Week 32 (8/5/2019 - 8/11/2019)

Monday	* Isaiah ministered to Judah from approximately 740-680 B.C. He was preaching in 722 B.C.
□ Isaiah 1	when the Northern Kingdom fell to Assyria. In Isaiah 1-35, the prophet warns of Assyria's coming attacks. In Isaiah 40-66, Isaiah looks to the future. He foretells Judah's exile in Babylon; he promises
🗆 Isaiah 2	that God will bring her home, and he looks forward to the coming of the Messiah.
□ Psalm 73	? Read Isaiah 1:18-20. What are God's conditions for blessing His people?
	Psalm 73 is a "wisdom psalm" that contrasts <i>what should be</i> (blessings on the righteous) with <i>what is</i> (prosperity for the wicked). How does the psalmist find an answer to his search for understanding? (Read Ps 73:16-17 for an answer.)
Tuesday	* Isaiah 3-4 demonstrates two aspects of the prophet's message, judgment and hope. He
🗆 Isaiah 3	preaches judgment in 3:1-4:1; he promises future blessing in 4:2-6. Isaiah's message was important in Isaiah's day, and it is important in our day. As you read Isaiah, look for his message for our world
🗆 Isaiah 4	today.
🗆 Isaiah 5	? List the "woes" in Isaiah 5. Which of these issues are a problem in our society today?
🗆 Isaiah 6	? Notice the progression in Isaiah 6:1-8.
🗆 Isaiah 7	Have you seen God's holiness revealed in scripture? Have you confessed your sin and uncleanness?
□ Psalm 74	Has God taken away your guilt? Have you responded to His call for workers?
	? Have you ever experienced the pain described in Psalm 74:1? If so, you can read Psalm 74 as a prayer asking God for justice. You do not need to seek personal revenge for wrongs; you can trust your cause to God and His justice.
Wednesday	? Meditate on Isaiah 9:6. Which of these names speak to your needs today? Do you need a
□ Isaiah 8 □ Isaiah 9	"Wonderful Counselor" to guide you to wise decisions? Do you need a "Mighty God" of power to defend you? Do you need an "Everlasting Father" who cares for you? Do you need a "Prince of Peace" to bring justice and reconciliation in your life? Trust God as the One who meets your every need!
□ Isaiah 10	? Notice the phrase "in that day" in Isaiah 12:1. To those who repent, God's judgment will
□ Isaiah 10	someday turn to comfort.
□ Isaiah 12	? Make a list of three "wondrous deeds" that God has done in your life.
Psalm 75 Thursday	* 2 Kings 17 records the destruction of the Northern Kingdom. The reason for this disaster was
•	Israel's rebellion against God and her refusal to heed the prophets' warnings (17:7-18).
2 Kings 17	? If you lived in Judah, how would you respond to the destruction of the Northern Kingdom?
2 Kings 18	Would this tragedy cause you to turn to God in repentance?
□ Psalm 76 □ Psalm 77	? Why is it so important to remember God's wondrous deeds? In times of trouble, we can find hope by remembering God's past deeds of deliverance.

Friday □ 2 Kings 19 □ Psalm 78	 ? Read Hezekiah's prayer of trust. What problem do you need to "spread before the Lord?" (2 Kings 19:14) ? To the Hebrews, remembering the past was an important way of passing the faith to their children. Psalm 78 gives both positive lessons (God's care for His people) and negative warnings (God's judgment on sin). Parents, think of three lessons you can share with your children based on your own walk with God.
Saturday 2 Kings 20 Isaiah 13 Isaiah 14 Psalm 79 Psalm 80	 * Isaiah 13-23 includes prophecies against nations surrounding Judah. These prophecies show that Jehovah is not a "local deity" like other ancient gods. He is God of all nations. * Psalm 79 teaches that God's name is honored when He judges the nations who rebel against Him. ? Psalm 80 asks God to be the Shepherd who delivers His flock from enemy nations. Think of three ways in which God is your Shepherd. Take time to thank Him for His care.
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.

Like Isaiah, Micah prophesied in the years just before the fall of the Northern Kingdom. Monday Micah saw the destruction of the Northern Kingdom by Assyria. He also saw God deliver King □ Micah 1 Hezekiah and Jerusalem from the Assyrians. \square Micah 2 Micah 6:8 gives a summary of Old Testament law. The law can be summarized in three ? fundamental attitudes: justice, mercy, and humility. Use Micah 6:8 to measure your life: □ Micah 3 Do you treat others with justice? □ Micah 4 Do you show mercy to the poor? Do you walk in humble obedience to God? □ Micah 5 □ Micah 6 □ Micah 7 Hezekiah does not blame God for Judah's troubles; he recognizes that God is a just God (2 Tuesday ? Chron 29:3-10). Because of this, Hezekiah is quick to repent of Judah's sin. As you read Hezekiah's □ 2 Chronicles message of repentance, ask, "Do I have such a serious hatred of sin? Do I see my sin as seriously as 29 Hezekiah saw Judah's sin?" 2 Chron 30 Because Judah had not observed Passover in many years, the people did not meet all the ceremonial requirements of the Law. However, God saw their hearts. He accepted their desire to 2 Chron 31 please Him (2 Chron 29:18-20). What does He see when He looks at your heart? Does He see a heart □ 2 Chron 32 of willing obedience? Wednesday These chapters in Isaiah are judgment oracles against Israel's neighbors. Isaiah announces God's judgment on Moab, Damascus, Ethiopia, Egypt, Babylon, Edom, and Arabia. Jehovah is not a □ Isaiah 15 local god. The God who Isaiah saw "high and lifted up" in Isa 6:1 is sovereign over all nations. 🗆 Isaiah 16 Isaiah 17:7-8 looks forward to the day when the people of all nations will turn to the true God. ? Do you trust God *today* or do you trust in the "work of (your) hands?" □ Isaiah 17 In Egypt, the Nile River was seen as the divine source of life. Isaiah (19:5-8) prophesied that □ Isaiah 18 God will someday dry up the Nile. Why? Because Egypt refused to turn to the true source of life, □ Isaiah 19 Jehovah. ? Read Isaiah 19:19-22. The purpose of God's judgment is to bring others to God. When God □ Isaiah 20 brings discipline into your life, do you cry out to Him in repentance or do you respond in rebellion □ Isaiah 21 and anger? □ Psalm 81 ? In Psalm 81, highlight each promise that God gives to those who follow Him. Notice the wonderful gifts that God wants to give His children. The culmination of Isaiah's judgment speeches is his announcement that God will judge the Thursday whole earth (Isa24). God will someday rule all nations. As a Christian, be encouraged - you are on □ Isaiah 22 the winning side! □ Isaiah 23 ? Read Isaiah 25:8 and then read Revelation 21. Do you see how Revelation 22 fulfills Isaiah's promise that God will "swallow up death forever"? Because of this hope, we can live in confidence □ Isaiah 24 regardless of the difficulties we face today. Because of this promise, we can "be glad and rejoice in his □ Isaiah 25 salvation" (25:9). □ Psalm 82 □ Psalm 83

Week 33 (8/12/2019 - 8/18/2019)

Friday Isaiah 26 Isaiah 27 Isaiah 28 Isaiah 29 Psalm 84	 * Notice the conditions of perfect peace in Isaiah 26:3. God gives peace to those: -Who keep their mind fixed firmly on Him -Who trust in God * Because Israel refused to obey God, He judged them by turning good teaching into confusion (Isa 28:9-13). God judges rebellion severely. When we refuse to respond to truth, He may turn light to darkness (see also Matt 13:13-15). ? One of the signs of backsliding is when people "honor Him with their lips" but do not obey Him from the heart (Isa 29:13-14). Do you serve God from the heart, or with outward observance alone? ? Psalm 84 is a wonderful testimony to the psalmist's desire to spend time in God's presence. Do you have this kind of joy in God's presence? Can you say, "My soul longs, yes, faints for the courts of the Lord"?
Saturday Isaiah 30 Isaiah 31 Isaiah 32 Isaiah 33 Psalm 85	 * In Isaiah 30-31, the prophet gives Judah two choices. -She can trust in Egypt (by making an alliance with this sinful nation – 30:1-2) OR -She can trust in God (30:15). Notice the results of each choice. -Trusting in Egypt will lead to shame and humiliation (30:3). -Trusting in God will bring rest and salvation (30:15). ? Isaiah 32:17 is a beautiful promise of God's peace. Meditate on this promise and ask, "Am I finding quietness and trust" by living a righteous life? ? In Isaiah 33, the word "exalted" appears twice. What are the results when God is exalted? He surrounds His people with justice and righteousness. He gives stability, salvation, wisdom, and knowledge (33:5-6). How can we as Christians exalt God through our lives?
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.

Monday Isaiah 34 Isaiah 35 Isaiah 36 Isaiah 37 Psalm 86	 ? Highlight each promise in Isaiah 35. Choose a promise that speaks to your needs for this new week. Each day this week, review the promise and ask God to make it a reality in your life. * Isaiah 36-39 is a historical interlude, repeating the events of 2 Kings 18-20. Through the life of Hezekiah, Isaiah 36-37 illustrates the message of Isaiah 28-35: faith in God brings blessing. ? Read Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance in Isaiah 37:14-20. The key to his prayer is verse 20: God will receive the glory for delivering Judah from her enemy. When you pray, do you seek God's glory or your personal fulfillment? * Like Isaiah 37, Psalm 86 is a prayer for deliverance. As in Isaiah, the psalmist promises that God will receive glory for delivering His people (Ps 86:7-9).
	 * Psalm 86:11 is a beautiful prayer for an undivided heart. "Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; unite my heart to fear your name." "Unite my heart" means to "make my heart one."
Tuesday Isaiah 38 Isaiah 39 2 Kings 21 2 Kings 22 Psalm 87 	 * Isaiah 38-39 continues the historical interlude. These chapters provide the historical context for the prophecies of Isaiah 40-55; Hezekiah's folly will lead to Judah's in Babylon. * Isaiah 39 is a sobering warning. In his pride, Hezekiah displays Judah's wealth to the Babylonian envoys. Instead of honoring God, Hezekiah honors his own success. Isaiah warns, "Babylon will someday return to carry away all that you have shown these envoys." ? God answered Hezekiah's prayer and gave him fifteen more years to live. However, 2 Kings 21 tells the sad sequel to this story. During those fifteen years, Hezekiah fathered a son, Manasseh, who became the most wicked of Judah's kings. He is the king who brought God's final judgment on Judah. What is the difference between Hezekiah's prayer for deliverance in Isaiah 37 and his prayer for a longer life in Isaiah 38? The difference is his motivation. In Isaiah 37, Hezekiah sought God's glory. In Isaiah 38, Hezekiah sought his own personal good. A prayer motivated by God's glory brought blessing. A prayer motivated by personal desire brought disaster on the nation. Do you seek God's glory or your own desires?
Wednesday 2 Kings 23 2 Kings 24 2 Kings 25 Psalm 88 	 * The story of Josiah's revival shows that revival was possible even after fifty-five years of apostasy under Manasseh. God is a merciful God who was faithful to Judah in spite of her rebellion and sin. ? From 2 Kings 22, we know that Josiah's revival was inspired by a rediscovery of God's Law. Church historians have recognized that every great revival starts with the study and application of God's Word. Are you grounding your life on God's Word? * The fall of Judah shows the terrible results of sin. Both Scripture and experience teach that the pleasures of sin are brief, but the effects of sin are long. Judah will suffer decades in exile as a result of her sin. As you read 2 Kings 24-25, realize that sin is never worth what it costs. ? Psalm 88 is the darkest psalm in the Bible. It is the only psalm without a single expression of praise. It is appropriate to read Psalm 88 as we remember the pain of the Jewish people watching the fall of Jerusalem. Can you trust God in dark days described in this psalm?

Week 34 (8/19/2019 - 8/25/2019)

Thursday 2 Chronicles 33 2 Chron 34 2 Chron 35 2 Chron 36 	 * Today's reading tells the surprising story of Manasseh's repentance. In spite of Manasseh's fifty-five years of rebellion, God showed mercy on a repentant king. As you read this chapter, meditate on God's amazing grace. * The book of 2 Chronicles ends with messages of judgment and of hope: The message of judgment is seen in 2 Chron 36:17-21. Judah's defeat resulted from her disobedience to God's commands. For 490 years, Judah failed to observe the Sabbath. In judgment, God sent Judah into seventy years of captivity. The message of hope is seen in 2 Chron 36:22-23. Even in judgment, God did not forget His people but promised to bring His people back to Jerusalem.
Friday Isaiah 40 Isaiah 41 Isaiah 42 Isaiah 43 	 * The first section of Isaiah (1-35) focuses on God's judgment on Judah. The final section of Isaiah (40-66) focuses primarily on the future hope of restoration. These chapters bring a great message of comfort to God's people. The message of hope is both immediate (the return from exile) and future (the promise of a coming Messiah). ? The command "fear not" appears eight times in Isaiah 40-44. Highlight each appearance and list reasons that God's children need not fear.
Saturday Isaiah 44 Isaiah 45 Isaiah 46 Isaiah 47 Isaiah 48 Weekly Summary	 ? Notice the promises in today's reading. Choose one promise to claim for your present situation. ? Isaiah contrasts false gods, who must be carried into captivity (Isa 46:1-2), with Jehovah, who carries His people (Isa 46:3-4). Do you carry your gods (the things in which you trust) or do you trust God to carry you? ? How does the message of judgment in Isaiah 47 fit into the message of comfort that pervades Isaiah 40-66? (Clue: notice <i>who</i> is being judged in this chapter.) Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.

Week 35 (8/26/2019 - 9/1/2019)

Monday	 * Isaiah 49-57 presents a picture of the coming Messiah, the Prince of Peace. Isaiah 49-53 looks at Messiah's suffering. Isaiah 54-57 looks at Messiah's triumph. * As you read Isa 49:15-16, think of how deeply God loves you. Could a woman forget her child? Of course not! God loves you even more than a mother loves her child. He has "engraved you on the palms of my hands." Rejoice to think how much God loves you. ? Isa 51: 12-13 says that we fear when we forget Jehovah's promises to care for us. What do you fear today? Can you trust God with your fears?
🗆 Isaiah 49	
□ Isaiah 50 □ Isaiah 51	
□ Isaiah 51 □ Isaiah 52	
□ Isaiah 53 □ Isaiah 54	? Meditate on Isaiah 53 with its picture of the suffering Messiah. Remember that Jesus suffered all this for you. Stop to thank Him for His sacrificial love.
Tuesday	 Isaiah 55:1-3 offers one of Isaiah's great "invitations." Read these verses and respond to God's gracious invitation. Are you thirsty? Drink of His living water.
□ Isaiah 55 □ Nahum 1 □ Nahum 2	? If you have shared God's Word with an unbelieving friend or family member, Isa 55:10- 11 gives this promise: "God's Word will not return empty." Will you continue to pray and share in confidence that God will do His work in the hearts of people?
□ Nahum 3 □ Isaiah 56	* Although Nineveh, the capital of Assyria, turned to God under the preaching of Jonah, her change of heart was temporary. In 722 B.C., Assyria conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel. As a result, Nahum warned that God would judge Assyria. Nineveh would be overthrown. As you read this short book, remember that God's judgments are sure.
□ Isaiah 57 □ Isaiah 58	* To those of us who preach, teach, or serve in the church, Isa 56:9-12 is a sobering warning against "blind watchmen" or "silent dogs." We must teach God's Word faithfully.
	* Isaiah 58 contrasts empty fasts and Sabbath observance with true religion. True fasts are inspired by humility rather than pride. True Sabbath observance is inspired by "delight in the Lord."
Wednesday	 Do you seek God's help in your life? Isaiah 59:1 gives a beautiful promise that "God wants"
🗆 Isaiah 59	to hear and to save His people." But Isaiah 59:2-13 warns, "If we persist in willful disobedien our sins will hide his face from us and he will not hear our cries for help."
🗆 Isaiah 60	* Isaiah 60-62 looks to a bright future for Israel, a day when God's "glory will be seen upon
🗆 Isaiah 61	you." As you read these chapters, remember that Isaiah is writing to people who will soon be exiles in Babylon. However, in these dark days, the prophet sees a future day when God will deliver His
🗆 Isaiah 62	people and when "nations shall come to your light." Even in judgment, God does not forget His
🗆 Isaiah 63	people.
🗆 Isaiah 64	? Luke 4:18-19 shows that Jesus fulfilled the promise of Isaiah 61:1-2. Are you poor, brokenhearted, captive, or in mourning? If so, Jesus offers comfort and help. If you are living in relationship with Jesus, you can claim His promise today.

Thursday Isaiah 65 Isaiah 66 Zephaniah 1 Zephaniah 2 Zephaniah 3 	 * The book of Isaiah ends with contrasting two choices. To Judah in the 8th century BC (and to people in the 21st century), Isaiah says, "Your path in life determines your ultimate destiny." Those who answer God's call will enjoy "new heavens and a new earth" (Isa 65:17-25). Those who persist in rebellion will be judged "with flames of fire" (Isa 66:15-16). * Zephaniah preached during the reign of Josiah, a century after the Northern Kingdom was destroyed by Assyria. Josiah instituted many reforms, but many people continued to disobey God. In response, Zephaniah proclaimed "the Day of the Lord." The day of the Lord will be: A day of judgment on those who rebel against God A day of blessing for those who follow God faithfully.
	? As you read Zephaniah, highlight the word "day." Notice both aspects of the day of the Lord: a day of blessing and a day of wrath.
Friday Acts 17 Acts 17 I Thessalonians I I Thess 2 I Thess 3 I Thess 4	 * Acts 17 tells of the founding of the church in Thessalonica. Paul and Silas preached for only a few weeks before being driven out of the city. Paul wrote 1 and 2 Thessalonians to answer questions for these new converts. One of their biggest questions concerned the second coming of Jesus. Every chapter of 1 Thessalonians mentions this topic. Paul wrote to clarify their understanding of Jesus' return. ? Notice Paul's joy because of the faith of the Thessalonians. Paul risked danger to bring the gospel to the city. He rejoices as he hears positive reports of their continuing faith. He rejoices to see that the seed he planted is bearing fruit in their life. Recall the person who first brought the gospel to you. Write a note to thank them for investing in your life. ? Highlight the qualities of a holy life in 1 Thessalonians 4-5. God calls us to holiness, not to impurity. As you read Paul's description of a holy life, pray that God will strengthen you for holy living. In which of these qualities do you need to grow?
Saturday 1 Thess 5 2 Thess 1 2 Thess 2 2 Thess 3 Acts 18	 * In 1 Thessalonians, Paul taught that Jesus will return. Apparently, some of his readers decided that since Jesus was returning, there was no need to work or plan for the future. Paul wrote a second letter to encourage these Christians to live faithful lives while waiting for the Lord's return. 1 Thessalonians teaches, "Live in readiness for Christ's return." 2 Thessalonians teaches, "Remain faithful because we do not know <i>when</i> Christ will return." * Like the Book of Revelation, 2 Thessalonians does not tell us when Christ will return. Instead, 2 Thessalonians says, "This is how you should live until he returns." Until he comes, "stand firm" (2 Thess 2:15). ? Identify one practical lesson from 1 and 2 Thessalonians to draw for your Christian life. * Read Acts 18 today in preparation for reading 1 and 2 Corinthians next week. Paul traveled to Corinth immediately after leaving Athens. He spent eighteen months preaching and establishing a church in Corinth, a prominent Greek city.
Weekly Summary	Write down one "big lesson" that you have learned from this week's readings. Each day next week, review this lesson and ask God to help you to apply the lesson in your daily life.