

THROUGH THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

9/24 – Isa 1-3, Gal 2
9/25 – Isa 4-6, Gal 3
9/26 – Isa 7-9, Gal 4
9/27 – Isa 10-12, Gal 5

9/28 – Isa 13-15, Gal 6
9/29 – Isa 16-18, Eph 1
9/30 – Isa 19-21, Eph 2
10/1 – Isa 22-23, Eph 3

** Summaries/outlines from The Holy Bible, Contemporary English Version, ©1995 by the American Bible Society.

ISAIAH

Isaiah spoke for the Lord to the people of Judah during the reigns of four kings of Judah. Over this period of about forty years, the Assyrian empire was expanding. Nations joined together to fight Assyria, but Assyria finally conquered Israel and most other nearby countries. Thousands of people were led away as prisoners. And although the kingdom of Judah wasn't completely conquered, it had to pay heavy taxes.

The messages in this book can be divided into three parts. The first part is especially concerned about the Lord's holiness and his power as king of the whole earth. As a holy king, the Lord was angry about evil in Judah. Government officials were corrupt; violence and injustice were everywhere. The Lord said he was going to have Assyria and Babylon punish the people of Judah and other nations. But the Lord offered his people hope for the future, if they turned back to him and trusted him to protect their nation.

In the second part the Lord spoke to people who had been punished. They were discouraged, and he offered them hope. But the Lord wanted them to understand that idols have no power, and that he alone is the true God. If the people of Israel turned back to him, then he would rescue them from Babylon and the other nations where they had been scattered. They would return to their own land, and he would bless them and make them prosperous. The Lord was able to make this tremendous promise to his people because he created and rules the entire earth.

In the third part the Lord promises an especially bright future for those who are faithful to him. And in this section, people from all nations are included, not just the people of Judah. These promises are like windows that allow a glimpse into a future time when the Lord will create a new world full of joy and free from suffering.

OUTLINE

- I. Introduction (1:1-31)
- II. Messages about Judah and Israel (2:1-5:30)
- III. Events from Isaiah's Ministry (6:1-9:7)
- IV. More Messages about Judah and Israel (9:8-12:6)
- V. God Will Punish Other Nations (13:1-23:18)
- VI. Messages of Hope for the Lord's People Who Are Suffering (24:1-27:13)
- VII. The Lord Will Punish His Rebellious People (28:1-31:9)
- VIII. The Lord Will Punish Edom and Bless Jerusalem (32:1-35:10)
- IX. Assyria, Babylon, King Hezekiah, and Isaiah (36:1-39:8)
- X. The Lord Will Rescue His People (40:1-48:22)
- XI. The Lord's Servant (49:1-53:12)
- XII. The Lord Will Keep All His Promises (54:1-55:13)
- XIII. All Nations Will Be Part of God's People (56:1-8)
- XIV. Leaders Unfaithful to God Will Be Punished (56:9-59:21)
- XV. The Future Glory of Jerusalem (60:1-62:12)
- XVI. God's Wonderful New Creation (63:1-66:24)

BIBLE BLURB (from @bible summary)

Isa1: The LORD has spoken: I raised children but they have rebelled. Wash yourselves. I will smelt away your dross. Zion shall be redeemed.

Isa2: The mountain of the LORD will be established. On that day the pride of men will be humbled. They will flee the splendour of the LORD.

Isa3: The LORD will take away all support from Judah. Children will govern. You grind the faces of the poor. The women of Zion are proud.

Isa4: In that day the branch of the LORD will be glorious. Those who are left in Zion will be called holy. The LORD will create a shelter.

Isa5: Why did my vineyard yield wild grapes? Woe to those who pursue drink, who call evil good. The anger of the LORD is against his people.

Isa6: I saw the LORD seated on high. A seraph brought a coal to my lips. The LORD said, "Who will go for us?" I said, "Here am I; send me!"

Isa7: Aram plotted with Ephraim. The LORD sent Isaiah to King Ahaz: Behold, a virgin shall bear a son. The LORD will use Assyria as a razor.

Isa8: The floodwaters of Assyria will overflow the land. Many will fall and be snared. I will trust in the LORD. They will curse their gods.

Isa9: A child is born to us. His government will increase forever. The LORD will raise the enemies of Israel. His anger has not turned away.

Isa10: Woe to those who rob the poor of justice. Woe to Assyria, whose purpose is to destroy. The remnant of Israel will return to the LORD.

Isa11: A shoot will come up from Jesse. He will judge with righteousness. The wolf will live with the lamb. The Lord will gather his people.

Isa12: In that day you will say: I will praise you, O LORD! Your anger has turned away. Surely God is my salvation. Sing for joy, O Zion!

Isa13: The oracle concerning Babylon: Listen! The LORD is calling an army. I will punish the world for its evil. Babylon will be overthrown.

Isa14: The LORD will again choose Israel. How you are fallen, O Lucifer! You will be cast away like a trampled corpse. Wail, O Philistia!

Isa15: An oracle concerning Moab: Ar of Moab is laid waste. In the streets they wear sackcloth. The waters of Dibon are full of blood.

Isa16: A throne will be established from the house of David. We have heard of the pride of Moab. Within three years Moab will be despised.

Isa17: An oracle concerning Damascus: Damascus will become ruins. Jacob will be brought low. You have forgotten the God of your salvation.

Isa18: Woe to the land of buzzing wings, beyond the rivers of Cush. The LORD will cut down the branches. Wild animals will feed on them.

Isa19: An oracle concerning Egypt: I will hand the Egyptians over to a cruel master. When they cry out to the LORD, he will send a saviour.

Isa20: The LORD spoke through Isaiah: As Isaiah has gone stripped for three years, so Assyria will lead the Egyptians and Cushites captive.

Isa21: The oracle concerning the wilderness of the sea: I set a watchman. He said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon!" The glory of Kedar will end.

Isa22: The oracle concerning the valley of vision: The LORD has taken away the covering of Judah. I will give to Eliakim the key of David.

Isa23: The oracle concerning Tyre: Wail, O ships, for Tyre is laid waste. The LORD has planned it. Tyre will be forgotten for seventy years.

GALATIANS

From the very beginning of this letter to the churches in the region of Galatia, Paul makes two things clear to his readers: he is a true apostle, and his message is the only true message. These statements were very important, because some people claimed that Paul was a false apostle with a false message.

Paul was indeed a true apostle, and his mission to the Gentiles was given to him by the Lord and approved by the apostles in Jerusalem. Paul had even corrected the apostle Peter, when he had stopped eating with Gentile followers who were not obeying the Law of Moses.

Faith is the only way to be saved. Paul insists that this was true already for Abraham, who had received God's promise by faith. And Paul leaves no doubt about what his own faith means to him.

OUTLINE

- I. A True Apostle and the True Message (1:1-10)
- II. God Chose Paul to be an Apostle (1:11-24)
- III. Paul Defends His Message (2:1-21)
- IV. Faith is the Only Way to be Saved (3:1-4:31)
- V. Guided by the Spirit and Love (5:1-6:10)
- VI. Final Warnings (6:11-18)

BIBLE BLURB (from @bible summary)

Gal2: I went up to Jerusalem and saw the leaders. I opposed Cephas about circumcision. We are justified by faith in Christ and not by works.

Gal3: Those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham. Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law. In Christ you are all sons of God.

Gal4: God sent his Son for us to receive adoption. How can you turn back to worthless principles? You, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Gal5: Christ has set us free. Circumcision counts for nothing. Use your freedom to love one another. Walk by the Spirit and not the flesh.

Gal6: Restore anyone caught in sin. Sow to the Spirit and reap eternal life. Let us not give up doing good. What counts is the new creation.

EPHESIANS

Paul begins his letter to the Christians in Ephesus with a powerful reminder of the main theme of his message. Christ died on the cross to set us free. But God raised Christ from death, and he now sits at God's right side in heaven, where he rules over this world. And he will rule over the future world as well.

Christ brought Jews and Gentiles together by "breaking down the wall of hatred" that separated them and he united them all as part of that holy temple where God's Spirit lives. This was according to God's eternal plan.

There is only one Lord, one Spirit of God, and one God, who is the Father of all people. This means that Christians must let the Spirit keep their hearts united, so they can live at peace with each other. The idea of all Christians being one with Christ is so central to this letter that it occurs twenty times. There is one faith and one baptism by which believers become one body.

Ephesus was a port city on the western shore of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey). In Paul's time this was the fourth largest city in the Roman empire. It was also an ancient center of nature religion where the goddess Artemis was widely worshiped.

Paul lets the Ephesians know that much is expected of people who are called to a new life. Followers of the Lord are God's dear children, and they must do as God does. They used to live in the dark, but they must now live in the light and make their light shine.

Paul then teaches husbands and wives, children and parents, and slaves and masters how to live as Christians.

OUTLINE

- I. Greetings (1:1, 2)
- II. Christ Brings Spiritual Blessings (1:3-3:21)
- III. A New Life in Unity with Christ (4:1-6:20)
- IV. Final Greetings (6:21-24)

BIBLE BLURB (from @biblesummary)

Eph1: Paul, to the saints in Ephesus. Praise the God who predestined us for adoption in Christ. May you know the riches of his inheritance.

Eph2: When we were dead in sin God made us alive with Christ. Gentiles are now fellow citizens. You are being built together into a temple.

Eph3: I preach the mystery of Christ. The wisdom of God is made known through the church. I pray that you may know the depth of his love.

Getting to Know God Through His Book - 4 Questions - Ask...

Insight—what does the passage say? Paraphrase the main point(s) and the commands to follow, promises to claim, examples to follow (or avoid), etc.

Question—what don't I understand? Need to know more about? How does this passage make me feel?

Praise—what does this passage teach me about God? Turn what the passage says into praise for the Lord's goodness, power, holiness, wisdom, etc.

Apply—what is God saying to me from this passage? Confess how you have not followed it. Pray, asking God to help you obey. Get quiet and ask God to speak to you.

Journal—write out your prayers, thoughts, responses to God and His Word

HOW TO PRAY

Scripture is God speaking to us. Prayer is us speaking to and listening to God. Jesus gave us the model in the Lord's Prayer (Mt 6). Keep your relationship fresh with the Lord by both reading and praying - two way communication. Remember to look up like Jesus did when He prayed.

- 1. Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name – focus on God, adore, praise, thank Him – long to see His glory and honor.
- 2. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done – ask for what you know will please Him, pray back the Scripture – that is His will.
- 3. Give us this day our daily bread – ask for your needs and others to be met.

4. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us – ask for forgiveness, from God, and from others you may have hurt. Ask God to help you forgive and restore others too. Ask Him to get rid of bitterness and have love & compassion for those who have hurt you.
5. And lead us not into temptation – ask God to take over your day, protect you and others from evil.
6. For thine is the kingdom, power & glory – end by re-focusing on God, His kingdom, power, and glory!
7. Listen – ask God to speak to you by His Spirit – always test what you hear by His Word.
8. Pray the Blind Bartimaeus Prayer (Mark 10) – Tell God what you feel, what you want, and ask God what you should do to get what you want (if what you want is right).