

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

05-14-2023 // WEEK 19 NOTES

This past week, you've finished **Isaiah 36 - 66**. Here are a few highlights:

*As a reminder, some think Isaiah is the Bible in miniature. **Isaiah 1 - 39** equals the Old Testament. Israel experiences judgment under God's law. The prophet Isaiah points out their and other nations' infidelity toward God. **Isaiah 40-66** equals the New Testament: God's grace and forgiveness.*

In case you didn't know, there are 66 books in the Bible. The Old Testament has 39. New Testament has 27. Like Isaiah's chapters and its natural division. This is an interesting insight, though we always need to remember that judgment and mercy are found in both the Old and New Testaments. That's because our God is the same: yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Nevertheless, the natural division is interesting in light of the number of books in the Bible and more specifically, how many are in the Old and New Testaments. Especially enjoy reading chapters 40-66. They are chapters filled with promise, hope, restoration and a new beginning.

- **Isaiah Chapters 36 - 37:** God's desire for practical trust in him. When we do, we will be vindicated one day. It's his promise.
- **Chapters 38 - 39:** Because of human sin, their inconsistency in obeying God, **Judah will be sent into exile. It will happen.**
- **Chapter 40:** The God of glory is coming. He has exclusive power. Those who wait on him will experience it.
- **Chapters 41 - 43:** God is moving history toward his purposes. He is with us in our pain and struggles. He will **give us a new servant who will bring hope to our despair and a new song in our hearts.**
- **Chapters 44 - 45:** God promises to revive his people for his glory. Also, he will raise up a man, King Cyrus from Persia, to be his anointed, his servant, to be his instrument of judgment against Babylon.

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

- **Chapters 46 - 47:** More about God using Cyrus and the gods and pride of Babylon is doomed to destruction. Babylon does not get away with its godlessness.
- **Chapter 48:** God will free his people from Babylon (and Persia) and bring them home again, restoring them to the LAND and a NATION, as promised to Abraham when he was called.
- **Chapter 49:** God promises a special servant to come and care for his people. Most scholars see this servant as Jesus. Keep reading!
- **Chapters 50 - 52:** The Lord's servant is teaching his people and they are listening, attentive to what he is saying. And God gives encouragement to a faith that is responsive to him.
- **Chapter 53: A KEY CHAPTER IN CHRISTOLOGY** – The Lord's servant is an exalted sin-bearer who takes the sins of us upon himself. Note the specificity of prophecy about this servant and how they are fulfilled in Jesus.
- **Chapters 54 - 55:** God's great compassion for his people and this grace is offered to all. God desires for all to accept his gift of grace, but it is our choice.
- **Chapters 56 - 57:** The true people of God are redefined, not just the Jews, but all the nations who love the servant. The false people of God are exposed. The true people of God are invited to follow him.
- **Chapters 58 - 59:** What true responsibility to God looks like. Not merely outward religious and ritual performance but acts of mercy and kindness – especially to the poor.
- **Chapters 60 - 62: Promises of God's restoration and future glory.** An anointed preacher renews the world with his preaching.
- **Chapters 63 - 64:** What happens when we pray for the power of God. He is Victor. Look at his past

DAILY BIBLE READING PLAN

faithfulness. He will therefore be faithful now as well.

- **Chapter 65:** How God wants his people to **live in everlasting joy!** No matter what the circumstances may be.
- **Chapter 66:** What true worship looks like now and forever. What God desires from his people for his glory alone.

Isaiah ends. The people are taken into captivity. They refused to listen to his repeated warnings.

Now we move to Jeremiah. He is called "the weeping prophet." His prophecies are solely for the southern kingdom, Judah, though he does include other nations as Isaiah did. As you get a glance into Judah's decadence over the next several weeks, look for patterns of sin that exist today. Sin doesn't change. We just keep trying new ways of doing it.

By the way: Lamentations is an attachment to Jeremiah, just showing the prophet's "lament" over specifically Jerusalem.