



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 28, Day 1 --- Isaiah 1-4

Week 28, Day 2 --- Isaiah 5-8

Week 28, Day 3 --- Amos 1-5

Week 28, Day 4 --- Amos 6-9

Week 28, Day 5 --- Isaiah 9-12 - 2 Chronicles 27

Week 28, Day 6 --- Micah 1-7

Week 28, Day 7 --- 2 Kings 16-17 - 2 Chronicles 28

Week 28, Day 1 --- Isaiah 1-4

We have entered the time in Israel and Judah's history where the prophets are featured. They recorded their sermons in writing so that we can hear what God had to say to the people during their time of rebellion. Their styles will vary, but the message will be consistent. The people are continuing to perform the required acts of worship, the sacrifices, but they do not love God or love the people around them. They are not caring for orphans and widows. Instead, they seek pleasure and worship idols. For this reason, Jerusalem will be destroyed. One day, the city will be restored, but first it must be destroyed and the people taken away.

Week 28, Day 2 --- Isaiah 5-8

God is angry. He has picked a people to bless and He has blessed them. In return they have rebelled against Him and mistreated each other. The northern kingdom of Israel will be dispersed among the nations and this will begin when they are conquered and led away into captivity by Assyria. The southern kingdom of Judah will survive, but they will also spend time in captivity. Isaiah 6 is an incredible chapter. God appears to Isaiah and commissions him with a very special message. How would you like to be called by God to preach doom and destruction when you know that no one is going to listen? What do you learn about God's heart as you read these words?

Week 28, Day 3 --- Amos 1-5

It is almost time for Israel to go into captivity and God sends multiple prophets to deliver a final warning message. Some of the prophets delivered a message that looked far into the future. Many delivered a message that was relevant the day they spoke it. The message God gave Amos was that kind of message. What he predicts will happen will happen very soon. His warnings and his pleas are for right now to the people who hear him. It is important for us to read his warning to see what is important to God. What does God desire? What makes God angry?

Week 28, Day 4 --- Amos 6-9

It is clear from the reaction of Amaziah that Amos' message is being heard. His message apparently affected people strongly enough that they would tell others of what they had heard and the message spread throughout the land. Today it would have been broken into sound bites and shown on the evening news. Then it had to be told by word of mouth from person to person. Israel is going to be destroyed as a nation. They have been strong and prosperous only because God has protected them.

God is going to remove His protection and the Assyrians will come and take them captive. There will come a day when the people will be brought back. This could have been when Judah returns from captivity and Assyria has been defeated. It could have been even further in the future when on the day of Pentecost Jews come from all over the world and hear the good news of Jesus. We don't know for sure. We do know that God doesn't give up on His people.

Week 28, Day 5 --- Isaiah 9-12 - 2 Chronicles 27

The book of Isaiah is like a tapestry. Many different threads of thought are woven together to paint a picture of God. One of the threads is describing the coming of Jesus. Today's reading begins with a description of Jesus. Future passages will talk about his character and his life. Some passages will talk about His first coming and some about His second coming. Another thread is the judgment of Israel. I think Isaiah is using Israel as an example to warn Judah of their need to repent. Assyria threatens both Israel and Judah. Isaiah makes it clear that it is not Assyria that is in control. God is in control and Assyria will be destroyed. Through all of this is the consistent thread of praise to God. He is in control and from Him will come peace. His judgment is right and the result will be peace.

Week 28, Day 6 --- Micah 1-7

Micah's message is similar to the other prophets. Israel and Judah are continually doing evil and must be punished to be purified. As you read take note of the things that God finds offensive. Then think about the kind of society that God desires for all people. Micah 6:6-8 is one of the best summaries that there is of the message of the prophets.

Verse 8 captures the essence of what God desires for us.

He has showed you, O man, what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8 (NIV)

God wants us to do what is right – act justly. In the context of this book that means caring for the poor and oppressed. God want us to love others – love mercy. Rather than seeking to get from others we are to think about how we can benefit others. Finally, God wants us to recognize who He is while being in close relationship with Him – walk humbly with your God. What God desires really isn't very complex. Watch for these three things as you read through the rest of the prophets. I think you'll see them expressed in slightly different ways over and over.

Week 28, Day 7 --- 2 Kings 16-17 - 2 Chronicles 28

Ahaz was not the worst of the kings of Judah, but he came close. Like other kings before him he was threatened by other nations. God allowed Judah to be threatened because it had been unfaithful in keeping the covenant. Ahaz now had a choice. He could repent and turn to God for help or he could turn to another king to rescue him from the kings who were oppressing him. He made the wrong choice. He took the wealth of the nation and gave it to the king of Assyria. When the king of Assyria rescued him he turned to Assyria's gods and away from God. In this section you see that God finally gave up on Israel, the northern kingdom, and let the go into captivity. Ahaz begins the downhill slide that will eventually lead to Judah going into captivity as well.