

## Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

### **Monday (March 25) – Isaiah 56, 57**

Thus says the Lord! Chapter 56 begins as the God of His people speaks to His own. He speaks His Law. He speaks His Gospel. The people have forsaken Him. They are called to keep justice and to perform righteousness. As God's Law commands and shows us our guilt, so His Gospel reveals the good news of our Savior, Jesus Christ! Blessed is the one who keeps the Sabbath. (vv. 1–2). He grants His righteousness to His own and eternal Sabbath rest in His presence (cf. Matthew 11:28–29). The Lord also calls the foreigners. He makes His house to be a house of prayer for all peoples (v. 7).

In chapter 57 the Lord accuses the people of spiritual adultery, wandering after false gods. Verse 4 points out that the people are mocking their God by their incessantly sinful ways. Still, He will revive His people as they repent (v.15). Verse 21 says that there is no peace for the wicked. Indeed, true peace is only found in the Prince of Peace Himself, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (9:6)!

### **Tuesday (March 26) – Isaiah 58, 59**

Chapter 58 begins as God declares to His people their transgressions (v. 1). Their fasting is not sincere. Rather than turn from wickedness and live together in peace, they turn away from God. The Lord has given His people the gift of the Sabbath. And still, they do not receive it as a gift for their refreshment. They serve themselves rather than delighting in the Lord.

In chapter 59 the Lord speaks of the damage done by the iniquities of the people. These have made a separation between them and God. Their sins have hidden His face from them so that He does not hear (v. 2). This is a sobering portrayal of the damaging reality of the power of sin. May the Lord help us all. Thankfully, He is our Savior and Redeemer! And those who turn from their transgressions will receive of His grace (v.20). Ours is a God who calls us to return to Him from our sinful wandering. He sends His Son, our Savior and Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, who saves us from our sins and ourselves!

### **Wednesday (March 27) – Isaiah 60, 61, 62**

Chapter 60 gives the promise that God's people will arise and shine. The light of the Lord will come to them (v. 1). This is a wonderful promise of future hope for these wayward people. It was fulfilled when Christ our Savior came to earth to shine His saving light. His light scatters all darkness giving the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ (cf. 2 Corinthians 4:6). God promises a future grace fulfilled in our Savior and His ministry.

In Chapter 4 of the Gospel of Luke we see Jesus begin His ministry as the Anointed One. There in His sermon He quotes the words from the opening verses of Isaiah Chapter 61: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me" (v. 1). Chapter 62 continues Isaiah's prophecy of good things to come. The nations will see the righteousness of God's people (v. 2). They will be beautiful to God and His delight (vv. 3–4). Indeed, we shall all be called holy and redeemed of our Lord (v. 12)! Such wonderful promises strengthen our faith. For He who began a good work in us will complete that work in the day of our Lord's coming (cf. Philippians 1:6).

## **Thursday (March 28) – Isaiah 63, 64**

Chapter 63 begins with the subject of God's vengeance. The Lord judges those who gather against Him and His chosen people. The Lord's judgment against the ungodly here is a picture of His final judgment at the end of the age. The chapter concludes with the subject of God's mercy. It recounts God's goodness to the house of Israel (v.7) and concludes with prayer for further mercy.

Chapter 64 concludes this prayer as the people cry for God's justice and His mercy. The people recognize that their iniquities have taken them away and that none are calling upon His name (vv. 6–7). Still the people call God their Father (v.8). Indeed, He is the Father of all mercies (cf. 2 Corinthians 1:3). We seek the Lord for His mercy. Growing in His grace and in faith means becoming more and more aware of our own sinfulness day to day.

## **Friday (March 29) – Isaiah 65, 66**

In chapter 65 again the Lord speaks His Law and He speaks His Gospel to His people. His Law displays their guilt, and His Gospel reveals the promise of His blessing. His children are His servants (v. 8). The Suffering Servant, our Savior, Jesus Christ will make many righteous by bearing their iniquities (53:11). The Lord's people anticipate a new and eternal day, new heavens and a new earth where the former things will not be remembered. In that day God's church, the new Israel will be glad and rejoice forever and that which He creates! On that day our Lord says, "I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in My people" (vv. 17–19).

In chapter 66 the Lord reminds of the humble and the contrite in spirit, the one who trembles at His word. This is the one to whom He will look (v. 2). There is to be rejoicing with Jerusalem for all who love her (v. 10). But for those who have rebelled against Him, their worm shall not die nor their fire be quenched (v. 24)—a stark reminder of eternal judgment used by our Lord Jesus Christ in reference to the unrepentant (cf. Mark 9:48).

## **Saturday (March 30) – Jeremiah 1**

Jeremiah is a prophet of God set in place to speak the Law and Gospel to the people. The very word of God comes to Jeremiah (v. 4). God has set him apart before he was born for this prophetic ministry (v. 5). The Lord places His very words in Jeremiah's mouth. These are God's true words of Law and Gospel spoken through the prophet. God calls upon him to pluck up, to break down, to destroy, and to overthrow all with God's words. The work of God's Law is to correct and to judge. Jeremiah will also preach the gospel of God, the very good news of salvation. Therefore, he will build, and he will also plant (v. 10).

## **Sunday (March 31) – Jeremiah 2**

Jeremiah has been called the weeping prophet. He knew the punishment of God that was to come to the people for their sinful, idolatrous ways. His grief is great as he cries out to the Lord. In a similar way, Jesus cries over the city of Jerusalem for their rejection of their Messiah (cf. Luke 19:41–44). Chapter 2 begins as the prophet is given the word of the Lord to speak to the wayward people. They have become unfaithful to the Lord, serving other gods and following their own ways. Jeremiah presents continual calls for the people to return to their faithful Lord once more.