

God's Promises – Then and Now

A study based on the Book of Isaiah

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Study Time Suggestions for this series

As You Begin –

This may be the most important part of each lesson – a time for you to quiet your heart and mind and come in to the presence of your God. He is waiting to meet you and to put His loving arms around you to assure you of His unfailing promises. Take a few minutes to admit your questions, confess your sins and to seek His help.

Focusing on the Story THEN –

Read the passage suggested. Read it more than once and in more than one translation if possible. Isaiah was a prophet who came to speak to 4 different kings of Judah the messages he received from God which were filled with very serious warnings about judgments that were to come because of their sin and idolatry. He also encouraged the faithful believers with promises of hope and restoration. Keep in mind that while much of the information is now historical, other parts of his prophecies are yet to be fulfilled. The Messiah – Jesus – has come as Savior but we still await His coming again as King. Focus on the things that you can understand and do not worry or puzzle excessively about the things that seem confusing or complicated.

Pondering God's Story NOW –

There is no question that the promises that God made through His prophets were not meant exclusively for His chosen people, the Israelites, because all of them are found in the New Testament, too. In fact, many of them are not only in the Gospels but also in the epistles. They have always been true and have not changed. As you read the verses given in the New Testament, take some time to notice the context and the setting.

Considering the implications for you PERSONALLY -

Bible study was never meant to be only an intellectual exercise. The Bible is God's living message to His children. Just as you would read a love letter over and over again, it is good to saturate yourself with God's promises and His message to you. God invites you to believe them and to receive them by faith, so that you can experience His power and His blessing every day and anticipate with joy what He has planned for you in the future. Listen quietly for His voice as He brings to your mind and heart His desires for you.

GOD'S PROMISE to FORGIVE

Lesson One

**"Come now, let us reason together," says the Lord.
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."** Isaiah 1:18

As you begin this new study in Isaiah, take some time to consider the words in Psalm 51: 1 – 10.

How do you identify with the deep expressions of David as he writes about his need for mercy and forgiveness?
What specifically do you want to admit, to confess, to give up or give over to your God?
As you quiet your mind and your body, let God's Spirit reveal to you His presence and His desires for you.

Focusing on God's story THEN - READ ISAIAH 1.

Isaiah, the great prophet, was called and enabled by God to warn not only the people, but the kings and dignitaries that judgment would soon be coming if they did not repent and turn from their wicked ways. Chapter 1 records his first God-given vision. Read it in 2 or 3 different translations. Read it out loud and quietly.

1. How does Isaiah describe the people of Israel? What rebellious attitudes and actions does he so vividly describe? Make a list of as many accusations as you can find.
2. Why are their sacrifices not acceptable to the Lord? What do they need to change?
Proverbs 21: 2 – 3 Micah 6: 6 – 8 Matthew 23: 23
3. Zion, the city of Jerusalem, represented the heart of the worship of the one true God of Israel. What does God want for this place? What does He promise to do in order to accomplish His desires?
4. What does Isaiah suggest that the people need to do to change their behavior? Isaiah 1: 16 - 20
5. What hope and consolation does Isaiah offer to the people of Israel in Chapter 1: 18 – 20
6. What does the Lord Almighty promise in Isaiah 1: 24 – 28?

Pondering God's story NOW—

The Book of Isaiah contains some of the best and most glorious pictures of the coming Messiah found anywhere in Scripture. On this side of His birth, death, resurrection, and ascension, we can understand more clearly how in Christ we have the forgiveness of sin and through the indwelling Holy Spirit the power to live obedient and Godly lives.

1. When you think about the word "sin" or "sins", what comes to your mind? On what do you base your definition? As you read Romans 1: 18 – 32, what verses help you to grasp the seriousness of our condition?
2. What hope is offered because the Messiah, Jesus Christ, God's Son came and took our punishment?
John 3: 16 – 21

Romans 3: 21 – 26

Ephesians 1: 7 - 8 and 2: 1 – 9

Colossians 1: 13 - 14 and 2: 13 – 14

I John 1: 8 - 10

Considering the truths in God's Word and their implications for YOU personally -

1. Do you think any of these warnings or descriptions might be applicable to your life? To our culture today?
2. What verses or phrases have caught your attention as you think about the holiness of God and His desires for His beloved children? Take time to reflect, to write down your questions, your emotions, and your response to God – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
3. Give thanks to God that He promised THEN and NOW the gift of His FORGIVENESS!

GOD'S PROMISE OF JUDGMENT

Lesson 2

**"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty;
the whole earth is full of His glory."** Isaiah 6:3

As you begin your time in God's Word today, take some time to quiet your mind and focus your thoughts on God's greatness and holiness. Join with Hannah as she prayed to the Lord – I Samuel 2: 1 – 10. Write down some of your responses and the ideas that this prayer invokes in your heart.

Focusing on God's story THEN - READ Isaiah 5 and 6.

As you re-read each of these chapters, give them a title and write a short summary of each one.

1. Isaiah's "Song of the Vineyard" is an allegory in which Judah's destiny is portrayed because of its rebellion. How is God's relationship to his people pictured in this song?
2. What are the specify accusations or "woes" that are described in Chapter 5: 8 – 30?
What kind of a king was Uzziah? Read II Chronicles 26.
3. Isaiah's call to be a prophet, a courageous spokesman for God, was certainly dramatic – Chapter 6. Why do you think this might have been helpful to him?
4. What were Isaiah's 3 responses to the Lord in this vision? How did God's answers satisfy and sustain him?

Pondering God's story NOW -

1. Toward the end of Jesus' public ministry, he explained to the crowds and his disciples what the teachers of the law and the Pharisees were doing that was contrary to His way. Read Matthew 23. What are the similarities and differences between these "woes" and the ones that Isaiah spoke?
2. What do you think God is saying to Isaiah in 6: 9 – 10?
Why do you think both Jesus and Paul quoted these verses in the following New Testament books –
Matthew 13: 14 – 15 (Mark 4: 12 and Luke 8: 10)

John 12: 37 – 41

Acts 28: 26 – 28
3. Would you agree that resistance to, rejection of, and rebellion against God Almighty seem to describe the heart condition and therefore the actions of mankind throughout the ages? Why is this? What does the Bible teach?
Romans 2: 1 – 5
4. What is the answer to the human condition according to the Bible?
Romans 3: 21 – 31

Ephesians 2: 1 - 9

Considering the truths in God's Word and their implications for YOU personally –

Take the time to write out your response to these final verses in Romans and Ephesians? Use some of the vocabulary words which have been a part of this study if you can. What is your prayer to The One who is calling your name?

GOD'S PROMISE of PEACE

Lesson 3

**"You will keep in perfect peace him whose mind is steadfast, because he trusts in You.
Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the LORD, is the Rock eternal."** Isaiah 26: 3 - 4

As you start your meditation time today, take comfort in the promise of a Savior and a future that God gave to Isaiah and the faithful remnant of believers so long ago. Meditate on Isaiah 11: 1 – 9. In what ways do these truths encourage you and give you hope for now and for the future?

Focusing on God's story THEN - Read Isaiah 25 and 26 – There will be singing and rejoicing "in that day . . ."

Bonus reading:

Isaiah 7 – 8 - includes both scathing indictments upon Judah and encouraging words of hope.

Isaiah 9 – 12 - has been called the "Book of Immanuel" but includes both judgment & redemption

Isaiah 13 - 23 – prophecies against many specific cities and areas, including Jerusalem

Isaiah 24 - - describes a day of final judgment for the entire earth

1. What is this poem celebrating? (chapter 25)
2. What is Isaiah picturing in this song of rejoicing and salvation? (chapter 26)
3. Find all of the names for God that Isaiah uses. What does this indicate to you?
4. How do you integrate the various aspects of God which are pictured by the prophet Isaiah?
He is loving, compassionate and faithful, for example, but He is also righteous and His wrath and punishment will come "in that day". (See also Isaiah 27 : 1)
5. What are the promises given to all those who honor God and revere Him that cause Isaiah to praise His God?

Pondering God's story NOW –

Once again we discover that most of the prophets speak in poetic language that often lacks chronological perspective and very often has multiple fulfillments. Isaiah describes in the same images the more immediate return of the Israelites to their homeland, after experiencing captivity and domination of Babylon and Assyria, as well as the time when Jesus will return to establish "a new heaven and a new earth." How does this bring peace to you?

John 14: 1 -4

II Peter 3: 1 – 13

Revelation 7: 9 - 17

Considering these truths in God's Word and their implication for YOU personally –

What did you learn about God's care for His own in these songs? Take time to write out in your own words these promises and your desires. Listen quietly to the re-assurance that God would like to give you at this time. What is your heartfelt prayer to the God who offers to you His peace and protection?

GOD'S PROMISE TO ANSWER PRAYER

Lesson 4

Incline Your ear, O LORD, and hear; open Your eyes, O LORD, and see . . . Isaiah 37:17
Because you have prayed to Me . . . Isaiah 37: 21

As you come into God's presence through His Word today, begin to think about the things that are weighing on your mind. What makes your heart feel heavy or causes your thoughts to be distracted? Are there some subtle fears or anxieties that keep you awake at night? Slow down long enough to admit your frailty and your concerns and bring them to God. Find comfort and hope in Psalm 145: 8 – 21.

Focusing on God's story THEN - Read Isaiah 36 and 37. (Isaiah 27 – 35 – More warnings and judgment)

Then read II Kings 18 and 19 and/or II Chronicles 29 and 30.

For a brief 4 chapters, Isaiah changes from declaring his prophecies to describing his interactions with King Hezekiah. Enter in to these events as you read them and feel with the various people.

1. What did you learn about the character and faith of King Hezekiah?
2. Sennacherib, the great king of Assyria, used very clever tactics to discredit Hezekiah. How would you describe them?
3. Hezekiah recognized that the Assyrians were not only threatening him, but they were ridiculing the Living God. (37: 1 – 4) What difference did this make in his response? What accusations did the Lord make against Sennacherib?
4. What was Isaiah's role in this historical event? Why did he have this respected position?
5. What message of hope did the Lord give to King Hezekiah? What impact did this have on him?
6. Compare the 2 prayers of Hezekiah – 37: 14 – 20 and 38: 1 – 8. What are your observations?

Pondering God's story NOW –

Does God still answer the prayers of His children? What do you believe and why?

Matthew 7: 7 – 11

John 16: 23 – 24

Philippians 4: 6 – 7

Colossians 4: 2 - 4

Considering these truths found in the Bible, what are the implications for YOU personally?

Hezekiah was facing an enormously powerful enemy and he knew it. So what did he do about it? What are you facing in your life? Where is the enemy doing his best to take you captive, to keep you in prison? Or is he just taunting you with doubt? Here is your invitation – Matthew 11: 28 - 30. Will you RSVP and accept it right now and in the days to come?

GOD'S PROMISE OF STRENGTH

Lesson 5

**The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom.** Isaiah 20: 28

As you begin your meditation on God's Word today, ask yourself "What is your God like?" What images or pictures come to your mind as you think about the Lord God Almighty, about His one and only Son, Jesus, and about the Holy Spirit? Which of these are helpful and life-giving? Which ones might be inaccurate or even causing you to doubt Him? This is a good time for honesty and openness as you come before Him – who already understands you completely. Read Psalm 28: 6 – 9.

Focusing on God's story THEN - Read Isaiah 40. Read it in 2 or 3 different translations.

The second half of the Book of Isaiah is addressed to the exiles in Babylonia. It was written to give them hope and comfort. Knowing that someday they would return to Jerusalem and that in the future God would send the Messiah and establish His kingdom.

1. What is the good news found in verses 1 – 8?

What is Isaiah announcing in verses 9 – 11?

What do you learn about God's wisdom and power – verses 12 – 17?

Who is God compared to idols and to His creation in verses 18 – 25?

What are the huge proclamations that are made about God in verse 26 – 31?

2. Choose 5 or 6 descriptive words or phrases about the greatness of God that are the most important to you from this study? Why did you select them?
3. What could Isaiah be describing in verses 9 – 11?
4. Is the progression from soaring to running to walking in verse 31 helpful to you? In what way?

Pondering God's story NOW -

How do the New Testament writers embrace this promise that God gave so long ago?

Ephesians 1: 18 – 22

Philippians 4: 13

II Timothy 4: 17 – 18

II Peter 1: 3 - 4

Considering the implications for YOU personally –

This is not a good time for academic questions or intellectual answers. God is inviting you to respond to Him with your heart, with your passion, with your feelings. Find a quiet place and let Him reveal the truths which are in Isaiah 40 to you in a personal way. What is He asking you to believe, to understand, to grasp? How does He want to comfort you? Where would experiencing the gift of His strength make a difference in your words and actions?

GOD'S PROMISE OF HIS SUSTAINING PRESENCE

Lesson 6

**Even to your old age and gray hairs I am He. I am He who will sustain you.
I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.**

Isaiah 46: 4

Before you begin your study, take time to focus your heart and mind on the truth that God has chosen you. He created you and He knows you. Take delight in Psalm 139: 13 – 18 and 23 – 24. What is your prayer response as you listen to God's gentle voice?

Focusing on God's Story THEN - Read Isaiah 45 & 46.

It is amazing that decades before the events, Isaiah predicts that Cyrus, a Persian King, will be used by God to bring judgment on the idolatrous nation of Babylon and deliver the nation of Israel. These prophecies brought comfort and hope to God's chosen nation.

1. Look carefully at what God says about Himself in the past, present and future. Notice especially the "I am . . ." statements. What does God want His people to know and to believe about who He is?
2. What can you learn about God's chosen people (the elect) and their circumstances? What does God promise to do for them?
3. Is there any indication that God cares for other nations and peoples of the earth? What is He going to do for them?
4. There are several references to idols or heathen gods. How does Isaiah describe their power and their future?
5. What are the instructions and warnings that God gives to His people?

Pondering God's story NOW -

Not only did God want His people to know Him better, He wanted them to understand what He was able and desired to do for them. He hasn't changed. His purposes haven't changed. His promises are there for you and me today. What are they?

John 15: 1 – 11

Ephesians 3: 16 – 20

Philippians 2: 12 - 13

Colossians 1: 10 - 14

Considering the implications for YOU personally -

Look carefully at Isaiah 46: 4. What does the word "sustain" really mean? It is a big word that literally means "to hold up from under". God is promising to carry, to support, nourish, provide for, uphold, and strengthen YOU. What does this mean to you? Are there places in your life where you could give up the need to control, to pay back, to judge and learn to trust God's timing, His power, and His purposes?

Is God drawing you to prayerfully consider any other truths? Take time to hear His voice and to feel His presence.

GOD'S PROMISE OF A SAVIOR

Lesson 7

**But He was pierced for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
The punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.
We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”** Isaiah 53: 5 - 6

As you begin your study time, quiet your mind and heart so that you can focus on the Savior, read Philippians 2: 5 – 11. Christ Jesus came to this world to die in your place. Tell Him how you feel about His love for you.

Focusing on God's Story THEN - Read Isaiah 52: 13 through 53.

It's all about Jesus, His suffering and His glory. Who was HE? What did He do? Why did He come? Read these verses every day this week. Use a variety of translations.

1. How does Isaiah describe the condition of mankind?
2. What kind of suffering would this "servant" experience? Describe His attitude and His actions.
3. What will be accomplished through Him according to Isaiah's prophecy?

Bonus study of the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecies – (from The Nelson Study Bible, page1199)

<u>The Prophecy</u>	<u>The Fulfillment</u>
He will be exalted (52: 13)	Phil.2: 9
He will be disfigured by suffering (52: 14; 53: 2)	Mark 15: 17, 19
He will be widely rejected (53: 1, 3)	John 12: 37 - 38
He will bear our sins and sorrows (53: 4)	Romans 4: 25 and I Peter 2: 24 - 25
He will make a blood atonement (53: 5)	Romans 3: 25
He will be our substitute (53: 6, 8)	II Corinthians 5: 21
He will voluntarily accept our guilt and punishment (53:7)	John 10: 11
He will be buried in a rich man's tomb (53: 9)	John 19: 38 – 42
He will justify many from their sin (53: 10 – 11)	Romans 5: 15 – 19
He will die with transgressors (53: 12)	Mark 15: 27 – 28 and Luke 22: 37

Pondering God's story NOW

1. Both Jesus and some of the New Testament writers quoted verses from Isaiah 53. Why did they do this?
Isaiah 53: 1 - John 12: 37 – 43 and Romans 10: 16

Isaiah 53: 4 – Matthew 8: 17

Isaiah 53: 9 - I Peter 2: 21 - 24

Isaiah 53: 12 – Luke 22: 37
2. As you re-read Isaiah 53 4 – 6, replace the pronoun "our" with "my" and "me".
3. Philip used Isaiah 53: 7 to introduce the Ethiopian eunuch to the good news about Jesus – Acts 8: 26 – 40. What impresses you about this story?

Making these truths your own experience -

Where are you on your journey of faith? Jesus is offering to you His forgiveness, His peace and eternal life. He is "THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE." No one comes to God except through Jesus. (John 14: 6) Is your answer "yes" or "no" or are you undecided? It's all yours if you will receive Him by faith. Maybe it is time to write your own personal-experience version of this chapter in Isaiah

GOD'S PROMISE OF JOY

Lesson 8

**So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth. It shall not return to Me void
But it shall accomplish what I please and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.**

Isaiah 55: 11

As you come to God's Word, listen quietly to the open invitation from Jesus – "Come to me . . ." - Matthew 11: 28. The Savior is ready to sit and talk with you. So – why don't you go to Him now and tell Him about your life? Maybe you have some questions that you would like to ask Him or some concerns you want to share. Will you express them to Him?

Focusing on God's story THEN - Read Isaiah 55 – 56: 8. Read it in at least 2 translations or versions - out loud and quietly.

The invitations and information in these chapters were initially given to the exiles, God's covenant nation, but in the centuries to follow this message was opened up to all nations and to all people.

1. What is the invitation in 55: 1 – 5? Rewrite it in your own words. What are the promises?
2. What is the invitation in 55: 6 -7 Rewrite it in your own words What are the promises?
3. Do you think there is a connection between God's thoughts (vs.8 - 9) and His Word? What could the relationship be? What did you learn about His thoughts and His word – vs. 10 – 11?
4. It's hard to imagine a nation being freed from bondage and exile and returning to their home land, but that is what happened historically. Their joy would have been immense. In your mind what could these verses be picturing for God's children today?
5. What do you learn about the extension of God's salvation to foreigners in the verses in Chapter 56?

Pondering God's story NOW

1. How is the invitation in Revelation 21: 6 and 22: 17 similar to Isaiah 55: 1 – 5?
2. Here are some invitations from Jesus. How are they similar? How are they different?
Matthew 6: 33

Matthew 11: 28 – 30

John 4: 13 -14
3. Isaiah pictures the joy that the exiles will experience when they are released from their present circumstances, giving them hope and peace in the present. How is this similar to the promises that we have today?
John 16: 24 and 33, John 17: 13

Romans 15: 13

Philippians 4: 4 - 7

Considering the implications for YOU personally -

What have you done and are you doing at this time in your life with these invitations from the Lord?

1. To come . . .
2. To seek . . .
3. To experience His peace and joy . . .

GOD'S PROMISE OF PROTECTION and GUIDANCE

Lesson 9

**"Is this not the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice . . .
To set the oppressed free and to share your food with the hungry . . .
Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear;
Then your righteousness will go before you and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard."**

Isaiah 58: 6 - 8

As you begin you study time, think about when you have particularly felt the presence of the Lord and His guiding hand upon your life in recent days? Take some time to tell Him "thank you". Or is God silent right now and you're wondering where He is? Call upon His name and seek Him. He will answer your call, but you might need open yourself up to see Him in surprising events or places. Read Jeremiah 33: 1 – 3 and claim God's promise to you.

Focusing on God's story THEN - Read Isaiah 58. Read it again – and maybe again.

1. Why is God accusing His people? What are they doing that is so wrong?
2. What is the definition of "fasting" that you discovered in this chapter?
3. What are the promises given to those whose behavior is consistent with God's heart and desires?
4. Why do you think that the keeping of the Sabbath was so important? How is this described and what will be the result?
5. Summarize in your own words what Isaiah is telling the Israelites at this time.

Pondering God's story NOW -

1. What can you learn from these New Testament passages about these concerns?
Fasting – Matthew 6: 16 – 18, Matthew 9: 14 – 15, Acts 14: 21 – 23
Giving/Generosity – Matthew 6: 1 – 4, Matthew 25: 31 - 46, II Corinthians 9: 6 – 11, I Timothy 6: 17 – 18
Justice – Matthew 12: 15 – 21, Matthew 23: 23, Romans 12: 17 – 21, I John 3: 7
Sabbath – Matt. 12: 1 – 13, Acts 20: 7, I Corinthians 16: 1
2. Do you think God is any less serious about these things today? Look at them one by one. (The Voice – 58: 6 – 9)
How does your life reflect these passions of the LORD? Where are you involved or "sacrificing"?
 - Liberating those tied down and held back by injustice
 - Lightening the load of those heavily burdened
 - Freeing the oppressed and shattering every type of oppression
 - Sharing your food with people who have none
 - Giving those who are homeless a space in your home
 - Not neglecting your own family
 - Accusing others and doing away with mean and inflammatory speech

Considering the implications for YOU personally -

God promises light, healing, protection, help, guidance, and joy to those who will live life with His priorities in mind and in action. What are your questions and concerns? How are you willing to risk to respond to His invitation to live His way and by His strength? What changes are you willing to make?

GOD'S PROMISE OF REDEMPTION

Lesson 10

"You, O LORD, are our Father, our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name."

Isaiah 63:16b (NKJV)

As you come before the Lord and before you begin your study time, is there anything that stands between you, that is separating you from experiencing His compassion? Is there something which you have been unwilling to confess or a need that you have not admitted? Read Psalm 32: 1 - 5. As He did with His chosen people, God waits for you to come to Him in honesty and repentance. You'll never regret it.

Focusing on God's story THEN - Read Isaiah 63: 7 – 64: 12. This is Isaiah's prayer to the Lord on behalf of the nation. He willingly admits their rebellion and iniquity. He also claims the promises of God which include redemption and restoration and finally he pleads with God for forgiveness and mercy.

1. Make a list of the "kindnesses of the LORD" for which Isaiah expresses his gratitude.
2. What does Isaiah remember from history that God did for His chosen people?
3. It is difficult for us to face the righteous anger of God and yet it seems to be a reality. How do you explain some of the references to it?
63: 10
64: 5
64: 7
64: 9
64: 12
4. What is he asking God to do? Why does He have the courage to make these requests?
5. What references are made to the Holy Spirit? What do you learn about His work at that time?
6. How do you think God will answer Isaiah's questions?

Pondering God's story NOW –

1. Explain the word "redemption". What does "redeem" really mean?
2. How does the New Testament clarify the bigger meaning of the "redemption" that Isaiah foretold?
Romans 3: 21 – 26

Romans 8: 22 – 23

Galatians 4: 4 – 7

Ephesians 1: 3 – 8, 13 - 14 and 4: 30

Colossians 1: 13 – 14

Titus 2: 11 – 14

Considering what these truths mean to you personally –

What is your song, your testimony? How has the redemption that is found in Jesus changed you?
With whom are you sharing your story so that they can meet the Savior, too?

**"Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.
Redeemed through His infinite mercy, His child, and forever, I am."**

GOD'S PROMISE FOR THE FUTURE

Lesson 11

**“Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem
to be a delight and its people a joy.”** Isaiah 65: 17 - 18

As you bow before the Lord think about the reality that Jesus may come today! If you knew that He really was coming, what would you say to Him right now? Read II Peter 3: 8 – 10. Listen - He may have some things that He wants you to know and believe. If you're His child, it's going to be the most amazing trip you'll ever take – and you don't even have to worry about a suitcase because you won't need to take anything with you!

Focusing on God's story THEN - Read Isaiah 65: 17 – 66: 24.

(Isaiah 65: 1 – 16 – A picture of God's relationship to those who have forsaken Him)

1. How does Isaiah picture what God is creating for His people?
2. How and why will God avenge or judge His enemies? Who are they? Do they deserve it?
3. Jerusalem (Zion) will someday be a place of glory? How does Isaiah picture it?
4. The theme of impending judgment on the wicked and rebellious has been a continuous theme for the prophet Isaiah. What does he describe for them in these final 2 chapters in contrast to those who are "His people"?
5. What adjectives would you use to describe the LORD God as you consider these chapters of Isaiah?

Pondering God's story NOW –

1. How would you describe a person who has a "humble and contrite spirit"? Why does God value these attitudes so greatly? How is this related to the final phrase in 66: 2?

Ephesians 4: 1 – 2

James 4: 5 – 10 (Proverbs 3: 34)

I Peter 5: 5 – 6

2. How relevant to you is the warning that Jesus gave to His listeners in Matthew 7: 15 – 23?
3. It's been a very long time since God gave these words to Isaiah. It's been a long time since He gave the same promise to Peter and to John. How do these promises influence your choices and attitudes?

John 14: 1 – 4

II Peter 3: 8 – 13

I John 3: 1 -6

Revelation 21 – 22: 7

Considering the implications for you personally

There is a very timely word to you and me in Revelation 3: 7 – 13 and Revelation 3: 20 – 22. When you think about the future what gives you hope? What helps you "hold on' and "endure patiently"? Where do you find strength for today and hope for tomorrow? Take time to admit your questions and then listen for God's reassurance.

Isaiah's Prophecies in the New Testament

6: 9 – 10	Matt. 13: 14 – 15 Mark 4: 12 Luke 8: 10 John 12: 40 Acts 28: 26 – 27	49: 6 49: 8 49: 18	Acts 13: 47 II Corinthians 6: 2 Romans 14: 11
8: 12	I Peter 4: 14	52: 5	Romans 2: 24
8: 14	Romans 9: 33 I Peter 2: 8	52: 7	Romans 10: 1
8: 17 – 18	Hebrews 2: 13	52: 11	II Corinthians 6: 17 - 18
10: 22 – 23	Romans 9: 28	53: 1	John 12: 38 Romans 10: 16
11: 10	Romans 15: 12	53: 4	Matthew 8: 17
13: 10	Matt. 24: 29 Mark 13: 24 -25	53: 9	I Peter 2: 22
22: 13	I Cor. 15: 32	53: 12	Luke 22: 57
25: 8	I Cor. 15: 54	54: 1	Galatians 4: 26 - 27
25: 11 – 12	I Cor. 14: 21	54: 13	John 6: 4
27: 9	Romans 11: 26 – 27	55: 3	Acts 13: 34
28: 16	Romans 9: 33, 10: 11 I Peter 2: 6	56: 7	Matthew 21: 13 Mark 11: 17 Luke 19: 46
29: 13	Matt. 15: 8 – 9	59: 7 – 8	Romans 3: 17
29: 14	I Cor. 1: 19	59: 20 – 21	Romans 11: 26 - 27
29: 16	Romans 9: 20	61: 1 – 2	Luke 4: 18 - 19
34: 4	Matt. 24: 29 Mark 13: 24 – 25	64: 4	I Corinthians 2: 9
40: 3	Matt. 3: 3 Mark 1: 3 Luke 3: 4 – 6	65: 1	Romans 10: 20
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40: 13	Romans 11: 34 I Cor. 3: 16	66: 24	Mark 9: 44, 46, 48
42: 1 – 4	Matt. 12: 18 – 21		
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Summary-

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