



Devotional

June 28 - Oct. 3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Week One.....3
Week Two.....9
Week Three.....13
Week Four.....18
Week Five.....23
Week Six.....28
Week Seven.....33
Week Eight.....38
Week Nine.....43
Week Ten.....50
Week Eleven.....58
Week Twelve.....63
Week Thirteen.....68
Week Fourteen.....73

WEEK TWO (JULY 5–11)

Day 187: July 5, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 24:1–27:13

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 36:1–22

Isaiah describes a world in disarray, an earth that literally quakes with turmoil (Is. 24:19). But he also depicts hope: he faithfully, calmly tends and guards his vineyard (Is. 27) believing that the fruit it bears will make a difference. May it be so for us. What are steady, personal ways that you contribute to hope in the world?

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 188: July 6, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 28:1–31:9

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 37:1–38

Isaiah 28-31 reminds us that “self-help doesn’t save.” Forgive us, Lord, for turning to ourselves, our strength, our nationalism, our economic & military might, or anything else we have created, to give us the peace and security that you alone can provide.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 189: July 7, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 32:1–35:10

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 38:1–39:8

Isaiah 32-35 reminds us that when all seems lost, it never is. God is in exile with us, rising to the challenge (32:10), strengthening us (35:3), and creating a way of justice and peace where there seems to be no way (35:5-10).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 190: July 8, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 36:1–39:8

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 42:1–25

In Isaiah 36-39 we read the story of the good king Hezekiah for the third time in the Bible. His story again reminds us that when we are faithful to God during times of relative calm, we will be more prepared to be faithful in times of trouble.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 191: July 9, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 40:1–44:28

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 43:1–28

If you're feeling down, fearful, or broken, read Isaiah 40-44. It not only contains some of the most often quoted words of encouragement in the Bible, it repeats this comforting refrain: "Do not fear."

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 192: July 10, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 45:1–48:22

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 48:1–22

Sin in our lives makes pleasing ourselves a higher priority than pleasing God (Isaiah 46:6). It gives us a false sense of security (47:10) and offers no true, lasting sense of peace (48:22). The better way is to open our eyes and ears to life as God intends it (48:6-7).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 193: July 11, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 49:1–52:12

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 49:1–26

The faithful life isn't always easy. Just ask Isaiah. But God encourages you just like Isaiah. You are chosen (49:2). You are gifted (50:4). Others have gone before you (51:1). God comforts you (51:12) and helps you shake the dust and rise up (52:2).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

July 5–11, 2020: Weekly Devotion by John Dormois

The book of Isaiah is both about a man, a prophet, and a historical account of Israel's history. Scholars often talk of "three Isaiahs", since there is good evidence that chapters 1-39 were written in the 8th and 7th centuries BCE whereas chapters 40-55 came about much later. The book includes oracles, prophetic liturgies, and theology. Isaiah rails at the degradation of Israel and predicts its destruction. Much of the content of chapters 24 to 39 revolves around Isaiah's warnings about the fall of Jerusalem. This occurs in 586 BCE, the beginning of the Babylonian exile.

The so-called "second Isaiah" encompasses chapters 40-66. With the exile over, it is a time of hope. The writings of Isaiah are used to inspire future generations. A key verse is 44.6:

I am the first and I am the last;
Besides me there is no God.

This verse is crucial since for the first time in history it establishes monotheism as central to the theology of the Hebrew people and subsequently for Christianity and Islam. Hope for the future of Israel is mixed with warnings that rebelliousness persists. The prophet continues to warn the people of the necessity to follow God as Israel is rebuilt after the return from exile.

Devotional: Where are the prophetic voices of today? Are they there or drowned out by the din of the relentless 24 hour news cycle? Our prayer must be to listen to church leaders to discern God's call on our lives. May we hold on to the hope expressed by Isaiah, but at the same time be vigilant to the same forces Isaiah warned could lead to division and disintegration.

WEEK THREE (JULY 12–18)

Day 194: July 12, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 52:13–55:13

Abbreviated Plan: Isaiah 50:4–9, Isaiah 52:13–53:12

Isaiah 55 is full of reminders that I need God even when things are well, for that's when I put myself ahead of God (v2) and think I know it all (v9). Listening & looking for God (v3,6) "never returns empty" (v11) and leads to a life bursting with joy (v12)

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 195: July 13, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 56:1–59:21

Abbreviated Plan: Jeremiah 1:1–19

The next time you're tempted to make worship about you, read Isaiah 58. It's not about entertaining you, not about whether it "does it for you." It's not a destination; it's a hub. True worship inspires you to give of yourself to God and others (v.6-14).

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life:

Day 196: July 14, 2020

Full Plan: Isaiah 60:1–66:24

Abbreviated Plan: Jeremiah 2:1–37

Isaiah 61:1-2 is what Jesus read for his first-ever sermon. It's about good news for the down and out. But Richard Rohr reminds us that Jesus stopped reading halfway through verse 2, and chose not to say "the day of vengeance of our God." Jesus was about liberation, not retribution, and we should be, too.

What God is revealing to me today, and how I will apply it to my life: