



Bible Reading Journey

Key Study Points by Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann

Each day, using the notes on this page:

- Pray for Spirit-filled insight as you read God's Word.
- Look for Law and Gospel themes that point us to Jesus.
- Apply the readings to your life.
- Pray to Jesus, as the readings inspire you, for yourself, your family, your church and your world.

Historical Context: King Solomon wrote Song of Solomon near the beginning of his reign (~970 BC). Isaiah wrote the entire book attributed to his name (contrary to the ideas of critics), from 740 to 681 BC, but prophesying future events through 480 BC (and even further to Jesus and Judgment Day).

Law & Gospel Themes: We often neglect the passionate love of our Bridegroom, Jesus, yet He never waivers in His devotion to us. He always delights in us and forgives our shallow love. Isaiah condemns the idolatry and rebellion of God's people, foretelling the Assyrian exile

of Israel in 722 BC and the Babylonian exile of Judah in 587 BC. This week note the "Woe" phrases in Ch5. Yet, starting primarily with Ch40, he speaks comfort for the penitent exiles with clear prophesies of Jesus, the Suffering Servant. Isaiah's call in Ch6 highlights the sinfulness of all men, but the mercy and grace of Yahweh that chooses us as His own, imparting His holiness to us as a gift.

Life Application Starters: Thank and encourage Christian couples who model the adoring love between Jesus and the Church in their love for

each other, esp. those who are committed for many years. Heed the words of God through Isaiah as clear warnings of pending judgment for idolatrous men of every age, including us. Rejoice in the comfort of prophecies fulfilled in Jesus and yet to see completion on Judgment Day and beyond.

Prayer Starters: In thanks for devoted and enduring marriages that reflect the love of Jesus and the Church. Thanking God for His Word through faithful prophets like Isaiah. For humble hearts to repent of our idolatry and receive comfort in Jesus.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Song of Solomon 4:1-6:13

Tuesday: Song of Solomon 7:1-8:14

Wednesday: Isaiah 1:1-2:22

Thursday: Isaiah 3:1-4:6

Friday: Isaiah 5:1-30

Saturday: Isaiah 6:1-13

January's Memory Verses:

Isaiah 1:18, "Come...says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

Isaiah 6:3, "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Isa. 40:8, "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Isaiah 53:5, "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."

Author of Song of Solomon: King Solomon **Date:** ~970 BC, near the beginning of Solomon's reign

Author of Isaiah: Prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz **Date:** 740-681 BC, during reigns of Judah's kings Uzziah to Hezekiah

New Insights:

Questions to Pursue Further:

Insights from My Accountability Partners:

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Faith Lutheran Church + Grand Blanc, MI + www.faihgb.org

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Historical Context: Isaiah wrote the entire book attributed to his name (contrary to the ideas of critics), from 740 to 681 BC, but prophesying future events through 480 BC (and even further to Jesus and Judgment Day).

Law & Gospel Themes: The overarching focus this week is upon God's just judgment against sin...that of the heathen nations (esp. Chs 13-23) and of the whole world (esp. Chs 24-27), including His own people, Israel (Ch 22), as they reject Him. Yet, in the midst of His judgment He gives glimpses of mercy, grace and hope for restoration to those who

repent and trust in Him. God's chastisement of King Ahaz brings us a clear prophecy of the birth of Jesus (7:10-14). Ch 9 contains a beautiful description of Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor and more. The Trinity is at work for our salvation in 11:2. The LORD calls Isaiah to bizarre behavior to speak His judgment and salvation by grace alone (SEE Ch 20). Death will be swallowed up forever by Jesus who rose (25:7-8).

Life Application Starters: What power of man is able to stand against God and His wrath against sin? Are Christians safe from God's

judgment? Is it true that once we are saved, we are always saved, no matter what we do? How does Isaiah, divinely inspired, clearly direct our eyes to Jesus as the one true Messiah? How is it that so many Jews do not see Jesus in Isaiah's words?

Prayer Starters: To humbly repent of sinful trust in our own power. That we will be spared from judgment against sin through faith in Jesus. That we will listen to the Spirit and see Jesus as God's answer to our need for salvation. For the strength to resist sin and stay in faith to Judgment Day and our deliverance.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Isaiah 7:1-8:22

Tuesday: Isaiah 9:1-10:34

Wednesday: Isaiah 11:1-12:6

Thursday: Isaiah 13:1-20:6

Friday: Isaiah 21:1-23:18

Saturday: Isaiah 24:1-25:12

January's Memory Verses:

Isaiah 1:18, "Come...says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool."

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Isaiah 9:6, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

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Author of Isaiah: Prophet Isaiah, son of Amoz **Date:** 740-681 BC, during reigns of Judah's kings Uzziah to Hezekiah

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Law & Gospel Themes: Chs 28-32 speak of God's judgment on Samaria (the Northern Kingdom of Israel) and Jerusalem (the Southern Kingdom). Yet, the promise of God's preservation of a faithful remnant (SEE TLSB pg 1148) is clear. Hope lies in Jesus, the precious cornerstone (28:16). SEE TLSB pg 1134 for a good treatment of God's wrath versus His persistent mercy & love. Chs 33-35 are the central "hinge"

of Isaiah, telling of disaster & hope. Chs 36-39 relate Isaiah's interaction with King Hezekiah of Judah, who was blessed for his faithfulness, but also foolishly opened the door to the later Babylonian exile.

Life Application Starters: When have you foolishly trusted in human care and protection (as Israel turned to Egypt), only to be let down? What reliable source of strength & hope is described in detail in Ch 35? How does God's care for the "remnant" give comfort & hope to Christians today? How is Jesus our cornerstone?

What great evil is expressed by Hezekiah in 39:8? How do parents fall into the same pitfall today, esp. in spiritual matters?

Prayer Starters: That the Lord will lead us to sincere repentance and spare us from His judgment. To be numbered among the remnant of God's people who remain faithful to Him always. For complete trust in Jesus as our only sure foundation & cornerstone. To never become secure in our current state of peace. That all parents will care for the spiritual well-being of the generations that follow, faithfully pointing them to Jesus.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Isaiah 26:1-27:13

Tuesday: Isaiah 28:1-29:24

Wednesday: Isaiah 30:1-31:9

Thursday: Isaiah 32:1-20

Friday: Isaiah 33:1-35:10

Saturday: Isaiah 36:1-39:8

January's Memory Verses:

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Historical Context: Isaiah wrote the book attributed to his name from 740 to 681 BC, but prophesying future events through 480 BC (and even further to Jesus and Judgment Day).

Law & Gospel Themes: The chapters this week are some of the clearest declarations of Law and Gospel in all of Scripture. They declare comfort to God's chosen people who humble themselves and call upon Him for deliverance. This is beautiful typology as the words speak of deliverance from the Babylonian exile about 200 years later, salvation in the suffering servant (42:1-9,

49:1-13, 50:4-11, 52:13-53:12), Jesus, about 700 years later and the ultimate salvation of the faithful on Judgment Day, yet to come. Of course, salvation is only for the penitent remnant. The stubborn and impenitent masses will be ultimately condemned to hell on Judgment Day. Take note of the MANY prophecies in this section that are pointed out as they're fulfilled in the NT.

Life Application Starters: What comfort do YOU receive from the Word of the Lord through Isaiah this week? What warnings do YOU receive from

Isaiah? Highlight all the references this week that clearly point to Jesus. How does such clear prophecy bolster your faith? How can you be the witness of this Good News to ALL people that is so clearly called for by God (Exs. 42:6, 43:10, 44:8, 45:22, 49:1, 52:7)?

Prayer Starters: That we will humbly repent, receive salvation and be comforted by God's promises that ARE fulfilled in Jesus and WILL BE more fully revealed on Judgment Day. For courage to be witnesses of Law and Gospel to all people. That the nations will repent and receive salvation with us.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Isaiah 40:1-41:29

Tuesday: Isaiah 42:1-43:28

Wednesday: Isaiah 44:1-45:25

Thursday: Isaiah 46:1-47:15

Friday: Isaiah 48:1-49:26

Saturday: Isaiah 50:1-52:15

January's Memory Verses:

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Historical Context: Isaiah wrote from 740 to 681 BC. Jeremiah, with his scribe Baruch, recorded God's Word from 628 to ~580 BC, the period from good King Josiah of Judah through its fall and exile to Babylon.

Law & Gospel Themes: As we conclude Isaiah, we see how the book is like a mini-Bible...66 chapters like 66 books, 39 prophesying salvation and 27 after it is revealed. Just as the NT still contains judgment against sin in the midst of the Good News of Jesus, so also these final chapters of Isaiah carry judgment against the proud sinner (66:24) in the midst of rich words of grace to the

penitent (Exs. 53:5, 54:10, 61:1+, 64:8, 65:17+, 66:2). Ch53 vividly points to the passion of Jesus. God's Word of judgment and salvation is sure and eternal (55:10f). Chs 56-66 make clear an Epiphany theme; salvation also for gentiles who repent. Jeremiah starts with his call to warn Judah of their pending exile in Babylon.

Life Application Starters: Esp. in Chs 61-62, Isaiah uses marriage imagery to clearly describe Jesus' love for us, His bride. How does it effect you to know how much Jesus delights in you? Take note of the beautiful explanation of "A

New Eden" on Pg. 1198 of TLSB, noting the "now and not yet" aspects of our salvation foretold by Isaiah. How does this give you hope today? YOU are to be a light to the gentiles (SEE 60:1). GO and SHINE!

Prayer Starters: To see God's Spirit guiding all of Scripture to reveal His plan of salvation in Jesus. To flee God's wrath by humbly trusting in Jesus, our perfect Bridegroom. That we will rejoice in our marriage to Jesus and shine with the glow of a beloved bride. For bold patience and hope now as we are sure of the new heaven and new earth that are not yet.

Daily Readings and notes:

Monday: Isaiah 53:1-12

Tuesday: Isaiah 54:1-57:21

Wednesday: Isaiah 58:1-59:21

Thursday: Isaiah 60:1-62:12

Friday: Isaiah 63:1-66:24

Saturday: Jeremiah 1:1-2:37

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