

JUDGMENT AND HOPE

I have good news. Although our sin is great, God's grace is greater. The book of Isaiah tells of God's judgment against sinful people and the picture he paints seems very bleak. However, there is a scarlet thread of hope woven throughout it. While the people's hearts are dull and they lack understanding, God tells them of a baby to be born of a virgin named Immanuel. As the people are warned of a pending invasion that will shatter them, God tells them this child will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. Jesus is everything described by Isaiah! He is everything we need. In Him is light, life and truth. He is the thread of hope woven throughout the Bible.

Isaiah 7-10; Psalm 22; Matthew 26

Isaiah 11-13; Psalm 118; Matthew 27

Isaiah 14-16; Matthew 28

Isaiah 17-19; Psalm 62; 1 Corinthians 1

Isaiah 20-22; 1 Corinthians 2

Every week, you'll see the same five content questions. Use them as a guide as you read the scriptures. Pray for consistency in your Bible reading.

1. Who are the main characters in this text and is there anyone you can relate to?
2. Is there anything from this text that we are to do (obey, believe, heed or follow)?
3. What do you learn about God in these chapters and how has that changed what you believe about Him?
4. What do these passages reveal about human nature, sin and our need for God?
5. What's the Good News found in this text?

Every week, you'll see five unique application questions. Use them to help live out what you're learning in scripture. Pray for life transformation.

1. What have you failed to do for God because of a concern about what others might say or do?
2. How do you protect the unity of your church?
3. How often do you boast about the Lord Jesus? What do you have to boast about right now?
4. How is the Spirit of God at work in you now? What is he teaching you?
5. For you to have the mind of Christ, what in your thought patterns needs to change?

From the hymn It Is Well by Horatio Spafford:

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!

My sin, not in part but the whole

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

Jesus was the good news during the time of Isaiah and He is our good news today!