

3.3

READING THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 3 YEARS AND 3 MONTHS

MORNING WATCH FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

SEPTEMBER 2020



Chapter: Isaiah 11

Theme: God's new kingdom

Study Verse: Isaiah 11:2

Statement: Do you notice how always, right after angry, dark chapters, God gives relief and promises? This is one of Isaiah's most famous and beloved chapters. Which is your favorite part? Are there any ways that this can come partially true now, before the final fulfillment after Jesus comes?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Shepherd of Your people, lower the wolves in my own nature to lie down peaceably with the Lamb of God. Make a resting place for others in me, so that they feel safe around me, and know that You are near and they could turn to You, too.*

Chapter: Isaiah 12
Theme: Returning trust
Study Verse: Isaiah 12:2

Statement: Sometimes God does have to rebuke us.
Afterwards, we can give thanks with Isaiah, that “although You were angry with me, your anger is turned away and you comfort me.” Has there been a time in your life when you felt this way? How did you work to change afterwards?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Thank You, God for caring enough to try to change my direction. I promise to listen and learn and try not to make the same mistakes again.*

Chapter: Isaiah 13

Theme: Day of destruction

Study Verse: Isaiah 13:9

Statement: This is a judgment against Babylon, who continually and unrepentantly worked against God and God's people. This is one of many prophecies with more than one layer. In v. 17 you can see the historical meaning: the Medes take Babylon. Can you find clues that this is also an end-time prophecy against the true Babylon, the kingdom of Satan?

Response: _____

Prayer: *O Lord, let me not in the tiniest way have a part in Babylon, Satan's system of selfishness and self-righteousness! If there is any germ of Babylon in me, cut it out and kill it. I want only You.*

Chapter: Isaiah 14

Theme: Chant against Satan

Study Verse: Isaiah 14:1

Statement: This chapter has just one promise, at the beginning. Then it becomes an indictment against Babylon, and if you didn't find clues about the satanic nature in the last chapter, it becomes obvious here. Note vs 12-14 and list the characteristics that can't be only an earthly ruler—though humans can and do join this system and try to make themselves like gods.

Response: _____

Prayer: *King of justice, end the systems of evil in my life and help me work to end them in my community. Help me to find loving ways to help people see the truth and get out of those systems and into Your blessings.*

Chapter: Isaiah 15

Theme: Lament for Moab

Study Verse: Isaiah 15:6

Statement: There is no positive verse in this whole chapter. Those who refuse to follow God find everything in ruins. Verse 6 bears some resemblance to a growing portion of our earth today. Do you think God's judgment also comes on those who desecrate His earth?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, sometimes all seems dark. I trust You to be here anyway.*

Chapter: Isaiah 16
Theme: God prevails
Study Verse: Isaiah 16:5

Statement: Even over Moab, who historically treated the children of Israel with injustice, God still reigns. And in the midst of devastation, He promises a faithful government in the end.

Response: _____

Prayer: Great King, You are the only Ruler it is safe to follow. Bless our leaders even now, and keep us safe when they refuse Your ways.

Chapter: Isaiah 17

Theme: Hope in the midst of ruin

Study Verse: Isaiah 17:7

Statement: Damascus was one of those at war in chapter 8. Now its ruin is foretold. Even Judah will fade. However, God promises, there will always be a remnant left, and at last people will learn to look to their Creator instead of their own handmade gods. Can you look to God in the midst of ruin and fear?

Response: _____

Prayer: *God of Israel and God of my heart, I will trust You and not human creations.*

Chapter: Isaiah 18

Theme: A warning for Ethiopia

Study Verse: Isaiah 18:4

Statement: No country on earth is immune from the ravages of pride and arrogance. In Isaiah's day, Ethiopia was one of those coming in for God's rebuke. They were, says v 2, a "powerful and oppressive nation." Those nations, in any age, which oppress the vulnerable, will meet with God's wrath. Where do you think your nation stands on God's judgment scales today?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, I know You are looking quietly on me from Your dwelling place, and that You can bring me peace in the midst of pain and fear.*

Chapter: Isaiah 19

Theme: Warnings and promises to Egypt

Study Verse: Isaiah 19:19-20

Statement: Here is a good example of God's reconciliation in the midst of wrath. Egypt, too, had for centuries been oppressing God's people and raising their idols above the God of heaven. The first part of this chapter deals with God's judgment against them. Yet look at the promises in 19 and beyond. God foretells not only that He will send them a Savior, but that they will listen and return!

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, I know You offer pardon instead of retribution if people will only listen. Help me find ways to lift my voice to offer Your peace to others.*

Chapter: Isaiah 20

Theme: Prophecy about northern Africa

Study Verse: Isaiah 20:6

Statement: Many of the countries named in Bible prophecy no longer exist, so it can be hard to hear prophecies against ones that still do—especially if you live there! Bear in mind that all God’s prophecies are conditional; He offers pardon and peace to *all* who will just *listen*. The hint of hope is in v. 6—at least people are recognizing their hopes were false. They could turn to God...

Response: _____

Prayer: *Most High God, Isaiah followed You even if Your words to him might have made no sense. He was a living example of Your love, justice, and mercy. Let me be so, too.*

Chapter: Isaiah 21

Theme: Babylon, Edom, and Arabia

Study Verse: Isaiah 21:11

Statement: More prophecies of woes against countries who refused God and oppressed others. Verse 11 is often seen as a symbol of our day; how far gone is earth's last night? How much longer must we wait for the dawn of Jesus' coming? How do you keep up your faith when it seems it will be forever?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Jesus, please come soon! And while I wait, help me to be a light in the darkness to neighbors who cannot see even Your hope.*

Chapter: Isaiah 22

Theme: Woes of Jerusalem

Study Verse: Isaiah 22:22

Statement: This time the prophecy is against “the daughter of my people,” (v 4)—the city of David, Jerusalem. Even God’s own people have not followed Him; have oppressed the poor, worshiped idols, and used unjust business practices. They, too, will face judgment. But God is crying—as He cries over *all* His children who will not listen. Ethiopia, Edom, all were created by Him and all have turned away.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Jesus, only You have the keys to the eternal kingdom. Only You can shut and no one can open, or open and no one can shut. Help me lead as many as I can to the open door...while it's still open.*

Chapter: Isaiah 23

Theme: Fall of Tyre

Study Verse: Isaiah 23:18

Statement: This, while it is a prophecy against literal Babylon, who held God's people captive for 70 years, is also very similar to Rev. 18, which speaks of the final fall, forever, of the whole satanic system. In the end, says God, the ill-gotten gains of Babylon will actually provide for those who faithfully followed God. What do you think this might mean, spiritually speaking?

Response: _____

Prayer: *King of Time, in Your hand lies the destiny of the earth and all its kingdoms. Your patience is infinite, but You will make an end. I want to dwell only in Your presence.*

Chapter: Isaiah 24

Theme: The final judgment of earth

Study Verse: Isaiah 24:14

Statement: It is clear here that the subject is the final judgment. All the earth is destroyed. The first 6 verses don't leave anyone out. All are equal and all are sinful. Yet...look at 14-16. There are still songs of praise! Why? Because some are not sinful? No—we are all unrighteous, every one of us. But some have said Yes to God. Some dwell within the safety of Jesus' perfect robe of righteousness. Have you made that choice?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Glory to the righteous One! I praise Your holy name forever because You have had mercy on those who deserved no mercy.*

Chapter: Isaiah 25

Theme: Songs of praise

Study Verse: Isaiah 25:9

Statement: At last, out of all that desolation and judgment, the voices of the redeemed sing out. God removes the veil between us and Him (v 7), wipes away tears and reproaches (v 8), and creation is at peace. Even some who were ruthless are there (v 3). Hallelujah!

Response: _____

Prayer: *Loving Shepherd, You are a refuge in the storm, a shade in the heat, and You will prevail at last. Praise Your name forever!*

Chapter: Isaiah 26

Theme: Peace in the midst of trouble

Study Verse: Isaiah 26:20

Statement: We are brought back to present reality after a dream of future joy. This chapter's language makes it clear that it is about how to find and keep God's peace even while the trouble is happening all around us. What are some of the counsels that mean the most to you?

Response: _____

Prayer: *My Father, keep me in the secret place of Your peace and safety even when all seems dark. I trust You!*

Chapter: Isaiah 27

Theme: The Vineyard: The rest of the story

Study Verse: Isaiah 27:2-3

Statement: Remember the vineyard in chapter 5? Here is the end of the story as it can be, for those who choose to let God do His gardening in their hearts and produce good fruit. Which promise is your favorite?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Vinekeeper, keep me. Water me with your Spirit, guard me from evil. Produce much good fruit in me, for others around me to learn to trust You, too.*

Chapter: Isaiah 28

Theme: The cornerstone

Study Verse: Isaiah 28:16

Statement: Ephraim, God's own, is destroyed, except for a remnant (v 5), Judah is warned of imminent destruction if the people will not listen. They won't even accept His rest (v12)! So God promises His own Son, the cornerstone on whom rests all the heavens and earth. Do you believe strongly enough to "not be disturbed"?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Jesus, You are the foundation and cornerstone of my life. Let me never be moved, no matter what!*

Chapter: Isaiah 29

Theme: Warnings about lip service

Study Verse: Isaiah 29:19

Statement: God again warns Jerusalem of judgment and punishment, especially for going through all the rounds and rituals of worship service without it meaning anything. It is better, to God, for us not to go to church at all than to go with false hearts. But after punishment comes blessing and rebuilding, to those who will be teachable.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Dear Lord, let me never be “intent on doing evil.” If I make mistakes or do wrong and have to face consequences, let me do so bravely, and make better choices next time.*

Chapter: Isaiah 30

Theme: Choose: rebellion or rest

Study Verse: Isaiah 30:15

Statement: Judah decides to attempt to find safety from God's promised retribution by allying with Egypt, at that time the sworn enemy of God. God is very precise about what will await. But He adds that He longs to be gracious (v 18). Why, why won't they listen?

Response: _____

Prayer: *O God, don't let me be like that! Let me return with quietness and trust, or better yet, never stray in the first place. I am blessed because I long for You alone.*

Chapter: Isaiah 31

Theme: Don't turn to Egypt!

Study Verse: Isaiah 31:5

Statement: Isaiah gives more warnings against turning to Egypt, pointing out that no earthly system can stand up to God's power. What do you think it might represent, in today's world, for a person to "turn to Egypt" for help instead of to God?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, don't let me turn to any earthly ideas or people or beliefs instead of to You! Help me to judge wisely about when You are truly offering help and wisdom through others, and when it is simply deceptive.*

Chapter: Isaiah 32

Theme: Peace forever

Study Verse: Isaiah 32:16-17

Statement: As always, when the dark prophecies begin to be too much, to get us down, God puts in some of His precious promises. Sooner or later, He vows, there will be peace and righteousness, and a King we can trust. Which is your favorite verse?

Response: _____

Prayer: *King Jesus, I long to see Your rule complete, all the promises fulfilled. Help me to lead others to that hope as well.*

Chapter: Isaiah 33

Theme: There will be an end

Study Verse: Isaiah 33:17

Statement: This chapter, mixing warnings and promises as other chapters have, also gives a clear definition of those who can expect to see God's blessing. Make a list of the characteristics in verses 14-16. Which ones do you need to pray for?

Response: _____

Prayer: *My God and King, create in me the heart that is described here. Show me how to be like You.*

Chapter: Isaiah 34

Theme: Final destruction

Study Verse: Isaiah 34:17

Statement: Several different nations have been mentioned in Isaiah as being under God's wrath. But here God makes it clear that *all* nations have failed to follow His ways. The whole earth is laid waste. Like the time when Jesus cleared out the temple, though, some are not afraid, but come to Him in peace and joy. Here the animals are listed as living in peace in God's new kingdom. Whom else do you think the last verse represents?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Great Lord and Judge, let me be one of those who "is not missing," who finds Your peace and possesses Your new land forever.*

Chapter: Isaiah 35

Theme: The new earth

Study Verse: Isaiah 35:10

Statement: This beautiful description of the eternal home awaiting the faithful children of God has brought hope to millions or even billions of hearts since it was written. Which part brings the most joy to you?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Redeemer and Prince, Your promises hold us up like a strong boat on stormy seas. Help me to keep this picture always in my heart, and to share it with others.*

Chapter: Isaiah 36

Theme: Sennacherib's mockery

Study Verse: Isaiah 36:21

Statement: Now we come to one of the most exciting stories in the Old Testament. Despite the fact that so many are in apostasy and rebellion, in this story, they do everything right, beginning here with simply obeying the king and not responding to taunts. How easy is it to keep quiet when people are mocking you, or even your God?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord of hosts, You are the head of my army. When people make fun of me or of my faith, help me remember this story and keep quiet no matter how fierce the temptation to respond in kind.*

Chapter: Isaiah 37

Theme: Hezekiah seeks God's help

Study Verse: Isaiah 37:1

Statement: The Assyrians mock God directly, saying that the other gods haven't been able to save their people. Hezekiah does one of the smartest things of his life: he runs straight to God. "It's true, Lord. Those gods haven't saved their people because *they're not You!* Won't You please show them that You alone are Lord and Creator?"

Response: _____

Prayer: *One and only Most High God, will You do the same in my life? When the things people trust let them down, will You make me an example of one whose God never lets me down?*

Chapter: Isaiah 38

Theme: Hezekiah's crisis

Study Verse: Isaiah 38:19

Statement: This is the crisis point of Hezekiah's life. He is told he will die, and he is frightened and begs for his life. God listens and mercifully adds 15 years. Do you think you would want to know you had 15 years to live and then you would die? Why or why not?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Merciful God, we don't know if we have 15 years or 15 days. Help me to live today as if You are the most important thing in my life and it might be my last chance to show my love.*

Chapter: Isaiah 39

Theme: Hezekiah shows off

Study Verse: Isaiah 39:8

Statement: Hezekiah is a weak man in some ways. He can't resist showing off his treasures, not thinking that he may be raising greed in the Babylonian king's heart. Even then, when he is told of the consequences, it almost seems he doesn't care, so long as *he* doesn't have to face them. What do you think of this attitude?

Response: _____

Prayer: *Lord, don't let me be weak and shallow. Help me to think before I speak, and to consider others' welfare above my own.*

Chapter: Isaiah 40

Theme: Make way for God!

Study Verse: Isaiah 40:9

Statement: The rest of Isaiah has a different tone than the first half. It is full of beautiful praises and poetry. This chapter is full of the greatness and glory of God. Also, John the Baptist took his mission statement from here. Can you find it? You might also like to memorize vs 28-31.

Response: _____

Prayer: *Creator God, You are so far above my understanding that it's amazing You talk to us as if we were friends! Help me fly with eagles' wings.*