

**The Weekly Word**  
October 8-14, 2018

Lord, be present in our world and reveal Yourself through our reading of Your Word this week. Happy reading...  
Grace and Peace, Bill

To hear the Bible read click this link... <http://www.biblegateway.com/resources/audio/>.

**Monday, October 8: Isaiah 24- The reality of judgment...**

All the judgments of the nations are a prelude to the Lord's final judgment 'in that day.'

*See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth and devastate it; he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants—it will be the same for priest as for people, for the master as for his servant, for the mistress as for her servant, for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor. The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered. The LORD has spoken this word. ... In that day the LORD will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below. (1-3, 21).*

There is no running away from it, 'that day' will come when everyone will answer to the Lord. Isaiah graphically portrays that day saying, *it will be the same for priest as for people, for the master as for his servant, for the mistress as for her servant, for seller as for buyer, for borrower as for lender, for debtor as for creditor.*

By repeating six times a-z analogies it seems as if God is saying, "Folks, this is for certain. Everyone will be judged from small to great, everyone."

Certainly this is what I am hearing as I sit with this word open before me. My judgment is certain. I will be judged. There is no escaping being screened by the eye of the Lord.

And this judgment will not go well. I have broken God's commandments, I have failed His best. I have not lived up to His requirements.

*Oh, God, I stand naked before You. You know the truth. I have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. I have broken Your law. I am riddled with and filled with sin! And I deserve every punishment You choose to mete out. The only thing that stands between me and hell is Jesus. Thankfully that is all I need. Jesus is my answer and the answer for everyone who believes.*

*Thank You, Jesus, for saving my life and my eternity. I will praise You with my whole life.*

*In Your name, Jesus, I pray. Amen.*

**Tuesday, October 9: Isaiah 25- Joys of praise...**

What a change of tone... the dire judgments of pages past give rise to the joys of praise.

*LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago. ... In that day they will say, "Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the LORD, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation" (1, 9)*

Even in that day God will watch over His people. I was correct, I thought, to praise God yesterday in my prayer. Because those who stand with the Lord will be preserved during the day of the Lord. Jesus will protect us and we will praise the Lord for His wonderful grace, love, forgiveness and cover!

I join Isaiah in praising God and I look forward to the day when I will join with all God's family exalting and praising God –Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit –for the many wonderful things He has done since the creation of time. And I will rejoice that I trusted in Him and not in myself or some other false god.

*Halleluiah, what a day that will be! I will see God's majesty in new and more wonderful ways. Praise, praise and more praise to my God for His mighty acts of goodness and grace.*

*Through Jesus, I pray. Amen.*

### **Wednesday, October 10: Isaiah 26- Praise lightens the load...**

My day has been very hectic. Early start, helping at an event. I feel like I was shot out of a canon and I'm still traveling fast. As I sit down I feel like my heart is still racing.

Then I sit for my time with the Lord. I flip open my Bible to my chapter for today and the heading jumps off the page, "A Song of Praise." My heart lightens. I am so glad that the pages of judgments have ended. The joy of praise begins to enter me even before I read verse 1.

I come to verses 3-4 and my heart leaps. I know this is where I will camp after I finish the chapter. *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal (3-4).*

Just reading these words causes peace to rain down like a slow, soothing, soaking summer rain. Someone from the event needs help. As I rise to help I can sense that my attitude has shifted. I feel lighter... peace, perfect peace is filling me. And even though people are placing demands on me, internally the burden is different. Peace is finding its' home in my life.

I return and sit down filling my thoughts with verse 3-4 again: *You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you. Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal.*

Steadfast: I focus on Jesus... His teachings, His life, His atoning death, His resurrection and ascension, His coronation and return. Jesus, my Lord. Jesus, my Savior.

Steadfast: I focus on God, the Father... His power, His love, love that willingly sacrificed His one and only Son for the world and me. His sovereignty. His seat above everything supreme and Lord over all. God my Father. Abba.

Steadfast: I focus on the Holy Spirit... The counselor, God with us. God who comes along side. God who empowers and leads, guides and gifts. God, the Spirit, who lives in me, yes, He takes up residence in me thanks to faith in Jesus. I am never alone and it is God who is with me!

Steadfast: I focus on the Trinity, one God, three persons. Mystery and awe. My God's ways are higher than I can ever understand. Trinity, three persons of the Godhead in perfect harmony and deepest relationship. This God, my God, is a relational God and God invites me (and you) into relationship with Him. Halleluiah, what joy!

As I stay my mind steadfastly on the Lord, peace continues to blanket me. The slow soothing soaking summer rain of God's peace continues to wash over me.

*Thanks be to God.*

*Praise the Lord, the King of creation. He is my rock and my fortress. In God I find rest and peace and home. Amen and amen.*

### **Thursday, October 11: Isaiah 27- That day, God's day...**

There seems to be a number of connections between "the day" of this chapter and the end of days. The defeat of Leviathan seems possibly to mirror the defeat of the dragon in Revelation.

Then there is the trumpet sounding in verse 12. Is that a foreshadowing of the trumpet call of Christ when He returns for His saints? Look for yourselves and compare:

**Isaiah 27:13 (NIV2011):** *And in that day a great trumpet will sound. Those who were perishing in Assyria and those who were exiled in Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain in Jerusalem.*

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 (NIV2011):** *According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

I found myself considering that day... when the trumpet call of Christ is sounded and the dead in Christ rise to be with him and those still alive join the church triumphant with Christ in glory.

Oh, what a day that will be... indescribable joy and wonder. The glory of the Lord filling the earth as water covers the seas. Tears and pain and morning and sorrow all a thing of the past. Life forever in the wonder of heaven... the new heaven and new earth. Life as it was intended to be when God created and before the fall occurred.

Oh, what a day that will be...

*Lord, that will be a great and glorious day. Help me to share Your love and the opportunity to live with You in glory forever with the people of my world so that as many as possible put their faith in Jesus and thus will be received into Your presence and eternity when their life on earth is over. I pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **Friday, October 12: Isaiah 28- Pride goes before destruction ...**

As I began to read the chapter for a second time the word 'pride' caught my attention. Three times it appears in the opening 3 verses:

*Woe to that wreath, the **pride of Ephraim's drunkards**, to the fading flower, his glorious beauty, set on the head of a fertile valley—to that city, the **pride of those laid low by wine!** (1)*

*[T]he **pride of Ephraim's drunkards** appears again in verse 3.*

The writer of Proverbs reminds us that *pride goes before destruction* (Proverbs 16:18). Ephraim's pride is her undoing. And the Lord is coming to execute His judgment.

Pride is the downfall of many a person... leaders, presidents and kings as well as regular Tom, Dick and Jane. Pride gives us a false sense of security, an air of invincibility and eliminates our ability to make wise and righteous decisions.

It is interesting that in the instances above pride is coupled with alcohol abuse and drunkenness. They are a lethal duo. Alcohol, especially excessive alcohol (drunkenness and 'laid low by wine'), also eliminates a person's ability to make wise decisions. Thus alcohol multiplies the negative affects of pride.

And these two led to Ephraim's demise.

Alcohol is not a major issue for me; pride, however, is another concern altogether. I have to be careful that I do not think too highly of myself. A swelled head is never good for decision-making. And a swelled head doesn't lead to God-honoring living.

The warning of Proverbs comes back to my consciousness: *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall* (Proverbs 16:18).

*Lord, may I heed Your warning... I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **Saturday, October 13: Isaiah 29- Remember who you are...**

A number of years ago, a fledgling ministry, *A Journey to the Potter's House*, came to my church. Basically, in a 90-minute presentation, Dr. Mike Ferris gave an amazing talk on God while turning a clay pot in our sanctuary. He taught so much using the image of a potter from Scripture. It was excellent.

As my eyes lit on verse 16, so much of the demonstration/teaching by Mike Ferris came back to me. Isaiah writes: *You turn things upside down, as if the potter were thought to be like the clay! Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, "You did not make me"? Can the pot say to the potter, "You know nothing"?* (16).

This vivid picture is a strong reminder that we are to remember who we are. We are NOT God. We are God's creation. And we (I) have to be so careful not to get things mixed up. I cannot dictate to God. I cannot order God to do the slightest thing. I cannot presume on God to do anything. God is God and I am not and never will be.

I am creature. God alone is Creator.

Jerusalem in her pride started to think she could order God... NO Never!

We listen, God directs. This is the proper order of things and we (I) dare not forget it!

*Lord, I submit to You. I will read and study Your Word. I will take it in and make it the blueprint for my life. And, Lord, when I don't or when I fail to live up to Your Word, I will deem myself wrong and You and Your Word correct. I hope and pray that this way I will always remember who I am and that You alone are God. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.*

Check out Journey to the Potter's house at:

<http://www.ajourneytothepottershouse.com/#homepage>

### **Sunday, October 14, 2018, Sunday Worship**

*If any of my thoughts or the Bible readings spark questions send an email reply and I will do my best to answer all questions from people on the list... I will answer personal questions privately; general questions will be answered in a subsequent email installment.*

*If you are reading along with me from the PCOG website you can send questions or request being placed on the weekly email list by emailing Lisa at [office@pcogonline.org](mailto:office@pcogonline.org).*

Click here for a link to my sermons on the web. Sermons are generally posted within 2 days.