

WEEK 17AUGUST 10 - 16





Using the Bible Reading Plan

The mark of a growing disciple is the discipline to self-feed. During this unprecedented time, the Lord is redirecting His people to pause and rediscover Him and His ways afresh. This is the heart behind our Bible Reading Plan - that we, as a church will delight the Father when we are growing in our love for Him and allowing His Spirit to move us in obeying His Word in our lives.

The Bible Reading Plan comprises a daily passage with reflection questions to guide you in meditation. You can also journal what God's Spirit is prompting you to do in applying the Word. We pray that as you carve out unhurried time to encounter God, you will revitalise your spiritual life and encourage others to experience likewise!



In order to fully utilise the features within this Reading Plan, open this document using Adobe Acrobat Reader.

(https://acrobat.adobe.com/sea/en/mobile/acrobat-reader.html)



Mis Week's Focus

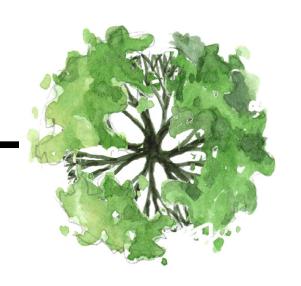
We continue our examination of the proclamation of God's judgement on the nations of Israel through the prophets Isaiah and Hosea. Despite their numerous warnings, Israel remained stubborn and unrepentant; leading to their ultimate exile. As you read through the Scriptures this week, may the Holy Spirit remind you of the importance of having an open and tender heart before Him.

August 10

MONDAY

"'Come now, let us reason together,' says the Lord..."

- Isaiah 1:18 (ESV)



Today's Meditation

Isaiah 1 (Read)

Reflection Questions

Verses 1-9 show Israel's failure to see the connection between an action and its consequences, and Israel's refusal to recognise the boundaries set by God. Personal freedom is a right held firmly by many people today. As a believer, how firmly should we hold onto our personal freedom? (see also <u>1 Corinthians 10:23-24</u>, <u>31-33</u>)

Verses 10-29 deal with the human tendency to use religious behaviour as a means of manipulating God for our own benefit. How then should we come before God in prayer for our needs? (see also Philippians 4:6, Matthew 6:5-8)

Speak, Lord... Your Servant is Listening

Areas of my life (character, lifestyle and values) the Holy Spirit is prompting me to adjust.

August 11

TUESDAY

"...because their speech and their deeds are against the Lord, defying His glorious presence." - Isaiah 3:8 (ESV)



Today's Meditation

Isaiah 3 (Read)

Reflection Questions

In looking at the leadership of Judah, today's passage highlights that arrogance produces humiliation. In what ways have you observed arrogance among Christians (yourself included)?

The central issue in chapter 3 is the desire of mankind to elevate oneself through wealth, education, power, beauty and religion. What drives that great desire among men to elevate oneself? How can we overcome it?

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WEDNESDAY

"For she said, 'I will go after my lovers who give me my bread and my water, my wool and my flax, my oil and my drink." - **Hosea 2:5 (ESV)**

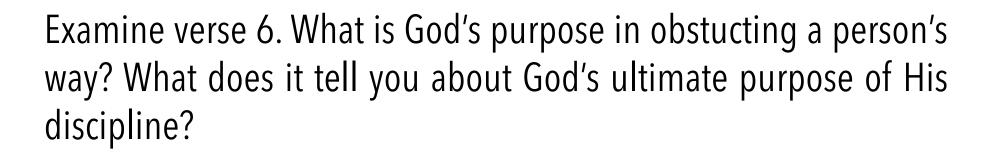


Today's Meditation

Hosea 2:1-13 (Read)

Reflection Questions

This passage outlines a series of accusations against an unfaithful wife and God's responses towards Israel (His discipline of Israel). Similarly, how can we recognise God's discipline in our lives?



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August 13

THURSDAY

"Hear the word of the LORD, you Israelites, because the LORD has a charge to bring against you who live in the land." - **Hosea 4:1 (NIV)**



Today's Meditation

Hosea 4 (Read)

Reflection Questions

God announces He has brought charges against His people in verses 1-3. What characterises covenant unfaithfulness from these verses?

In verses 11-14, Hosea describes how God rejects a syncretistic kind of worship - where the Israelites practiced culturally accepted worship rituals common in Canaanite temples, even though they feared God. In today's context, what kind of worship would God accept? (see Romans 12:1)

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FRIDAY

"And this occurred because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God..." - 2 Kings 17:7 (ESV)



Today's Meditation

2 Kings 17:1-23 (Read)

Reflection Questions

Verses 14-18 tell us that Israel was in exile because of idolatry. What exactly did Israel do that was described as "not believing in the Lord their God"?

Judah was in exile because they had "walked in the customs that Israel had introduced." (v 19) Are there "influencers" in your life that distract you from a thriving Christian life? How can you minimise their influence?

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SATURDAY

"However, they would not listen, but they did according to their former manner." - 2 Kings 17:40 (ESV)



Today's Meditation

2 Kings 17:24-41 (Read)

Reflection Questions

Today's reading implies God remains faithful to the relationship established by covenant. As a Christian, what does it mean for you to be "covenantally faithful"?

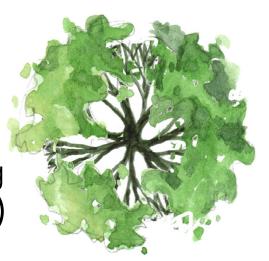
Israel was covenantally unfaithful because though they feared God, they also served their carved images (v 41). What "carved images" are there in your life that you need to stop serving?

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SUNDAY

"And he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, according to all that David his father had done." - 2 Kings 18:3 (ESV)

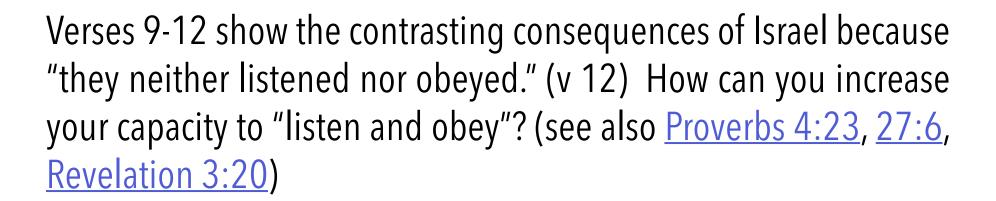


Today's Meditation

2 Kings 18:1-12 (Read)

Reflection Questions

According to verse 7, what were the consequences of Hezekiah's faithfulness to Israel's covenenant with God? What are the blessings when we remain covenantally faithful to the Lord? (see also Proverbs 2)



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Additional Resources

Article: The Land: A Thermometer of Covenantal Faithfulness by BibleProject (https://rlc.sg/3a3Q9mh)

Article: 6 Roadblocks That Will Stop Your Spiritual Growth by Charisma Magazine (https://rlc.sg/33xEIHT)

Article: How Can I Soften My Own Heart by John Piper, Desiring God (https://rlc.sg/30wYxrl)

Video: Covenants by BibleProject (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ferLlsvlml)

Song: Refiner by Maverick City (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UGFCbmvk0vo)

Song: Lord, I Will Bow To You by Bob Fitts (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hAJzOw1Ugkw)



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