



(BEHOLDING) GOD WITH — ISAIAH

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THIS READING PLAN IS FOR YOU

This week, we are going to behold our God with the prophet Isaiah. The entire universe is about God, every book in the Bible is about God, but the book of Isaiah is especially explicit in its God-centeredness. Therefore, as you read each passage, ask yourself, “Who is this God?” Who is this Holy One of Israel whose name is “I AM Salvation”? As you will see: He is holy, He is glorious, He is God; and there are no other gods besides Him. He is worthy of all your love, all of your praise, all of your devotion, all of your attention, all of your worship, all of your hope, all of your trust, all of your fears, all of your heart, and all of your soul. We pray that Isaiah’s vision of God will help you behold Him in a way that fuels your love for God and your love for others.

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THE FORMAT OF THE READING PLAN WILL BE AS FOLLOWS—

READ—

When we read the Bible, we are not just reading man’s thoughts about God. Neither are we merely reading what God said (a few thousand years ago). Rather what we are reading is what God says in the present tense (Hebrews 3:7). For the Word of God is living and active, and when we read it God Himself is speaking to us (Hebrews 4:12). Therefore, read each passage slowly, carefully, and attentively to every word acting as if the most important being in the universe is speaking to you, because He is.

REFLECT—

Simply reading the Word is like briskly walking by a warm fire on a cold night. But meditation is like sitting by the warm fire so that it lights up your face and warms your bones. (Don Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*). Therefore, pick a verse from each section to meditate on. What does it mean? What does it say about God? What does it say about you? You can pick any verse. But we will suggest a verse each time in case you have trouble picking one.

RESPOND—

We do not want to just be passive readers of the Word and allow what God says to go “in one ear and out the other.” Rather we want to be like the blessed man from psalm one who delights in God’s word and meditates/chews on/murmurs to himself/thinks over what God has said day and night (Psalm 1:3). These discussion questions are designed to help us think over what the Lord has said, and as we think and discuss the Lord will give us understanding (2 Timothy 2:7).

PRAY—

Pray to your Father that the Holy Spirit would empower the Word of Christ to become true in your hearts, your lives, this church, and this world as it is in heaven. Pray the Word back to God. For he always answers us when we pray according to his will (1 John 5:14). And the best way to pray according to his will is to pray His Word!

DAY 01

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**BEHOLDING
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READ—

Isaiah 6:1-13

REFLECT—

“And I said: ‘Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!’” — Isaiah 6:5

RESPOND—

Describe Isaiah’s vision. What did he see, and how did he respond to what he saw? What does this teach us about the relationship between our view of God and our view of self?

PRAY—

Dear Lord, we thank you that you are a King who does not die. We thank you for revealing to us that your throne is in a temple! For how could we come into your holy presence if not for the atoning sacrifice and constant intercession of your Son, who sits at your right hand? Thank you for Jesus, our eternal King Priest. Help us to behold your glory in a way that leads us to say, “woe is me.” Give us eyes to see your glory and our sin; for you are holy and we are not. Amen.

DAY 02

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**BEHOLDING
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READ—

Isaiah 40:1-31

REFLECT—

“Behold your God!” — Isaiah 40:9

RESPOND—

In what ways does this passage help you behold your God? Who is He and what is He like? In what ways do these truths comfort you and help you endure the hardships of this life?

PRAY—

Dear Lord, help us to behold the greatness of your glory. You are our Comforter, our Savior, our Redeemer, and our God. You hold the universe in the palm of your hand. No one has ever taught you anything, yet you know all things. We are but dust; who is like you, our God and King? Help us to behold you. Help us to trust you. Help us to lift up our eyes and see that our help comes from the everlasting God who made heaven and earth. Amen.

DAY 03

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BEHOLDING
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READ—

Isaiah 41:8-10 + Isaiah 42:1-9

REFLECT—

“Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”

— Isaiah 42:9

RESPOND—

In the first passage God promises to uphold His servant (Israel). In the second passage, He reveals that He will fulfill His promises to Israel through a coming Servant (whom we now know as Jesus; the true Israel). Go back through 42:1-9 and discuss how Jesus is the fulfillment of these promises.

PRAY—

Dear Father, thank you for Jesus; for through Him all of your promises are yes and amen. Help us to marvel at His power and authority, which enables Him to judge the nations, and His gentleness, which causes Him to care for the weakest bruised reed among us. Thank you for keeping the covenant, opening the eyes of the spiritually blind, bringing to life the spiritually dead, and setting free the idolatrous slaves through Him. Help us to believe that what you have declared has come to pass. Amen.

DAY 04

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**BEHOLDING
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READ—

Isaiah 43:5-13 + Isaiah 45:5-7 + Isaiah 46:8-10

REFLECT—

“Remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me.” — Isaiah 46:9

RESPOND—

God is making it abundantly clear that He alone is God, and there are no other gods besides Him. Why is this truth so important to believe? What does someone's life look like when they truly believe it?

PRAY—

Dear Father, we believe; help our unbelief! You alone are God. There is none besides you, and no one in all the universe that is like you. You alone are holy, you alone can save us. Thank you for creating us for your glory. For what better purpose could we possibly be created? Forgive us for trying to steal your glory and give it to worthless idols. Deliver us from yourself, oh Lord, for you alone can save us. Amen.

DAY 05

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BEHOLDING
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READ—

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

REFLECT—

“Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him.” — Isaiah 53:10

RESPOND—

Go through the passage and pick out all the pronouns. What does He (God) do to *Him* (the Suffering Servant)? What does the Suffering Servant do for us/in place of us? And what impact does this have on us?

PRAY—

Dear Father, thank you for Jesus. Help us to see the glory of the gospel of Christ, which enables you to be both just and the Justifier. Thank you for piercing Him for our transgressions and crushing Him for our iniquities. As we contemplate the justice of the cross, help us to be outraged at our own sin, help us to marvel at your grace, help us consider Christ’s willingness to drink the cup of your wrath on our behalf, and help us to comprehend how you and the Son are one. Amen.

DAY 06

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BEHOLDING
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READ—

Isaiah 55:1-13

REFLECT—

“Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live.”
— Isaiah 55:3

RESPOND—

This passage is an invitation for all sinners everywhere to come and experience the eternal blessings of God. How can you respond to his gracious invitation today?

PRAY—

Dear Father, help us to forsake all our worldly pursuits, for we know they will never satisfy. Help us to come and drink from your waters, which will quench our thirst forever. Help us to seek you, forsake our wicked ways, and behold your far superior ways. Thank you for your Word, which enables the fruits of righteousness to grow in our hearts. Help us to do this, that our soul may live. Amen.

DAY 07

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**BEHOLDING
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READ—

Isaiah 61:1-11 + Luke 4:16-22

REFLECT—

“And he began to say to them, ‘Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.’” — Luke 4:21

RESPOND—

In what ways has Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 61:1-11? What evidence do you see in the New Testament? What evidence do you see today? What is yet to be fulfilled?

PRAY—

Dear Father, thank you for sending Jesus to preach the gospel, and thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to empower His message. For slaves are being liberated, eyes are being opened, your favor is being proclaimed, and oaks of righteousness are sprouting up. Help us to repent and believe the gospel, and help us to pray “your Kingdom come” until Christ returns. Hasten the day, oh Lord, amen.