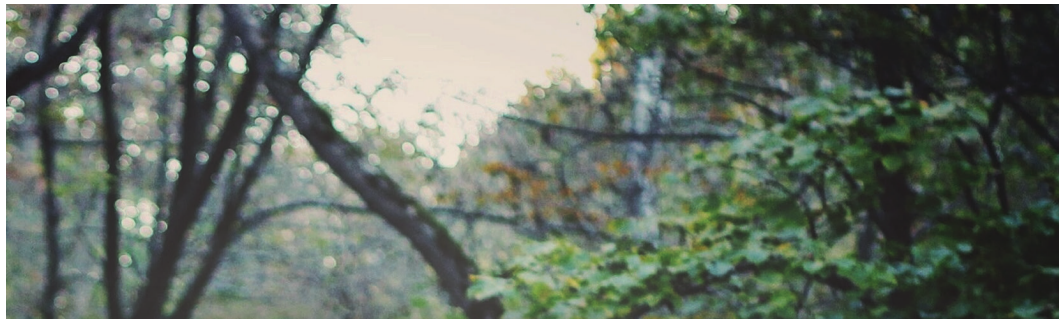




SOUTHLAND CHURCH

THE BOOK OF
ISAIAH
Part Two

17 Day Devotional



foundations
daily devotional

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ISAIAH
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SOUTHLAND
CHURCH

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Versions of scripture quotations are noted.

DAY 1**INTRODUCTION**

Here's a review of the book of Isaiah from the previous edition of Foundations:

Isaiah is one of the most verified books in the Old Testament. When the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1948, the book of Isaiah was among the newfound documents, dating back to 100 BC.

This was a thousand years older than the next copy, dated at 900 AD. At the time the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, translators were working on the Revised Standard Version, but stopped their efforts in order to confirm that what they were translating matched up to the newfound documents. Very little needed to be changed with the new discovery, and this should be of great comfort to us as believers.

We are living in an era in which the authority of the Bible is being challenged; often referred as a work of fiction; a book that was simply written by humans, with no divine counselling.

In regards to the book of Isaiah, skeptics believe that because the details and events listed within Isaiah are so precise, someone other than Isaiah himself must have written the book. They believe that Isaiah had no way of knowing Babylon would be defeated by a man named Cyrus, because that event took place 100 years *after* Isaiah died.

They would be correct in making that assumption, unless of course he truly was a man who heard from an all-wise and all-knowing God. Reading through Isaiah, we see that Isaiah never claims to be speaking on his own behalf, but rather he has been sent from the "Holy One of Israel"—Yahweh Himself.

God gave Isaiah a multitude of different prophecies and messages that varied in form. In fact, since his topics and writing style vary so much, scholars have divided the book of Isaiah into two very distinct parts: Part 1 and Part 2.

As stated in the previous edition of Isaiah, we know that the entire Bible is inspired by God, however, the chapter and verse divisions within are *not* (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16). Chapters and verses were given for *our* benefit; to make finding specific sections of the Bible easier. Even though the division of chapters was not inspired by God, whomever split up the book of Isaiah did so in a very unique way, dividing the 66 chapters of Isaiah into two distinct parts: Part one—consisting of 39 chapters, and part two—consisting of 27 chapters.

If you remember correctly, the Bible has 66 books in total: 39 in the Old Testament, and 27 in the New Testament. What makes this even *more* interesting is that the first 39 chapters of Isaiah are a summary of the Old Testament, and the last 27 chapters are a summary of the New Testament. The book of Isaiah is literally a mini summarized version of the Bible!

This edition of Foundations will focus on the second part of Isaiah, picking up where the first edition of Isaiah left off. Part two of Isaiah is considered to be the "new testament," starting off almost word for word as most of the gospels, Mark in particular:

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." – Isaiah 40:3-5 ESV



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Read: Isaiah 40:1-5, Matthew 3:1-3, Mark 1:1-3, Luke 3:1-6, John 1:6-25
2. There is a clear connection between the Old Testament, and the New Testament—you cannot have one without the other. Both Jesus and His apostles quoted the Old Testament regularly, Isaiah being quoted the most frequent.¹
3. In your journal, start two separate lists: One labelled Old Testament, and one labelled New Testament. Under each heading, write down as many items as you can as to why you are thankful specifically for that testament. For example:
Old Testament
 -Account of creation...
 -Fact made known that humans are made in the image of God
New Testament
 -Birth of Jesus
 -Beginning of early church
4. After you have composed your list, review each of your points, and journal why each item is meaningful to you. End your devotional time with thanksgiving for the Word of God.

DAY 2



READ: Isaiah 40:3-5

This particular prophecy is about John the Baptist, and both he (John) and Jesus made that fact known:

¹⁹ *And this is the testimony of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” ... He [John] said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”* – John 1:19-23 ESV

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? ⁸ What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. ⁹ What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is he of whom it is written, “Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.” – Matthew 11:7-10 ESV

Could you imagine being John the Baptist? Besides Jesus, Mary, and John, there was no one else walking around with prophecies recorded in scripture about them! John would have had very accurate knowledge of what the scriptures said because his father, Zechariah, was a high priest and would have had access to the temple and the scriptures inside. Talk about bragging rights for Zechariah! “Oh your kid made the honour roll? That’s cute. Mine is mentioned in the scriptures...”

Okay, so maybe he would have gone about proclaiming that fact a little differently, but in Jewish culture, the Son was to bring great honour to his Father, and this definitely would have brought great honour to John’s household.

¹ Pawson, David., and Andy Peck. *Unlocking the Bible: A Unique Overview of the Whole Bible*. Great Britain: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2003. Print.

However, John didn't sit around and do nothing while he waited for his big debut—there was *much* sowing involved before John could reap, if you can even consider his earthly ministry a full reaping, especially considering that his message of repentance eventually resulted in his imprisonment and his death. John spent many of his years away from the spotlight, cultivating a deep relationship with God. He most likely would have been a disciple of his own father, studying and memorizing the scriptures in great detail. We know from scripture that John knew the signs of the time (Mt. 3:2), he prophesied (Mt. 3:11) fasted regularly (Mt. 9:14), and was highly favoured with God (Mt. 11:11). All these points combined make for a solid argument that John was one who truly knew and walked with the Lord, and therefore, would have had a solid foundation for knowing who He was in Yahweh.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Read all of John 1:19-23 (the above verse is just paraphrased), writing down anything that you notice.
2. John *knew* his identity. When the different questions were posed to him, John was able to answer, “I am...” You may not be John the Baptist, but that fact does not free you from the responsibility of knowing who you are in Christ. If someone asked you, “Who are you?” would you be able to answer?
3. Take some time and meditate on the question “who are you?” Or rather—“who am I?” How do you answer that question? Do you answer according to your accomplishments or the various ‘hats’ you wear?
4. Write out an identity statement of who you are. After you are done, pray over your declaration, and ask God if your identity statement matches the one He has for you. If you feel like you don't know your identity, pray and ask God to reveal to you, who He made you to be in Him.
5. If you prayed the previous prayer, make a note reminding yourself to pray this prayer often. Knowing who we are in Christ is a crucial element of Christian life.

DAY 3



READ: Isaiah 40:9-31

²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. – Isaiah 40:28-31 ESV

This chapter paints a beautiful and powerful image of who our God is. Right now you could be facing a mountain, climbing a mountain, or rejoicing on top of a mountain, and still this chapter would be applicable to you. You could be stuck in a pit of despair, feeling completely hopeless, and this chapter can bring you hope. You could be in either a season of rest or of weariness, and still this chapter can bring you comfort. Whatever your season may be, this chapter is a declaration of who our God is, and what He can accomplish.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. What kind of picture does Isaiah 40 paint of God? What are some character traits or descriptions that stand out to you? Write down as many as you can, praying that the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to anything you may have missed about Him.
3. Once you have completed your list, pick one trait that you need a personal revelation from God on. For example, if you picked 'protector' based off of Isaiah 40:11, yet you don't believe that of God, that may be the trait you should pray about.
4. Spend some time in prayer, asking God to continuously reveal His character to you as you pursue Him.

DAY 4



READ: Isaiah 41

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. – Isaiah 41:10

Yesterday you read and meditated on the character of God, which was the perfect prelude to today's daily reading, because today, you will meditate on why we need not fear, for He is always with us. After yesterday's devotional, hopefully you will have better insight into the character of God, and therefore will be one step closer to fully trusting in Him.

Isaiah 41 is a very intimate chapter in which God speaks tenderly to His people. The word "you" appears over 20 times, often found in phrases of affirmation, such as: "I have chosen you," "fear not, for I am with you," "I will strengthen you," and "I will help you (41:9, 10 ESV)."

The first section of Isaiah 41 consists of God declaring who He is to His people, and all that He can do, and why they should put their trust in Him (41:1-20). The second half speaks of the futility of putting ones trust into idols (40:21-29).

As was stated in the earlier edition of Isaiah Pt. 1, there are various things, items and people we can put our trust into (which is idolatry), but we ought not to! We are not to put our trust in man, nor in a manmade image! Not in government, not in our bosses, not in a good report, not in anyone! (Note that there is a big difference between trusting someone, and putting your trust *in* someone). We are told only to put our trust in one Being – God.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart..." – Proverbs 3:5 (ESV)

"It is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in humans." - Psalm 118:8 (NIV)

"Do not put your trust in princes, in human beings, who cannot save." – Psalm 146:3 (NIV)

"Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion." – Micah 7:5 (NKJV)

Can an idol truly protect? Can a human really guarantee anything for certain? This isn't referring to a parent saying "I love you," that is not the guarantee in question. Rather, can a parent say to their child "I will never leave you?" No, for our lives are not within our control! One minute we are here, and the next minute we could be gone. God alone is the only one who can say "I will never leave you," and He does, because He alone knows all things. This is why we can fully trust Him!



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Re-read all of Isaiah 41, and ask God to strengthen you with a word of encouragement for today, through one of the various 'you' passages.
3. In regards to yesterday's prayer time, continue to ask God to reveal more of His character to you. However, before you begin, ask Him if there is anything in the way (such as an idol) that you need to confess and repent of.

DAY 5



READ: Isaiah 42 & 43

A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench...

- Isaiah 42:3 a

Here's an excerpt from the Isaiah Pt. 1 devotional:

As you go through this booklet, be mindful about keeping an open heart to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Prayerfully ask Him to teach you things that may not be highlighted. Devotional booklets are a great tool, but remember that they are only to assist you to grow closer to Jesus. Those of us who write Foundations are merely His servants who write on His behalf, but He is the eternal Teacher and if He wants to take you on a different direction than the one laid out for you, let Him! Even though there may be highlighted themes and verses, be ready and willing for God to speak to your heart about something else not mentioned. Perhaps He chooses to highlight a different verse or theme in your spirit. He alone knows the condition of your heart and what you need at this exact moment of time.

This is a really good reminder for today's devotional. The challenge with the book of Isaiah (which is a *good* problem to have) is that there are so many different directions in which one could go in in regards to scripture! This is why the first question is typically the same each day, so that if there is a different verse that you want to focus on, you can.

Today's passage is short; but one which will hopefully bring comfort to your life.

Consider a young woman who became a Christian several years ago. Her view of male authority figures was greatly distorted, which translated into her view of God and her relationship with Him. She was *very* afraid of Him. Terrified.

She was afraid of His voice, which is why when she tried to do listening prayer, she often heard condemning thoughts. She was also afraid of His hand, which she thought was harsh, and quick to inflict punishment. During one session of inner healing, the Lord brought an image to her mind of her as a young child. In the image, The Lord lifted his hand, and she flinched away from it – just like someone who has been physically abused would.

Now, she had not physically abused as a child. However, her image of God was so distorted, that she was *that* terrified of Him—that she would flinch whenever He would draw near.

In order to correct that false image she had of Him, God was very gentle with her. This particular passage from Isaiah was one that He would whisper to her again and again about Himself:

"...a bruised reed I will not break..."

He knew her heart was bruised, and He was not going to inflict on her any more damaging pain. He was gentle, loving, tender and kind towards her. He was patient and delicate; everything that she was *not* expecting!

This is the God we serve!



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Reflecting over your walk as a believer, what are some of the ways that God has corrected the false views you have had of Him? How did He do this?
3. Ask God if there are any false views of Him that He currently wants to correct, and ask Him how He will do this. Ask Him if there is a part that you need to play.
4. Close today's devotional time by reading Matthew 12:15-21, and then finish off with praise and thanksgiving for the goodness of God.

DAY 6



READ: Isaiah 44

¹² *The ironsmith takes a cutting tool and works it over the coals. He fashions it with hammers and works it with his strong arm. He becomes hungry, and his strength fails; he drinks no water and is faint.* ¹³ *The carpenter stretches a line; he marks it out with a pencil. He shapes it with planes and marks it with a compass. He shapes it into the figure of a man, with the beauty of a man, to dwell in a house.* ¹⁴ *He cuts down cedars, or he chooses a cypress tree or an oak and lets it grow strong among the trees of the forest. He plants a cedar and the rain nourishes it.* ¹⁵ *Then it becomes fuel for a man. He takes a part of it and warms himself; he kindles a fire and bakes bread. Also he makes a god and worships it; he makes it an idol and falls down before it.* ¹⁶ *Half of it he burns in the fire. Over the half he eats meat; he roasts it and is satisfied. Also he warms himself and says, "Aha, I am warm, I have seen the fire!"* ¹⁷ *And the rest of it he makes into a god, his idol, and falls down to it and worships it. He prays to it and says, "Deliver me, for you are my god!"*

¹⁸ *They know not, nor do they discern, for he has shut their eyes, so that they cannot see, and their hearts, so that they cannot understand.* ¹⁹ *No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"* ²⁰ *He feeds on ashes; a deluded heart has led him astray, and he cannot deliver himself or say, "Is there not a lie in my right hand?"* – Isaiah 44:12-20 ESV

Don't these passages of scripture just scream "IRONY?" Verse by verse and word by word, we are taken through the various steps that one has to go through to *create their own god*. Take a look at the NLT:

The blacksmith stands at his forge to make a sharp tool, pounding and shaping it with all his might. His work makes him hungry and weak. It makes him thirsty and faint. ¹³ *Then the wood carver measures a block of wood and draws a pattern on it. He works with chisel*

and plane and carves it into a human figure. He gives it human beauty and puts it in a little shrine. ¹⁴ He cuts down cedars; he selects the cypress and the oak; he plants the pine in the forest to be nourished by the rain. ¹⁵ Then he uses part of the wood to make a fire. With it he warms himself and bakes his bread. Then—yes, it's true—he takes the rest of it and makes himself a god to worship! He makes an idol and bows down in front of it! ¹⁶ He burns part of the tree to roast his meat and to keep himself warm. He says, "Ah, that fire feels good." ¹⁷ Then he takes what's left and makes his god: a carved idol! He falls down in front of it, worshiping and praying to it. "Rescue me!" he says. "You are my god!"

¹⁸ Such stupidity and ignorance! Their eyes are closed, and they cannot see. Their minds are shut, and they cannot think. ¹⁹ The person who made the idol never stops to reflect, "Why, it's just a block of wood! I burned half of it for heat and used it to bake my bread and roast my meat. How can the rest of it be a god? Should I bow down to worship a piece of wood?"

²⁰ The poor, deluded fool feeds on ashes. He trusts something that can't help him at all. Yet he cannot bring himself to ask, "Is this idol that I'm holding in my hand a lie?" — Isaiah 44:12-20 NLT

The NLT version seems to bring across the foolishness of this idea even more. How can only one part of this tree be considered "sacred?" Or better yet, how can only the part of tree that was *crafted by human hands* be considered sacred?

But such is the foolishness of idolatry.

There are many temples and religious sites around the world that are dedicated to, or supposed to represent or hold the god or goddess themselves. These are man-made images, idols and buildings. There was a messy construction period for many of these great gods and goddesses!

Of course many are blinded by the foolishness of this, and I'm sure that there are many elaborate explanations as to why those religions worship in the way they do. To them, it makes sense.

This is where Christianity differs from other religions. The Church building does not hold any image within itself that we are supposed to worship. We do not worship the cross, the Ten Commandments, communion or any other religious symbol we use to depict aspects of our faith.

We worship God Himself, who dwells in us and *is alive*.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Today's prayer time is going to be spent in intercession for others who are under the bondage of their religion; serving a god who is neither alive nor useful for anything. Start by asking the Father for His heart for those who are in bondage to false gods and goddesses, those who worship the created rather than the Creator. Ask Him for His Spirit to guide you through today's time of intercession.
3. Pray that God will reveal Himself to those who don't know that He is the real God, for those who believe that their god is the true god.

DAY 7**READ:** Isaiah 45-47

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ²“I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, ³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other.” – Isaiah 45:1-6 ESV

The last major historical event in the Old Testament is the return of the Babylonian exiles to Israel under the Persian ruler, Cyrus the Great. Unlike the Babylonians, who had destroyed the temple in Jerusalem and sent the Jews into exile, Cyrus had an enlightened policy of allowing exiled peoples to return to their homelands and worship their gods as they pleased. After conquering Babylon in 539 BC, Cyrus issued decrees allowing the Jews to return and rebuild the city and temple. Over 42,000 returned with Zerubbabel to rebuild the temple (Ezra 1-6). More followed with Ezra (Ezra 7-9), and Nehemiah later returned to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1-6; c.445 BC).²

This is the very Cyrus about whom the Lord prophesied through Isaiah.

Facts like this are some of the core reasons why skeptics doubt the reliability of the book of Isaiah. The prophecies are too precise, and therefore must have been written *after* the fact. Isaiah could not possibly know that Babylon would be defeated by a man named Cyrus, especially because that event took place 100 years *after* Isaiah died³. But as stated in the introduction, they would be correct in making that assumption, unless of course Isaiah truly was a man who heard from an all-wise and all-knowing God. Isaiah never claims to be speaking on his own behalf, but rather, he has been sent from the “Holy One of Israel” — Yahweh Himself.

This is the God whom we serve: an all-knowing, all-wise God, and this is just one reason that we can trust the infallibility of the Bible (infallible means ‘absolutely trustworthy or sure’⁴). Recently I met a Christian theologian who is adamant about the fact that the Bible is *not* authoritative, that it is nothing more than black words on white paper. This theologian still believes that this is an account of the word of God, but that the book itself is not authoritative, holding to the fact that God alone is authoritative, not a book. He even argues that the Bible should *not* be described as inerrant⁵ or infallible, because we have no record of the original written accounts by any of the Old Testament writers.

This is something that we are going to see more and more in the church as we progress closer to the return of Christ. As Christians, we feel a lot safer if only the atheists are adamantly arguing against the authority of the Bible, but when it’s fellow Christians our world gets rocked. If the Bible is not the written authoritative account of the word of God, what sets the Bible apart from other “sacred” written works, like Koran?

² Strauss, Mark L. *Four Portraits, One Jesus: A Survey of Jesus and the Gospels*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan. 2007 Print.

³ Pawson, David., and Andy Peck. *Unlocking the Bible: A Unique Overview of the Whole Bible*. Great Britain: HarperCollinsPublishers, 2003. Print.

⁴ as defined by www.dictionary.com

⁵ Inerrant: free from error; infallible – www.dictionary.com

As believers, we can know that Yahweh alone has provided mankind with the only written account that holds any authority, the Bible.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Today's prayer time will focus around the Word of God. Start by asking God for a revelation of how He *personally* feels about His Word; the Bible. He may bring to mind a verse, a song lyric or a picture. Journal whatever He reveals to you.
3. Spend some time in journaling your journey with the written Word. Ask the Lord to bring to mind specific times where you encountered Him powerfully through the word. Are there any verses that are your favourite based on previous or current circumstances?
4. Read and meditate on the following verses: Hebrews 4:12, and Psalm 119:105
5. Finish off by thanking God for His word that He has provided us with.

DAY 8



READ: Isaiah 48 & 49

He made my mouth like a sharpened sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me into a polished arrow and concealed me in his quiver. He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor." But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, And my reward is with my God. Isaiah 49:2-4 (NIV)

The coolest part in this section of verses is that we get a glimpse into a conversation between God the Father and Jesus the Son.

First, God speaking to the Son: *He said to me, "You are my servant, Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."*

The Father's words, like a commissioning and commendation are essentially God saying to Jesus, you will be my hands and feet, carrying out my plan on the ground, in the front line where all will see and hear and no longer be able to deny that I Am God.

Secondly, Jesus' response: *But I said, "I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing. Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God"* Isaiah 49:4 (NIV)

It may initially be startling to hear Jesus' words, *"I have labored to no purpose; I have spent my strength in vain and for nothing."* But when the big picture, the all-knowing

vantage point is taken into account, it is of little wonder that Jesus would be deeply saddened by the task at hand. Humanity was and continues to be in a dark place; that cannot be argued. I would question the state of anyone's compassion if you were able to turn on the television, watch the news, and not find your heart in your throat at the hopelessness of what you see and hear.

It's understandable that Jesus would feel this burden too. Jesus loves each man, woman and child as His own, because we are His. Yet when He came to us, took on flesh, we rejected Him. His task was and is to be the Saviour of the world, yet the world doesn't want Him, and in our rejection there is persistent anguish.

This is cause for great sadness because the Father's heart doesn't want to see any of His children led astray.

But praise the Lord that He is faithful to His plan.

After Jesus expresses His pain for the lost and that there are still too many to count who refuse to follow Him, He shows us why He is the Saviour, why God chose Him, His Son, to redeem us.

"Yet what is due me is in the Lord's hand, and my reward is with my God." Isaiah 49:4b (NIV) This is the ultimate example of obedience to the Father, the ultimate answer to God's request, the ultimate praise for the Father as Jesus refers to Him (the Father) as His (Jesus') reward!

But their conversation isn't complete. Jesus explains what He's been told, that He will be birthed into humanity (formed me in the womb) and what His ultimate purpose is in further detail (to bring back to the Father Jacob and the nation of Israel). This is all shared with us in advance as we watch and hear the praises Jesus has for the Father and vice versa.

And now the Lord says-

*he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him and gather Israel
to himself, for I am honored in the eyes of the
Lord and my God has been my strength-* Isaiah
49:5(NIV)

But wait, God is not done by simply making His point with the chosen people, Israel, whom He wants to gather again to Himself. No! God's plan, His Promise, is greater, more expansive, and unquestionably focused on the whole of humanity as their conversation continues and He reveals His purpose for His Son.

He says:

*"It is too small a thing for you to be my
servant To restore the tribes of Jacob and
bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will
also make you a light for the Gentiles, That
you may bring my salvation to the ends of the
earth."* Isaiah 49:6-7 (NIV)

"That you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

This is what the Lord says-

The Redeemer and Holy One of Israel-

to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation, to the servant of rulers; “Kings will see you and rise up, princes will see you and bow down,

Because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

How great is our God? God, the Holy One of Israel has chosen Jesus, His Son, that every knee will bow, even those of kings and princes, to the Holy One, the Redeemer. Even though He was despised and abhorred by the people, Jesus was faithful, completing His task in glorious splendour⁶.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Thank God for this example - the conversation between God and Jesus - for how we too can be honest with Him when we pray and spend time with Him.
3. Confess any unwillingness you have to surrender to God. Confess too, any feelings of setting God aside and allowing a rebellious spirit to lead you instead.
4. How encouraging to know that Jesus, as a man, felt the task given to Him by the Father was too great. It can put into perspective our weak hearts and wills and give us the boost we need when we feel we can't go on. Meditate on and praise Jesus because He, the ultimate example of obedience, needed the Father just like us!

DAY 9



READ: Isaiah 50 - 52:12

“Why, when I came, was there no man; why, when I called, was there no one to answer? Is my hand shortened, that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Behold, by my rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a desert; their fish stink for lack of water and die of thirst.” – Isaiah 50:2 ESV

Do you truly believe that God is capable of doing all He says can do, and do you believe He is who He says He is? If you do, why would you *not* respond if He called?

This passage of scripture should give us a firm foundation for the fact that not only *can* our God redeem and deliver those in bondage, but that He also *desires* to redeem and deliver—particularly in the area of saving those who are lost and in deep bondage.

Praying for the salvation of an unsaved loved one can be an emotional and exhausting journey. Especially if you are praying for more than one person, and the majority of them are dead set in their ways; blatantly choosing to reject God's free gift of forgiveness and salvation from sin and eternal separation from God.

Additionally, praying for freedom from an area of bondage can be equally disheartening, especially if you have been praying for years and there appears to be no victory.

In today's prayer time, we will be focusing on areas of our hearts where we lack faith in God, and have therefore quit persevering in prayer.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Have you ever quit praying for something or someone because the whole situation just seemed absolutely hopeless or impossible? If you already have a situation come to mind, write that down. If not, ask God to bring an area to mind that you don't realize that you have given up on. This could even be something from ten or more years ago.
3. After God has brought an area to mind, ask Him to show you exactly what it was about that situation that made you feel so hopeless, or what about that situation made you believe victory wasn't possible?
4. Spend some time in confession and ask God to speak to you about this specific area. He may want to bring healing, or want to encourage you to return to this abandoned prayer request, or maybe something entirely different.
5. Finish off today's devotional time in thanksgiving for all that God is, and all He has done for you!

DAY 10



READ: Isaiah 52:13-53

He Was Pierced for Our Transgressions

¹³ Behold, my servant shall act wisely;
he shall be high and lifted up,
and shall be exalted.

¹⁴ As many were astonished at you—
his appearance was so marred, beyond human semblance,
and his form beyond that of the children of mankind—

¹⁵ so shall he sprinkle ^[b] many nations;
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;
for that which has not been told them they see,
and that which they have not heard they understand.

53 Who has believed what he has heard from us?
And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For he grew up before him like a young plant,
and like a root out of dry ground;
he had no form or majesty that we should look at him,
and no beauty that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by men;
a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces
he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

⁴ Surely he has borne our griefs
and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken,
smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions;

*he was crushed for our iniquities;
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with his wounds we are healed.*

⁶*All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have turned—every one—to his own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.*

⁷*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he opened not his mouth;
like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he opened not his mouth.*

⁸*By oppression and judgment he was taken away;
and as for his generation, who considered
that he was cut off out of the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people?*

⁹*And they made his grave with the wicked
and with a rich man in his death,
although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.*

¹⁰*Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him;
he has put him to grief;
when his soul makes^[j] an offering for guilt,
he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days;
the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.*

¹¹*Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied;
by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant,
make many to be accounted righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.*

¹²*Therefore I will divide him a portion with the many,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong,
because he poured out his soul to death
and was numbered with the transgressors;
yet he bore the sin of many,
and makes intercession for the transgressors. — Isaiah 52:13-53:12*

What can you say about a passage of scripture like this? Very little.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Go through reading of scripture again in a spirit of worship. This gives us great insight into what Jesus all went through leading up to, and while He was on the cross. Today for your devotional time, enter a time of praise and worship. If you can, put on some of your favourite worship music and sing along!

DAY 11**READ:** Isaiah 54 & 55

⁸ *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.”* – Isaiah 55:8-9 ESV

How often do we receive a word in prayer and think that God is promising or saying something specific to us? So we wait, and wait, and wait, and wait... and that doesn't happen! But then we find out days, weeks, months, or even years down the road, that He was speaking of something else, and we were the one on a completely different page! This has happened so many times to me, I've almost lost count.

This is part of being human! And even the disciples were human. There's actually an account of something similar happening to the disciples at the end of the book of John:

¹⁸ *“I tell you the truth, when you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go.”* ¹⁹ *Jesus said this to let him know by what kind of death he would glorify God. Then Jesus told him, “Follow me.”*

²⁰ *Peter turned around and saw behind them the disciple Jesus loved—the one who had leaned over to Jesus during supper and asked, “Lord, who will betray you?”* ²¹ *Peter asked Jesus, “What about him, Lord?”*

²² *Jesus replied, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? As for you, follow me.”* ²³ *So the rumor spread among the community of believers that this disciple wouldn't die. But that isn't what Jesus said at all. He only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”* – John 21:18-23 ESV

Peter asked Jesus a question, Jesus responded, and then a rumour was started. People probably even said, “Jesus said that John wouldn't die!” Personally, I would have said it more along the lines of “Jesus said that John wouldn't die, no fair!” But that's just me...

Again, we're human. God will impart things to us on His terms, not on ours. Our job is to take anything He shows us and hold it loosely, trusting that over time we will understand the bigger picture when He wants us to.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Do you have any questions for God about unanswered prayers or unfulfilled promises? Sit with God and bring these questions to Him. He may not show you a reason or give you an explanation, but I've found that I become renewed and reenergized from just sharing the aches of my heart with our good God. Take some time to just rest with Him.
3. Then look back on the times that God has answered your prayers. Worship and praise Him for what he has done in the past. Our God is so faithful!

DAY 12**READ:** Isaiah 56 & 57

*these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples. – Isaiah 56:7*

The temple in Jerusalem was supposed to be a sacred and holy place. However, at the time of Jesus, but the chief priests and scribes had allowed the temple to become corrupt.

Upon entering Jerusalem, Jesus went into the temple and became outraged over how His Father's temple (and technically *His*) is being treated as common. He drove out those who were selling items for a profit, overturned the tables of the money-changers, and flipped over the seats of the pigeon sellers (Matt. 21:12).

He then quotes a portion of the above passage of Isaiah, saying, "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer,' but you make it a den of robbers."

'Since the temple represents the religious center of Israel and the power base for the religious leaders, Jesus here directly challenges the authority of the scribes and Pharisees. He then uses the temple as a place of healing for the blind and the lame. While the Jerusalem leaders have turned the temple into a "den of robbers," Jesus re-establishes it as a house of prayer and a place of healing.'

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Have you ever been in the prayer room at Southland? Or how about a different prayer room? If you have, what was your experience like? Did you find the environment peaceful, quiet, loud (live worship and prayer sessions aren't exactly quiet), or joyful? Do you feel that your overall experience represented how Jesus feels a house of prayer should be like?
3. If you have never been to the prayer room at Southland, I highly recommend you give it a try! I always find the fact amazing that there have been people attending Southland for years who admit that they are too scared to go into the prayer room! I always encourage them to go and take a look around, often walking them in myself to show them that there really is nothing "scary" about being in the prayer room. But then I started to wonder; perhaps we should have a reverent fear when we approach a place that has been set apart and fully dedicated to the Lord for prayer. Those who are afraid to enter have an unhealthy fear of the prayer room, but we can learn something of value from them. They know that the prayer room is 'set apart' and therefore they are afraid to go in. Others however, may just go in freely without ever stopping to think that the room is a holy place. How do you approach entering a place like the prayer room, or even just your time with the Lord? There is no doubt that we have become dulled holiness – things that have been set apart – but we can ask the Lord to give a

renewed 'awe' factor when we approach Him in prayer, or even a room that has set apart for Him.

4. If you can, try to go in for after service prayer the next time you are at church for a service. After each service there is prayer available for all who desire to be prayed for. Even if you feel like you don't have a pressing need, go and receive prayer anyway, or ask God if there is a specific request you could bring to the prayer ministers! They really are lovely people.

DAY 13

 **READ:** Isaiah 58

*"Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of wickedness,
to undo the straps of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?"* – Isaiah 58:6 ESV

This is the famous fasting chapter.

I remember that there was a season in my life where my friend struggled with fear on a nightly basis.

They were so bad, that she would actually start getting anxiety a few hours leading up to bedtime. One morning she woke up and told God she couldn't take it anymore, and then she felt Him call her to a sugar fast. So that day, she made the decision to avoid all forms of refined sugar. Truthfully, the day was pretty easy, and there was no treat that really seemed to tempt me. But right around 4:00, and she sat down with someone who was eating chocolate chips, and without thinking she grabbed one and was right about to pop it into my mouth before she realized—"Wait, I'm fasting."

So she put down that one chocolate chip, and went on with the rest of my day. As she lay in my bed that night, the Lord told her that He was going to deliver her right then from her night terrors, and He did! That night she didn't have a single nightmare, and woke up thinking "But all I did was say no to one chocolate chip!"

When she told me that story I finally realized that fasting is all about the heart, and not so much about the size of the sacrifice. When God calls us to a fast, what He wants is obedience.

It's been about over two years since that night that God set my friend free from night terrors, and she will tell you that she has only had a few nightmares since. I still think it's crazy that it was just a chocolate chip that she refused that day. Such a small sacrifice for such a big freedom!

That's a very good way to view our struggles. They are but the size of a small chocolate chip to God even though they are so big to us!

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Did you participate in the month of prayer and fasting? If so, were any of your prayer requests answered yet? If not, listen in prayer and ask God how you can continue to

pray for certain requests.

3. Ask God if you have a wrong view of fasting. If so, ask Him to show you the lie or wrong view that you believe, and then ask Him to reveal truth to you.
4. Thank Him for all He has shown you today, and also ask Him for the strength and the joy to keep praying and fasting for your requests throughout the year.

DAY 14



READ: Isaiah 59 & 60

...The LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. ¹⁶ He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no one to intercede; then his own arm brought him salvation, and his righteousness upheld him. ¹⁷ He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak. — Isaiah 59:15-17 ESV

Jesus never asks or commands us to do anything that He wasn't willing to do first. Read Ephesians 6:10-20, and see if you can spot the similarities between that passage and the one found above.

How cool is it that Jesus puts on the armour of God? If He is our perfect example, and He puts on the armour, how much more ought we to arm ourselves? We are the ones who live in this fallen world, and we are the ones who are supposed to be fighting a spiritual battle! We need to make sure that we are dressed and ready for action.

The breastplate of righteousness is a guard for our hearts. Meaning that we need to be careful with what we allow to get in there, and what we allow to *remain* in there. Bitterness, envy, greed, lust, love, forgiveness, un-forgiveness, anger, and joy are just some examples of various fruits that we need to either dispose of, or cultivate in our hearts.

The way that we can keep certain sins out of our hearts is by putting on the breastplate of righteousness. What kind of media do we consume? What kind of music do we listen to? Are these things in line with righteous living? I won't say what is wrong to watch or listen to, but perhaps this is an area that you need to be more mindful of?

Either way, we are to clothe ourselves with the armour of God, just like Jesus did, so that we will not find ourselves unprepared for the times that we find ourselves in battle.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Do you clothe yourself with the armour of God? Ask God to show you anywhere in your life where you are not dressed in the armour of God.
3. After He shows you where you need to dress yourself, next ask Him how you can practically live it out. For example, if He tells you to put on the breastplate, ask Him to show you what that looks like for you personally. Is there something that you need to lay down (for example: a certain show, or a sinful habit)? Confess anything that He shows you.
4. Pray and thank Jesus for being our example, that He too clothes Himself with righteousness, and that He will help us out with our armour too.

DAY 15**READ:** Isaiah 61 & 62

The nations shall see your righteousness,
and all the kings your glory
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;

for the LORD delights in you. – Isaiah 62:2-4 ESV

The concept of the Lord delighting in His people may seem confusing, especially because we abandon Him and time and time again. His unfailing love is truly a mystery, but nevertheless, it is real. He really does love us, and He really does delight in us.

If we become Christians after years of living in rebellion, struggling with shame, guilt and regret is quite common. In fact, it may take years of inner healing before we are truly set free from the hold that shame can have over us. When I was really working through the process of being set free from guilt and condemnation from my past, this as one passage of scripture that the Lord highlighted to me, showing me how much He loved me.

We might think we can't escape the past, and that our previous actions affected our future. But that isn't the teaching of the Bible.

He has redeemed us! He wants to restore us! He delights in us! He has called us by new names! We serve a loving and a forgiving God, and when we turn from our sins in repentance, He remembers them no more. He doesn't hold our past against us! Thank God for his mercy, kindness, love and forgiveness.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Do you struggle with shame, guilt or condemnation? If so, and you feel comfortable enough to do so on your own, go through the steps of personal inner healing found at the back of this devotional. If not, perhaps you may want to consider booking a personal prayer ministry appointment with a trained prayer minister at our church.

DAY 16**READ:** Isaiah 63 & 64

Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence— Isaiah 64:1 ESV

Misty Edwards is a singer songwriter, and she wrote an entire song based on this verse, called 'Rend.' The song is a prayer, one where she sings over and over asking God to rend the heavens and come back down to earth. The song is very repetitive, but prayerful and musical repetition can be powerful, especially when it's based on scripture.

We can never go wrong with praying scripture for our church, others, or ourselves.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. If you can, re-read chapters 64 and 64, but before you do, ask Jesus to open your eyes to any verses within these two chapters that you can turn into a prayer. All it took was for Misty Edwards to see one verse and a prayer song rose up in her heart. You don't have to be a singer songwriter to have a verse move you into a session of powerful prayer.
3. Write down the verses that you prayed, and continue praying them throughout the weeks or even over the next few months. Many of these verses are great verses to pray for the Lord's return!

DAY 17



READ: Isaiah 65 & 66

The ending of Isaiah reads very similar to the ending of Revelation:

*"For behold, the LORD will come in fire,
and his chariots like the whirlwind,
to render his anger in fury,
and his rebuke with flames of fire.*

*¹⁶ For by fire will the LORD enter into judgment,
and by his sword, with all flesh;
and those slain by the LORD shall be many.*

"Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens, following one in the midst, eating pig's flesh and the abomination and mice, shall come to an end together, declares the LORD. ¹⁸ "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an offering to the LORD, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the LORD, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the LORD. ²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the LORD.

*²² "For as the new heavens and the new earth
that I make
shall remain before me, says the LORD,
so shall your offspring and your name remain.*

*²³ From new moon to new moon,
and from Sabbath to Sabbath,
all flesh shall come to worship before me,
declares the LORD.*

²⁴ *“And they shall go out and look on the dead bodies of the men who have rebelled against me. For their worm shall not die, their fire shall not be quenched, and they shall be an abhorrence to all flesh.”* – Isaiah 66:15-24 ESV

Now compare that to the ending of Revelation:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.”

⁵ And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” Also he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.” ⁶ And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.

⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God, ¹¹ having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— ¹³ on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. ¹⁴ And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ And the one who spoke with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. ¹⁶ The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width. And he measured the city with his rod, 12,000 stadia. Its length and width and height are equal. ¹⁷ He also measured its wall, 144 cubits by human measurement, which is also an angel’s measurement. ¹⁸ The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the wall of the city were adorned with every kind of jewel. The first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. ²¹ And the twelve gates were twelve pearls, each of the gates made of a single pearl, and the street of the city was pure gold, like transparent glass.

²² And I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb.

²³ And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. ²⁴ By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it, ²⁵ and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. ²⁶ They will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. ²⁷ But nothing unclean

will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life. – Revelation 21 ESV

Now, there is one more chapter at the end of Revelation, but the above verse gives a good enough picture as to the similarities (If you want, you can read the last chapter and see if you can see the continual theme)

It had been written several times throughout this devotional and the previous one (Isaiah pt. 1), but it is worth repeating that Isaiah is like a miniature Bible, all in one. Part two of Isaiah is similar to the New Testament, beginning with 'one crying aloud in the wilderness,' and ending with a promise of a new heaven and a new earth.

At the time of Jesus, there was no such thing as the New Testament; there was only the Old Testament, known as the Law and the Prophets. The ending of Isaiah would have been of great comfort to the Israelites, because they were awaiting the Messiah, the One who would come and save them from the tyrant rulers who were oppressing them.

In a similar fashion, the ending of Revelation ought to bring us great comfort, because we should be longing for our heavenly home, for God to come and make an end to all evil and suffering. Today, we will finish off Isaiah by asking Jesus to increase our yearning and desire for His return, and for heaven to finally come down to earth.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Were there any verses that drew your attention while reading? Which verses were they, and how did God speak to you through them? Enter into a spirit of praise, confession or thanksgiving as necessary.
2. Start a list and begin writing down as many things about heaven that you are looking forward to. Keep writing until you run out of ideas, and then after you are finished, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal some things that you may not have thought about.
3. Jesus' return will come from the power of the praying saints. We will never fully comprehend why our God chooses to partner with His creation, but this is the way He works. We are to pray in His return! Before he returns, however, He will be refining us in this life, even to the point of intense persecution if necessary. He wants to return to a bride who is longing for her groom; who wants her King to come and set things right. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to increase your longing for His return.
4. Finish off with some thanksgiving and any prayer or praise that is on your heart. Thank Him for the truths that He has shown you throughout this devotional. Perhaps you want to flip through your journal at this time to jog your memory of your journey through Isaiah. If you completed Isaiah Pt. 1, you may want to reflect through those journal entries as well. God bless!

Inner Healing/Personal Ministry Prayer Sheet

As we continue growing closer to Jesus we often receive new insights into who He really is and who we are. This may include Him revealing personal struggles, unresolved emotional hurts, areas of un-forgiveness, unresolved conflict with others, etc. We want to be able to respond to the things that Jesus is revealing to us in order to find healing and closure of the things that are affecting our character, our relationships with other people and ultimately, our relationship with Him.

The following are some steps to facilitate you doing personal ministry on yourself. This process isn't necessarily the same every time therefore it will require flexibility as you listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

Step One: Opening Prayer

Spend some time in prayer, committing this time to Jesus, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead in truth and praying for the protection and guidance of Jesus. Take authority over all evil spirits that may want to interfere in the session, in Jesus' name.

Step Two: Confession

Spend some time confessing your sin. Repent of sinful actions, sinful attitudes and ungodly character in your life

Step Three: Inner Healing

In order to bring healing to our lives, it is important to replace lies with the truth and reclaim our mind, emotions and will for God.

Part One: Listening Prayer

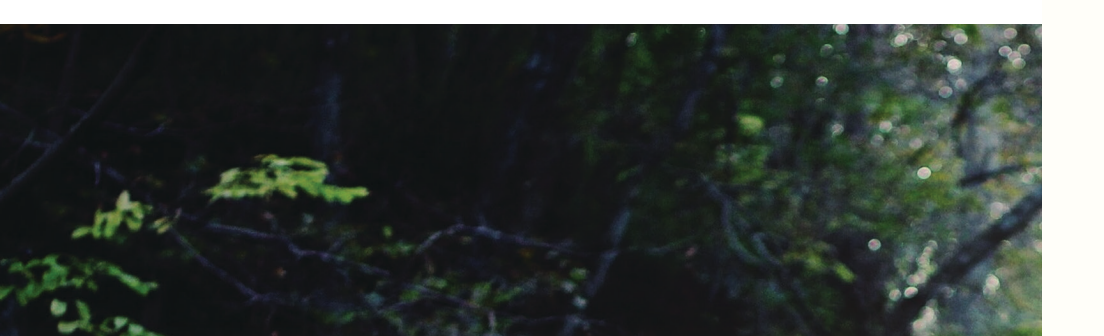
Ask Jesus to show you through a word, thought or a picture where you first began to struggle with the issue you are dealing with. Ask Him to show you where it started in your life. Listen until you receive something—don't discount even the simple things as the Lord often starts gently by leading us to a deeper place one step at a time. Write down what He shows you.

Part Two: Ask Him for insight

Ask Him to show you what He wants you to know about what he has shown you in Part One.

Part Three: Ask How This Made You Feel

Ask Him to show you how it made you feel. Ask Him to reveal to you each emotion that you felt at that time. It is important to distinguish between each emotion and not write down vague feelings such as "I felt bad." Ask Him to show you the specific emotions that you felt. For example: I felt used, hurt, betrayed, ignored, ashamed, angry, confused, etc. Write down what He shows you, it's okay to feel these emotions.



The Book of Isaiah *Part 2*

During the life of Isaiah the northern kingdom had already been destroyed and according to Isaiah's predictions, Judah would be next. However, there was hope! God would come and deliver His people. Isaiah's prophecies point to several coming events for the nation of Israel such as the famous return from exile, the first coming of Jesus and His cleansing work that He would accomplish, and the second coming of Christ. Isaiah also foresees that God's coming kingdom will include Gentiles. Finally, Isaiah promises that all nations will be judged—not just Israel—and that such judgements will be very specific in nature.

Isaiah 55:1-3 (ESV)

¹ *"Come, everyone who thirsts,*

come to the waters;

and he who has no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

² *Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,*

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ *Incline your ear, and come to me;*

hear, that your soul may live;

and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

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