

One Year through the Old Testament

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Job, con't

September 1: Job 40:1 – 42:17

- 1) Agree or Disagree Job had considered himself God's equal.
- 2) God refers to the behemoth and the leviathan. As they are described, what do they seem to be?
- 3) What was the point in referring to them? See 40:24 and 41:10
- 4) 42:1-6 is really the climax of the book. What did Job learn?
- 5) What are we supposed to learn?
- 6) What did Job do when the light bulb came on?
- 7) What does God say was wrong with the thinking of his friends?
- 8) How did God bless Job?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God, heavenly Father, you have served us through your Son Jesus Christ and won for us the gift of our salvation. Now you give us opportunities to serve you, and your faithful people are quick to respond. Thank you, Lord, for your service and for the gift of those whom you have moved to serve. Continue to use such people in service to the glory of your name and the benefit of your children. In all things we glorify you in the name of Christ. Amen.

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Ecclesiastes

September 2: Ecclesiastes 1:1 – 3:22

This book observes life around and draws logical conclusions. This is life under the sun as man (Solomon) sees it. Life as man lives it, it is without God, is meaningless.

- 1) Who seems to be the author? Why?
- 2) How does the author seem to describe life? (Verses 3,4)
- 3) What do you see in the phrase “under the sun?”
- 4) How does more knowledge bring grief?
- 5) What did Solomon do in trying to find the meaning of life?
 - a. 2:1
 - b. 2:10
 - c. 2:12
- 6) How does he explain wisdom in 2:14?
- 7) Why did he come to hate life?
- 8) Why are verses 2:24-26 a key to understanding this book?
- 9) Why is it important that God makes a time for all things?
- 10) What does 3:11 mean?
- 11) 3:13 is also a key verse. Why?
- 12) How is man like an animal? How is that not true?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Savior, help us to pray. Give us confidence in the Father's good will toward us. Make us sure that, for your sake, he delights in our prayers, answers them wisely, and uses them to accomplish his will. Support the praying church by your presence among us and by the petitions you offer on our behalf at the throne of mercy. Breathe into us the Holy Spirit to lead our thoughts along the pathways of your will, and let him pray inside us with deep, un-searchable sighs when we do not know what to pray. Amen.

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September 3: Ecclesiastes 4:1 – 6:12

- 1) What makes life particularly miserable? (4:1-3)
- 2) What sadly motivates a lot of people in what they do making life especially meaningless?
- 3) Solomon gives wise advice when going to God's house. What is it?
- 4) Cf. 5:8-9 The verses refer to a land that is good to dwell in. How do we do that?
- 5) What is the sad reality about people and money?
- 6) Why does man not enjoy the prosperity that God gives?
- 7) In chapter six there are some real provocative proverbs. What is the meaning of the following:
 - a. 7:7
 - b. 7:9
 - c. 7:11

Important thoughts from the reading:

Gracious God, all that I have comes from you: my body and mind, my strength and intelligence, my time and abilities, my energy and possessions. Guard me from the temptation to use these gifts only for my personal benefit. Make me willing to use them joyfully in service to you and to your people, to the glory of your name in Christ. Amen.

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September 4: Ecclesiastes 7:1 – 9:18

- 1) Ecclesiastes contains many proverbs. Is Solomon speaking realistically or is he not keeping God in the picture when he says death is better than life?
- 2) What is the bottom line when it comes to looking at life?
- 3) What does 7:10 mean?
- 4) What does Solomon urge us to do in 7:14?
- 5) Should the feminists really be offended by 7:28? What is really the point?
- 6) 8:26 speaks of a godly person's attitude toward government. How should it show itself?
- 7) What does he say will happen when the law is enforced?
- 8) What does the enjoyment of life really consist of?
- 9) There is a paradox in 9:5. What is it?
- 10) How does Solomon say we ought to live? Cf. 9:9-12

Important thoughts from the reading:

God our Father, your Son welcomed all who came to him; even the outcasts and despised. Give me a faith that dares to come to you, trusting only in your love. Give me a love that accepts others, as I have been accepted by you through your Son. Amen.

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September 5: Ecclesiastes 10:1 – 12:14

- 1) Again there is a collection of more proverbs in chapter ten. Is there a favorite that you have?
- 2) What do verses five and six mean?
- 3) What is the danger of getting what you want? (10:8,9)
- 4) 10:16-17 seems like what it says should be the other way around. Why does what Solomon says make a lot of sense?
- 5) 10:19 expresses a human reality. What is it?
- 6) What does “cast your bread upon the waters” mean?
- 7) Why is the advice to live a happy and full life good advice?
- 8) 12:1 is good to remember so that when the youth become older they will be prepared. What is Solomon talking about when he uses the following metaphors for getting older?
 - a) The keepers of the house
 - b) The grinders
 - c) The windows
 - d) Doors to the street
 - e) When men are afraid of heights
 - f) Almond blossoms
 - g) Grasshoppers dragging themselves
 - h) Departed desire
- 9) What is the definition of death?
- 10) How is the real purpose of life summarized?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord Jesus, I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Without your Spirit I would not be able to call on you as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for your Holy Word through which the Holy Spirit works. Thank you for water baptism through which the Spirit works. When I desire the Holy Spirit, make me hungry for your word. Help me to recall also my baptism where you placed your name upon me - the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit - and made my body the temple of your Holy Spirit. Help me to remember that I do not earn the gift of the Holy Spirit by my prayers, devotion or tears. Help me to remember - and rejoice - that the gift of the Holy Spirit is entirely a gift of your grace - your undeserved love. Help me to remember that it is not my wrestlings and prayers that cause the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of me. Give me peace in knowing that I have everything I need in you, dear Jesus, and I desire nothing more. Amen.

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Song of Songs

September 6: Song of Songs 1:1 – 4:16

- 1) The Song of Songs is an incredibly difficult book to understand. There are three ways that people interpret the book:
 - a. Literally – a love story
 - b. Typically – a poem recounting an historical human love story which is a type of the love between God and his people.
 - c. Allegorically – a poem using human love to symbolize the love between God and his people. The last seems to be the best.
- 2) The original text did not have the speakers – the lover, the beloved, or the friends.
- 3) 1:4 is probably better translated “Draw me, we will run after you.” Notice the “we.” This is just one of many verses that seems to indicate that this goes beyond a simple love story. It fits nicely if he is talking about the bride (the Church) speaking about the Bridegroom (Christ). Who would be the friends?
- 4) The Beloved talks about herself. She is tan and very dark. In ancient days that was not good. She was the one who had to work in the fields. The elite stayed out of the sun and was a status symbol to be pale. While disparaging of her ‘tan,’ she says she is lovely. If she is the Church, how is that true?
- 5) 1:7 presents a problem. Some say this is another lover, a shepherd. Since Solomon was not a shepherd, they say it could not be him. If we understand verse seven to be a prayer to God, who is the Good Shepherd, then this becomes a prayer from the shepherdess. A veiled woman was a prostitute.
- 6) The lover in verse nine is the king (the Lord). He expresses his love to her by speaking of her beauty and comparing it to a mare. Not good stuff for us, but remember that Solomon was known for his number of horses and chariots.
- 7) With that background how perhaps the conversation between the bride and the Bridegroom will make more sense. Obviously how do the church and the Christ feel about each other?
- 8) In 2:2-7 what is the church desiring from the King as the scene seems to change to a banquet hall? How does the Lord make that happen?
- 9) How does the Church feel when the Lord utters something in chapter two?

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Song of Songs 1:1 – 4:16, con't

- 10) At the end of chapter two and beginning chapter three a separation must have taken place. She lays in bed waiting. She gets up and goes into the streets to find him. Who are the watchmen who gave her directions?
- 11) Chapter 3 is the wedding. What kinds of preparations are made?
- 12) Chapter 4 is a description the Groom gives of the bride. In 4:8-11 what invitation is given?
- 13) What do 4:12-15 describe?

Important thoughts from the reading:

So often your Word indicates how you protected the traveler on his way. Lord, the ways are still perilous as we move from place to place. Be with us as we travel. Do not allow our vacation to be occasion for sadness. Open our eyes to the beauties of your creation so that our praise might be even greater. Bring us safely to our earthly and to our everlasting destinations. Amen.

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September 7: Song of Songs 5:1 – 8:14

- 1) In the last verses of chapter 4 the marriage seems to have been consummated. In 5:1 the bridegroom seems to recount what a great experience it was. How would reference to his bride as a sister be fitting to the relationship of Christ to his church?
- 2) 5:2 seems to take place at a different time – after the honeymoon. The bridegroom has been away. She recounts a dream she has had. The dream was about a spat that the two had. The bridegroom stood at the door and knocked. What Scripture does that remind you of?
- 3) With whom would the watchmen who beat her be identified when she came to her senses to look for him?
- 4) The bride is asked to describe the groom. How would you see that in comparison to the church?
- 5) The bride finds her husband in the garden. The groom describes his bride in 6:4-9.
- 6) At the end of chapter six and beginning of chapter seven the bride is named. She is the Shulammitte. Shulammitte means “the one who receives peace.” Solomon is the “peaceful one.” In Hebrew this would compare to Don and Donna. How would this be fitting to describe Christ and his relationship to his church?
- 7) Chapter seven again describes the bride as seen by the bridegroom.
- 8) Chapter eight speaks about the desire of the bride to display affection for the bridegroom. They live happily ever after. Verses 8-9 are apparently spoken by brothers in the family who want her honor preserved.
- 9) Needless to say there is a lot in the book of Song of Songs we will need clarification when we get to heaven. Save your questions for then. I do find this book totally unique. I have never preached from this book.

Important thoughts from the reading:

Gracious God, all that I have comes from you: my body and mind, my strength and intelligence, my time and abilities, my energy and possessions. Guard me from the temptation to use these gifts only for my personal benefit. Make me willing to use them joyfully in service to you and to your people, to the glory of your name in Christ. Amen.

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Isaiah

September 8: Isaiah 1:1 – 2:22

- 1) Isaiah prophesied for forty years (740 – 700BC) in Judah during the reigns of four kings. Do you remember which ones were good and which ones were bad?
- 2) Although Jerusalem would not fall until 587 BC, what had reached the point of no return?
- 3) In verses 7-9 the Assyrians had pretty much pillaged and plundered. To whom is Judah compared?
- 4) Why did he not take pleasure in the sacrifices that they brought and the religious festivals they celebrated?
- 5) Yet what happens in 1:18?
- 6) What were the rulers like?
- 7) What would the Ruler do for them? Why would they be called the City of Righteousness?
- 8) What were the sacred oaks?
- 9) In chapter two Isaiah looks far ahead to the time when Jerusalem would become the city of God. When would that be?
- 10) What ultimately is this reference to?
- 11) While his look was into the future, how does he picture Israel in the meantime?
- 12) Why is 2:22 an appropriate ending?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear God, we recognize your command to go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. Many of us cannot be directly active in carrying out this commission. Therefore we have sent missionaries in our name around the world to preach your Word. We come to you on behalf of those missionaries. Be with them, and help them feel your love. Keep them safe from all dangers. Keep them faithful to their task, and bless their efforts to bring others to know their Savior. Amen.

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September 9: Isaiah 3:1 – 5:30

- 1) The first 39 chapters have a lot of law preaching. In these chapters God is warning of the judgment that will take place in Israel for their apathy and unbelief. What are judgments that they would experience? (3: 1-8)
- 2) What are the sins that were being committed?
 - a) 3: 12
 - b) 3: 15
 - c) 3: 16
- 3) What comfort is found in 3: 10
- 4) With so much war in the land, what would be the result? (4:1)
- 5) Yet what was also the promise in 4:2-6?
- 6) There is a parable in chapter five. Who is the vineyard and who is the owner?
- 7) What was done for the vineyard? How was that really accomplished by the Lord?
- 8) What was the evil fruit that came from the vineyard?
 - a) 5: 8
 - b) 5: 11
 - c) 5: 18
 - d) 5: 20
 - e) 5: 21
 - f) 5:22
 - g) 5: 23
- 9) How does God say that he will not abandon Israel in spite of what they did? (5: 26ff)

Important thoughts from the reading:

Compassionate Savior; too often I forget how many in our world are homeless, poor, and hungry. In your mercy relieve their suffering and pain. Remind me that when I help a person in need I am serving you. Amen.

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September 10: Isaiah 6:1 – 7: 27

- 1) Chapter six is the calling of Isaiah as the Lord's prophet. We would expect that to be in the first chapter. What do you think the purpose of putting the first chapter where it was and leaving the calling of Isaiah a little later in the book?
- 2) What was Isaiah given an opportunity to see?
- 3) How does Isaiah react when he sees God and why is that to be expected?
- 4) When God assured Isaiah of forgiveness, what did Isaiah want to do?
- 5) When he was told his mission, why would that have been discouraging?
- 6) Chapter seven is a grand chapter of the Bible. Why?
- 7) What kind of king was Ahaz as he ruled Judah?
- 8) What was the problem Ahaz faced?
- 9) How did God want to assure him?
- 10) How did Ahaz think he had the problem fixed?
- 11) What was the sign? Why was that such an important sign?
- 12) Yet, what did the prophet say about the nations in the latter verses of the chapter?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Almighty God, you gave me my body and soul and blessed me with life. You determined my life span, when I was to be born and when I should die. Help me to proclaim your truth about the sanctity of life. Lead people everywhere to regard the unborn child as a living person whose right to live must be protected. Lead them to respect human life as a special blessing from you. As each new child is born, lead the parents to baptize their baby in the name of the triune God and to teach that child the good news of Jesus. Amen.

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September 11: Read Isaiah 8:1 – 9:21

- 1) God has a way of getting the message of condemnation across. What did he do in Isaiah's own family?
- 2) According to the prophecy before Isaiah's son would be able to talk, who was going to fall?
- 3) Who also would be threatened? (8:8)
- 4) Yet what was promised to the faithful?
- 5) What is 8:13-15 an obvious reference to?
- 6) What was happening in the land? (8:19-22)
- 7) Chapter nine is a great chapter of Isaiah also. Why?
- 8) What do Messiah's names mean?
- 9) 9:8ff is an abrupt change from the rest of the chapter. He is speaking to the northern kingdom. What is he warning?
- 10) What would even happen? (9:20-21)

Important thoughts from the reading:

God of mercy and God of might, our country has long enjoyed peace within our borders. We praise you for watching over and protecting our undeserving nation. In these uncertain days, stretch forth your mighty hand and restrain those who would bring disaster and destruction into our land. Keep our citizenry and our armed forces vigilant, so our borders may remain secure. Invigorate all those who—by land, sea, and air—maintain a constant guard on the many miles of our borders. Preserve peace in our country that many more people may use their time of grace to find spiritual peace in Jesus Christ. Be our sure defense, so that your people may continue to live their lives in peace and quietness. Hear and answer our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior, the world's only Savior. Amen.

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September 12: Isaiah 10:1 – 11:16

- 1) Again Isaiah warns of sins that were prevalent in Israel and Judah. What does he say about the leaders of the day?
- 2) When will they get their due?
- 3) While he used the Assyrians to bring wrath on the nation of Israel and Judah, what does he say is going to happen to them? Why?
- 4) Do you see the application of Assyria and similarities in today's world?
- 5) Who is obviously behind this all?
- 6) What does God promise in 10:20?
- 7) What is the comfort he gives to his people who remain faithful?
- 8) Chapter 11 is also a great chapter in Isaiah. Who is the root from Jesse?
- 9) Why was the shoot so impressive?
- 10) How would he judge righteously? How would he be our righteousness?
- 11) How should verse eleven be understood?
- 12) What is the promised that is made in chapter 11?
- 13) What in reality is the kingdom that he refers to?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Almighty God, Lord of hosts, safeguard the souls of our military men and women as the clouds of war pass overhead. May armed conflict lead your children in uniform to a renewed reliance on your gospel. Encourage them, comfort them, and enliven them through the knowledge of the forgiveness of their sins. Knit their hearts and minds together by your Holy Spirit to trust you more boldly, to love you more purely, and to follow you more quickly. Let your Word be their refuge and fortress. Finally, use them as your instruments to profess the cross of Jesus to comrades-in-arms, when the fear of death or the pain of injury makes the souls of men and women despair. In the midst of war and destruction, may your grace, O triune God, conquer human hearts. Amen.

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September 13: Isaiah 12:1 – 14:32

- 1) Chapters 11 and 12 go together. They refer to Jesus. What kind of kingdom does Jesus have as it is pictured in chapter 12?
- 2) Notice the joy, which is part of being a member of his kingdom.
- 3) As chapter 13 begins Babylon is the subject. Babylon was even a nation at this time. This is true prophecy that looks at the future. What does Isaiah see, however?
- 4) Why would Babylon be punished?
- 5) Who is going to destroy them? Cf. 13:17 Remember that Babylon would fall in 539 BC. How many years off was that from the time of the writing?
- 6) How would God's people benefit according to chapter 14?
- 7) In 14:24-27 he also pronounces doom on the Assyrians. They were the nearest enemies in terms of time. Babylon would defeat them. How does God use the nations for his purposes?
- 8) 14:28 can be dated as 716 AD. Assyria is in trouble but who should not be delighted. Why?
- 9) We are going to hear a lot of doom and gloom pronounced on Judah's enemies.

Important thoughts from the reading:

O God of peace, I turn aside from an unquiet world, seeking rest for my spirit and light for my thoughts. I bring my work to be sanctified, my wounds to be healed, my sins to be forgiven, my hopes to be renewed. In you through your Son there is perfect harmony. Draw me to yourself, and silence the discords of my wasteful life. Your greatness is beyond my highest praise. Take me out of the loneliness of self, and fill me with the fullness of your peace. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

September 14: Isaiah 15:1 - 18:7

- 1) Moab was the land east of Israel on the east side of the Dead Sea. They were actually relatives of Israel. The Moabites came from one of the daughters of Lot who slept and conceived a child from her father. Remember that Lot was Abraham's nephew. (Genesis 19: 36-38)
- 2) Isaiah describes how Moab fell (probably 715/713 BC) at the hands of Sargon of Assyria. What was the lesson he learned? Cf. 15:3
- 3) To whom was Moab encouraged to send tribute? Cf. 16:3
- 4) Who is referred to in 16:5?
- 5) In 16:13 the Lord says when judgment would take place? How long would it be?
- 6) Of what country was Damascus the capital?
- 7) Damascus (Aram) had signed alliances with the northern kingdom (intimated in 17:3), but what would happen to both (17:4)?
- 8) The rest of chapter 17 tells what happens to Aram and Israel. Not promising, is it?
- 9) What is Cush?
- 10) How is the land divided by the rivers?
- 11) What would happen to them?

Important thoughts from the reading:

O triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, you have accomplished our salvation, creating us, redeeming us, and sanctifying us. Now we ask you to keep us in the fellowship of the saints and to bless your church everywhere. Grant that your Word may be taught in all its clarity and purity. Open hearts to receive it, and raise up more men, women, and children who know their Savior and worship you, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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September 15: Isaiah 19:1 – 21:17

- 1) Isaiah predicts the end for the land of Egypt. How would Egypt disintegrate?
- 2) Egypt was defeated by Assyria in 710 BC. Someone once said that God uses the sword not for anarchy but for surgery. What did he mean?
- 3) What else happened to Egypt in 19:5ff?
- 4) What would happen to Egypt according to 19: 16ff? Who would rule? In fact it did happen at the fall of Jerusalem in 587 BC. Many Jews built colonies in Egypt.
- 5) In chapter 20 how did Isaiah become an object lesson for Egypt?
- 6) Chapter 20 speaks of judgment against the Babylonians. Again remember that Babylon was in the formative stages when Isaiah spoke but he speaks of their downfall. Who would bring them down? (21:2)
- 7) How would God's people view the downfall of Babylon? (21:9)
- 8) In 21:11 he speaks to Dumah (Edom). What does he say? What does he mean, "Morning is coming, but also is the night?"

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord, it is hard for us to handle our many responsibilities. We don't know how to work out all of our problems. We ask that you would intervene. Show us how we can best take care of family and also - with your help - take care of all our financial responsibilities. You multiplied the loaves and the fishes when you fed the five thousand. With you nothing is impossible. Continue to provide our daily bread. We are glad that you paid the price of sin when you died on the cross. As you gave your life for us, we trust in you for our future. Be with us and give us your peace. Amen.

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September 16: Isaiah 22:1 – 24:23

- 1) In chapter 22 Isaiah begins by saying this prophecy concerns the Valley of Visions. This is Jerusalem where he had visions from God.
- 2) Isaiah did live at the time of Hezekiah when there was peace, yet what did he see in the future for the city?
- 3) What is to be the reaction to disaster? (22:12)
- 4) Verse 15 doesn't speak of the future, he speaks of the present. He warns a man by the name of Shebna. What does he say?
- 5) What did he say to Eliakim? What position would Eliakim take?
- 6) Chapter 23 is a prophecy about Tyre. They were noted for their rule of the sea. They too would lose their kingdom. Why?
- 7) Assyria would not only conquer them (Tyre), so would Babylon. Look at 23:15. They too would be exiled as was Judah. What would happen after the seventy years?
- 8) Chapters 24-27 speak of a universal judgment that would take place on the last day. Chapter 24 is pretty gory and negative. Tomorrow's readings will be more positive since it means salvation to those who are believers. Who will be judged?
- 9) He describes the last judgment by comparing it to scenes they could relate to. What are some?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord God, you are the God of nature. You bring about the storm and you calm the seas. You are our awesome God. While many prayed that you turn Hurricane Isabel away from them, it has turned toward others. We don't know what your will is except that for your children you promise that there will be blessing in all things. If it is your will, we pray that you would turn this storm away from all land and property and threat to life. If it is your will that people witness your power and strength, lead people to repent and acknowledge who you are. Lead all to understand there is true treasure found not in possessions but in Jesus Christ. It is through him we come to you and plead that you be merciful. Amen

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September 17: Isaiah 25:1 – 28:13

- 1) Who are God's concern?
- 2) In 25: 6-12 what is being described?
- 3) Not everyone will be saved, which verses tell us that?
- 4) Chapter 26 is also a song. What seems to be the theme of the chapter? Cf. Verses 3,4
- 5) Why do those who are members of God's kingdom need to be humbled?
- 6) Verse 10 says that grace is shown to the wicked. How is that done?
- 7) What is verse 19 a reference to?
- 8) Chapter 27 speaks of a vineyard like chapter five did. What does the vineyard represent?
- 9) In 27:7ff there seems to be a reference to the future captivity in Babylon that they will experience. Why?
- 10) What will happen to those who remain faithful? Cf. 27:12
- 11) In chapter 28 Isaiah refers to Ephraim. That is the northern kingdom of Israel. What sin is he pointing out?
- 12) What remains, however? Cf. 28:5
- 13) Who, to their shame and damnation, is also drunk?
- 14) What does he promise? Cf. 28:11
- 15) Is this an accurate profile of America?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear Lord, compassionate and gracious God! Great is your power and strength, and great is your mercy. Hundreds of thousands of people are in the path of a monstrous storm. Forgive all who are testing you. Strengthen all who see this as a test. Spare lives and buildings. Bring the proud to their knees and cause all to say, "The Lord gives and the takes away, blessed be the name of the Lord." Let all, even those who are not in harm's way, be affected. Move those who are in the position to help, be moved to assist in whatever manner possible so those whose lives have been uprooted be shown compassion as you show compassion on us your children. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

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September 18: Isaiah 28:14 – 30:11

- 1) Starting with verse 14 we can see the people who are addressed. Who are they?
- 2) Look at 28:16. These words are quoted in I Peter 2. What are they a reference to?
- 3) Judah was in trouble. Who was the "overwhelming scourge" of 28:18?
- 4) 28:23-29 are a parable. What is the point?
- 5) In 29:1 there is woe pronounced on Ariel. What is obviously Ariel?
- 6) While pronouncing woe on Jerusalem, what does he also say will happen to the enemy?
- 7) What would the enemies of Jerusalem think of their victories? Cf. 29: 8,9
- 8) Jesus quotes 29:13 in the New Testament, what is the point?
- 9) In 29:17 he speaks of Lebanon. He is probably speaking of Assyria. Again what is the point?
- 10) What is promised to Jerusalem in 29:22-24?
- 11) In the first verses of chapter 30, what is ticking God off? What will become of the plans?
- 12) In 30:6 there is reference to the Negev. That was really the land that bordered Egypt and Judah. What would become of it all?
- 13) What would the people of Judah not have a part of that made the Lord angry?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Dear heavenly Father, thank you for the blessings you have showered upon our land. Thank you for your gift of prosperity in days of peace and protection in days of war. Thank you for our natural resources, our talents, and our abilities. Thank you for giving us freedom of worship and all other freedoms we possess. We confess that we are sinners and deserve nothing. Nevertheless, for Jesus' sake, we ask you to accompany us with your forgiving grace. Bless our government, prosper the work of our hands, and especially enable us to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens of your kingdom of grace and to be conscientious citizens of this good land. As portions of our land are threatened by Hurricane Isabella, if it is your will weaken her power and protect our people. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

September 19: Isaiah 30:12 – 33:12

- 1) With whom did Judah partner to try to save herself from Assyrian armies?
- 2) With what would Judah have nothing to do?
- 3) What did they think was their security?
- 4) What was obviously the way out? (30:19)
- 5) Chapter 30 continues with saying how useless Egypt is to follow. Simple and concise is the Lord's statement in 31:3.
- 6) The promise is made, even in mistrust and distrust, that the Lord will save. Do you know how true from history 31:8 is?
- 7) 32:1-8 looks into the future for Judah. What is pictured?
- 8) 32:9-15 says what needs to take place first before that can happen. Take note of verse 15. Ultimately what needs to happen?
- 9) In chapter 33 a destroyer is mentioned. While it is never identified, how might it be identified among people of all ages?
- 10) How do people survive bad times?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Heavenly Father, when Satan tempts us to feel that You don't hear our prayers, and that only a miracle could solve all our problems, then cause us to look about and see miracles all around. As Jesus reminds us in the parable (Matthew 6:25ff), the same almighty God Who feeds the birds and Who colors the flowers will also provide for His children. And let Your Holy Spirit remind them of the greatest miracle of all, the miracle of salvation, that God did not spare His Own Son, but delivered Him up for us all. Let that be our assurance that God does hear our prayers and that He also answers our prayers in the best possible manner and the proper time. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

September 20: Isaiah 33:13 – 36:22

- 1) Isaiah contrasts the unbeliever (33:13,14) and the believer (33:15,16). How are they different?
- 2) Who is the king of 33:17?
- 3) What is the comfort of people who are members of his kingdom?
- 4) Who is singled out for judgment in chapter 34? Why?
- 5) Chapter 35 is a strong contrast to chapter 34. What is the Lord picturing in very vivid language that the Hebrews are famous for?
- 6) Chapters 36-39 can be seen in II Kings 18-20 historically. Hezekiah was the king of Judah. Who was making an advance on Judah?
- 7) How are the words of the field commander in 36:4ff nothing less than blasphemy?
- 8) Why did the Jews want to have the Assyrians speak in Aramaic?
- 9) How did the Jews show their great faith with Hezekiah as the best example?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, you created our world and society to be orderly and to have authority figures. You created our world and society in this way to bring your blessings to us. We give you thanks for the order and the authority that our parents brought to our growing up, for those blessings have served us well. Bless our parents during these times of their lives and give us a respect and love that lasts beyond the years of childhood. Teach us to imitate the love your Son felt for his mother even when that love was inconvenient. Bless our loving, just as the love of our parents blessed our living. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

September 21: Isaiah 37:1 – 38:22

- 1) Obviously it was a dark day in Judah. How did Hezekiah show himself to be a solid ruler?
- 2) How did Hezekiah receive ridicule on all sides?
- 3) Do you think Hezekiah was saying that it was easy to have some doubts in 37:18ff?
- 4) In 37:30ff God says how he will answer the problem they were having with the Assyrians. What does he say?
- 5) How did God answer the prayer?
- 6) Hezekiah had another miracle that he experienced. What was it?
- 7) In 38:2 is Hezekiah wrong in remembering his record so that God would grant more time to him?
- 8) What was the sign that God gave?
- 9) Hezekiah wrote a poem to express thanks. What are the main thoughts?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Lord God, you created our world and society to be orderly and to have authority figures. You created our world and society in this way to bring your blessings to us. We give you thanks for the order and the authority that our parents brought to our growing up, for those blessings have served us well. Bless our parents during these times of their lives and give us a respect and love that lasts beyond the years of childhood. Teach us to imitate the love your Son felt for his mother even when that love was inconvenient. Bless our loving, just as the love of our parents blessed our living. For Jesus' sake we pray. Amen

One Year through the Old Testament

September 22: Isaiah 39:1 – 41:16

- 1) Why was showing the envoys from Babylon the treasury of Judah a big mistake?
- 2) What was not good about Hezekiah's answer in 39:8?
- 3) Beginning with Isaiah 40, the book of Isaiah sounds completely different. There was a lot of harsh law in chapters 1-39. Chapter 40 and following is a bit different. Some claim that there must have been different authors. Why can't that be true?
- 4) How are the words of chapter 40 used in the New Testament?
- 5) Of what specifically is chapter 40 a prophecy? (40:1-11)
- 6) Many of God's characteristics are alluded to in chapter 40: 12ff. Which ones?
- 7) Look at chapter 41. The Lord has stirred up someone to conquer the nations?
- 8) Note 41:10. It is truly a comforting verse.
- 9) How does the Lord help his people?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Praise to you, O God, maker of all things. You gave me life and breath. You sent your Son to cleanse me from sin and your Spirit to make me glad. Thank you for providing me with all that I need to live. Especially do I thank you for. To you be honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

September 23: Isaiah 41:17 – 43:13

- 1) When God speaks through Isaiah and refers to a refreshing of the land, what does he really mean?
- 2) Beginning at 41:21 God challenges Judah's kings. How does he make the challenge?
- 3) Chapter 42 is a great chapter. What is it about?
- 4) What is his message? (42:3,4)
- 5) Who is the LORD speaking about in 42:6?
- 6) How do we get the joy with which he wants us to operate?
- 7) The servant in 42:18 is a different one. Who is it?
- 8) 43:1-3 are some of my favorite words in the Bible. How can they be used?
- 9) From where and to whom are the children coming?
- 10) 43:11 is a great verse. What does it say?
- 11) What is the promise in 43:13?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

September 24: Isaiah 43:14 – 45:10

- 1) The Babylonian Captivity was still in the future for Judah. What was also in store for Judah? (43:14)
- 2) Why do you think God made reference to the parting of the Red Sea in 43:16ff?
- 3) Why should we forget the former things? (43:18)
- 4) 43:25 is good Gospel. Why is it so comforting?
- 5) 44:1-8 is a very comforting section of this prophecy. How does God show that he is God?
- 6) 44: 8-20 shows the foolishness of the idolater. How so?
- 7) In 44:21-24 God calls the sinner to repentance. How does he do that?
- 8) How does God “foil the false prophet and make fools of the diviner?”
- 9) Who is Cyrus? Obviously what is so incredible about this passage?
- 10) What moves man to quarrel with God?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

September 25: Isaiah 45:11 – 48:11

- 1) In the future (about 150 years), Cyrus the future king of Persia would rebuild my city. How did that happen?
- 2) How would what God through Cyrus have his majesty impressed upon other nations?
- 3) Notice how prophecy ought to impress all who read these words. What ought that lead people to do?
- 4) What is God always ready to do? (45:22ff)
- 5) God challenges other gods. How does he do that? (46:1-11)
- 6) What does God promise in 47:1-7?
- 7) What does God mock in 47:12ff?
- 8) In chapter 48 God gives the reason for his actions. What are they?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

September 26: Isaiah 48:12 – 50:11

- 1) Why does God keep reminding Israel that he is “the first and the last” and the “one who laid the foundation of the earth”?
- 2) The Persians were called God’s chosen ally. Does that make them the saved of God?
- 3) What could have been true for Jacob if.....
- 4) The Messiah is being referred to in Isaiah 49. How did Jesus have a mouth like a sharpened sword?
- 5) How did God display his splendor in Israel? (49:3)
- 6) Is 49:6 referring to a physical return of Israel or the growth of his followers – the Church?
- 7) In 49:12ff what does he mean by all those different nations and what is going to happen to them?
- 8) 49:8 is a particularly important verse to us. Why?
- 9) Chapter 50 begins with a rebuke. For what?
- 10) 50: 4-11 refers to what aspect of Jesus’ life?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

September 27: Isaiah 51:1 – 53: 12

- 1) To whom is God speaking?
- 2) What is the promise?
- 3) We can always see the Law and Gospel by each other in Isaiah. Go through chapter 51 and mark each verse whether they are law or Gospel.
- 4) In chapter 52 he says to his church to put on garments of splendor. What do they look like?
- 5) Who is he referring to in Isaiah 52:7ff?
- 6) 52:13 begins an incredible section of Scripture that goes all the way to the end of chapter 53. What makes it incredible?
- 7) Which verses refer to Jesus' on trial?
- 8) Which verses refer to Calvary?
- 9) Which verses refer to his burial?
- 10) Which to his resurrection?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

September 28: Isaiah 54:1 – 57:13

- 1) Who is the barren woman who is now able to burst into song?
- 2) To what does 54:2 allude?
- 3) What is the temporary abandonment in 54:6?
- 4) What does the rest of the chapter refer to?
- 5) For what reason is the invitation given in Isaiah 55?
- 6) Why respond to the invitation now?
- 7) Look at 55:8,9. Thoughts about what?
- 8) What is God's promise in 55:11ff
- 9) In what ways is chapter 56: 1-8 a sanctification chapter?
- 10) 56:9 begins a lot of law. Who are "the watchmen that cannot bark?"
- 11) What else do the watchmen do that is wrong?
 - a. 56:12
 - b. 57:1
 - c. 57:5
 - d. 57:7ff
- 12) How is this being done in our country?

Important thoughts from the reading:

One Year through the Old Testament

September 29: Isaiah 57:14 – 59:21

- 1) How does our majestic God show that he is for the contrite and lowly?
- 2) In chapter 58 what is the complaint God registers about Judah? (58:1-4)
- 3) What is real fasting? (58: 6,7)
- 4) Throughout chapter 58 God speaks about the people of God and how he wants them to act. How does he want his people to act?
- 5) Actions follow words or better said, "Actions follow faith.?"
- 6) How does 59:2 explain that God only hears the prayers of Christians?
- 7) In chapter 59 look at all the complaints God has against Judah and all who are ruled by the sinful nature. List them.
- 8) What does 59:5 mean?
- 9) 59:12 is a great confession. What does it consist of?
- 10) What is 59:16ff a reference to?

Important thoughts from the reading:

Merciful God almighty, once King Herod murdered infants in an effort to kill your Son. For many years now our own government has allowed abortion--the slaughter of millions more infants in defiance of your Son. Our cry goes up, "O Lord, how long?" We pray, dear God, give wisdom to our rulers to outlaw these killings once again. Give grace to the unborn to keep them in your care now and for eternity. Give understanding to mothers to nurture and provide for their babies. And grant forgiveness to all of us who actively or passively have been a part of this great national sin. We beg you, in Jesus' name. Amen.

One Year through the Old Testament

September 30: Isaiah 60:1 – 62:5

- 1) What is the glory of the Lord that is mentioned here?
- 2) Who was going to see the glory of the Lord?
- 3) Much of biblical prophecy has a double meaning – the immediate context and the more far-reaching. What are they in chapter 60?
- 4) Ultimately what convinces us that he is not referring primarily to Israel and its return from Babylon or some future day when the nation of Israel would rise?
- 5) Who is really speaking in chapter 61?
- 6) Look at 61:5. Who are the aliens shepherding the flock?
- 7) What are the garments of salvation? (61:10)
- 8) Who is Zion? (62:1)
- 9) Do you see yourself as part of 62:1-5?

Important thoughts from the reading:

When I am in distress, dear Lord, I ask you to listen to the cry of my heart. I neither can nor will prescribe the time and the way in which my distress might be removed. I will wait for you to determine the when and how of my relief. Strengthen my faith and give me patience to bear my trouble so that at last I may be glad when you visit me with your grace and remove my distress. Dear Father, you have never forsaken your children; do not forsake me now. You cheer the hearts of your despairing children; lift me up at your appointed time. I leave all to your wisdom, love, understanding, and goodness. Amen.