

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 40-45	God Renews
9) 01 Nov	Isaiah 46-48	God Acts
10) 08 Nov	Isaiah 49-52	God Comforts
11) 15 Nov	Isaiah 53-57	God Justifies
12) 22 Nov	Isaiah 58-64	God Expects
13) 29 Nov	Isaiah 65-66	God Restores

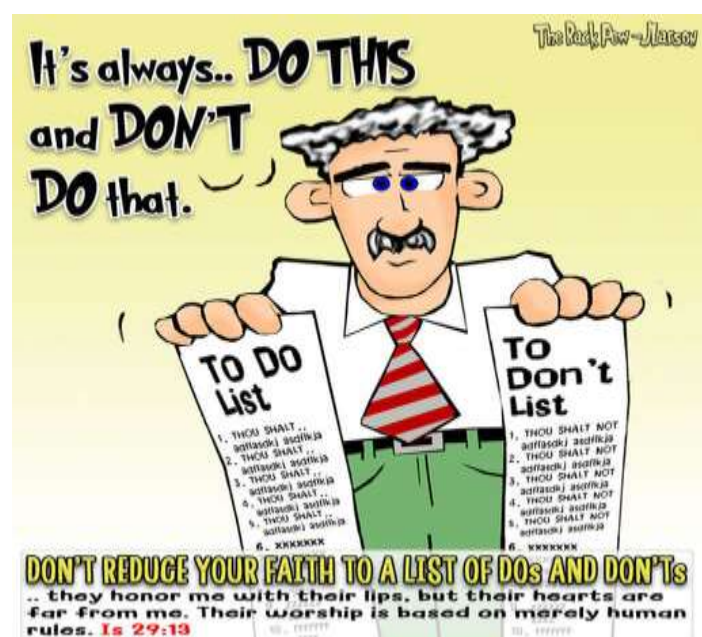
INTRODUCTION

- Numerous issues are addressed in these 7 chapters: 1) Take your spiritual life up a notch with a periodic fast & 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.

Lifeway's ETB Focus: **Isaiah 58:1-12**

Passage	Comments
Isaiah 58:1-14	<p>Why Fast? Why Keep the Sabbath?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Israel seems to have a Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde personality. Sometimes they are portrayed as a righteous people worthy of God's attention, and other times as the worst sinners on the planet and worthy of His wrath. vv1-2. Here, Israel's seemingly righteous character is a ruse, as they pretentiously seek after God on a daily basis. BUT their facade needed to be challenged, their sins exposed. Who should declare their transgressions? Should our sins be openly declared/challenged – and by whom? <input type="checkbox"/> Preacher? <input type="checkbox"/> Deacon? <input type="checkbox"/> Friend? <input type="checkbox"/> Family? <input type="checkbox"/> Other? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When is it appropriate to challenge sin? Eph 5:11 When is it appropriate to ignore sin? 1Peter 4:8 vv3-4. God exposed the obvious – they only obeyed or fasted when it profited them, never out of love for their Lord. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Another term for it is legalism, or giving God "lip service" (Isa 29:13) or "feigned obedience" (Ps 66:3) Mat 15:8 A wicked heart is at the core of their deeds ... Rom 3:10-18 vv5-12. God highlights the benefits of a purposeful, godly fast <p>Fasting God's Way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To humble one's self before a holy God v5 To win the battle against wickedness v6 To bring relief to those afflicted v6 To relieve oppression v6 To break every yoke/burden v6 To share with the hungry v7 To restore the homeless/poor v7 To cover the naked v7 To resolve personal issues v7 <p>Results of a Godly 1-day Fast..... v5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hope is seen v8 Health is restored v8 Righteousness is restored v8 God's glory is proclaimed v8 Prayers are answered v9 Gloom & despair replaced with hope v10 God promises to lead, strengthen, and bless v11 Goals are accomplished v12 vv13-14. Keeping God's Sabbath with the right attitude (not with a legalistic intent) allows God to fulfill His covenant with Israel. How does this apply to us non-Jews? <input type="checkbox"/> It doesn't; <input type="checkbox"/> It has spiritual meaning only; <input type="checkbox"/> We can still delight in God
	59:1-21

Passage	Comments
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv3-14. We get a glimpse of one's heart & the consequences of being wicked (individually and on a national scale) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What happens to the minority of righteous people living in a wicked nation? <input type="checkbox"/> They are oblivious to any suffering? <input type="checkbox"/> They suffer right along with the rest of the nation? Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It rains on the just & unjust Mat 5:45 The righteous get what the wicked deserve Ecc 8:14 Yet there may be exceptions where some righteous ones are removed from the plight of the wicked . Ps 41:2 vv15-20. God eventually comes to the rescue of His people, especially "those who turn from their sins" (v20) v21. Remember: God had a unique covenant with Israel. He promised to rescue them, not because they deserved it, but because of His name's sake Ezek 20:44; 36:22
60:1-22	<p>One Day Israel Will Know That God is Lord and Savior...v16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-14. These verses seem to portray the Millennium since Jerusalem and its sanctuary (Ezekiel's Temple) are being financed and even built by foreigners (see Ezekiel 40-48). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv11-12. Also note there is still night & day (v11) and some nations get destroyed for not being loyal to Zion (v12), where Jesus rules with a rod of iron (Rev 19:15). That happens at the end of the Millennium (Rev 20). vv19-20. These verses seem to be during the Eternal New Earth when a Temple and Ark are no longer required since the "Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple" (Rev 21:22), and God provides all the light that is needed (vv19-20), no need for a sun or moon, or night and day (Rev 21:23; 22:5).
61:1-11	<p>The Lord will cause Righteousness to Flow from Zion....v11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv1-7. Israel will one day be the talk of town. The afflicted will be healed (partially fulfilled during Jesus' ministry) & prisoners set free (v1); mourning will cease cause wickedness is removed (v2); God will be glorified in Zion/Jerusalem (v3); Zion will be rebuilt with the labor and wealth of other nations (vv4-6); and Israel will be doubly blessed (v7) vv8-11. God will one day make/establish/renew His covenant with Israel (v8); then nations will recognize the high position of Israel has with God (v9); rejoicing will be reminiscent of a wedding (v10); and God will cause righteousness to flow (v11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> These chapter seems to allude to the Eternal New Earth. HOW would God cause righteousness to flow? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this. Since God saves us to the "utmost" (Heb 7:25) we won't be able to sin in eternity, which means nothing, but righteousness will flow from each of us. PTL



Passage	Comments
62:1-12	<p>What should the Righteous Minority do in a Wicked Nation?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. As noted previously, better days are promised. Israel will one day be a righteous nation (v1); and she will be given a new name (v2); she will be a shining testimony to the world (v3); no longer forsaken (v4); Israel will have a time of unparalleled joy as compared to a glorious marriage (v5) • vv6-7. PRAY UNCEASINGLY. So, how does one migrate from a deplorable to a glorious situation? Answer: By giving God no rest until He answers the prayers of the righteous. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. God has repeatedly touted Jerusalem will be the joy of the world (Ps 48:2; Lam 2:15); the city of the Great King (Mat 5:35); the perfection of beauty (Ps 50:2) ♦ In essence, such praying is praying for the obvious. It is going to happen whether we pray or not; but pray we must! • vv8-12. Jerusalem's future glorification is a done deal. It is Coming. God will stay true to His covenant with Israel. PTL
63:1-19	<p>God Became Israel's Enemy.....v10 Can God become our enemy or the Church's enemy?.....NO!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ God may discipline believers and even take some home early, but we will not succumb to God's wrath as Israel did ♦ Remember, the vast majority of Israelites were unsaved, unwilling followers of their Deliverer.....Jer 32:30 ♦ In contrast, the Church is comprised of mostly saved followers in each congregation. Wayward churches may lose their candlestick (Rev 2:5), but believers do not incur God's wrath reserved for the lost.....Col 3:6; 1Thes 5:9 • vv1-10. I poured my wrath on them [Israel] (v6) since they rebelled and grieved the Holy Spirit (v10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Yet God called them "His people" and is their Savior (v8) • vv11-16. Israel recalls the good old days when God gave them rest (v14). Then they ask in v15, "Where is God and His mighty deeds when we need Him?" But their sins withheld good things from them.....Jer 5:25 • vv17-18. Israel also asked 2 other questions, "Why, Lord, did You cause us to stray from You and harden our heart." <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Israel blamed God for their waywardness. They basically asked God, "Why didn't you make us robots so we wouldn't forsake you?" ♦ God does not make anyone to stray from Him. Rather, His goodness leads people to repentance (Rom 2:4); He draws us in a loving way (Jer 31:3); and His Law is a tutor which leads people to Christ (Gal 3:24). ♦ Therefore, Israel's departure from God was willful & deliberate by the vast majority of them Prov 1:28-29
64:1-12	<p>God acts in behalf of those who wait for Him (v4) ...Ps 46:10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Israel comes face to face with the consequences of their sins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v5. God wants to bless those who live righteously, and He reserves His anger for those who do wickedness ♦ v6. The best anyone has to offer to God is dirty rags ♦ v7. No one sincerely sought God; therefore, He hid His face from them & delivered them over to their sins Rom 1:24 • v8. We need to see things the way God sees things. We are just clay in His hands. to mold us, and work us over as He sees fit cf Isa 29:16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ We all have a choice. Believers, those who call God, Father, can buck God's molding and lose rewards. Unbelievers can refuse to have God as their Father (Lord), and they receive His final wrath – HELL • vv9-12. Israel pleads for God to take notice of their plight and respond favorably. Of course, God wants to respond favorably, but Israel needs to repent and obey. But will they?

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Consider a periodic fast to move your spiritual life up one notch
 - ♦ Give up food and replace it with sincere prayer, praise, and study

NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 65-66. These 2 chapters are essentially God's answer to Israel's questions recorded in chapters 63 & 64.

