

Women's Bible Study

Fall 2020: Isaiah

Suggested Abbreviated Reading Plan for Tuesday, October 13th

"The pattern of judgment followed by promise oracles is basic to the book of Isaiah. Consistent with this pattern, Isaiah 28-35 offers a collection of, essentially, judgment oracles against Judah in chaps. 28-32, followed by a liturgical condemnation of Assyria in Isaiah 33, and then oracles of promise in chaps. 34-35." (*HarperCollins Bible Commentary*)

The full reading assignment for this week is Isaiah 28-35 and Week 6 in the workbook.

Following is a suggested reading plan for those who would like a briefer, more focused reading assignment.

1. Read the two short paragraphs on p. 43 in the workbook ("The Place of the Passage" and "The Big Picture").
2. Skip to p. 47, and read through the "Gospel Glimpses," "Whole Bible Connections," and "Theological Soundings" sections to get a sense for the major themes of these chapters.
3. Read **Isaiah 28:14-18**, and answer the second question on p. 44 ("Review Isaiah 28:14-16 closely...").
4. Read **Isaiah 29:13-14** and **Matthew 15:8-9**, and answer the first full question on p. 45 ("The people of Jerusalem...").
5. Read **Isaiah 30:1-18**, and answer just the first part of the next question on p. 45: "The stubbornness of Israel described in Isaiah 30:1-17 brings an unexpected response: 'Therefore the Lord waits to be gracious to you' (Isa. 30:18). What does this tell us about God's character?"
6. Read **Isaiah ch. 32**. To consider: "The women of Isaiah's day were 'complacent' (32:9). They felt secure in the apparent peace that followed Sennacherib's retreat. But Isaiah promised that peace (wholeness, well-being, health, prosperity) was going to be impossible for a long time (see 32:9-14). What was going to have to change in the people's lives for true peace to be possible (see 32:15-17)? Why is righteousness a prerequisite for peace and confidence (see 32:17)?" (from NavPress *Isaiah LifeChange Study*)
7. Read **Isaiah 35:1-6** and **Matthew 11:2-6**, and answer the question at the bottom of p. 46 ("Jesus alludes to Isaiah 35:5-6...").
8. **Optional:** After you've completed items 1-7, if you'd like, you can go back and read the full assignment from Isaiah (chapters 28-35) and answer the remaining questions in the workbook.

9. **Optional:** Spend some time praying with Isaiah 33:

- “Lord, be gracious to us; we long for you.” (v. 2a)
 - *Begin by asking God to be gracious to you in this time of prayer. Tell God that you long for Him, to know Him and to feel His presence.*
- “Be our strength every morning, our salvation in time of distress.” (v. 2b).
 - *Ask God to help you trust Him alone to be your strength for today and your salvation in time of distress and trouble. Speak to God about any distress or trouble you are facing today.*
- “The Lord is exalted, for he dwells on high; he will fill Zion with his justice and righteousness.” (v. 5).
 - *Thank God for His promise to fill us with His justice and righteousness. Ask the Lord to show you how you can partner with Him in his work of filling the world with justice and righteousness.*
- “He will be the sure foundation for your times, a rich store of salvation and wisdom and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is the key to this treasure.” (v. 6)
 - *Thank God for all the ways He has been a sure foundation for you. Thank the Lord for the gifts of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge He has shared with you.*
- “Those who walk righteously and speak what is right, who reject gain from extortion and keep their hands from accepting bribes, who stop their ears against plots of murder and shut their eyes against contemplating evil...” (v. 15).
 - *Ask God to reveal to you any areas of unrighteousness in your own life, and to help you to uproot these.*
- “For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; it is he who will save us...the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven” (v. 22).
 - *Thank God for the gift of forgiveness He has offered us in Jesus. Thank Him for being our judge, lawgiver, king, and savior.*