

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

1) 06 Sept	Isaiah 01-05	God Comforts
2) 13 Sept	Isaiah 06	God Sends
3) 20 Sept	Isaiah 07-22	God Promises
4) 27 Sept	Isaiah 23-24	God Reigns
5) 04 Oct	Isaiah 25-30	God Saves
6) 11 Oct	Isaiah 31-36	God Protects
7) 18 Oct	Isaiah 37-39	God Listens
8) 25 Oct	Isaiah 40-44	God Renews
9) 01 Nov	Isaiah 45-48	God Acts
10) 08 Nov	Isaiah 49-52	God Comforts
<b>11) 15 Nov</b>	<b>Isaiah 53-57</b>	<b>God Justifies</b>
12) 22 Nov	Isaiah 58-64	God Expects
13) 29 Nov	Isaiah 65-66	God Restores

**INTRODUCTION**

- Israel's Messiah is prophesied to die an ignoble death, including being pierced through. Yet by His death we are healed, but healed of what? And God's ways are so much higher than ours, how in the world can we even figure out His plan and live by it successfully?

**Lifeway's ETB Focus:** ..... **Isaiah 53:1-12**

Passage	Comments
Isaiah 53:1-12	<p><b>The Ultimate Savior is Rejected by Men &amp; Smitten of God. So, WHY Would We Want Such a Failure as Our Savior?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v2. He was not noticeably attractive or appealing</li> <li>• v3. He was to be despised and rejected – a Man of Sorrows</li> <li>• v4. He carried our hurts &amp; pain, though smitten by God</li> <li>• vv5-6. He would pay our sin penalty &amp; heal us from sin's curse</li> <li>• vv7-8. He would be a sacrificial lamb on our behalf</li> <li>• v9. He was totally innocent of all charges</li> <li>• v10. Yet all this was the will of God to crush Him as an offering to pay the penalty of sin in full</li> <li>• v11. He (Jesus) shall be happy with this penalty, because He will make many righteous &amp; have them stand in the presence of God. Is this 'The joy that was set before him'?..... <b>Heb 12:2</b></li> <li>• v12. BUT, one day, the Messiah will be exalted above ALL</li> </ul>
54:1-17	<p><b>No Weapon Formed Against You Shall Prosper..... v17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This chapter 54 is very Jewish-centric with emphasis on the Assyrian conquest of the northern kingdom (Israel), and with a look into the glorious future state of Israel and Judah</li> <li>• The end of this chapter also gives us a snapshot how God will continue to protect His people, Israel, and even us adopted children, not necessarily from physical harm, but from eternal harm. This is our heritage as servants of God</li> <li>• v1. "...the sons of the desolate one will be more numerous than the sons of the married woman" (alludes to Sarah shall have more children than Hagar ..... <b>Gen 17:16</b>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Common rendering is the gentile Church, the desolate one, will have more spiritual offspring than the first spouse (Israel)..... cf <b>Gal 4:22-31</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv4-8. The Lord is talking to His beloved, the true Israel, the called-out ones, His once-forsaken bride whom He rescued <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ In <b>Isaiah 50:1</b>, God divorced Israel (His wife) for unfaithfulness, but here we see the Lord still called Israel His wife, and He seeks to redeem her</li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv9-10. God makes a grandiose promise to never stop loving His spouse. His covenant of peace is forever. In fact, even in marriage, we are called to peace ..... <b>1Cor 7:15</b></li> <li>• vv11-12. God also provides a grandiose analogy of His loved one being established in comfort, having a foundation of priceless jewels, &amp; walls made of precious stones. Reminiscent of the heavenly Jerusalem having foundations of precious stones &amp; streets of gold ..... <b>Rev 21:18-21</b></li> <li>• v13. 'your sons will be taught of the Lord' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ This speaks of sometime in the future, probably the Millennium ..... <b>Jer 31:34; Hab 2:14</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv14-15. Another grandiose promise of God's bride never again being oppressed or knowing fear. ....cf <b>Rev 19:11</b></li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• v16. "I have created the destroyer to ruin." Similar to God has reserved the wicked for destruction ..... <b>Job 21:30</b></li> <li>• v17. No weapon formed (e.g., swords, guns, missiles, bio-chemicals, etc.) shall prosper against you <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ How should this passage be properly interpreted? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ It is a timeless promise that applies to believers today?</li> <li>□ It only applies to the Jews? □ It has an eternal outlook?</li> </ul> </li> <li>♦ This seems to refer to a future time, probably the Millennial reign of Christ. But there is no reason not to pray for the peace of Israel (<b>Ps 128:6</b>) TODAY, and for those plotting harm to God's people (Jews and Gentiles) that their devices be brought to nothing (<b>Ps 33:10</b>)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
55:1-13	<p><b>Today is the Day of Salvation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-3. God has eternal water &amp; food ..... <b>John 6:27; Rev 3:20</b></li> <li>• vv6-7. There comes a day when God will no longer save <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ When will that day be? See below, "The Point of No Return"</li> <li>♦ Also consider following the greatest revival ever to be experienced on earth after 144,000 Jewish witnesses evangelize the world during the Great Tribulation, an angel will be used to make the final appeal to man. So, no one has an excuse that God didn't employ every means possible to save, even shouting from the sky ... <b>Rev 14:6-7</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• vv8-9. God's ways are higher than ours. So how can we begin to figure out His plan for our lives? <b>SIMPLE – Read His Book!!</b></li> <li>• v11. God's word will accomplish everything it was designed to</li> </ul>
The Point of No Return	<p><b>Consider This.</b> Just as some can accept Christ early in life at a specific point in time and be sealed from that point forward, others can reject Christ early in life at a specific point in time and doom themselves to Hell from that point forward. (<b>Rom 1:24, 28; 1Cor 1:18; 2Cor 4:3-4; Heb 6:4-6; Heb 10:26; 2Pet 2:20-22; 1Jn 2:19</b>). See lesson on <b>John 12</b> for more on this.</p>
56:1-12	<p><b>Better Days are Promised for Some – Others will be Eaten!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-6. Mistreated foreigners (slaves) and the handicapped who remain righteous will have a name better than sons or daughters. In other words, those who have it rough down here on earth will be properly compensated...so, REJOICE!!</li> <li>• v7. My house shall be called a House of Prayer. What does this mean? How much praying goes on in most churches? How effective is the praying these days? How do we fix it?</li> <li>• Vv9-12. Dire warning to bad/blind shepherds/pastors. Get your act together or prepare to be eaten. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Do we have bad shepherds today? How do we fix them?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
57:1-21	<p><b>God won't always be angry – but the wicked have no peace</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vv1-2. Take note when righteous people perish from the land (Rapture? Persecution?). Disaster looms on the horizon.</li> <li>• vv3-13. Israel degraded to the point they were sacrificing their children to appease their false gods. Today, abortion is committed to appease the gods of convenience &amp; immorality. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>How do we even begin to fix what is broke? .....PRAY</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- God gives His bride (Israel) a reason to hope for better days
- For us adopted sons and daughters of God, we also reap the inheritance promised to God's true servants – eternal life

**NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 58-64.** Numerous issues are addressed in these 7 chapters: 1) Take your spiritual life up a notch with a periodic fast to replace food with prayer, praise, and study; 2) God wants to rescue His people, but their sins prevent Him, so He hardens their heart; and 3) God acts in behalf of those who wait for Him.

