

WEEK THIRTY INTRODUCTION

Alec Motyer in his wonderful commentary on Isaiah, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, breaks up Isaiah's hope for the Messiah along three portraits. Chapters 1-37 showcase the Messiah as King. Chapters 28-55 point to the Messiah as Servant, and chapters 56-66 exalt the Messiah as the Anointed Conqueror. Following Motyer's path, this week's reading in Isaiah centers on the Messiah as *Servant*. Most notably, Isaiah's messianic portrait builds around the four *Servant Songs* (Isaiah 42:1-9; 49:1-13; 50:4-11; and 52:13-53:12). These passages, and others in Isaiah, are so explicit in their communication of the Messiah that Isaiah is the most quoted prophet in the New Testament. Reading Isaiah with the same eyes as the New Testament yields great blessing and encouragement!

KEY SCRIPTURE

But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds. — Isaiah 53:5 CSB

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Describe King Hezekiah's life and leadership. Where does he model righteous thought and behavior? Where does he fail? What sort of leader do the Scriptures present in him?

Apply the message of Isaiah 40:8, *The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever*. How should this truth shape your life? How should you read the Bible in light of what this verse teaches?

Isaiah 42:8 reads, *I am the LORD. That is my name, and I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols*. God is preeminently concerned with His own glory. How does this truth challenge your life and thinking? If the center and point of everything is God and His glory, what substitutes exist at the center of your life? What needs to change?

What refrain is repeated three times in Psalm 80 (vv. 3, 7, and 19)? Why do you think that is? What happens when God causes His face to shine upon us? Is there any other source of life and salvation to which you are looking?

Read Isaiah 49:6. Why is the Servant (Jesus Christ) to be *a light for the nations*? How do you see that theme expand in the New Testament? Read Matthew 28:18-20.

The third Servant Song (Isaiah 50:4-11) centers on the obedience of the Servant. How important is the obedience of Jesus Christ? In what ways can you describe His obedience? To whom is He obedient and what does His obedience produce?

What type of fast does the Lord find acceptable in Isaiah 58:6-7? How easy it is to fall into religious doings while neglecting the love for neighbor! Identify 3 ways you can practically love those who are marginalized or overlooked around you.

BE A DOER OF THE WORD

“Seek the LORD while he may be found; call to him while he is near.” **-Isaiah 55:6 CSB**

How will you seek the Lord this week? Pray and live in the truth that *he is near*.