

Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

Monday (March 4) – Isaiah 13, 14

Chapters 13 to 23 are a collection of eleven oracles. The first oracle concerns Babylon, a powerful and ungodly nation. Babylon becomes a symbol of hostility against God and His people. Isaiah foretells how God will raise up Assyria to bring down Babylon. This will happen, in a greater sense, when Christ comes for judgment. When that Day of the Lord comes, all sinners, all hostility against God and His people will be swiftly punished. We give thanks that Christ, our innocent substitute, suffered the full wrath of God in our place. In Chapter 14 God promises that the people of Israel, presently captives in Babylon, will be restored to their own land. The middle of chapter 14 is a song of taunting. Israel is to proclaim the folly of once powerful Babylon and give thanks for the Lord's deliverance. The chapter concludes with oracles concerning Assyria and Philistia. According to His saving purpose, God will raise up Assyria to bring judgment upon the nations (14:26–27).

Tuesday (March 5) – Isaiah 15, 16, 17

In chapters 15, 16, and 17, Moab and Damascus also receive oracles concerning their downfall by the Assyrians. But notice how Philistia (14:32), Moab (16:2–5) and Damascus (17:3) all receive a word of comfort. In the day of their judgment, Zion will become a refuge, even for Gentiles from Philistia. The Moabites will be permitted to sojourn in Judah. Damascus will have a remnant, though it will be small (just remember how small the remnant of Israel was after the Babylonian captivity). Our Lord Jesus, Israel's messianic king, opens Judah to all nations. This is a prophecy concerning the Gentile church.

Wednesday (March 6) – Isaiah 18, 19, 20

In Chapter 18 the oracle concerning Cush warns them to repent, for the harvest of the Lord is at hand. Assyria is coming for them too. Like Philistia, Moab, and Damascus, the Lord promises that there will be a remnant who will be brought to Mount Zion, the place of the name Lord of Hosts (18:7). In Chapter 19 Egypt receives a word foretelling swift judgment for their idolatry. There will be civil war in Egypt. Foreign nations will have their way with her. But then God makes a wondrous promise: He will topple their idols and come to them to be their God. Even Egypt and Assyria, those violent, Gentile nations, will have a remnant who fear the Lord. That remnant will be called “blessed,” “My people,” and “the work of My hands.” Once again, we see a beautiful prophecy of the mission to the Gentiles and its fruit, the Gentile church. In chapter 20 Isaiah is told to walk naked and barefoot for three years as a sign to Cush and Egypt of their exposed sin and coming judgment. Thanks be to God for Baptism, where our sin is covered and we are clothed in the white robes of Christ's perfection.

Thursday (March 7) – Isaiah 21, 22

In chapter 21 the Lord foretells the fall of Babylon, which would take place in 539 B.C. All this happened according to the definite plan and purpose of the Lord. The judgment of

the Lord means victory for those who fear Him, but it is still terrible to behold. Isaiah is appointed as a watchman. Today, pastors are the watchmen of God. They preach God's law and warn of His wrath. They also proclaim the Gospel, God's mighty work of salvation accomplished by our Lord Jesus Christ. In chapter 22 Isaiah indicates that Jerusalem has been no less evil than the nations who have been addressed already. This reminds us that God's plan to bless all nations through Israel had nothing to do with Israel being the most righteous or the most powerful of the nations. Even so, from Israel, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is born. Eliakim, the son of Hilkiah (22:20–24) is a foreshadowing of Christ. The end of the chapter reveals that even Eliakim will fall. He too is only a sinful man. The people are to trust that God will send one greater than Eliakim, David's son and David's Lord, Jesus Christ.

Friday (March 8) – Isaiah 23, 24

In chapter 23 Isaiah prophesies of the Lord's judgment upon Tyre and Sidon, a wealthy seafaring people. They too will be brought down by Assyria. But note the promise at the end: The Lord will visit them, and their wealth will be restored and used to bless Israel. In chapter 24 Isaiah addresses the whole earth and the coming global judgment. This refers to the return of Christ and judgment of the Last Day. Just as with the judgments of the nations, God will preserve a remnant. Those who fear God, repent of their sin, and look for the fulfillment of His promise of salvation will rejoice on the Day of Judgment.

Saturday (March 9) – Isaiah 25, 26

In chapter 25 Isaiah speaks of the tender care the Lord provides for the faithful remnant who fear Him. The feast of rich food and well-aged wine (25:6) is a foreshadowing of the Lord's Supper where we eat and drink the fruits of our Lord Jesus' victory over death on the cross. The Lord's Supper is a foretaste of the feast to come, the feast in the new creation, where God will wipe away every tear from all faces. Chapter 26 is a song for God's people to sing. We have all things through Christ, and yet, we still wait for Christ's return. We wait for the day when we will see Christ's victory over sin and death with our own eyes, when the dead are raised with glorified bodies unstained by sin.

Sunday (March 10) – Isaiah 27, 28

In chapter 27 Isaiah foretells how the Lord will punish Leviathan. This Leviathan might be a reference to Satan, the serpent who tempted our parents, Adam and Eve. Leviathan may also refer to the kings of the nations upon whom the Lord has pronounced judgment. The Lord will keep and protect His people. They are His vineyard and He is the vintner. Our Lord Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit" (John 15:5). In chapter 28 God pronounces judgment on Ephraim and foretells how He will raise up the Assyrians against them. Proud Ephraim is likened to a stumbling drunk. Again, in this section, look for the promise of the faithful remnant. Those who fear the Lord and repent when they hear Isaiah's preaching will find rest in the Lord.