

3.3

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS

**MORNING WATCH
FOR YOUTH AND
YOUNG ADULTS**

OCTOBER 2020



Chapter: Isaiah 41

Theme: God’s care for small things

Study Verse: Isaiah 41:10

Statement: Here is more comfort than you can possibly take in during one day’s worship time. God is saying, “No matter how small and insignificant you feel, even if you think you’re lower than a worm (v 14) I am with you. I’m going to make all things new.” Find your favorite passage, write it down, and carry it with you today.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Loving Father, You carry me in arms of everlasting love. You promise that all my trials will eventually blow away in the wind. How can I possibly thank You?*

Chapter: Isaiah 42

Theme: God’s Servant, and the people’s response

Study Verse: Isaiah 42:1

Statement: Here is a lovely messianic chapter. The first part describes Jesus so perfectly that it’s hard to believe there is anyone who can’t see it. The last part describes the condition of the people, not only before Jesus came to earth, but also many of them after. Do you think there are also promises for us, God’s lesser servants, in the first part?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Great Servant of humankind, how could You debase Yourself so much as to come to us? It would be like one of us becoming an ant to show other ants where the best anthills are! But You loved us that much. Thank You!!*

Chapter: Isaiah 43
Theme: Redeemed!
Study Verse: Isaiah 43:1-2

Statement: How much more precious could God’s promises to you be? He knows your name; He walks with you through every single difficulty you face. (Don’t misunderstand vs 3-4; God does not give up anyone except those who refuse Him. But He is willing to lose everything for each one who says yes to Him.)

Response: _____

Prayer: *My Creator, every day I feel safer, knowing You are guiding me and holding me up through any fire or high water that I face in life.*

Chapter: Isaiah 44

Theme: Abundant life with God

Study Verse: Isaiah 44:3

Statement: Here is a heart-lifting exercise. Put your name in wherever the text says Jacob, or Israel, or Jeshurun, or other names. God is giving these promises to *you*, just as if you were the only child He had! Each of us is His “favorite.” God is omnipotent and omnipresent, and He can do that with all of us at once!

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord my God, I am the Lord's. I long only to draw closer and closer to You with every day and with every step I take.*

Chapter: Isaiah 45
Theme: God calls Cyrus
Study Verse: Isaiah 45:8

Statement: Here is proof that God deals even with people who do not know Him. When Cyrus felt “moved” to subdue nations, did he have any idea it was God’s plan? Who knows? God says He can “gird you” and “give you a title of honor” even when you don’t know Him. Of course, the blessings can’t be as great or as complete as when people *do* know God, but we can take comfort in the fact that God is working with all the people we are praying for, whether they know Him or not.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Supreme Ruler, You are in charge of everything. But You have given us the great gift of free will. We can say No. But I won’t! Please help me lead others to say Yes, too.*

Chapter: Isaiah 46

Theme: God versus fake gods

Study Verse: Isaiah 46:4

Statement: Can you name some idols of today, where you live? Do those false ideas and things even claim to know the future and “accomplish all their good pleasure?” No. In fact, they usually promise their followers *their* good pleasure. “Just buy this product, worship this image, do this ritual, and you will be rich and popular and powerful!” God makes no such promises. “You will have tribulation,” says Jesus. “But I’m with you.” Which promise would you rather have?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear Jesus, You are with me. That’s all I ask.*

Chapter: Isaiah 47

Theme: God cries over Babylon

Study Verse: Isaiah 47:10

Statement: Those who follow Babylon and refuse to leave her wicked ways were also created and loved by God. He will weep at her final destruction. But the leader of all that rebellion, the devil himself, made the ultimate false and blasphemous claim. It's in v 10. Do you see him claiming the very Name of God?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Holy One, I am only because You are and You made me. Please stop me if I ever start being proud or arrogant!*

October 8

Day | 8

Chapter: Isaiah 48

Theme: God's own are sometimes Babylonish

Study Verse: Isaiah 48:10-11

Statement: Here, even Israel and Judah go wrong. They don't actually say "I AM"; they use God's name, but "not in truth or righteousness." They do it for power and for falsehood. God declares their guilt, but also promises to refine and deliver those who will consent to it. On which side are you?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Mighty God, I am Yours, no one else's. I do believe You created everything, and I will pay attention to Your commandments.*

Chapter: Isaiah 49

Theme: Salvation to the ends of the earth

Study Verse: Isaiah 49:13

Statement: It is very clear that this first part, while partially fulfilled in Isaiah, is actually about the Messiah. See 6-7. Does it surprise you, then, to see that even Jesus may have sometimes been tempted to think His work was pointless (v 4)? What kept Him from giving up?

Response: _____

Prayer: *O God, give me the faith of Jesus, the faith that never lets go, the faith that goes through blackness trusting that You know what's on the other side and I don't have to know.*

Chapter: Isaiah 50

Theme: God defends His Servant

Study Verse: Isaiah 50:7

Statement: Again, you can see signs of Jesus in these texts. But they can also apply to any who, like Isaiah, faithfully follow God’s call on their lives despite mockery and opposition. Have you had to do that yet?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord God, I know that I will not be ashamed when I follow what You ask me to do and let others say or do what they may.*

Chapter: Isaiah 51

Theme: Comfort for God’s people

Study Verse: Isaiah 51:3

Statement: Again, you can put your name in places where it says Zion or people. These promises are for you. God will make you like a watered garden, even here, and one of these days, the “sky will vanish like smoke” and we and everything will be made new! Write a thank you prayer to God.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Creator and Redeemer, I can’t wait for You to make everything new. In the meantime, I will live in Your light and my life will be like the garden of Eden, even here.*

Chapter: Isaiah 52
Theme: Final redemption
Study Verse: Isaiah 52:7

Statement: After everything earthly Jerusalem went through, all the captivities and wars and sin, God rescued them. He will do the same, finally, with the whole earth. All who say yes to God and commit to the life of love will live with Him forever. How does that make you feel?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear God, may it come soon! While we wait, I want to be a bearer of glad tidings to all who will listen.*

Chapter: Isaiah 53
Theme: The suffering Servant
Study Verse: Isaiah 53:11

Statement: This is the clearest prophecy of Jesus in the whole Old Testament. So many details of His life and death are described here in detail. Verse 11 is a promise specifically for Jesus, especially when He struggled in the Garden of Gethsemane. Might the angels have whispered to Him, “You will see the result of the anguish of Your soul. By Your knowledge, many will be justified”?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear, beloved Jesus, I can't even begin to imagine what You went through for me. I know You must have been tempted to give up. I am so glad You didn't!*

Chapter: Isaiah 54

Theme: Zion comforted

Study Verse: Isaiah 54:10

Statement: Whenever you are in deep trials, you may come here and read this chapter and be comforted and encouraged. Terms like “barren” or “fruitful” can be symbolic in almost any situation. This chapter can be read by a childless woman, but it also applies to someone who feels their life is not producing fruit for God. Pray it for yourself, and see what God brings to your heart.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord of hosts, Maker, even Husband (caregiver) of my soul, You are always with me, and I trust You, no matter what.*

Chapter: Isaiah 55
Theme: The invitation
Study Verse: Isaiah 55:1

Statement: Here is Jesus’ invitation to the wedding feast of the Lamb. He invites every soul on earth to come up and partake of His feast—but that’s not all. He invites us now, today, to partake of his faithfulness and salvation, to live with our hands in God’s hands. Have you sent your RSVP?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear Bridegroom, I would be more than honored to attend Your feast, and I can’t believe You are starting it now, even before we get to the Great Table in heaven! PS, I’ll bring as many others as I can!*

Chapter: Isaiah 56

Theme: ALL are invited

Study Verse: Isaiah 56:7

Statement: Just in case anybody doubted it, the invitation specifically includes those who have been looked down upon and considered “not good enough.” God calls the disabled (mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually) and the “foreigners” (to the Jews, these were any non-Jews, but nobody is foreign to the King of the whole earth!) God calls you, too. Believe it!

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear Father, yes. Yes! I’m coming! And extra thank-You’s for the glorious gift of Sabbath!*

Chapter: Isaiah 57

Theme: God’s scathing rebuke of evil

Study Verse: Isaiah 57:15

Statement: This chapter gets specific in describing horrific evils perpetrated by people who knew better. God describes false worship as adultery—being faithless to the God to Whom they had pledged their devotion. He is even angrier when the leaders put such obstacles in the way of His people. (Compare v 14 with Matt. 23:13.) Yet still, at the end, He promises healing...if only they’ll listen...

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, what can I do to help? When people are simply ignoring You and going their own ways, show me when to speak and when to keep silent, and always make me a silent witness, at least.*

Chapter: Isaiah 58

Theme: Sabbath

Study Verse: Isaiah 58:12

Statement: The first part of this chapter does not specifically mention Sabbath but is talking about fasts, so it does apply to holy days. Some people make them into days of burden, fasting, afflicting themselves, trying to show how holy they are. Others treat them with “business as usual”—another way of translating “your own ways.” What does God say His holy days are meant to be?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear God, make me a repairer of the breach and a restorer of streets in which to dwell.*

Chapter: Isaiah 59

Theme: A call and a confession

Study Verse: Isaiah 59:21

Statement: What? God asks. Do you think I'm too weak to save you? Again and again He begs His people to listen, to come near. From v 9, Isaiah finally records a confession! Is there hope? Yes—always. Just look at the end.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear Lord, thank You for the promise of the Holy Spirit, and help me to live in that holy light always.*

Chapter: Isaiah 60

Theme: The home of God

Study Verse: Isaiah 60:21

Statement: This chapter is another that sounds like the book of Revelation. It is another that we can read when we are discouraged by what we see around us. He will come. The days of our mourning will be over. “I, the LORD, will hasten it in its time.”

Response: _____

Prayer: *Holy God, when You “hasten things in their time,” it still seems really long to us! We are short-lived creatures. But I will trust You.*

Chapter: Isaiah 61

Theme: Jesus' mission statement

Study Verse: Isaiah 61:10

Statement: Again we see one of the favorite chapters of the Bible. God promises eternal salvation, eternal joy, eternal riches of a type we can't even imagine yet. He symbolizes His salvation as the jewelry and finery worn by a bride and bridegroom, and also as a garden. Find your favorite passage and share it with someone else.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord God, cause righteousness and praise to spring up in me.*

Chapter: Isaiah 62
Theme: Glory and a new name
Study Verse: Isaiah 62:10

Statement: Do Israel and Judah deserve all that God lavishes on them in this chapter? Do we? In ancient times, and still in some places, a person’s name is far more than a label; it has great power to define them. God promises, I’m going to make you so new and different you will even have a new name! And God will rejoice over you. Yes, over *you!*

Response: _____

Prayer: *My God, my God, what have I ever done to deserve Your love and mercy? Nothing! But I claim Your name, and call myself Christian. Let me show that name as it is meant to be.*

Chapter: Isaiah 63

Theme: God’s “strange work”

Study Verse: Isaiah 63:16

Statement: It was back in chapter 28:21 that God’s work of justice is called “strange,” or “extraordinary,” or “unusual,” depending on the translation. Here it is described in grim detail. God hates destruction. But He cannot let it go on forever. He has to end it. He has pled for thousands of years for people to listen to Him and be saved. He has given His own lifeblood to rescue us. At some point, He must stop.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Holy God, I can feel a tiny taste of the love You feel for Your erring ones. Please show me how I can help to save some.*

Chapter: Isaiah 64
Theme: Prayer for mercy
Study Verse: Isaiah 64:8

Statement: While time lasts, God’s wrath is restrained. Bad things happen, and sometimes we bring them on ourselves, but they are meant to call us back, not to destroy us. Isaiah here prays for mercy. We can pray for the same.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Holy and righteous God, You would be within Your rights to simply end the whole earth. You could have done it at Eden, or at the Flood. But You always have a little more mercy. I join my pleas with Yours to save as many as possible.*

Chapter: Isaiah 65

Theme: God’s wrath tempered, all things new

Study Verse: Isaiah 65:17

Statement: In the first verses, God points out that He does have the right to not relent. Hasn’t he pled for centuries? His people are doing occult and evil rituals in the night, and then calling themselves holier than others in the day! But He does relent, and promise all things new. Those who will listen will have peace forever.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear Lord, I am the offspring of those blessed by the Lord. My children will be the same. I am Yours.*

Chapter: Isaiah 66
Theme: Rebukes and promises
Study Verse: Isaiah 66:13

Statement: God promises the comfort of a loving Mother, but also promises an end to evil. He knows the works and thoughts of *all*, and all of those will be seen. Their rewards will be just in either case.

Response: _____

Prayer: *God, I bow down before you. I won't wait until every knee bows. I want to follow You and live in Your peace now.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 1

Theme: Jeremiah's call

Study Verse: Jeremiah 1:7

Statement: Jeremiah was young and inexperienced when God called him. Unlike many other prophets, God told him from the beginning that the people would not listen to him and would mistreat him. What decision would you have made?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Master, I am young and untried. But I want to go wherever You send me—only because I know You will be with me all the way.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 2

Theme: The continuing call to repentance

Study Verse: Jeremiah 2:4

Statement: Like Isaiah, Jeremiah calls sin by its name and is open about describing Israel’s apostasy. Just recently, Josiah has revived the temple services and brought Judah back from its sin, but it is too little, too late. God’s judgment will fall.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Patient God, keep calling as long as You can. Show me how I can help, and not hinder.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 3
Theme: Israel versus Judah
Study Verse: Jeremiah 3:12

Statement: Israel (the northern kingdom) has turned completely against God, but her sister Judah (the southern kingdom) did not learn a lesson from Israel’s ruin by Assyria. God still offers forgiveness if Judah will “only acknowledge her iniquity.” Where are you in this story?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear God, I want to be the voice of reason, like Jeremiah. I don't want to be one of the rebels. I want to be Yours alone.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 4

Theme: God’s lament over His children

Study Verse: Jeremiah 4:19

Statement: God is still calling Israel. It’s never too late. Now Judah is in danger as well. Read God’s tearful anguish in verses 19-22. Can you hear Him weeping over today’s people as well?

Response: _____

Prayer: *O Lord, I am sorry for Your pain! I don’t want to cause any of it. I want to help bring some of them back. Show me what to do.*

Chapter: Jeremiah 5

Theme: One righteous man?

Study Verse: Jeremiah 5:18

Statement: Jeremiah seeks through the streets of Jerusalem for just one person who does justice and seeks truth. Could God find that one person in your town today?

Response: _____

Prayer: *God, I want to be that person. I can only live in justice because of you. I seek truth. Help me spread Your righteousness around.*

2020 MORNING WATCH for Youth *and* Young Adults (OCTOBER)

A Chapter a Day Bible Reading Plan **with daily chapter summary**

THIS PLAN WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS

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