

From Paul Dale...

Dear Church by the Bridge

Our God has been so gracious to our church over the first 6 months of the year and we need to stop to thank Him for His kindness.

Across our 6 gatherings each Sunday, God's Spirit has been at work in maturing his disciples, cultivating servant hearts, bringing up to 50 visitors every weekend, building a culture that is warm and welcoming to all people, as well as His powerful Word being preached passionately each week. Praise God for that!

We've seen the initiation of new ministries such as Everyday English, where up to 20 women come along to learn English (from the Bible). Existing ministries such as Playtime, BridgeKids and Soul continue to thrive – with so many unchurched families on our site every week, sitting under the sound of the gospel. Praise God for that!

Most of our HiveGroups are flourishing, and the opportunity to sit under excellent teaching at HiveLife was indeed life changing for many (the topics were Depression, Parenting, Living Single, Work and Men). We had the privilege of a visit from Stan & Clare, one of our mission partners. And we continue to seek to care for those at Greenway and James Milson Retirement Village, through good deeds and declaration of the gospel.

The Thrive Day was a particular highlight, with Keith & Sarah Condie so practically showing us from the Scriptures how much God values friendships, and how to cultivate those friendships in our church family.

Praise God for that!

Looking forward to the second half of the year, as we seek to thrive in 'living for Jesus and loving like Jesus', there are a number of things to diarise and pray over.

For the children, we have MegaMonday on July 18th (a pupil-free day kids club), a SuperSunday on 4th September, and the Mini-World Cup on Sat 29th October.

For the women, we have an outreach event on Sat 23rd July, as well as a teaching event on Sat 3rd September, and Gingerbread on 24th-26th November.

For the men, we are taking a group to Men's Katoomba Convention on 29th-30th July, as well as the Basecamp on Sat 6th August. There's also an outreach event on Thursday 22nd September.

For all church family, HiveLife kicks off again on 11th, 12th and 13th October, with 5 new '3 week courses' on relevant topics.

At the end of October, a team will be heading to Darwin again to run the Mega-Surge Youth Conference.

A reminder that Carols under the Bridge is on Saturday 10th December this year, with Carols in church on Sunday 18th December, as well as our Christmas Eve Family Carols at 4pm & Carols by Candlelight at 11pm.

I am so looking forward to seeing God's Spirit at work in our church family over the next 6 months.....eagerly expecting great things from our great God.

I am also excited to be preaching through Isaiah this term. Isaiah is one of those big Old Testament books which, to be honest, I've been avoiding for the past 10 years. To preach through it for too long would be quite labourious but to preach through it too quickly would be a travesty! So we're taking 11 weeks to do a big picture overview, with all the major chapters being tackled in sermons and in HiveGroups. Alongside this, we're encouraging people to read through Isaiah in their Quiet Times and providing daily bible readings to enable us to read through the whole book in line with the sermons series.

The book of Isaiah has been described as the Romans of the Old Testament – theologically rich and complex, yet with a very simple message 'Trust God who will bring salvation through judgement'. Isaiah says that same message again and again. Trust in the Lord, whatever your situation, whatever political crisis or spiritual confusion. Keep trusting the Lord. He is often at work in hidden or surprising ways to save His people.

As we read through Isaiah, the repeated question is 'In Whom will you trust?' The question is posed a few times. For example Isaiah 36:4 "where will God's people put their trust?". Will they trust the surrounding nations, their political wisdom and shrewd policies – or will they rely on the promises of the Sovereign Lord?

Or Isaiah 7:9 "If you do not stand in your faith, you will not stand at all'. That's a warning to King Ahaz, who aligned himself with worldly powers, rather than the Almighty, all-sovereign God. Similar questions are asked in Isaiah 12:2 and 26:4

Now many (including myself) have avoided digging deeply into the book...yet there is so much to gain. Primarily a study of Isaiah will enhance our knowledge of God – not just doctrinally, but relationally.

If we want to strengthen our understanding of God's sovereignty over his world, read Isaiah.

If we want to be more confident in God's faithfulness to his people in the present day, as well as future hope, read Isaiah! If we want to be more certain of the uniqueness of Jesus Christ, to judge and to save all people, read Isaiah.

As David Jackman helpfully says "How would you try to woo people away from the siren voices of our contemporary culture, with its superficial understanding of human nature, glib 'fix it' remedies which cannot mend broken hearts and lives, reductionist and materialist ways of life in this world which fail their adherents over and over again? If you want to encourage faith in God's promises, rather than a desperate resort to human policies, whether political, social, ecclesiastical or personal, you will preach Isaiah".

My prayer for this preaching series is that we would indeed trust God, because of his character that we will be pondering on and delighting in each week.

With much love in Jesus



Paul Dale (Senior Pastor)



***“If you do not stand firm in
your faith, then you will not
stand at all.”***

Isaiah 7:9

How to use this book



Personal Devotions

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day. In reading a chapter 6 days a week, you will read through Isaiah over the course of the sermon series. Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His Word.
- Each week, we have recommended a 'song of the week' so listen on Spotify or Church by the Bridge Playlist.
 1. Pray for the events of church each week, as well as the aspect of Gods character.



Hive Groups

- Take this guide with you to your HiveGroup each week. There are Bible studies for each section of Isaiah, and space to write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.



Church

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

Isaiah Overview

Isaiah's place in the Bible

The book of Isaiah is the first 'major prophet' (followed by Jeremiah and Ezekiel) with Isaiah's ministry exercised near the start of the prophetic period. It lays out God's agenda for his people – under the current threat of the Assyrians and the future threat of the Babylonians.

Whilst prophetic, the majority of the book is written as poetry, which wonderfully engages our feelings and imagination, rather than being read literally (for example, the nation of Israel is described as being like a 'cut down tree', a 'vineyard', a 'prostitute')

Isaiah 1:1 clearly states that Isaiah, son of Amos, is the author (NB. Many scholars have debated the authorship of various parts of the book, due to the long time span of the book and the fact that Isaiah doesn't appear after ch 39. We are persuaded there is just one author, with much of the book future prophetic).

Isaiah's prophetic ministry spans the reign of 4 kings of Judah – Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz & Hezekiah – a period spanning 100 years (from 790s to 680s BC).

The books of Kings and Chronicles helpfully explain the background to Isaiah's work.

Uzziah reigned over Judah for 52 years, a period of peace, prosperity & security (see 2 Kings 15:1-7 & 2 Chron 26:1-23), and he was followed by his son, Jotham, who reigned for 8 years (2 Kings 15:32-38 and 2 Chron 27:1-9).

Most of Isaiah's ministry was under the reign of King Ahaz (for 16 years), who followed the detestable ways of the nations (2 Kings 16:1-20 and 2 Chron 28:1-27), followed by King Hezekiah (for 29 years) who 'did what was right in the eyes of the Lord' (2 Kings 18-20 and 2 Chron 29-32)

Isaiah 1:2 is a call for all the heavens and earth to listen to God's word and yet the end of the book results in a transformation into a new heaven and a new earth (Isaiah 66:22). So the vision is massive, the re-creation of the universe. And yet it starts with historical Jerusalem in Isaiah's day.

Theological Themes

The main theological theme of the book is very clearly 'salvation through judgement'. God is the holy, sovereign, almighty King who is restoring and renewing his people through judgement.

Isaiah uses 3 main analogies for the process of salvation through judgement.



Refining metal

Assyria & Babylon are instruments for refining.

Isaiah 1:24-26; 48:10



Birth

Zion is the mother that gives birth to the faithful remnant, God's historical judgements in history are her labour pains

Rev 12:1-5



Regrowth of Plant

Cut down under judgement but regrows. The tree is Judah & capital is Zion.

Isaiah 6:13

Other Themes

SIN: especially seen as an expression of human pride in rebellion.

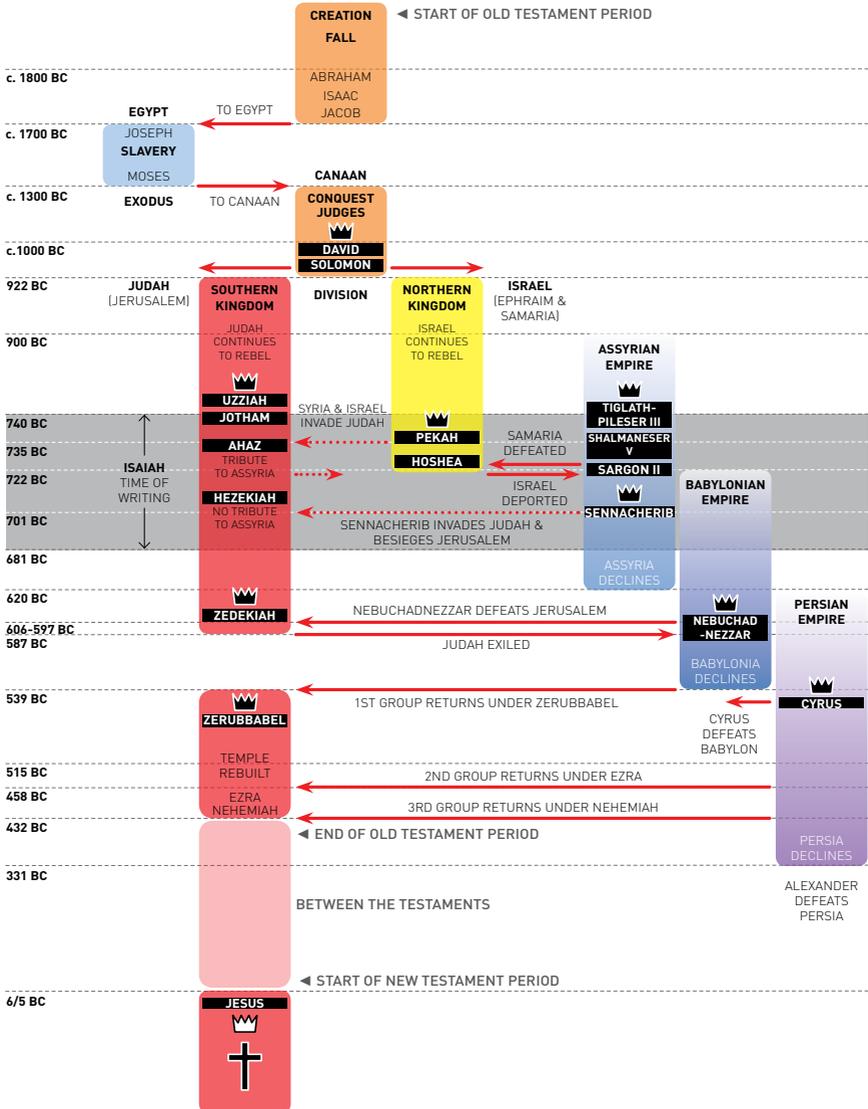
REMNANT: There is a distinction between the true and false people of God. A group who will face judgement (purifying thing) but then survive to inherit afresh the promises of God.

TRUST: Ahaz's lack of trust (ch 7-12) is contrasted with Hezekiah's partial trust (ch 36-39) and the call for God's people to entrust ourselves to the God who is trustworthy.

NEW SALVATION: This is described in terms of 'new' things: a new exodus, a new Jerusalem, a new David, a new song, and a new covenant; which are not simply the old things repeated, but replacements for the old things, and far more glorious than them (Isaiah 42:9).

Isaiah Timeline

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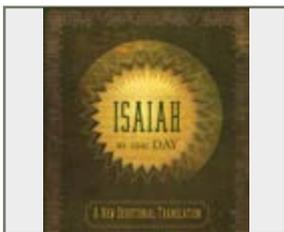


Historical Background

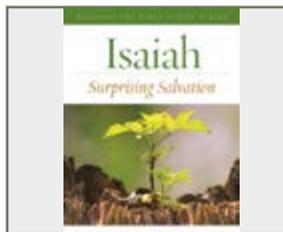
During Isaiah's time, the dominant world nation was Assyria, under the rule of Tiglath-Pileser III. They had built formidable war machines, had powerful leaders, and began to set their eyes on Israel (10 northern tribes) & Judah (2 southern tribes). During Isaiah's lifetime, Israel ceased to exist and the focus shifts to Judah. The first 37 chapters focus on the Assyrian invasion. Menahem, king of Israel, became Assyria's vassal (see ch 7) and after a 3 year siege, Samaria the capital of the northern kingdom fell in 722BC and the northern kingdom was finished (see 2 Kings 17).

However, Isaiah's concern was the southern kingdom of Judah, with its capital Jerusalem. So whilst Assyria is looming large, seeking to attack and conquer Judah (see ch 8 and 36-37), God miraculously saves his people. However, Isaiah prophesies of an equally terrifying super-power waiting in the wings (namely Babylon), who beyond Isaiah's lifetime will capture Judah. This threat of the Babylonian exile is the focus of the 2nd half of the book (from ch 40 onwards), with God promising to raise up a 'suffering servant' to restore a remnant of his people. Babylon is also held up as an archetype of human arrogance and defiant opposition to God and his people.

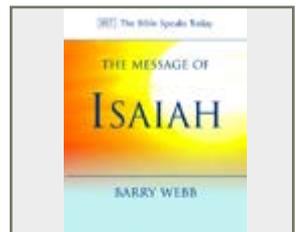
Helpful Resources



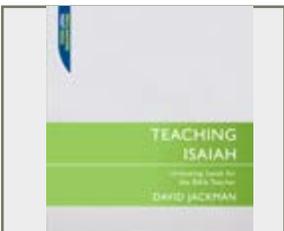
Isaiah by the Day:
Moyter



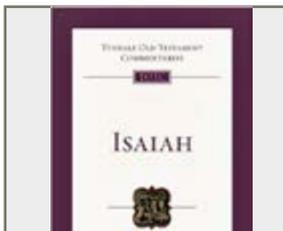
Surprising Salvation
Patston



The Message of Isaiah
Webb



Teaching Isaiah
Jackman



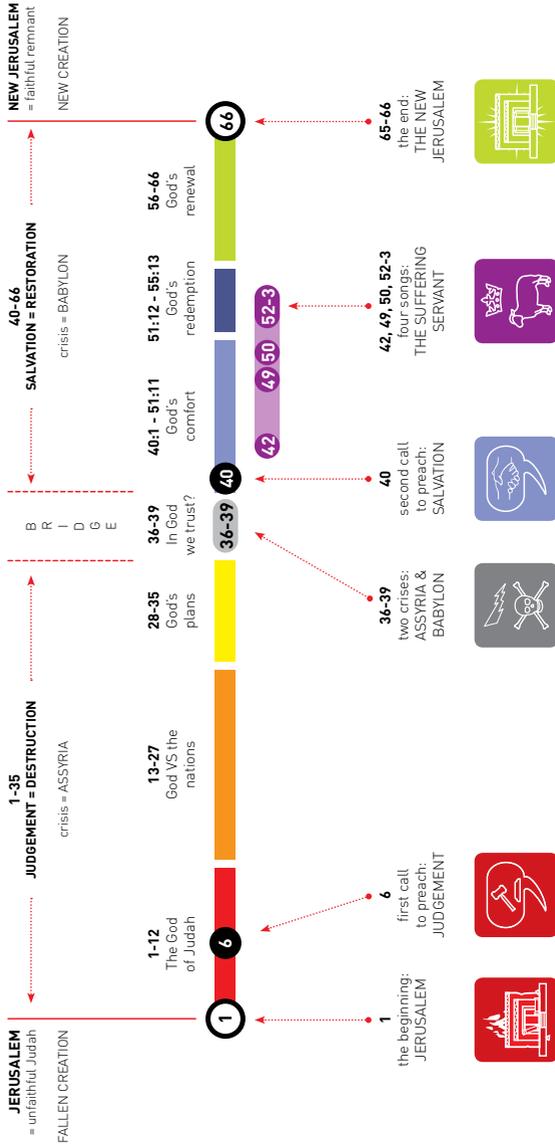
Isaiah
Moyter



'The Bible Project'
YouTube

ISAIAH OVERVIEW

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Isaiah Structure

Transformation focus	Ch.	Theme	Transformation Agent	Threat
Jerusalem	1-12	The Lord is King (Promise & threat – early years) Ch 1-5: Judah's Perilous situation Ch 6: Isaiah's call & commission Ch 7-12: Ahaz disaster & promise of Immanuel	Davidic King	Assyria
	13-27	The Lord of the nations: God's universal sovereignty affirmed		
	28-35	Human schemes & God's plans: The vanity of trusting people!		
	36-39	In whom shall we trust? Hezekiah's vindicationbut prediction of exile		
	40-48	The new exodus and universal salvation	Suffering Servant	Babylon
New Jerusalem	49-55	The servant's work of redemption		
	56-66	New creation promised 56-59: Human frailty and divine enabling 59-63: Anointed conqueror and mighty work 63-66: Ultimate fulfillment: judgement & rescue	Anointed Warrior	

“God alone is truly glorious; to seek significance anywhere else is to invite destruction. But God does not want us to destroy ourselves; rather, he wishes to impart his glory to all who will abandon their trust in themselves, accept his free grace, and commit themselves to righteous living. It is the servants of the Holy who find true glory.”

Oswalt

As we read through Isaiah, it's helpful to have the following in mind:

- 1) **Four different spheres of power and influence:** how will trusting God change the way we view each of these?
 - I. **Foreign policy** – attitudes to the surrounding nations, especially the powerful nations of the day
 - II. **National leadership** – the Kings and rulers of the day and their attitude toward God's faithfulness
 - III. **Social welfare** – how will God's people care for the poor and needy and marginalised
 - IV. **Spirituality** – what does God think of fake religion and piety?

- 2) **Three hills for reading Isaiah (and other prophets)**
 - I. **Historical fulfillment:** How was God's word through Isaiah fulfilled for people living in 8th Century BC and during the return from exile in 6th Century BC
 - II. **Christological fulfillment:** How was Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled in Jesus?
 - III. **Eschatological fulfillment:** How will Isaiah's prophecy be completely fulfilled on the last day?





Isaiah 1

Sunday 17th July

SERMON 1: Trust the God who IS

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 18th July

Song for the week:

'Great are you Lord' (by Sons and Daughters)

'God most high' (by All about Worship (feat. Michael Farren))

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?

Isaiah 1

Isaiah 2

Isaiah 3

Isaiah 4

Isaiah 5

Isaiah 6

Prayer focus for week:

God's greatness and his commitment to his unfaithful people!

What's on this week:

- **Mon 18th July:** MegaMonday (kids club) and Belonging
- **Thurs 21st July:** Playtime term 3 starts
- **Fri 22nd July:** BridgeKids & Soul term 3 starts
- **Sat 23rd July:** Women's Outreach event



Isaiah 6

Sunday 24th July

SERMON 2: Trust the God who is HOLY

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 25th July

Song for the week:

- 'Holy Holy Holy' (hymn)
- 'Holy is the Lord' (by Chris Tomlin)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 7
 - Isaiah 8
 - Isaiah 9
 - Isaiah 10
 - Isaiah 11

Prayer focus for week:

God's holiness

What's on this week:

- **Mon 25th July:** Belonging
- **Fri 29th & Sat 20th July:** Men's Katoomba Convention

Bible study 2:

ISAIAH 6

Trending:

#awesome #holy #god #king #sovereign #judgement #unworthy #grace

Big idea:

Be humbled before your holy God – you are lost without His intervention.

1. Write down two words you would instinctively use to describe God. How does this affect the way you relate to God?
2. What soundtrack would you select if 6:1-7 was made into a movie scene? How do your two words compare to the aspect of God's character in focus here?
3. What problem does God's holiness pose for Isaiah in 6:5 and for mankind generally?
4. What does God's response to Isaiah's predicament in 6:6-8 reveal about the wider solution needed for people to be restored into a relationship with God?

5. How does both the shock of judgement and the hope of 'the holy seed' in 6:9-13 relate to God's holiness?

6. John 12:41 says Isaiah 6 is describing Jesus. What difference does that make to your relationship with Jesus?

7. How does Rev 19:11-21 say God's holiness will ultimately manifest itself when all mankind come face to face with God? In what way should this shape us as a church now?

For next week:

Read Isaiah 19 & 20

Isaiah 19 & 20

Sunday 31st July

SERMON 3: Trust the God who is ALMIGHTY

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 1st August

Song for the week:

- 'God is able' (by Hillsong)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 13
 - Isaiah 14
 - Isaiah 15
 - Isaiah 16
 - Isaiah 17
 - Isaiah 18

Prayer focus for week:

God's power and might

What's on this week:

- **Mon 1st Aug:** Belonging
- **Mon 1st Aug:** Christianity Explored Starts
- **Sat 6th Aug:** Men's BaseCamp (conference)
- **Sat 6th Aug:** Paul Dale speaking at Northern Beaches Conference

Bible study 3:

ISAIAH 19 & 20

Trending:

#nations #alliances #judgement #idolatry #scandal #grace

Big idea:

Trust God alone for salvation and beware godless alliances - even the mightiest will fail & fall.

1. In what seasons and situations are we prone to trusting saviours in place of, or in addition to, God? Why is that?
2. How does God's promised treatment of Egypt in 19:1-15 warn us of the folly of making godless alliances in life? How does God treat their power, provision and wisdom?
3. Why is Egypt and Assyria's alliance in 19:16-24 significant and what does it teach us about the wise alliances to make in life?



Isaiah 26

Sunday 7th August

SERMON 4: Trust the God who JUDGES

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 8th August

Song for the week:

- 'Abide with me (Hymn)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 19
 - Isaiah 20
 - Isaiah 21
 - Isaiah 22
 - Isaiah 23
 - Isaiah 24

Prayer focus for week:

God's just judgement

What's on this week:

- **Mon 8th Aug:** Christianity Explored week 2
- **Tues 9th & Wed 10th Aug:** Prayer Meetings
- **Tues 9th & Wed 10th Aug:** Paul Dale speaking at Men's Convention in New Zealand
- **Wed 10th Aug:** Everyday English



Isaiah 35

Sunday 14th August

SERMON 5: Trust the God who RESTORES

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 15th August

Song for the week:

- 'The Lost are Found' (by Hillsong)
- 'Rejoice' (by Dunstin Kensrue)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 25
 - Isaiah 26
 - Isaiah 27
 - Isaiah 28
 - Isaiah 29
 - Isaiah 30

Prayer focus for week:

- Focus on God's restoration and renewal
- Pray for people we know who have wandered from God to return
- Rejoice in God's goodness

What's on this week:

- **Mon 15th August:** Christianity Explored Week 3
- **Tues 16th August:** Women by the Bridge: Tues Hive Groups
- **Fri 19th August:** SOUL

Bible study 5:

ISAIAH 35

Trending:

#salvation #restoration #choice #joy #strength #healing #peace #water

Big idea:

God will save and restore. Man can do nothing. So return and rejoice.

1. How would you finish this sentence; 'When life is a bit uncertain, at least I've still got..' (eg. When finances are tight? When they're making job cuts? When relationships aren't progressing as you might like? When you have a failure at work? When you meet that person who's much more successful than you and you feel threatened?)
2. What does 31:1-3 say to that? How do you think God feels about us doing this?
3. From 31:4-7, is the Lord for or against his people? Has 'that day' of vs7 arrived for you? What has it looked like for you?

Isaiah 36-39

Sunday 21st August

SERMON 6: Trust the God who REIGNS

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 22nd August

Song for the week:

- King of my heart (by Sarah McMillan)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 31
 - Isaiah 32
 - Isaiah 33
 - Isaiah 34
 - Isaiah 35
 - Isaiah 36

Prayer focus for week:

- God as King, reigning in sovereignty over His world

What's on this week:

- **Mon 22nd August:** Christianity Explored Week 4
- **Tues 23rd & Wed 24th Aug:** Staff Planning Conference
- **Sat 27th August:** OneLove Womens' conference

Bible study 6:

ISAIAH 36-39

Trending:

#godreigns #trust #victory #temptation #faith #prayer #king

Big idea:

Don't fear the taunts, God reigns. His salvation might be surprising, but will come. So pray.

1. How does the Assyrian Rabshakeh weave truth into his speech? How is this like the serpent in Genesis 3? How is it like the voices of temptation in your ear today?

2. Where do you hear the promise of 36:16-17 most? What would 'surrender' look like?

3. From 37:14-20, what does Hezekiah believe that strengthens him to stand? How can you remind yourself of these realities?

4. Which character in the story are we most like? Isaiah, the Assyrians, the citizens of Jerusalem, or King Hezekiah? Which character is Jesus most like? Why is it important not to get the characters wrong here?

5. If someone followed you around for a week, how would they answer the Rabshakeh's question for you? 'What are you relying on?'

6. What can we learn about the nature, content and power of prayer from these chapters?

For next week:

Read Isaiah 38-39



Isaiah 40

Sunday 28th August

SERMON 7: Trust the God who COMFORTS

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 29th August

Song for the week:

- 'Everlasting God' (by Chris Tomlin)
- 'I heard the voice of Jesus say' (Hymn)
- 'It is well with my soul' (Hymn)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 37
 - Isaiah 38
 - Isaiah 39
 - Isaiah 40
 - Isaiah 41
 - Isaiah 42

Prayer focus for week:

- The God who comforts his people

What's on this week:

- **Mon 29th August:** Christianity Explored Week 5
- **Mon 29th August:** PTC course begins
- **Sat 3rd September:** Womens' Teaching Morning
- **Sun 4th September:** SuperSunday

Bible study 7:

ISAIAH 40

Trending:

#comfort #relief #peace #glory #mighty #tender #hereisyourgod

Big idea:

The word of the only God is good news, that he is returning in glorious gentleness to comfort his people.

1. For context, read 39:5-6 What are Israel warned of? It will certainly happen, as a consequence of their rejection of Yahweh.
2. What could be the impact of living with a conviction that you were under the wrath of God?
3. This is a chapter about the coming of the glory of the Lord, his return to Zion after exile. What happens when Yahweh returns in glory? (vs1-2, vs10-11)

-
4. Does forgiveness bring you comfort? How does this happen? How does it change you?

 5. Do you relate to Jacob-Israel's question in vs27? What circumstances make you feel like that?

 6. This chapter is packed with reasons why we can trust God's promise to comfort us. (vs6-8, vs12-28) Which most stands out to you?

 7. In Mark 1:3 this is said to be true of Jesus, he is the Lord coming in glory. How do we see this glory in Jesus?

 8. What from this passage and from Jesus' coming in glory, is going to help you 'renew your strength, soar on wings like eagles, run and not grow weary, walk and not faint' this week?

For next week:

Read Isaiah 50:4-52:12



Isaiah 52 & 53

Sunday 4th September

Sermon 8: Trust the God who ATONES

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 5th September

Song for the week:

- 'Man of sorrows' (by Hillsong)
- 'Jesus paid it all' (Hymn)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 43
 - Isaiah 44
 - Isaiah 45
 - Isaiah 46
 - Isaiah 47
 - Isaiah 48

Prayer focus for week:

- Focus on God who atones
- Pray for people who do not yet know Christ

What's on this week:

- **Mon 5th September:** Belonging Starts
- **Mon 5th September:** Christianity Explored Week 6

Bible study 8:

ISAIAH 52 & 53

Trending:

#suffereing #servant #depsised #rejected #carried #bore #punishment

Big idea:

God sends his servant to suffer to achieve his salvation for his people.
Jesus is that servant.

1. This is the fourth of the four 'Servant Songs'.
'As David Jackman says:- "One of the most famous and well loved passages of the Bible lies before us in this final and most comprehensive of the servant songs." Why might we need a substitute?
2. How is the servant described in 52:13-15? Look at:
 - the depth of his suffering
 - his exaltation
 - the effect upon the nations
3. Work out in detail the many close parallels between 53:1-9 and life of Jesus. For example:- the form of his manifestation to the world
 - the way he was received
 - his sufferings and their meaning
 - his behaviour when he was arrested
 - the manner of his death and resurrection

4. How do verses 53:4-6 help us understand the death of Jesus?

5. What happens to us as a result of the death of the 'servant'?

6. How might the resurrection be in 53:11?

7. How are the images of victory fulfilled in Jesus?

8. How does this passage help you understand the Bible as one book/story?

9. How has this passage helped you understand Jesus and his death?

10. What difference will it make to your week knowing you have received the benefits of the work of the 'suffering servant' Jesus?

For next week:
Read Isaiah 55



Isaiah 55

Sunday 11th September

Sermon 9: Trust the God who INVITES

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 12th September

Song for the week:

- 'Come as you are' (by Passion (feat. Crowder))
- 'Come ye sinners' (by Vertical church band)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 49
 - Isaiah 50
 - Isaiah 51
 - Isaiah 52
 - Isaiah 53
 - Isaiah 54

Prayer focus for week:

- Focus on God who invites people
- Pray for those you know and love who do not yet know Jesus

What's on this week:

- **Mon 12th September:** Belonging Week 2

Bible study 9:

ISAIAH 55

Trending:

#come #seek #grace #everlastingcovenant #compassion #joy

Big idea:

Open invitation from God to the whole world to come to him and be satisfied and know where you are going.

1. What is your greatest hope for the future? How certain is that hope?
2. Why is the appeal in verse 1 so compelling in light of what has been said in the previous chapter we have studied?
3. What is God promising in verses 3-5?
4. How is this promise fulfilled in the work of the servant?
5. From verses 6-7 what is the evidence of a true response to God's salvation?

6. What are the areas of encouragement in verses 12-13?

7. How would have these promises given hope to Israel who were out of the land God had promised them?

8. What should we long for in this life in light of this passage?

9. What do we long for instead of what God promises?

10. How is verse 8 a corrective to our thinking?

For next week:

Read Isaiah 58



Isaiah 58

Sunday 18th September

Sermon 10: Trust the God who KNOWS

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 19th September

Song for the week:

- 'It is finished' (by Mars Hill)
- Cornerstone (by Hillsong)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 55
 - Isaiah 56
 - Isaiah 57
 - Isaiah 58
 - Isaiah 59
 - Isaiah 60

Prayer focus for week:

- Focus on God who knows our false religion & delights in relationships
- Repent of times we slip into religious works

What's on this week:

- **Mon 19th September:** Belonging Week 3
- **Thurs 22nd September:** Men's Outreach Event with Al Stewart speaking

Bible study 10:

ISAIAH 58

Trending:

#religion #hypocrisy #delight #promise

Big idea:

God hates religion and appearance of righteousness but delights in dependence. God draws near to those who draw near to him.

Doing religious activity is not necessarily equal to a genuine expression of our relationship with God.

1. How would you define Isaiah 58:2 'religion?'
2. God, through Isaiah, is addressing his people. What does he say about them?
3. What is their sin?
4. What does Israel want to get out of God through their religious activity? See v.3
5. What is God's response? See vv.4-5

6. How is relationship with God genuinely expressed?

7. What promises of spiritual blessing does God give to those who are properly relating to Him and others?

8. What Christian activity do we do that could be done with a 'religious' attitude?

9. How can we avoid the danger of letting Christian activities turn into 'religious' activity?

10. Discuss what it means to 'find joy in the Lord.'

For next week:

Read Isaiah 65-66



Isaiah 65 & 66

Sunday 25th September

Sermon 11: Trust the God who GIVES HOPE

WEEK BEGINNING

Monday 26th September

Song for the week:

- 'Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken' (Hymn)
- 'You hold me now' (by Hillsong)

Bible readings: 5 basic questions to ask each day

- What do we learn about God?
- What do we learn about God's people living in this world?
- What do we learn about Jesus?
- What is God saying to me today?
- What should I pray?
 - Isaiah 61
 - Isaiah 62
 - Isaiah 63
 - Isaiah 64
 - Isaiah 65
 - Isaiah 66

Prayer focus for week:

- Focus on God who will recreate the heavens & earth
- All the things we hope for in eternity

Bible study 11:

ISAIAH 65 & 66

Trending:

#newheaven #newearth #nocrying #joy #blessed

Big idea:

God's hope for the whole world. No room for rebels anymore, they're squeezed out!

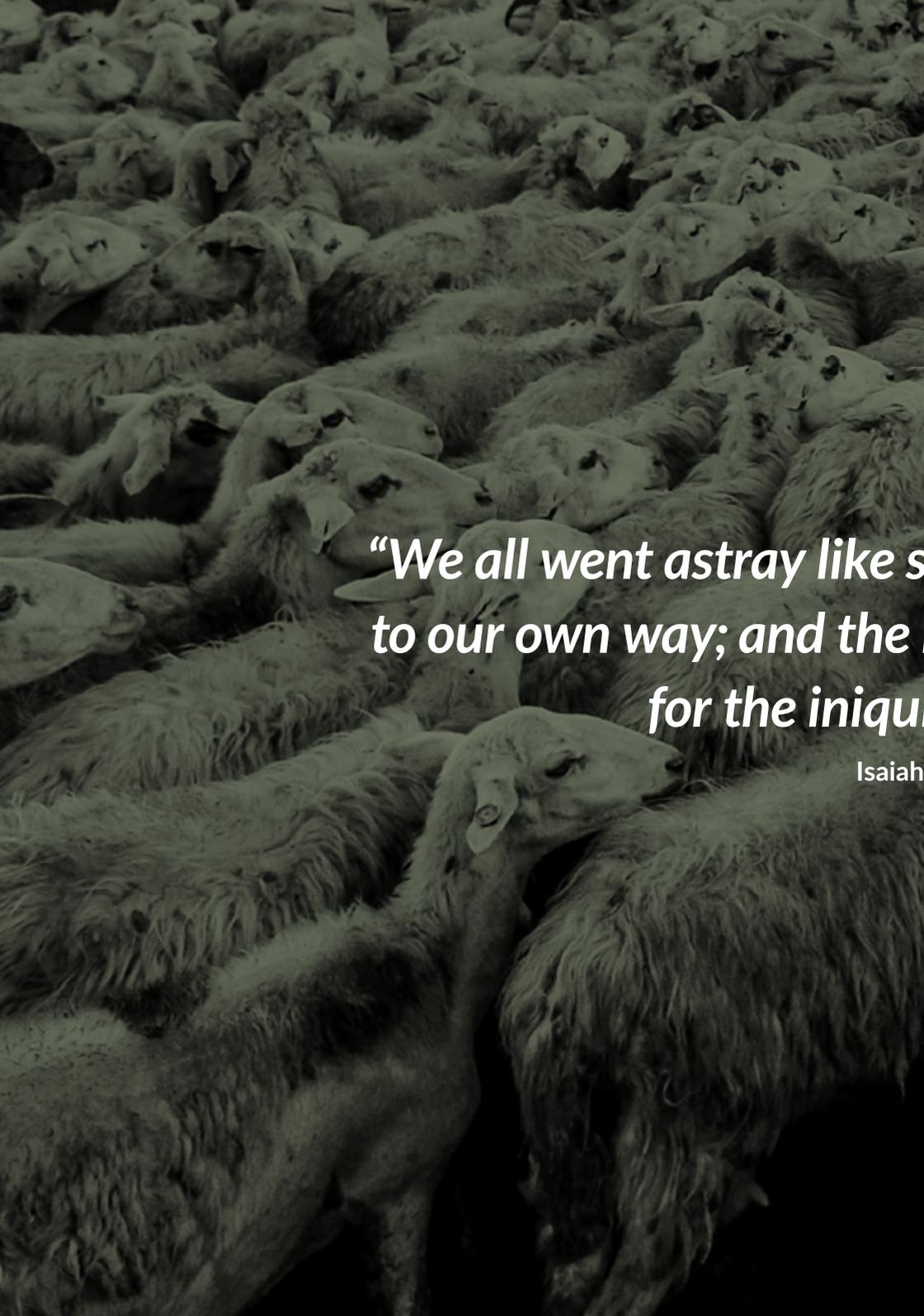
1. Read Isaiah 65:1-25
2. This first verse is in response to the prayer from Isaiah 64. What is God's response? What has he been doing?
3. What does the people's lack of response show?
4. What are the details of Israel's rejection of God in verses 3-5?
5. How will God respond according to verses 6-7?
6. How will God give them a way forward with Him?

7. What are the parts of the future that are brought out in verses 21-25?

8. Think over what you have learnt from Isaiah 56-66. What have been the particular lessons? What specifically have you learnt or been reminded about God?

9. How has what you have learned about God changed the way you think about life?

10. How will what you have learned make a difference to how you live each day?

A high-angle, close-up photograph of a massive flock of sheep. The sheep are packed closely together, filling the entire frame. Their heads are turned in various directions, some looking towards the camera, others looking away. The wool is thick and textured, creating a complex pattern of light and shadow. The overall tone is somewhat somber and monochromatic, with a dark, muted color palette.

*“We all went astray like sheep,
to our own way; and the Lord
has forsaken us because
for the iniquity of our fathers.”*

Isaiah

*sheep; we all have turned
LORD has punished Him
ity of us all.”*

53:6

LIVING
for Jesus
LOVING
like JESUS