

One Year Through the Bible

Week 27: June 30th through July 6th

Daily Scripture Reading:

Sunday:	Isaiah 37-39
Monday:	Isaiah 40-42
Tuesday:	Isaiah 43-45
Wednesday:	Isaiah 46-48
Thursday:	Isaiah 49-51
Friday:	Isaiah 52-54
Saturday:	Isaiah 55-57

Bible Chapter Titles

Isaiah

36,37	Assyrian Army Defeated
38,39	Hezekiah's Sickness and Death
40-44	Words of Comfort
45	Prophecy of Cyrus
46-48	Fall of Babylon
49-57	The Great Deliverer—God

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Thirty-six

1. Isaiah 36 is parallel to 2nd Kgs. 18:13-37.
2. Isaiah omits the narrative account of Hezekiah's initial compromise and tribute payment to Sennacherib (2nd Kgs. 18:14-16).
3. Isaiah omits the names of Tartan & Rab-saris (2nd Kgs. 18:17), focusing on the evil message of Rabshakeh.

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Thirty-seven

1. Isaiah 37 is parallel to 2nd Kgs. 19:1-37.
2. The pattern for national Divine blessing is here apparent.
 - a. A humble, God-fearing king—represented by King Hezekiah.
 - 1) With a priority for prayer.
 - 2) With like-minded cabinet level leaders—represented by Eliakim, Shebna, & Joah.
 - b. Bold and accurate Bible teaching—represented by the Prophet Isaiah.
 - 1) Isaiah ministered during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, & Hezekiah.
 - 2) Bold and accurate Bible teaching must continue regardless of temporal-life politics.
 - c. Believers making their spiritual-life decisions correctly, and reaping temporal-life blessings as a consequence (Matt. 6:33).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Thirty-eight

1. Isaiah 38 is parallel to 2nd Kgs. 20:1-11.
2. Following the lifting of the Assyrian siege of Jerusalem, the LORD tested Hezekiah with the physical health test of a terminal illness (Isa. 38:1a).
 - a. Isaiah reveals the LORD's message and instructs Hezekiah to set his house in order (Isa. 38:1b).
 - b. Hezekiah responds to Isaiah's message with prayer (Isa. 38:2,3a), and great weeping (Isa. 38:3b).
 - 1) These are not necessarily sinful, selfish prayers by a man who doesn't want to die (Heb. 5:7).
 - 2) These are the prayers of a pious man, who endures the perfection process of growth through testing (Heb. 5:8,9; Jms. 1:2-12).
3. The LORD responds to Hezekiah's prayer, and tears (Isa. 38:4,5).
 - a. He answers Hezekiah's personal needs.
 - b. He answers Jerusalem's political needs.
4. The time-frame here is important.
 - a. Hezekiah is granted an additional 15 years of physical life (Isa. 38:5).
 - b. Manasseh is 12 years old when he succeeds his father (2nd Kgs. 21:1).
 - c. Therefore, Hezekiah's burden was for the Seed of David, which was on the verge of elimination (cf. Isa. 38:19).
5. The miracle sign was given as evidence that the LORD will truly extend Hezekiah's life (Isa. 38:21,22,7,8).
 - a. Man cannot lengthen the extent of our determined lifespan (Job 14:5; Ps. 139:16; Matt. 6:27), but can volitionally shorten the extent of our determined lifespan through suicide (2nd Sam. 17:23).
 - b. God can Sovereignly lengthen the extent of our determined lifespan (Ex. 20:12; Deut. 6:2; Prov. 3:2,16; 4:10; 9:11; 10:27), or shorten the extent of our determined lifespan through the Sin Unto Death (1st Jn. 5:16b; Acts 5:1-5).
6. Hezekiah responded to the grace of God in his life by composing a psalm of praise (Isa. 38:9-20).

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- a. Hezekiah was a collector of David's psalms, and organized the Levitical choirs for their singing (2nd Chr. 29:30).
- b. Hezekiah was also a collector and compiler of Solomon's proverbs (Prov. 25:1).
- c. Hezekiah was also an author in his own day (Isa. 38:9).
- d. This song is only recorded here, and not in the parallel accounts of 2nd Kgs. or 2nd Chr.

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Thirty-nine

1. Isaiah 39 is parallel to 2nd Kgs. 20:12-19.
2. Merodach-baladan was a rebellious Babylonian ruler, who struggled numerous times to throw off the yoke of Assyria.
3. Hezekiah's successful resistance of Sennacherib's military assault brought him considerable prestige on the international stage (2nd Chr. 32:22,23).
4. Hezekiah's illness & recovery was an opportunity for Merodach-baladan to curry favor, and find an ally in his many rebellious plans against Assyria (Isa. 39:1).
5. Hezekiah's pride brought about a sad end to an otherwise wonderful life (Isa. 39:2-8; 2nd Chr. 32:24-33).

Sequence of Hezekiah's later life:

- The LORD's destruction of the Assyrian armies (2nd Kgs. 19:35).
- Hezekiah's sickness and recovery (2nd Kgs. 20:1-11).
- Hezekiah's pride and failure to honor the LORD (2nd Chr. 32:25).
- Hezekiah's repentance (2nd Chr. 32:26), and hymn of praise (Isa. 38:9-20).
- Hezekiah's international acclaim (2nd Chr. 32:22,23).
- Hezekiah's temple treasury tour for the emissaries of Babylon (2nd Kgs. 20:12,13).
- Isaiah's message of rebuke upon the house of Hezekiah, and the promise of Babylonian servitude (2nd Kgs. 20:16-19).
- Hezekiah's death (2nd Kgs. 20:21).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty

1. Beginning with chapter 40, Isaiah communicates a message of double comfort (Isa. 40:1).
 - a. נַחַם nacham ^{#5162}; piel. *to comfort, console*. King Menahem "comforter" of Israel (2nd Kgs. 15:17). The Prophet Nahum "comfort." Nehemiah "Jehovah comforts."
 - b. The double comfort is extended as Jerusalem has gone through double discipline (Isa. 40:2).
 - c. The comfort can only come through the administration of such discipline, and the removal of Jerusalem's iniquity—in other words, at the second Advent of Jesus Christ following the Tribulation of Israel.
2. This time of comfort is going to be announced by a herald (Isa. 40:2-5).
 - a. The herald orders a clear way, and a smooth highway for the LORD to make His appearance (Isa. 40:3).
 - b. The herald orders extensive topographical changes for the LORD to make His residence (Isa. 40:4; cf. 35:1-10; Zech. 14:4,5).
 - c. The herald announces a worldwide revelation of the glory of the LORD (Isa. 40:5).
 - d. The prophet Malachi also spoke of this coming herald (Mal. 3:1; 4:5,6).
 - 1) This herald announces the entrance of the LORD into His temple (Mal. 3:1).
 - 2) The herald's primary ministry is going to be a ministry of national repentance for Israel (Mal. 4:5,6).
 - e. John the Baptizer partially fulfilled this herald function (Luke 1:17; Matt. 3:3; 17:12,13).
 - 1) He directly denied being the Elijah that the Pharisees were anticipating (Jn. 1:21).
 - 2) The Lord Jesus Christ promised that another Elijah is still to come (Matt. 17:11).
3. The herald's message will be a celebration of the eternal Word of God (Isa. 40:6-8).

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4. Isaiah prophesies another herald— Jerusalem herself will be the bearer of good news (Isa. 40:9-11).
5. Isaiah celebrates the glory of God and His majesty (Isa. 40:12-26).
6. Isaiah rebukes Jacob for their lack of faith, in failing to humble themselves for the LORD's gracious provision (Isa. 40:27-31).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-one

1. Chapter 40 began with a message of comfort for Jerusalem. Chapter 41 begins with a message of strength for the Gentile nations.
 - a. The Gentile nations who renew their strength (Isa. 41:1) will be the nations who wait upon the LORD (Isa. 40:31).
 - b. Only the sheep nations at the right hand of Jesus Christ will reap the blessings that He has for them (Matt. 25:34-40).
2. The message to the Gentile nations introduces a Gentile conqueror, an agent of the LORD's purpose (Isa. 41:2-4).
 - a. This conqueror is aroused and called in righteousness (v.2a).
 - b. This conqueror is given victory in every military endeavor (vv.2b,3).
 - c. This conqueror is the tool of the LORD, Who accomplishes all things as the Alpha/Omega "I AM" (v.4).
3. Isaiah describes the Tribulational activity of the coastlands (Isa. 41:5-7). The world thinks that through world-wide cooperation, they can build a world of peace, and overcome their fear.
4. Israel is the unique nation on the earth as they are the servant nation of the LORD, looking to Him for help (Isa. 41:8-16).
5. Millennial blessings are then described (Isa. 41:17-20).
6. The LORD requires the fallen angels to submit their final arguments in the supreme court of heaven (Isa. 41:21-24), before He dispatches the elect angel to incarcerate them (Isa. 41:25-29; Rev. 20:1-3).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-two

1. Isaiah 42 describes the Lord Jesus Christ in a beautiful way (Isa. 42:1-4).
 - a. He is a servant of God the Father, held fast by His hand (Isa. 42:1a; Phil. 2:7; Jn. 16:32; Acts 10:38).
 - b. He is the Elect (Chosen) One (Isa. 42:1b₁; Jn. 6:27; 1st Pet. 2:4,6).
 - c. He is pleasing to the soul of the Father (Isa. 42:1b₂; Matt. 3:17; 17:5).
 - d. He is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Isa. 42:1c; Matt. 3:16; Acts 10:38).
 - e. He is to rule the nations (Isa. 42:1d).
 - f. He will silently endure shame (Isa. 42:2; 1st Pet. 2:23).
 - g. He will suffer, but not break, and through His being crushed, He will establish justice in the earth (Isa. 42:3,4a; Heb. 12:2-4; 1st Pet. 2:24).
 - h. Following this work, a period of expectant waiting will begin until His worldwide instruction will begin (Isa. 42:4b; 1st Thess. 1:9,10).
2. This entire prophecy can only have its fulfillment in the Lord Jesus Christ (Matt. 12:18-20).
3. God the Father has a personal message for the Lord Jesus Christ as God the Son agrees to accomplish the Father's good pleasure (Isa. 42:5-9; Lk. 2:32; Jn. 17:5,6).
4. A victory song is composed for the Gentile nations to sing in the Millennium (Isa. 42:10-13).
5. The LORD is pleased to accomplish all these things on behalf of Israel and the Gentile nations who cannot totally comprehend the depths of His plan (Isa. 42:14-25).

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Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-three

1. The promise of restoration for Israel is unconditional, as it is based on their unconditional redemption (Isa. 43:1-7).
2. Only God is God, and only His witnesses are true witnesses, and He demands any other pretenders to step forward and introduce their witnesses (Isa. 43:8-13).
3. The LORD, Redeemer of Israel, will restore Israel from their coming Babylonian captivity (Isa. 39:6,7; 43:14-21).
4. He does so for His name sake, as their idolatry has earned them no mercy whatsoever (Isa. 43:22-28).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-four

1. The LORD promises blessings of prosperity upon Jeshurun (Israel in prosperity) (Isa. 44:1-5).
2. The LORD declares His glory, and challenges any pretenders to make their case (Isa. 44:6-8).
3. Having proven that there are no other gods (only false gods), the LORD describes how worthless idolatry truly is (Isa. 44:9-20).
4. The LORD promises to not forget Israel, He will only forget their sin (Isa. 44:21-23).
5. As their Redeemer, the LORD promises to frustrate the plans of the fallen angels, and to restore the fortunes of Jerusalem through a most amazing tool (Isa. 44:24-28; cf. 41:2-4; 45:1-13).
 - a. Redeemer is a title that has only human application—no angelic redemption is revealed in Scripture.
 - b. The maker of all things is the ultimate rebuke upon the fallen angels. These creatures viewed themselves as equal to the Creator (Isa. 14:14).
 - c. The amazing tool He establishes is named as Cyrus (Isa. 44:28; 45:1).
 - 1) Cyrus the son of Cambyses of Persia, and Mandane of Media, united the Medes & Persians in 550BC.
 - 2) Cyrus conquered Babylon in October of 539BC (Dan. 5:28; 6:28), and issued a decree for the Jews to return to Jerusalem (2nd Chr. 36:22,23).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-five

1. Having introduced Cyrus in chapter 44, the LORD goes on to describe the activity of His Gentile tool (Isa. 45:1-7).
 - a. He is the LORD's shepherd (Isa. 44:28). The only Gentile to have such a title with reference to Israel.
 - b. He is the LORD's anointed (Isa. 45:1). As a type of Christ, Cyrus is in fact a christ (anointed one).
 - 1) He destroys Israel's enemies.
 - 2) He orders Israel's return to the promised land.
 - 3) He provides for the rebuilding of Jerusalem, and the restoration of the Temple.
 - 4) In all these things, Cyrus is a perfect picture of Christ in His second advent.
 - c. Cyrus was called to this service in conjunction with his own salvation (Isa. 45:3,4).
 - 1) Daniel was the most likely evangelist to bring Cyrus to Christ (Dan. 6:28; 2nd Chr. 36:22,23).
 - 2) Josephus records that Cyrus was saved by reading Isaiah 44 & 45 (*Ant. XI i 2.*).
 - d. THE Lord's work through Cyrus will form a unique witness to Himself for all the world to observe (Isa. 45:5-7).
2. The Millennial conditions of blessing are described as Cyrus' work in restoring Israel to their land (Isa. 45:8-13).
3. In the Millennium, the Gentile nations will forsake their idols (false gods) to serve the one true God (Isa. 45:14-17).
4. The LORD addressed the Gentile nations, and declares His glory, and the emptiness of Satanic rebellion (Isa. 45:18-25).
 - a. It is in this context that the LORD reveals specifically that Gen. 1:2 was not the original state of affairs upon the earth.
 - b. The world was originally beautiful & perfect, and the angels sung its praise (Job 38:7).
 - c. The formless and void condition of the world in darkness was the result of Satan's angelic rebellion (Isa. 14:17).

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Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-six

1. Isaiah prophesies the captivity of the Babylonian gods Bel & Nebo (Isa. 46:1,2).
2. God promises deliverance to Israel (Isa. 46:3,4), as the one true God (Isa. 46:5-11).
3. Pending, imminent judgment is a motivation for believers to repent and bear much fruit (Isa. 46:12,13; 1st Pet. 4:7).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-seven

1. Chapter 47 is a call for Babylon to sit silently in the dust (Isa. 47:1,5), and go into darkness (Isa. 47:5).
2. Speaking symbolically, the LORD speaks of Babylon as a shamed maiden (Isa. 47:2,3).
3. Babylon had seem herself as an eternal queen (Isa. 47:5,7). Satan's favorite lie is to promote the Queen of Heaven as a mother to oppose God the Father (Jer. 7:18; 44:17-19).
 - a. Historically, Babylon was the center of these sorceries (Isa. 47:8-15).
 - b. Ecclesiastically, local churches must be on guard against these Jezebel sorceries (Rev. 2:18-29).
 - c. Prophetically, the whore of Babylon will continue these sorceries (Rev. 17&18).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-eight

1. The LORD rebukes Judah for their failure to listen to His previous warnings (Isa. 48:1-11).
 - a. Judah was ultimately accountable to live the Word of God that had been entrusted to them.
 - b. God made no secret of the national Divine discipline that Judah would be subject to.
 - c. God works for His glory, on behalf of His praise.
2. The LORD promises a restoration to Israel after their punishment in Babylon is complete (Isa. 48:12-22).
 - a. This is a faithful promise of the Alpha & Omega.
 - b. This is another message that has not been a secret in times past.

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Forty-nine

1. Chapters 49-57 highlight the great Deliverer (Messiah, Christ) Who will achieve the glory of God the Father on Earth.
2. The chapter begins with a personal message from the Lord Jesus Christ (Isa. 49:1-13).
 - a. The Father prepared the body of Jesus Christ in His first advent incarnation (Isa. 49:1; Heb. 10:5).
 - b. The Lord Jesus Christ is entrusted with verbal judicial execution authority (Isa. 49:2; Rev. 1:16; 2:12,16; 19:15).
 - c. The Lord Jesus Christ is the visible representation of God the Father's glory (Isa. 49:3; Jn. 13:31,32; Heb. 1:3).
 - d. The Lord Jesus Christ received no reward from man, was rejected by His brethren, and embraced God the Father for His total reward (Isa. 49:4; Matt. 23:37; Jn. 1:11; Lk. 23:43,46).
 - e. The Lord's second advent work will include regathering Israel, and ruling over all the nations (Isa. 49:5-7).
 - f. The universal offer of salvation in Jesus Christ is described (Isa. 49:8-13).
3. The (Messiah) promises of God will be impossible (for Israel) to accept when people view themselves as forsaken and forgotten (Isa. 49:14). The LORD answers Zion's complaint with examples of His faithfulness (Isa. 49:15-23).
4. The (Messiah) promises of God will be impossible (for Israel) to accept when people view themselves as helplessly captive to a tyrant (Isa. 49:24). The LORD answers this complaint as well (Isa. 49:25,26).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty

1. Although Israel was divorced, and the Jews were sold into slavery, the LORD was ready, willing, & able to Redeem them (Isa. 50:1-3).
2. Jesus Christ describes His daily ministry of listening to the Word of God, and meeting the needs of others (Isa. 50:4-11; Jn. 8:28,29).

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Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty-one

1. The LORD instructs His audience three times to listen (Isa. 51:1,4,7).
 - a. Believers should always maintain their remembrance of the LORD Who saved them, and from where they were saved.
 - b. Believers should remember the witness of Scripture—the faithfulness of God in earlier generations.
 - c. Believers should remember the prophetic messages of Scripture—the faithfulness of God in future generations.
2. Isaiah calls upon the LORD to awaken, and strive for Israel (Isa. 51:9).
 - a. His past victory over the Dragon provides assurance of the future, ultimate victory over the Dragon.
 - b. It is a double failure for a believer to take their eyes off of the Lord, and consequently place their attention on flesh and blood (Isa. 51:12,13; Eph. 6:12).
3. The LORD twice calls upon Israel to awaken (Isa. 51:17; 52:1).
 - a. The first wake up call is to cause Israel to understand the nature of their Divine judgment, and their helplessness because of it.
 - b. This wake up call is also an encouragement, because they have finished their cup of Divine wrath, and now the nations will drink of it.

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty-two

1. Israel's second wake up call is to awaken and dress joyously for the joy that is set before them (Isa. 52:1-6).
2. Isaiah introduces the ultimate Evangelist, the Christ Who provides peace, happiness, and salvation in His Kingdom (Isa. 52:7-12).
3. The Messiah is described once again (Isa. 52:13-15).
 - a. He will be exalted (v.13) because
 - b. He was disfigured (v.14).
 - 1) מִשְׁחָת ^{#4893}: *disfigurement*.
 - 2) Only other use of mishchath (Lev. 22:25).
 - c. Leaving the nations silenced (v.15).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty-three

1. The “marred Messiah” (Isa. 52) continues to be revealed as the “crushed Christ.”
2. Unlike the gentile nations, the Jews had the Old Testament to identify their messiah when He arrived (Isa. 52:15 cf. 53:1).
3. The humility and humiliation of Christ is seen in this passage (Isa. 53:2-9).
 - a. A tender shoot (not a majestic tree) (Isa. 53:2a; Ezek. 17:3,4,22-24).
 - b. The only physical description of Jesus Christ tells us that He was not majestic in physical appearance (Isa. 53:2b).
 - c. The description of the reputation of Jesus Christ tells us that He will understand our loneliness (Isa. 53:3).
 - d. Although men despised Him, He loved them, accepting God's judgment on their behalf (Isa. 53:4).
 - e. His sacrifice is the one and only means by which we might be saved (Isa. 53:5).
 - f. Not one person in the history of the world is able to save themselves, but the LORD accomplished what we could not do (Isa. 53:6).
 - g. Christ understood the Father's eternal purpose, and silently submitted to the Father's will (Isa. 53:7).
 - h. We are the ones to whom the stroke was due (Isa. 53:8; Rom. 3:23).
 - i. Through it all, He was an innocent man Who died in shame (Isa. 53:9).
4. The work of the Father & the Son in the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is described (Isa. 53:10-12).
 - a. The Father's pleasure was accomplished (Isa. 53:10a).
 - b. The Son's work was to render Himself as the guilt offering (Isa. 53:10b).
 - 1) The only qualified offerer bringing
 - 2) The only acceptable offering.
 - c. The Son's reward is the ultimate reward for faithful service (Isa. 53:11,12).

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Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty-four

1. Chapter 54 is an essay which details the reasons for Israel's rejoicing in the Millennial reign of Christ (Isa. 54:1-17).
2. Israel will no longer be a barren, forsaken woman (Isa. 54:1-6).
3. The LORD makes a promise to Israel similar to the promise He made with Noah—no, never again (Isa. 54:7-10).
4. The Millennium will feature temporal-life prosperity, spiritual-life prosperity, and immediate Divine vindication (Isa. 54:11-17).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty-five

1. Chapter 55 begins with a grace invitation to salvation (Isa. 55:1-7).
 - a. These waters are a grace gift for all who believe in Christ (Isa. 55:1; Jn. 4:10-14).
 - b. It cost nothing for the believer, because the entire price was paid by Christ.
 - c. It is an eternal possession, in contrast with the worldly things we so often pursue.
 - d. Listen & eat (believe) (Isa. 55:2).
2. Salvation is a grace gift offered to all men, regardless of their wickedness or unrighteousness (Isa. 55:6,7).
 - a. Man's finite thinking may struggle with the grace and forgiveness of God, but those are His thoughts, and those are His ways (Isa. 55:8,9).
 - b. God's thoughts are perfect, and His word accomplishes His desire (Isa. 55:10,11).
3. The redemption of man is a matter for all the creation to rejoice over (Isa. 55:12,13).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty-six

1. The work of Christ will not only be for the Jews, but for the God fearing Gentiles as well (Isa. 56:1-8).
2. The Millennial reign will be a time of unparalleled prosperity—resulting in much laziness on the part of those who should be alert (Isa. 56:9-12).

Thoughts & Notes on Chapter Fifty-seven

1. Having established the promises of future glory, in chapter 57 the LORD returns to the present reality.
2. Faithful believers are being called home, while the nation slides into further apostasy (Isa. 57:1-10).
3. When God gives an idolatrous nation over to destruction, He invites their idols to deliver them (Isa. 57:11-13).
4. The promise of glory is restated, and Israel is reminded that God is working for His purpose and His glory (Isa. 57:14-21).

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Note:

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Sources:

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