshipped then?

How is their worship of those idols foolish?

If we worship idols, we are foolish just like them!!!

Read Isaiah 44:24-28

What do we see about the one true God from these verses?

Read Isaiah 45:11-13, 22-23

What else does Isaiah tell us about God?

Read Isaiah 46:8-13

What do we see about God's word and decrees here?

Will he stand for sin? How do you know from these verses?

PRAYER – Think about your own sin and idols. God's judgment is true and will be harsh. Bring your sin and idols to him today.

Day 19

What is good about fire?

What is bad about fire?

I love building fires. They are so warm to sit and read or play games by. They are great for making s'mores and cooking camp meals over. There is nothing like a good fire. But they can be so destructive. They have been known to burn down houses, whole forests and used in destructive ways by man. I have a healthy fear of fire. I never want to be caught in a building while it is on fire. The smoke alone can kill you. Yet fire often times in the Bible is used to illustrate how it purifies us. It is a key part of our growing in faith. Ask God to grow you in your faith today.

Read Isaiah 47:1-4 OR 47:5-7 OR 8-9 OR 10-11 OR 12-15

God used Babylon to judge Israel. Babylon was evil. How were they evil according to the verses that you read?

What does God say about their judgment?

Read Isaiah 48:9-11

According to these verses why did God put Israel through the fires of judgment and affliction? What was His end goal?

Think of a sin you have committed? How did God put you through the fires of judgment and affliction to help you learn and grow from that sin?

Read Isaiah 48:17-22

If God's people had only followed His word, how does he say they would have prospered?

Look at verse 22. Why do you need to remember this verse in everything that you say and do?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you in a sin struggle you are dealing with.

Day 20

What is a promise from the Bible that really keeps you going in hard times? Why does that keep you going?

I love God's promise in Romans 11:29 that His gifts and His call are irrevocable. That means when he called me to faith in Christ, He will never take that call away. I am always going to be a child of God even though I will struggle repeatedly with sin and disobedience. Even the gifts he has given me will not be taken away. That is awesome especially when I think of how many times I mess up. What a great God we get to serve. Ask God to encourage you with his promises today.

Read the following verses and answer 2 questions. What is God's promise? How does that promise encourage you in your faith?

Isaiah 49:5-6 –

Isaiah 49:15-16 –

Isaiah 50:7-10 -

Isaiah 51:4-6 –

Isaiah 51:7-8

Isaiah 51:14-16

Think about all these promises. If you believe them, what are two ways they should impact how you live out your faith each day?

1.

2.

PRAYER – Use these verses to guide you in your prayers today.

Day 21

What is the best news that you ever received? Why was it so good?

The best news I can remember receiving is when my wife told me she was pregnant. There is something about becoming a father and bringing a life into this world. It was exciting to think that God was going to bless us with the opportunity to raise up children in this world. It was also scary to think about the responsibility. Those were the best 4 pieces of news that I had received. If you are in Christ, you heard the best news, that your sins would be forgiven and you can have eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. That is good news to hear and also to share with others. Ask God to challenge you to share this good news as you read the Word today.

Read Isaiah 52

What promise or hope does God give his people about their deliverance in verses 1 to 6?

The people were not in exile yet, so this is a future promise. How would this promise have been “good news” to the people?

What are we told about the bearer of the good news in verse 7? Why does God use this kind of imagery?

That is us too. How are we to be like this messenger when we think about people who don't know Jesus and are lost?

Look at verses 9 to 12, how do we see it is God who does the work in our lives and not man?

Look back on the whole chapter. Write down 3 ways in which this chapter points us forward to Jesus Christ.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – Ask for opportunities to share the Good News (Jesus) with someone particular in your life.

Day 22

The first time you saw a scene depicting the death of Jesus on the cross, what was your reaction? How were you feeling? What did you say?

I acted in Easter plays when I was first in ministry. I usually played the disciple John. That means I was close to Mary in the crucifixion scene. The church I was in did not hold back in the nastiness of the Roman soldiers and bloodiness of the scene. It was not hard to act sad and horrified at what was happening. It was all too real and put in perspective for me Christ's suffering and also the impact it had on the people who were watching. Today we come to that famous passage in Isaiah, "The Suffering Servant". Ask God to remind you of the hope that you have in Christ because of his suffering and death on the cross for your sins

Read Isaiah 53

List all the ways in which Jesus Christ is described for us in this passage.

Now go back through and list all the things it says about the sinfulness and rebelliousness of man. What kinds of words are attributed to us?

How does this put in perspective, that Jesus suffering was for your sin and rebellion against God?

Look at verse 10. How does this show us that all along it was God's plan for His Son to suffer this humiliating death?

This is good news though as we saw yesterday. People need to hear these things about Jesus. Why?

PRAYER – Ask God for boldness to share these things with people He has put into your life.

Day 23

What is compassion?

Who is someone you would consider compassionate? Why?

Compassion quite literally means with intense feeling or passion. When someone sees a person who is in need and feels they have to do something to help that person whether it is giving their own stuff to them or raising awareness in a community to help a person or family out, that is showing compassion for a person. Jesus showed this over and over again whether it was healing the sick, casting out a demon, raising the dead or teaching and rebuking his disciples. He was completely compassionate for them. Ask God to remind you of the compassion He has shown you as you read His word today.

Read Isaiah 54:7-10

How do we see God's judgment on his people in these verses?

How do we see even in the midst of that judgment that God still loved His people?

Read Isaiah 55

Look at verses 1 to 3, what does this say about where we will find true satisfaction in this life?

What are ways in which people try to find hope in things other than God?

According to verses 6 and 7, what does God call all men to do?

How do we see in verses 8 and 9 that in all things, prayers and plans, we need to submit to God?

What is something you are doing or planning to do that you are not giving to God? Why not?

PRAYER – Ask God to help you give all things to him!

Day 24

What does it mean that a Christian backslides? What might be some examples of that?

A backslidden Christian is a person who is living in sin for a period of time. They are rejecting the promises of God that they once embraced and living like the world lives. Yet they are genuinely Christians. They are people that in time will come back to embrace the truths they once believed. A person who is genuinely a Christian will come back to this point. This is a hard issue to deal with because wouldn't a genuine Christian always follow God, and repent immediately when confronted with their sin? Not necessarily. Maybe you have heard of Samson, Peter, David and the list goes on. These were men who lived for the world for a period of time and yet God brought them back in His time. They repented, turned away from their sin, and to God. Ask God to teach and grow you as you read Isaiah today.

Read Isaiah 56:9-12

How does Isaiah describe Israel, God's chosen people in these verses?

How is this disappointing when you think that these are the Israelites, God's chosen people?

Read Isaiah 57:16-19

What do we see here about God's anger and judgment?

What do we see about the Israelites?

How do we see God's mercy and grace?

Read Isaiah 58:5-7 – What should fasting look like according to Isaiah?

What are the different ways you have experienced God's forgiveness?

PRAYER – Thank God for his forgiveness, mercy, judgments, and grace.

Day 25

Why do we hate people who pass judgment? What bothers us about them?

We do not like people telling us what we should do or not do. We want to do our own thing, and feel good about it. That is a product of our very individualistic society. So when people are told that God judges us, we don't like that because God is love and a loving person does not pass judgments on people. Right? Wrong! God judges our sin. God is the one who will send so many to hell because of their sin. He will pass judgment on them. He does it in love and to His own glory. Ask God to help you apply His word to your heart today.

Read Isaiah 59:14-20

What do we see about God's judgment and wrath?

In the midst of this talk of judgment and wrath, what hope does God give in verse 20? What will he redeem us from?

Read Isaiah 60:18-22

As we just read about God's judgment, this chapter talks about how God will ultimately bless his people. Write down all the ways God says He will bless His people in these verses.

How do we see this is not something man can earn?

Put yourself in the shoes of the Israelites, they have been told they are going into exile because of their sin. They will lose everything. How do these verses give them hope as they think about that exile?

You deserve to be in hell forever because of sin. How do these words give you hope as you think of living in heaven forever?

PRAYER – Confess sin; Thank God for hope in Christ; Ask God to grow you in your faith and trust in His promises.

Day 26

What does an ambassador do?

Are you an ambassador? In what ways?

As Christians we are to be ambassadors for Christ. We represent Him in this world. We are to tell others about who He is, what He has done for us and how He can change the lives of those who come to faith in Him. This is our mission as Christians. This is God's command to us. How are you doing in your ambassadorship if you know Christ? May God's word convict and challenge you in your ambassadorship today.

Read Isaiah 61:1-4

What was Isaiah's mission according to these verses?

Everything in the Old Testament points us forward to Jesus. How do these verses find their fulfillment in Jesus Christ?

As you think about these verses, what are 2 things you should be doing to represent Christ in this world?

1.

2.

Read Isaiah 62:1-12

According to these verses how do we see that God is going to change the hearts and lives of the Israelites?

What does this show us about the depth of God's love and forgiveness?

God gives His people a new name as we see in these verses. How should these verses encourage you in your faith in Jesus?

PRAYER – Use the names listed in these last verses, let them guide your prayers of thanks for God, the author of our salvation.

Day 27

Write down 3 situations in which a person would need to ask for mercy. Next to each one write why they would have to ask for mercy.

1.

2.

3.

The guys in middle school and even into high school would play this game where we would grab someone's hand and bend it behind them until they cried, "mercy!" Upon the cry for mercy the victor would let the person go, having asserted their dominance over the weaker person. I was usually the one crying for mercy. I was tall, thin and not very strong. It was annoying to have to cry mercy but I did not want to feel any more pain or humiliation. This is like our relationship with God. When we realize our sin we need to ask for mercy because we know we deserve to be punished. The awesome thing is that God does indeed give us mercy because he loves us. Ask God to remind you of his mercy as you read.

Read Isaiah 63:10-14

What good things did God do for the Israelites according to this passage?

What did the Israelites in turn do according to verse 10? How did that make God feel?

Read Isaiah 64:5-7

What confessions does Isaiah make before God on behalf of the people?

What did God do as a result of the sin of his people?

Read Isaiah 64:8-12

What plea does Isaiah make to the Lord in these verses? What does he want from God?

It is hard for us to picture Isaiah's desperation because of the people's sin. This shows we need to take our sin serious. What sins have you or do you commit that you don't take as serious as you should? Why don't you?

PRAYER – Confess these sins before the Lord.

Day 28

In what ways are you looking forward to heaven?

On the selfish side a lot of us probably answer that question by talking about no more pain or suffering, having the perfect resurrection body or even being with people who died before us. I have said some of those things but I hope all of us look forward most to the opportunity to be in the presence of God, worshipping Him forever and ever. We have so much to look forward to. Today we come to the end of our study of Isaiah. Ask God to teach you and excite you about what awaits us as Christians if we know and trust in Jesus.

Read Isaiah 65:17-25

What is Isaiah picturing here?

How would this passage have encouraged the Israelites who were going to be in exile because of their sin?

How does this encourage all of us as we look forward to heaven one day?

Read Isaiah 66:12-24

What further hope does God give His people through Isaiah?

What do we see in these verses about the character of God? What kind of God is he?

Even in the midst of this encouragement of his people, what do we see about God and the wicked in verse 24?

Based on what we just read, I want you to write 3 things you are thankful to God about when you think of heaven and worshipping God forever.

1.

2.

3.

PRAYER – use those 3 things above to guide you in your prayer.