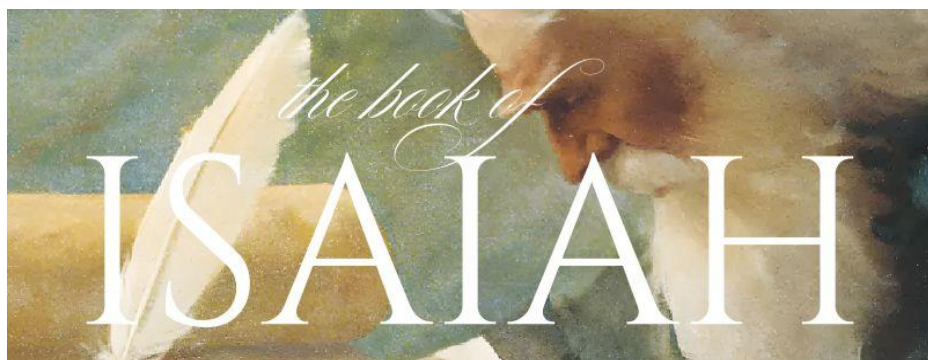


Daily Worship Notes

March 30th – April 4th, 2026



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Question 60: How is the sabbath to be sanctified?

Answer: The sabbath is to be sanctified by a holy resting all that day, even from such worldly employments and recreations as are lawful on other days; and spending the whole time in the public and private exercises of God's worship, except so much as is to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy.

Scripture Proofs:

Exodus 20:10; Nehemiah 13:15-22; Isaiah 58:13-14; Exodus 20:8; Leviticus 23:3; Luke 4:16; Acts 20:7; Matthew 12:1-13.

Comment: Praise God that He has given us one day in seven when we can rest from our works and hobbies to join with others to delight in the public worship of Him.

Psalm of the Week: Psalm 43A. The words are on page 8.

Please pray for:

Mon - Cy & Heather Aiken

Tues - Sergio & Kathy Nunez Andrés

Wed - Renato & Amparo, Renata & Helena Ayala

Thur - Joy Ayer

Frid - Gabe & Maria, & Olívia Braden

Sat - Eric Cai & Ivanna Yu, & Nausicaa

Bible Questions for the week:

Question: How are we to treat God?

Answer: Exodus 22:28

Question: Who are we consecrated to?

Answer: Exodus 22:31

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's help as you study God's Word.

These notes have been written by Rev. Dr. Andrew Quigley, drawing heavily, often quoting directly, from Alec Motyer's book "The Prophecy of Isaiah".



the book of ISAIAH

Monday – Isaiah 13:6-9 – The Day of the Lord:

The first oracle, a word, a declaration about Babylon. The coming Day of the Lord.

Verses 6,7 - It's not that there is to be wailing because the Day of the Lord is imminent, but rather to get into a state of constant readiness for that Day whenever it should come. Because the Almighty, the God who has the power to keep His promises, the God whose power doesn't wane or flag like that of human beings, will bring destruction. And what should the human response be in the face of this reality – feeble hands and melting hearts. Men and women will be deeply affected in both their external and inner beings. They will be incapable of responding; it will be as though they will be paralyzed by the terror of it all.

Verse 8 - The picture of a woman in anguished labour is not speaking about the pain that is experienced, but of the suddenness of the onset of the labour pains and the fact that once they have begun, there can be no stopping them until the baby is born. They come like a thief in the night (1 Thessalonians 5:2-3).

There is another aspect to it, this sudden onslaught of the Day of the Lord: the confusion that it will bring. All certainty will be gone, and everyone will be in a state of confusion and indecision. Not knowing what to do, baffled to know where to turn, they will look aghast at each other, but everyone who has rejected the Lord will be in the same state; each one, without exception, will know that they have set their heart affections on the wrong god, 'the satisfaction of self'; and in every case it has come up wanting, so there will be no one to give direction or comfort. Their faces will turn red with fear and embarrassment.

Verse 9 – And just as no one will be able to give comfort to anyone else, so no external comfort will be found. A pitiless inflection of an overflowing anger will be experienced by everyone without exception. This is the day when sin comes face to face with holiness, and sinners are destroyed.

What a warning for you and me, as much as for the first hearers of this 'word' - to be ready for the coming day of the Lord.

Questions

1. What will the Day of the Lord be?
2. What will the initial reaction of those who reject the Lord be to it?

Memory Verse

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end."

Psalm 119:33



the book of ISAIAH

Tuesday – Isaiah 13:10 –13 – The judgement is real.

Verse 10 speaks to the denial of all the benefits that come upon the ungodly through the withdrawal of light, because of the corruption of sin upon creation. This withdrawal of light from the stars and their heavenly constellations, the sun as it turns black and the moon as it ceases to reflect light because of the sun's blackness, is a powerful symbol of the coming darkness of divine judgement. The penultimate plague sent upon the Egyptians before the plague of death was what? The plague of darkness for three days (Exodus 10:21-29). Which fell only where the Egyptians lived, and not in Goshen, where the people of Israel lived, speaking to God's clear separating of His adversaries from His people.

Verse 11 – The 'punishing' is referring to God's visiting of the world in judgement. The world is the inhabited world, the world of human beings and human affairs (Psalm 24:1). The reason for this coming visitation of punishment is explicitly stated. No one can be left in any doubt as to its cause. The world's evil and wickedness cry out for it. The world and her ways have been tried and found guilty in the face of a forensic examination in full sight of the law. This will involve no miscarriage of human justice. This day is not about an indiscriminate outpouring of wrath because someone has misread the evidence, heard spurious testimony, or been made angry by someone, and that has affected their attitude and resulting judgement. No, each one will be tried and found guilty in light of incontrovertible, clear evidence of deep-seated, premeditated, consistent, pride-filled, pompous open rebellion against God's Law. A rebellion marked by a ruthlessness which shouts from the rooftops, 'I will have no one lord it over me, I am my boss and I will, and I have done it my way'.

Verse 12 – What a shocking statement when you stop and think about it. God says that He will make people rarer than fine gold. Why is the price of gold increasing decade after decade? Because it is so rare, those who have it own a finite resource, which is why the cost goes up. Simple supply and demand economics. Even the location of Ophir, which was famous for fine gold (1 Kings 9:28, Job 28:16), is no longer known. And what will be the outcome of the Day of the Lord? Although the Lord's people number as many as the stars in the heavens (Genesis 15:5), they will be rare in relative terms.

Questions

1. Will the judgement on the day of the Lord be fair?

Memory Verse "Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end." *Psalm 119:33*



Wednesday – Isaiah 13:13-15 – The consequences of the Day of the Lord.

Verse 13 is a verse of summary and conclusion. The Lord has set His hand to a moral judgement that is cosmic (verse 10) and worldwide (verse 11), causing the heavens to tremble and the earth to shake. The ordered movement of the heavens and the stability of the earth, all of which was set in place at creation, will now be undone by this catastrophic, shattering judgement, which will emanate from the holy wrath of the Lord of hosts, accompanied by His fierce, unrelenting, just and righteous anger.

Now we see the consequences of this Day of the Lord. The gazelle is an animal threatened by the hunter, the sheep is an animal endangered if there isn't a human protector. The judgement will mean that the man who was formerly shepherded, provided and protected by God's common grace will now find himself hunted by God, having made himself the enemy of God by his reckless rejection of Him. Man will be left helpless and hopeless in the face of God's wrath and anger. Previously, verse 3, they had been filled with exulting arrogance; now they will try to run back to where they came from, their own people, their own land, in the hope of finding some comfort, some security. This is how God revealed the final Day of the Lord to John in Revelation 6:15-17: "Then the kings of the earth and the great ones and the generals and the rich and the powerful, and everyone, slave and free, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains, calling to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of him who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb, for the great day of their wrath has come, and who can stand?"

Verse 15 - But they will find that there is nowhere where the all-reaching arm of Almighty God does not reach and thrust through. There will be no escape. Whoever is found, whoever thinks they have escaped, will be caught. Whether in the battle, or as a perceived survivor, or in a tempestuous flight, the end is the same for all – thrust through to fall by the sword. A sobering reality for this, listening to this from the lips of Isaiah. An even more sobering reality for us all, as we face this on the Day of the Lord when Christ returns.

Questions

1. What will be the consequence of the Day of the Lord?
2. Where will people try to flee to? Will they escape the coming judgement?

Memory Verse

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end."

Psalms 119:33



Thursday – Isaiah 13:13-17 – No mercy!

There will be no protection (verse 14), no escape (verse 15), and now no mercy (verse 16). Should any reach home, it will only be to see all they held dear destroyed; the homes they've built, the children they have been blessed with, the wives they have loved – all brutally destroyed.

How can we understand this in terms of the day **of the Lord** (verse 6)? In a word, the answer is that this is what people do to each other (verse 18). But if this is the Day of the Lord, is God not ultimately responsible? Remember, what we saw and hopefully learned, for it is a very important truth to commit to memory, in chapter 10, verses 5-15. Man is not a puppet in the hands of Almighty God. On the contrary, man is not an automaton, but a living being with a mind, a conscience, a heart, and a will, and he is wholly responsible and accountable for his own thoughts, words and actions. God is Almighty, and He is Sovereign (Psalm 103:19, 115:3, Ephesians 1:11). He has decreed whatever comes to pass (Daniel 4:35, Matthew 10:29, Romans 9:18), but that doesn't mean that He does not permit man to exercise his free will consistent with his nature, whether fallen, or regenerate and renewed. So, in a sense, when the Bible speaks of God's stretching out His hand (see chapter 14:26), it might be helpful for us to think of that as God choosing to *withdraw* His hand to leave sinners to do what they cravenly want to do, but are daily prevented from doing because of His intervening common grace.

Are homes plundered and destroyed, infants dashed to pieces, wives abused because of God's eternal decree – yes, for it is He, for His own eternal glory, who ordains that men be permitted to do such acts. Is man responsible for the plundering and destroying of homes, dashing infants to pieces, abusing women – yes, because he is exercising the desires of his fallen nature, being permitted to do so by God, who has withdrawn His hand that holds back such evil and wickedness.

But note that there is a day coming, the Day of the Lord, when all will be judged for what they have thought, said, and done; and from that there will be no escape, and no one will call them blameless because it will be clear to them and all who look on that they have been wholly responsible.

Questions

1. Who decrees what happens in the world?
2. Who is responsible for what happens in the world?

Memory Verse

“Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.”
Psalm 119:33



Friday - Isaiah 13:17-22 – The Medes were involved in the overthrow of Babylon.

How are we to understand the summoning of warriors in these verses 17-22? Well, it's not that Isaiah is retrospectively naming the warriors who were summoned in verses 2-5; no, that summoning is yet to come, it's in the future. **The day of the Lord had many interim fulfillments through history.** For example, in chapter 14:24-27, we will encounter one such fulfillment in the overthrow of Assyria. Further on in history, it will be seen again in the fall of Babylon.

And as we work through the various interim fulfillments, the one thing to note and grasp is that God never changes, nor does man. The God who will be revealed on the Day of the Lord, in all His majesty and glory, is the same as He is today. He never changes. And man, whose sinful nature will be revealed in all its grotesque cruelty, possesses the same nature that controls and drives men and women today, albeit held back by God's common grace and the presence of the Holy Spirit in the world.

So, in these verses, Isaiah shows us divine direction and human motivation at work (verse 17), the savagery prevalent among people (verse 18), the overthrow of pride (verse 19), and the endless desolation that death brings (verses 20-22).

Verse 17 - It is the Lord who will stir up the Medes. He is in executive control of every movement in history, just as He will be on the last day. The reference to the Medes as the destroyers of Babylon is surprising when you first read it, because if you know anything about this period and history (and it's okay if you don't, we're all learning), we tend to think of the global conquest of the great Cyrus, King of Persia (modern-day Iran). However, phrases which give the Medes priority over the Persians (e.g., the law of the Medes and Persians is one you might be familiar with) (see Daniel 6:8, 12; Esther 10:2) and the mysterious description of Cyrus the Great as 'Darius the Mede', (Daniel 5:31) at least indicate that the Medes were by no means mere 'also ran', auxiliaries to the Persian empire. They were significant players in their own right, and their motivation doesn't seem to have been the spoils of war, i.e., silver and gold, but rather the glory that comes with the actual conquest itself.

Questions

1. Is there just one fulfillment of the day of the Lord?
2. Were the Medes just the 'bag carriers' for the Persians?

Memory Verse

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end."

Psalm 119:33



Saturday - Isaiah 13:17-22 – The final destruction brings desolation.

As we saw yesterday, the Mesopotamians were not just bit players in the conquest of the Babylonian Empire. God stirred them up to be at the heart of it all.

Verse 18 - Their role will see them slaughter the young men. When you think about it, not that it's a particularly pleasant thing to conceptualize, slaughter is not a word that one would tend to associate with being hit by an arrow; it's more a slaughtering with a sword type word. But it does show the devastating effect on the body and human life, regardless of the weapon of warfare used. The brutal reality is that just as the Medes cannot be bought off with silver and gold, their onslaught will not be halted by the bravest of well-armed young men, nor by the presence of the young and vulnerable whom they will encounter as they heartlessly engage their passionate lust for conquest. This is a truly merciless onslaught, one marked by an absolute absence of human feeling, resulting in the brutal, bloody slaughter of countless lives. And this isn't storytelling, for dramatic effect or entertainment's sake; this is a prophecy of what is to come.

What will be the effect on Babylon, the Chaldeans (the Hebrew names for the Babylonians), of this reign of unmitigated, relentless terror? Their pride will be overthrown, just like God's overthrowing of Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:1-29). And that illustration is deliberate because God's use of the Medes to destroy the Babylonians is because of the sin of the Babylonians. You see, it is never just war for the sake of war; there is always a just warrant for God's execution of His just and moral power, even through the hands of sinful, hardened, butchering men.

Verse 20 describes the historical event of what will be universal on the Day of the Lord (chapter 9:13-16). The idea of total abandonment is driven home by the statement that tents will never be pitched, and shepherds will never seek provision for their flock in the area again. The region will be given over entirely to the wild and the creatures which inhabit it. The Assyrians destroyed Babylon in 689 BC, after which it was restored. Cyrus took the city in 539 BC but left it intact. (Remember, BC numbers work down to 0). Darius Hystaspes attacked it in 518 BC, after which it was reduced to absolute desolation.

The final destruction on the Day of the Lord will not bring destruction and oblivion for a time on earth, but eternity in Hell, and I use that word very carefully, given the reality of what it is.

Questions

1. How would you describe the judgement God brought on Babylon?
2. What is Hell?

Memory Verse

"Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end."

Psalm 119:33

Psalm 43A

1. Before a wicked nation, God,
My innocence defend;
O vindicate and rescue me
From cruel, deceitful men.

2. For You are God who gives me strength;
Why have You cast me off?
Why must I go about in grief
While foes oppress and scoff?

3. O send Your light forth and Your truth,
And let them be my guide,
To lead me to Your holy hill,
The place where You abide.

4. Then to God's altar I will go,
To God my boundless joy;
And in Your praise, O God, my God,
The harp I will employ.

5. O why are you cast down my soul?
Why so discouraged be?
Hope now in God, I'll praise Him still.
My help, my God is He.