



# MONDAY 22 JANUARY 2018

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## Read: Isaiah 55 & Matthew 5:1-10

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

This is an invitation to the whole world. The Holy One of Israel is the same God for whom anyone that has need can find help from.

They should seek. Seek right now, for the LORD can be found.

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

Notice what you come with for God to respond. Notice how much it costs you?

Do you often consider the enormity of God? His thoughts, and ways actually lead to peace. Think over your deep plans for today and this week. Where are they leading? Can you say they are bound up with the pathway to God's peace?

### **Prayer Suggestion**

Thank Jesus for how He pronounces us blessed: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" – [Matthew 5:6](#).



## TUESDAY 23 JANUARY 2018

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Read: Isaiah 56-58

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

People with deformities could not enter the temple. This taught the distinction between God's purity and humanity's existence under the curse. The LORD announces a future where eunuchs (someone with some condition that prevents them reproducing) are inside the temple walls.

The temple/sacrifice system of the Old Testament taught that evil, sin, the curse, all separate humanity from the holy God. It also taught God will draw near once atonement has been made (i.e. a sacrifice is given). Here, after the atonement sacrifice of God's Servant (Isaiah 53:10) the result is massive. Extending beyond all distinctions of king and commoner, priest and congregational member, healthy and sick, Israelite and Gentile, the atonement and restitution won by the Servant is massive.

God's people across the world are now called 'Sabbath-people'!

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

Read [Acts 8:26-40](#). Imagine what the Ethiopian Eunuch must have felt when reading Isaiah from his carriage. How does his statement, "Look, here's some water," express what is going on for him?

Given the reality that the good news about Jesus is for everyone, who within your circle would be considered something of an outcast, or an outsider? God draws near to you, so work it so you can draw near to them. They are the thirsty ones, they are the hungry ones.

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Ask the Holy Spirit to impress on you those you should spend time drawing near to this week.



# WEDNESDAY 24 JANUARY 2018

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## Read: Isaiah 59

### Plug In...

After the LORD sees there is no justice in the world, He dresses like a warrior. His gear will fight back the enemies, provide justice, and restore and protect the people (vv.15-20).

Verse 21 suggests that the Lord is going to anoint a person with His Spirit to be this warrior. We could say this character is a *Conqueror*.

### Chew It Over...

When reading Isaiah over and over, you see that there are three big characters God says He will use to restore His people to Himself. In chapters 1-39 the character of a Davidic king is prominent and we are told He will rule being led by God's Spirit (e.g. [11:1-10](#)). In chapters 40-58 there is the Servant, who also is led by the Spirit ([42:1](#)), and will atone a people the king will rule. The *Conqueror* endowed with the Spirit ([59:21](#)) will now fight back the enemies of Zion and ride out to collect people from other nations (chap. 60).

Messiah means 'anointed'. The Davidic king is anointed. The Servant is anointed. The Conqueror is anointed. Should we expect three different people, or are these three portraits of the one person?

### Prayer Suggestion

Reflect on each role of the Messiah Jesus fulfils for us through His life, death, and resurrection...and return. Praise Him for the benefits we receive from each of these actions.



# THURSDAY 25 JANUARY 2018

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

## Read: Isaiah 60-61

### Plug In...

The Spirit-Anointed-Conqueror ([59:21](#)) will bring light to a world in darkness.

The Spirit-Anointed-Conqueror announces that He has good news to share. For, His job is to free captives, free prisoners from this darkness.

### Chew It Over...

Chapter 61:2 explains that this 'good news' announcement is one side of a two-sided coin. On the one hand, it is the "year of the LORD's favour". This is the festival language of the year of jubilee ([Leviticus 25](#)). On the other hand, it is simultaneously the "day of God's judgement and wrath".

Many have noticed that when Jesus read these first two verses in this chapter in the synagogue, He stops half way through verse 2 ([Luke 4:16-21](#)). He mentions the first half, "this is the year of the LORD's favour", then stops and tells the crowd, "today this has been fulfilled in your presence". What do you make of this? How does this reconstruction? how you view reality?

### Prayer Suggestion

Express to Jesus, the Anointed-Conqueror, your gratitude that His work on the cross has opened up a gap between the announcement of the Year of the Lord's Favour and its flip-side, the Day of Judgement.



## FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2018

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Read: Isaiah 62-64

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

Chapter 62. The LORD declares that Zion will shine with righteousness, the people within will be called holy, the city will extend to the ends of the earth, the land will be bounteous. And this has all been sworn on oath by the LORD (v.8).

Chapter 63. Part of what keeps this new worldwide city Zion clean, holy, and fruitful, is that the Anointed-Conqueror deals with the enemies. They are crushed, anguished, no more a threat.

Chapter 64. The prayer started in chapter 63 continues. The prayer calls God to open the heavens and come down (64:1).

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

With all these announcements of salvation, vengeance upon enemies, a city like Zion that is secure, safe, and prosperous, there is a reality that this is still in the future. At points, hearing the prophecies of Isaiah they sound like they've been fulfilled. Then we read passages like 63:15 – 64:12. It is a prayer of people who have not arrived yet, who have not experienced fully all that the LORD has announced.

The prayer is essentially, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven". This prayer in Isaiah calls on God to look down from heaven, to make life on earth like in heaven. In heaven there is no contested rule to God, there is no evil, there is no sin, pain, suffering, or curse. These prophecies in Isaiah are God's promise that He will make earth like heaven in the future.

God's way of working, is to cause His people to pray – to call upon God to enact His promises. And causing His people to pray is the work of God Himself through the Anointed-Conqueror. [Literally, 63:7 is, "*I will cause them to remember the LORD's faithful love*".]

This means, Christians who wait, pray. What do they remember when they pray? What do they stack the content of their prayers with?

## **Prayer Suggestion**

Pray as Isaiah 63:15 – 64:12 leads you to.



The Lakes

## WEEKEND 27-28 JANUARY 2018

SERIES: ISAIAH – THE MESSAGE OF THE MESSIAH

### Read: Isaiah 65-66

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

A wonderful picture of a new heavens and earth, where everything works perfectly, every relationship beneficial, everyone is happy, at peace, in harmony with every other thing that exists. At the centre of this new dynamic – God's presence inhabits every square inch occupied, it is all His throne room (66:1).

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

Every story told has something of this vision of Isaiah 65 built into it. A better world, long life, health, peace, safety, prosperity. Everyone is going for a happy ending.

Think about how you can get to know your friends' and family's stories. Spend time getting to know what worries them, what they are trying to get away from. Ask them, what do they want? What are they aiming for? See if you can learn what they bank it all on ([Matthew 6:21](#)). Over time, prompt further: How's it working out for them? Does it deliver? Do they feel guaranteed it will give the happy ending?

#### **Prayer Suggestion**

Reading from a section that launches into this grand happy ending that only the people of God will experience, Jesus says that in Him such things are fulfilled ([Luke 4:16-21](#), cf. [Isaiah 61:1-2](#)). So pray you will learn people's stories, explore where they're heading, and share your confidence and security in having found a resolution to your life's story. May they come to know this too.