



## MONDAY 25 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Christmas Day – Matthew 1:18-24

#### **Plug In...**

God is high, lofty, and holy. His goal is to spread the temple of His glory across the whole earth – Isaiah 6:1-3.

Isaiah comes face-to-face with what that means for a sinner: woe! – Isaiah 6:5.

Before God's own holiness wipes out all sinners He does something to make it possible for God to be with us – sinners! Atonement – Isaiah 6:6.

We now can say – "Immanuel". Any enemy of God is doomed because God is with us. (Isaiah 7:14; 8:8,10).

Jesus' birth is announced – "You will name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

This fulfils the promise of God that the enemies of humanity – the Devil, the world, the flesh – cannot touch us for God is with us in Jesus (Matthew 1:23).

#### **Prayer Suggestion**

Thank Jesus for saving us from our sins. Ask to be bold with a family member today that needs to know God is with them.



# TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## Read: Isaiah 24:1-5

### **Plug In...**

We embark on a chapter that shows what God is going to do to the whole world. This is because we – the world – are polluted and full of sin (24:5). God will strip the earth bare and all the kings and queens, politicians and celebrities, employers and parents who have used their position to exalt themselves and oppress others, will be wasted away.

### **Chew It Over...**

Christmas became an event for the world because this is the future of the world. The great and worthy God becomes a lowly human baby. This, to live a life bound for the Cross.

Jesus was stripped bare and devastated by God. The Bible tells us He went through the end-of-the-world experience beforehand, so we might avoid it. Christmas is not so cute – at least not for Jesus. Emmanuel is Easter. Easter is Christmas.

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask God to jolt us back to living in light of the end of the world, secure that our end has already been and passed because of Jesus. May we be about offering this good news to others.



## WEDNESDAY 27 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Read: Isaiah 24 & Romans 8:18-27

#### **Plug In...**

The book of Isaiah announces God's judgement against sin. It spirals out from the centre to the whole world. First Judah (chap. 1-12), then all the nations surrounding Judah (chaps. 13-23). Now we are given a future picture of the entire world. Because the whole world has broken covenant with the One God (v.5), like a city shattered it will be closed down (v.10).

The only thing still standing? God's city, Jerusalem – Mount Zion (vv.21-23).

#### **Chew It Over...**

Why read the Old Testament? God distributes pictures of Israel being judged. Such passages perform real small-scale examples of what ultimately will happen to the entire universe. Maybe we would not believe the end-of-the-world announcement if we experienced or heard of no real-life suffering. These relative sufferings and devastations are the stuff from which our minds build a picture and start to feel the impact of Isaiah 24. Someone may never have seen a red tree, but having really seen a tree and really seen something red, their mind builds the picture.

Recall things in the past year which happened to you or around you that resonate with the heavy picture of Isaiah 24.

Ever considered why these sufferings and devastations in the world we experience are not full-scale, or full-throttle? The Bible says we deserve more and that it should come

down on our head immediately. But...God in His splendid-righteous grace (v. 16) gives us wake-up lessons. God wants us with Him in the only city that lasts eternally.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Help us to know that our present sufferings are not worth comparing to the glory we will have with Jesus in the heavenly city that will occupy the whole earth.



## THURSDAY 28 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Read: Isaiah 25 & Matthew 26:29

#### **Plug In...**

The result of an earth laid bare by God is contrasted with the city that He will set up. God will host a feast. All sorts of people will be there. The best food. The best to drink.

Every person, every nation essentially is wrapped in burial cloths. They will be removed forever by God. Death destroyed. Tears no more.

#### **Chew It Over...**

On the night before Jesus was killed, Jesus knew His death would remove permanent death for all those that trust in Him. So He said at the Last Supper, "I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom".

The people at that Kingdom-feast, Isaiah describes as ones who say, "Look, this is our God; we have waited for Him, and He has saved us. This is the LORD; we have waited for Him. Let us be rejoice and be glad in His salvation." (25:9-10).

How do you show you are a waiting-one? Think about what this means for taking the Lord's Supper at church. Think about how this gets expressed and held through saying grace at meal times.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Help us to wait Lord. Help us to not divert from trusting in you, even when the tears are huge. Secure us through this life so we will drink at the feast with the Lord Jesus.



## FRIDAY 29 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Read: Isaiah 26 & Ephesians 2:1-10

#### **Plug In...**

We've seen that on the day of the Kingdom-feast with Jesus, those attending will say, "Look, this is our God, we have waited for Him" (25:9). Isaiah 26 is a song that will be sung by those people.

Notice their self-evaluation. Even being in a privileged position – living in a righteous land (being called Israel and receiving the very words of the LORD) – actually did not profit them. They are so stuck in sin that they never changed despite this. So as recipients of salvation they declare, "Lord, you establish peace for us; all that we have accomplished you have done for us".

#### **Chew It Over...**

Read [Ephesians 2:1-10](#). What has God accomplished for you? Do you hold that Jesus has done *all* the work in your life?

Isaiah 26:19 says God resurrects His people from being dead. Do you hold that each and every change in holiness, improvement in goodness is God giving you His Spirit?

*"For you will be covered with the morning dew, and the earth will bring forth the departed spirits"* (Isaiah 26:19).

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Thank God for the morning dew of His Spirit. Praise Him for specific aspects of your godliness that show you are resurrected from your heart. Ask that you sing the song that proclaims the end of death and the resurrection of our bodies as we wait (Isaiah 26; [1 Corinthians 15:50-58](#)).



## WEEKEND 30-31 DECEMBER 2017

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Read: Isaiah 27

#### **Plug In...**

The creature called Leviathan is slayed. The terms used in Hebrew suggest few things.

*Gliding* – An aerial term. Although a serpent, this one flies.

*Coiling* – The creature twists.

*Serpent* – Reminds us of that creature in Genesis 3:1.

There is an aerial power that twists things, maybe physically and morally, just like that first Serpent. There is a sense that this monster-creature is in the air, on land, and inhabits the sea.

#### **Chew It Over...**

Chapters 24-27 show God is the biggest power and will judge the entire earth. In a final blow, the evil powers that infest and inhabit the earth will be hacked down and be no more.

Look at what Jesus does with a large sword, [Revelation 6](#).

Know the demise of the Satan-Dragon of Isaiah 27 has started with Jesus' birth and then the cross, [Revelation 12](#). We are told to expect fury until Jesus comes back.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Pray we hold fast to the testimony of Jesus. Lord God protect us through the blood of the Lamb.