



my grandma time

...doing simple things together!

Week 29, Day 1 --- Isaiah 13-17

Week 29, Day 2 --- Isaiah 18-22

Week 29, Day 3 --- Isaiah 23-27

Week 29, Day 4 --- 2 Kings 18:1-8 - 2 Chronicles 29-31 - Psalm 48

Week 29, Day 5 --- Hosea 1-7

Week 29, Day 6 --- Hosea 8-14

Week 29, Day 7 --- Isaiah 28-30

Week 29, Day 1 --- Isaiah 13-17

Isaiah is uncompromising in his prediction that Israel and Judah will be attacked and taken into captivity. However, there is a danger in being used by God to discipline His people. The countries that played the role of conqueror will one day be conquered. These chapters are messages of hope. The world order will not always be what it is today. There will come a day when God's people will rule. This is an illustration of what is called prophetic telescoping. Isaiah is certainly predicting the immediate future of the physical kingdoms of Assyria, Babylon, Philistia, and Moab. However, I think he is also looking forward to the spiritual kingdom that Jesus will bring and beyond that to the second coming when God's reign will be established with men and women forever. We may miss the message of hope because we live in the country that is on the top of current world order. This is not true for believers in many other places. They need to be continually reminded that there is hope and books like Isaiah are a comfort to them.

Week 29, Day 2 --- Isaiah 18-22

In the middle of this reading is one of the most unusual things in the whole Bible. All through the Bible we are instructed to dress modestly. It is a tremendous shame to have even your buttocks exposed in public. Yet Isaiah is instructed to walk around completely naked for 3 years. I'm glad that God has never called me to be that kind of public object lesson. I'm certain the people thought he was very strange, but I'm also certain that they heard his message. Unfortunately, they ignored it. Chapter 22 tells us that when the people of Jerusalem should have been turning to God and weeping they were throwing big parties. God was not pleased.

Week 29, Day 3 --- Isaiah 23-27

You keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.

Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:3,4 (ESV)

In the midst of all the talk of doom and destruction there is this instruction. Trust in God and He will bring you peace. For the Israelites this does not mean that they will not be conquered and taken into captivity. They will. It does mean that eventually God's kingdom will come to earth and all His people will be brought home. In chapter 27 there also seems to be a message of hope for the faithful. The

kingdom of Judah will be shaken, but the faithful will be separated out and sent into exile to become the remnant that will rebuild the nation.

Week 29, Day 4 --- 2 Kings 18:1-8 - 2 Chronicles 29-31 - Psalm 48

In the middle of all the doom and gloom of the prophets there was a period of great joy in Judah. Hezekiah was a great and good king. He worshipped God with all His heart and he led the people to do the same. Unlike earlier good kings his impact extends throughout Judah and even extends into the remnant in Israel. It is distressing to hear how far astray the priests had gone. Even when they desired to return to God it took a long time for them to clean-up.

Week 29, Day 5 --- Hosea 1-7

God often calls the prophets to do something physically to illustrate their message. In Hosea's case God asks Hosea to go and find a prostitute and marry her. He is to love her and have children by her. God asks Hosea to do this even though He knows that Hosea's wife will be unfaithful to him. She will leave him for another lover just as Israel and Judah have left God for other gods. Israel and Judah have been blessed with great physical prosperity, yet they do not recognize or acknowledge the source of their blessing. They only acknowledge God as the source of their suffering. Hosea speaks of the wilderness as a place where the people will return to God. This is a principle all through the Bible. When we become too prosperous we often forget God. Because He loves us so much He takes us into the wilderness so that we can really understand how much He loves us. We can continue to rebel against Him, but there is greater opportunity in the wilderness to realize His love and call out to Him for rescue. The wilderness doesn't have to be physical. Certainly the time you are spending in jail is a wilderness experience.

Week 29, Day 6 --- Hosea 8-14

Chapter after chapter Hosea describes the sins of Israel. Ephraim was the tribe that led Israel, so the warnings are often directed to it. Ephraim was one of the sons of Joseph. Joseph was without doubt the best of Jacob's children. He loved God and served Him faithfully all his life. I find it strange that Ephraim is the tribe that leads the people of the northern tribes into sin. Ephraim is the example of why they are going into captivity, why they are being destroyed as a nation. Yet, with all the warnings and expressions of anger there is at the end a final plea to come back. God never wants to destroy. He always wants to restore, but His nature can not restore evil.

Week 29, Day 7 --- Isaiah 28-30

^{28:13} So then, the word of the LORD to them will become:
Do and do, do and do,
rule on rule, rule on rule;
a little here, a little there—
so that they will go and fall backward,
be injured and snared and captured.

This is a very important verse. It explains so much of why the Israelites abandoned God. They had reduced God's word to them to a series of rules. Rather than a love story the Bible became a law book and only a law book. The Bible certainly contains laws, but surrounding those laws is the story of a God who loves His people. When we treat the Bible as only a law book we quickly discover that we can't

keep all the laws and we give up. Rather than being captured by God's love we are captured by guilt and turn away from God.

^{28:16} So this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
"See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation;
the one who trusts will never be dismayed.

God's answer to this is Jesus. Check out 1 Peter 2:1-10. The cornerstone is Jesus. Instead of sending more rules God sent His Son to show us how to live. When we build our lives on trust in Him we are building on something solid that will never fail.

While Hosea was addressing primarily the northern kingdom, Isaiah in these chapters is addressing the southern kingdom, Judah. Ariel in chapter 29 refers to Jerusalem. Judah will soon be tested by the same country that has taken Israel into captivity. The Assyrians will come and surround Jerusalem. The king and the people will look to God and chapter 30 predicts the defeat of the Assyrians by God.