

† Isaiah

Monday (Read Isaiah 56)

In this chapter, God offers hope to Israel. God had previously expressed disappointment in the Jews for their disobedience and idolatrous practices. One obvious indicator of Israel's disobedience was their disregard for the Sabbath (mentioned in verses 2, 4 and 6). But God presents His Church, as a house, open for all nations. Nobody should consider himself a foreigner, a gentile, a pagan worshipper. He came to call us all to repentance.

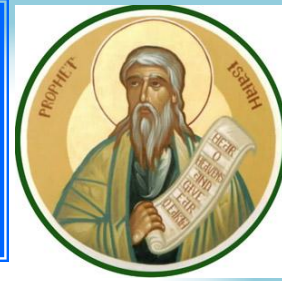
Observe the stipulations of verse 7, "Even them will I bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer: their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called an house of prayer for all nations." God has no favoritism. He opens His house before all!!

"The Healing of God (Isaiah 57:18)

"For such is the loving-kindness of God; he never turns his face away from sincere repentance, but if any one has pushed on to the very extremity of wickedness and chooses to return afterwards toward the path of virtue, God accepts and welcomes and does everything so as to restore him to his former position" St John Chrysostom

Summary

1. The Comforter Through Salvation (Chapters 40-66)
 - a. Comforting the people (40-44)
 - b. Cyrus attacks Babylon (45-47)
 - c. The coming of salvation (48-59)
 - d. The establishing of the 'City of the Lord' (60-66)



Isaiah 56:7

"these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer...for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."



Tuesday (Read Isaiah 57)

Previously, Isaiah had spoken of the free invitation of God to all thirsty to quench their thirst from the fountains of salvation. He had also written of the opening of the house of God for the joyful heavenly worship and to spare anyone feeling foreign or barren. Following this, in chapters 57 to 59, we read about obstacles to the enjoyment of God's work of salvation, and to entering the house of the Lord. These are issues that were just as prevalent in the time of Isaiah as they are today.

In the present chapter he concentrates on the wicked practices of those Judean leaders. Idolatry is a primary component in this passage, a futile practice unable to deliver them from destruction.

In verses 14-21, God encourages the repentant and humble, and warns the wicked. The chapter concludes with bad news for anyone who rejects God in verse 21, "There is no peace, says my God, for the wicked."

Wednesday (Read Isaiah 58)

In Chapter 58, God tells us of the acceptable fast that pleases God. Some of the people had gone through the motions of seeking God, but in vain. Why in vain? It was not from their hearts, they are fasting with incorrect motivations.

In verses 5-7 Isaiah explains the missing component of their fasts - sincerity. Simply skipping a few meals carries no weight with God. Correct attitudes and motivations must accompany an effective fast. This includes:

- To spread sackcloth and ashes under him
- To share bread with the hungry
- To bring to your house the poor who are cast out
- To clothe the naked
- To hide not yourself from your own flesh (to offer assistance)

This also applies to us! Without these, you're not fasting to the Lord; you're just skipping meals!

God does not wish us to fast just from food, without fasting from greed and love of the world, demonstrated in our relationship with others. In other words, we should control our souls together with our bellies.



Thursday (Read Isaiah 59)

In this prophecy Isaiah dwells on the depravity of those Jews who had turned their backs on God. We see in verses 1-2 that God (the loving Father) is ready to deliver, but Israel rejects God's salvation. It is our sins and transgressions that stand in the way of enjoying His salvation.

Then Isaiah addresses this sin with a promise of judgment for those who reject and salvation for those who receive. The Messiah is promised in verse 20, "And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob, says the LORD."



Isaiah 60: 1-5

Friday & Saturday (Read Isaiah 60)

In this chapter, Isaiah outlines the restored glory of Israel before the world after the coming of Christ. Isaiah speaks of ideal living conditions under the authority of the Messiah of Israel. That is the New Testament. Where the Church can enjoy the life of her Redeemer, a risen life, in which there is no place for darkness.

The Lord opens His gates before His Church, to grant her far more than she asks for, to grant her His righteousness, justice, strength, beauty, and light, to let it be in need of nothing.