



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

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:

Day 197: July 15, 2020

Full Plan: Jeremiah 1:1–4:31

Abbreviated Plan: Jeremiah 3:1–25

The two worst things God can say about a person is that they are faithless or fake. (Jeremiah 3:11) The hardest thing God can ask a person to do is challenge both, as God called Jeremiah to do. As difficult as it must have been for Jeremiah to deliver that message, it's still better to be Jeremiah than to be Jeremiah's audience. Don't be faithless or fake.

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

Day 198: July 16, 2020

Full Plan: Jeremiah 5:1–8:17

Abbreviated Plan: Jeremiah 4:1–31

Jeremiah is addressing a stubborn and wayward people who are lost and scared, who are longing for a better day. His reminder was this: Do what you know you are supposed to do. Stick to the "ancient rules" and you will find your way (6:16). That's good advice for everyone.

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

Day 199: July 17, 2020

Full Plan: Jeremiah 8:18–12:17

Abbreviated Plan: Jeremiah 5:1–31

Jeremiah mourns because the people he loves are hurting themselves and there's nothing he can do to help (Jeremiah 8). He's comforted by the idea that God is greater than anything he can conceive (9:23-10:16). God's holiness is greater than our helplessness.

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

Day 200: July 18, 2020

Full Plan: Jeremiah 13:1–16:21

Abbreviated Plan: Jeremiah 7:1–34

Jeremiah makes it very clear: bad actions have bad consequences. Sin will always be found out. We might get hung up on the idea that God punishes the Israelites with trouble, but Jeremiah reminds us that our free will gives us power to avoid bad choices.

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

July 12–18, 2020: Weekly Devotion by Ed Cronyn

Sacrifice, humility, service, mercy and salvation join arms with one another in a never-ending battle against greed, selfishness and oppression. The prophesy of the sin-bearing servant and messiah (Isaiah 52:13-53:12), written centuries before Christ's birth, reveals both the depths of our shortcomings before God and His great mercy. On the one hand are the sins that continue to darken our souls today: unrighteousness, lust, perverting justice to oppress the poor and the foreigner, corrupting power and influence to serve our own purposes, and focusing on wealth and comfort more than on God. We are warned that these are the seeds of destruction of any people.

“They know no limits in deeds of wickedness; they do not judge with justice the cause of the orphan, to make it prosper, and they do not defend the rights of the needy. Shall I not punish them for these things? says the LORD?” (Jeremiah 5:28-29, NRSV)

Fortunately, in our corner covering all these sins is God's mercy as we accept the sacrifice of the messiah who suffered and bore the consequences of our sins and as we follow in His footsteps. Mercy restores and redeems us as we repent, love and serve God with humility, restore justice, and act generously with our neighbors in need. Not only are we forgiven, but God promises to “dwell with” us as we turn towards Him.

“Maintain justice, and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed. (Isaiah 56:1) . . . For if you truly amend your ways and your doings, if you truly act justly one with another, if you do not oppress the alien, the orphan, and the

widow, or shed innocent blood in this place . . . then I will dwell with you in this place.” (Jeremiah 7:5-7, NRSV)

Challenge: It can be uncomfortable to think about how our choices affect others, but this is exactly what Isaiah and Jeremiah call us to do. Do we not practice and/or ignore many of the same injustices that these prophets address? Thankfully, we don't need to wallow in our shortcomings. God is merciful as we repent and follow Him.

Prayer focus: God, Your mercy washes me of my shortcomings, preparing me for Your work. Help me to follow You in humility and to spread Your love through service and the pursuit of justice.

WEEK FOUR (JULY 19–26)

Day 201: July 19, 2020

Full Plan: Jeremiah 17:1–20:18

Abbreviated Plan: Jeremiah 25:1–38

The truth often hurts, not just for the one hearing it, but for the one speaking it. Jeremiah had a plot against him (18:18) and was a laughingstock (19:7). Yet he still felt a “fire in his bones” to speak the truth (19:9). May we have the same boldness.

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