

BSF Scripture for Kingdom Divided Lesson #21

FIRST DAY:

1. Read the lesson notes and References

SECOND DAY:

Read Isaiah 49:1-52:12

Isaiah 49

The Servant of the LORD

[49:1] Listen to me, you islands;
hear this, you distant nations:
Before I was born the LORD called me;
from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.
[2] He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me into a polished arrow
and concealed me in his quiver.
[3] He said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."
[4] But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing at all.
Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,
and my reward is with my God."
[5] And now the LORD says—
he who formed me in the womb to be his servant
to bring Jacob back to him
and gather Israel to himself,
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD
and my God has been my strength—
[6] he says:
"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant
to restore the tribes of Jacob
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth."
[7] This is what the LORD says—
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
to the servant of rulers:
"Kings will see you and stand up,
princes will see and bow down,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

Restoration of Israel

[8] This is what the LORD says:
"In the time of my favor I will answer you,
and in the day of salvation I will help you;
I will keep you and will make you

to be a covenant for the people,
to restore the land
and to reassign its desolate inheritances,
[9] to say to the captives, 'Come out,'
and to those in darkness, 'Be free!'
"They will feed beside the roads
and find pasture on every barren hill.
[10] They will neither hunger nor thirst,
nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them.
He who has compassion on them will guide them
and lead them beside springs of water.
[11] I will turn all my mountains into roads,
and my highways will be raised up.
[12] See, they will come from afar—
some from the north, some from the west,
some from the region of Aswan."
[13] Shout for joy, you heavens;
rejoice, you earth;
burst into song, you mountains!
For the LORD comforts his people
and will have compassion on his afflicted ones.
[14] But Zion said, "The LORD has forsaken me,
the Lord has forgotten me."
[15] "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast
and have no compassion on the child she has borne?
Though she may forget,
I will not forget you!
[16] See, I have engraved you on the palms of my
hands;
your walls are ever before me.
[17] Your children hasten back,
and those who laid you waste depart from you.
[18] Lift up your eyes and look around;
all your children gather and come to you.
As surely as I live," declares the LORD,
"you will wear them all as ornaments;
you will put them on, like a bride.
[19] "Though you were ruined and made desolate
and your land laid waste,
now you will be too small for your people,
and those who devoured you will be far away.
[20] The children born during your bereavement
will yet say in your hearing,
'This place is too small for us;
give us more space to live in.'
[21] Then you will say in your heart,
'Who bore me these?
I was bereaved and barren;
I was exiled and rejected.
Who brought these up?
I was left all alone,
but these—where have they come from?'"
[22] This is what the Sovereign LORD says:
"See, I will beckon to the nations,
I will lift up my banner to the peoples;
they will bring your sons in their arms

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and carry your daughters on their hips.
[23] Kings will be your foster fathers,
and their queens your nursing mothers.
They will bow down before you with their faces to
the ground;
they will lick the dust at your feet.
Then you will know that I am the LORD;
those who hope in me will not be disappointed.”
[24] Can plunder be taken from warriors,
or captives be rescued from the fierce?
[25] But this is what the LORD says:
“Yes, captives will be taken from warriors,
and plunder retrieved from the fierce;
I will contend with those who contend with you,
and your children I will save.
[26] I will make your oppressors eat their own flesh;
they will be drunk on their own blood, as with wine.
Then all mankind will know
that I, the LORD, am your Savior,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.”

Isaiah 50

Israel's Sin and the Servant's Obedience

[50:1] This is what the LORD says:
“Where is your mother's certificate of divorce
with which I sent her away?
Or to which of my creditors
did I sell you?
Because of your sins you were sold;
because of your transgressions your mother was sent
away.
[2] When I came, why was there no one?
When I called, why was there no one to answer?
Was my arm too short to deliver you?
Do I lack the strength to rescue you?
By a mere rebuke I dry up the sea,
I turn rivers into a desert;
their fish rot for lack of water
and die of thirst.
[3] I clothe the heavens with darkness
and make sackcloth its covering.”
[4] The Sovereign LORD has given me a well-
instructed tongue,
to know the word that sustains the weary.
He wakens me morning by morning,
wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed.
[5] The Sovereign LORD has opened my ears;
I have not been rebellious,
I have not turned away.
[6] I offered my back to those who beat me,
my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;
I did not hide my face
from mocking and spitting.

[7] Because the Sovereign LORD helps me,
I will not be disgraced.
Therefore have I set my face like flint,
and I know I will not be put to shame.
[8] He who vindicates me is near.
Who then will bring charges against me?
Let us face each other!
Who is my accuser?
Let him confront me!
[9] It is the Sovereign LORD who helps me.
Who will condemn me?
They will all wear out like a garment;
the moths will eat them up.
[10] Who among you fears the LORD
and obeys the word of his servant?
Let the one who walks in the dark,
who has no light,
trust in the name of the LORD
and rely on their God.
[11] But now, all you who light fires
and provide yourselves with flaming torches,
go, walk in the light of your fires
and of the torches you have set ablaze.
This is what you shall receive from my hand:
You will lie down in torment.

Isaiah 51

Everlasting Salvation for Zion

[51:1] “Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness
and who seek the LORD:
Look to the rock from which you were cut
and to the quarry from which you were hewn;
[2] look to Abraham, your father,
and to Sarah, who gave you birth.
When I called him he was only one man,
and I blessed him and made him many.
[3] The LORD will surely comfort Zion
and will look with compassion on all her ruins;
he will make her deserts like Eden,
her wastelands like the garden of the LORD.
Joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the sound of singing.
[4] “Listen to me, my people;
hear me, my nation:
Instruction will go out from me;
my justice will become a light to the nations.
[5] My righteousness draws near speedily,
my salvation is on the way,
and my arm will bring justice to the nations.
The islands will look to me
and wait in hope for my arm.
[6] Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
look at the earth beneath;

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the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment
and its inhabitants die like flies.
But my salvation will last forever,
my righteousness will never fail.
[7] “Hear me, you who know what is right,
you people who have taken my instruction to heart:
Do not fear the reproach of mere mortals
or be terrified by their insults.
[8] For the moth will eat them up like a garment;
the worm will devour them like wool.
But my righteousness will last forever,
my salvation through all generations.”
[9] Awake, awake, arm of the LORD,
clothe yourself with strength!
Awake, as in days gone by,
as in generations of old.
Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces,
who pierced that monster through?
[10] Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep,
who made a road in the depths of the sea
so that the redeemed might cross over?
[11] Those the LORD has rescued will return.
They will enter Zion with singing;
everlasting joy will crown their heads.
Gladness and joy will overtake them,
and sorrow and sighing will flee away.
[12] “I, even I, am he who comforts you.
Who are you that you fear mere mortals,
human beings who are but grass,
[13] that you forget the LORD your Maker,
who stretches out the heavens
and who lays the foundations of the earth,
that you live in constant terror every day
because of the wrath of the oppressor,
who is bent on destruction?
For where is the wrath of the oppressor?
[14] The cowering prisoners will soon be set free;
they will not die in their dungeon,
nor will they lack bread.
[15] For I am the LORD your God,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—
the LORD Almighty is his name.
[16] I have put my words in your mouth
and covered you with the shadow of my hand—
I who set the heavens in place,
who laid the foundations of the earth,
and who say to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

The Cup of the LORD's Wrath

[17] Awake, awake!
Rise up, Jerusalem,
you who have drunk from the hand of the LORD
the cup of his wrath,

you who have drained to its dregs
the goblet that makes people stagger.
[18] Among all the children she bore
there was none to guide her;
among all the children she reared
there was none to take her by the hand.
[19] These double calamities have come upon you—
who can comfort you?—
ruin and destruction, famine and sword—
who can console you?
[20] Your children have fainted;
they lie at every street corner,
like antelope caught in a net.
They are filled with the wrath of the LORD,
with the rebuke of your God.
[21] Therefore hear this, you afflicted one,
made drunk, but not with wine.
[22] This is what your Sovereign LORD says,
your God, who defends his people:
“See, I have taken out of your hand
the cup that made you stagger;
from that cup, the goblet of my wrath,
you will never drink again.
[23] I will put it into the hands of your tormentors,
who said to you,
‘Fall prostrate that we may walk on you.’
And you made your back like the ground,
like a street to be walked on.”

Isaiah 52

[52:1] Awake, awake, Zion,
clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
will not enter you again.
[2] Shake off your dust;
rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
Daughter Zion, now a captive.
[3] For this is what the LORD says:
“You were sold for nothing,
and without money you will be redeemed.”
[4] For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
“At first my people went down to Egypt to live;
lately, Assyria has oppressed them.
[5] “And now what do I have here?” declares the
LORD.
“For my people have been taken away for nothing,
and those who rule them mock,”
declares the LORD.
“And all day long
my name is constantly blasphemed.
[6] Therefore my people will know my name;

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therefore in that day they will know
that it is I who foretold it.
Yes, it is I.”

[7] How beautiful on the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news,
who proclaim peace,
who bring good tidings,
who proclaim salvation,
who say to Zion,
“Your God reigns!”

[8] Listen! Your watchmen lift up their voices;
together they shout for joy.

When the LORD returns to Zion,
they will see it with their own eyes.

[9] Burst into songs of joy together,
you ruins of Jerusalem,

for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

[10] The LORD will lay bare his holy arm
in the sight of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see
the salvation of our God.

[11] Depart, depart, go out from there!
Touch no unclean thing!

Come out from it and be pure,
you who carry the articles of the LORD's house.

[12] But you will not leave in haste
or go in flight;
for the LORD will go before you,
the God of Israel will be your rear guard.

THIRD DAY

Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Suffering and Glory of the Servant

[13] See, my servant will act wisely;
he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

[14] Just as there were many who were appalled at
him—his appearance was so disfigured beyond that
of any human being

and his form marred beyond human likeness—

[15] so he will sprinkle many nations,
and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,
and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Isaiah 53

[53:1] Who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the LORD been
revealed?

[2] He grew up before him like a tender shoot,
and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

[3] He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

[4] Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,

yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

[5] But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

[6] We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;

and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

[7] He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;

he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

[8] By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?

For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

[9] He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,

though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

[10] Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and
cause him to suffer,

and though the LORD makes his life an offering for
sin,

he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

[11] After he has suffered,

he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify
many,

and he will bear their iniquities.

[12] Therefore I will give him a portion among the
great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death, and was
numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin
of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

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FOURTH DAY

Read Isaiah 54-57

Isaiah 54

The Future Glory of Zion

[54:1] “Sing, barren woman,
you who never bore a child;
burst into song, shout for joy,
you who were never in labor;
because more are the children of the desolate woman
than of her who has a husband,”
says the LORD.

[2] “Enlarge the place of your tent,
stretch your tent curtains wide,
do not hold back;
lengthen your cords,
strengthen your stakes.

[3] For you will spread out to the right and to the left;
your descendants will dispossess nations
and settle in their desolate cities.

[4] “Do not be afraid; you will not be put to shame.
Do not fear disgrace; you will not be humiliated.
You will forget the shame of your youth
and remember no more the reproach of your
widowhood.

[5] For your Maker is your husband—
the LORD Almighty is his name—
the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer;
he is called the God of all the earth.

[6] The LORD will call you back
as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in
spirit—

a wife who married young,
only to be rejected,” says your God.

[7] “For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with deep compassion I will bring you back.

[8] In a surge of anger
I hid my face from you for a moment,
but with everlasting kindness
I will have compassion on you,”
says the LORD your Redeemer.

[9] “To me this is like the days of Noah,
when I swore that the waters of Noah would never
again cover the earth.

So now I have sworn not to be angry with you,
never to rebuke you again.

[10] Though the mountains be shaken
and the hills be removed,
yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken
nor my covenant of peace be removed,”

says the LORD, who has compassion on you.
[11] “Afflicted city, lashed by storms and not
comforted,

I will rebuild you with stones of turquoise,
your foundations with lapis lazuli.

[12] I will make your battlements of rubies,
your gates of sparkling jewels,
and all your walls of precious stones.

[13] All your children will be taught by the LORD,
and great will be their peace.

[14] In righteousness you will be established:
Tyranny will be far from you;
you will have nothing to fear.

Terror will be far removed;
it will not come near you.

[15] If anyone does attack you, it will not be my
doing;

whoever attacks you will surrender to you.

[16] “See, it is I who created the blacksmith
who fans the coals into flame
and forges a weapon fit for its work.

And it is I who have created the destroyer to wreak
havoc;

[17] no weapon forged against you will prevail,
and you will refute every tongue that accuses you.
This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD,
and this is their vindication from me,”

declares the LORD.

Isaiah 55

Invitation to the Thirsty

[55:1] “Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

[2] Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

[3] Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

[4] See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a ruler and commander of the peoples.

[5] Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations you do not know will come running to
you,

because of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.”

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[6] Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.
[7] Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy
on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.
[8] “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.
[9] “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
[10] As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the
eater,
[11] so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
[12] You will go out in joy
and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and hills
will burst into song before you,
and all the trees of the field
will clap their hands.
[13] Instead of the thornbush will grow the juniper,
and instead of briars the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the LORD’s renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever.”

Isaiah 56

Salvation for Others

[56:1] This is what the LORD says:
“Maintain justice
and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.
[2] Blessed is the one who does this—
the person who holds it fast,
who keeps the Sabbath without desecrating it,
and keeps their hands from doing any evil.”
[3] Let no foreigner who is bound to the LORD say,
“The LORD will surely exclude me from his people.”
And let no eunuch complain,
“I am only a dry tree.”
[4] For this is what the LORD says:
“To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbaths,

who choose what pleases me
and hold fast to my covenant—
[5] to them I will give within my temple and its walls
a memorial and a name
better than sons and daughters;
I will give them an everlasting name
that will endure forever.
[6] And foreigners who bind themselves to the
LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—
[7] these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.
Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”
[8] The Sovereign LORD declares—
he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
“I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.”
God's Accusation Against the Wicked
[9] Come, all you beasts of the field,
come and devour, all you beasts of the forest!
[10] Israel's watchmen are blind,
they all lack knowledge;
they are all mute dogs,
they cannot bark;
they lie around and dream,
they love to sleep.
[11] They are dogs with mighty appetites;
they never have enough.
They are shepherds who lack understanding;
they all turn to their own way,
they seek their own gain.
[12] “Come,” each one cries, “let me get wine!
Let us drink our fill of beer!
And tomorrow will be like today,
or even far better.”

Isaiah 57

[57:1] The righteous perish,
and no one takes it to heart;
the devout are taken away,
and no one understands
that the righteous are taken away
to be spared from evil.
[2] Those who walk uprightly
enter into peace;
they find rest as they lie in death.

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[3] “But you—come here, you children of a sorceress,

you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes!

[4] Who are you mocking?

At whom do you sneer

and stick out your tongue?

Are you not a brood of rebels,

the offspring of liars?

[5] You burn with lust among the oaks

and under every spreading tree;

you sacrifice your children in the ravines

and under the overhanging crags.

[6] The idols among the smooth stones of the ravines

are your portion;

indeed, they are your lot.

Yes, to them you have poured out drink offerings

and offered grain offerings.

In view of all this, should I relent?

[7] You have made your bed on a high and lofty hill;

there you went up to offer your sacrifices.

[8] Behind your doors and your doorposts

you have put your pagan symbols.

Forsaking me, you uncovered your bed,

you climbed into it and opened it wide;

you made a pact with those whose beds you love,

and you looked with lust on their naked bodies.

[9] You went to Molek with olive oil

and increased your perfumes.

You sent your ambassadors far away;

you descended to the very realm of the dead!

[10] You wearied yourself by such going about,

but you would not say, ‘It is hopeless.’

You found renewal of your strength,

and so you did not faint.

[11] “Whom have you so dreaded and feared

that you have not been true to me,

and have neither remembered me

nor taken this to heart?

Is it not because I have long been silent

that you do not fear me?

[12] I will expose your righteousness and your works,

and they will not benefit you.

[13] When you cry out for help,

let your collection of idols save you!

The wind will carry all of them off,

a mere breath will blow them away.

But whoever takes refuge in me

will inherit the land

and possess my holy mountain.”

Comfort for the Contrite

[14] And it will be said:

“Build up, build up, prepare the road!

Remove the obstacles out of the way of my people.”

[15] For this is what the high and exalted One says—

he who lives forever, whose name is holy:

“I live in a high and holy place,

but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit,

to revive the spirit of the lowly

and to revive the heart of the contrite.

[16] I will not accuse them forever,

nor will I always be angry,

for then they would faint away because of me—

the very people I have created.

[17] I was enraged by their sinful greed;

I punished them, and hid my face in anger,

yet they kept on in their willful ways.

[18] I have seen their ways, but I will heal them;

I will guide them and restore comfort to Israel’s

mourners,

[19] creating praise on their lips.

Peace, peace, to those far and near,”

says the LORD. “And I will heal them.”

[20] But the wicked are like the tossing sea,

which cannot rest,

whose waves cast up mire and mud.

[21] “There is no peace,” says my God, “for the

wicked.”

FIFTH DAY

Read Isaiah 58-66

Isaiah 58

True Fasting

[58:1] “Shout it aloud, do not hold back.

Raise your voice like a trumpet.

Declare to my people their rebellion

and to the descendants of Jacob their sins.

[2] For day after day they seek me out;

they seem eager to know my ways,

as if they were a nation that does what is right

and has not forsaken the commands of its God.

They ask me for just decisions

and seem eager for God to come near them.

[3] ‘Why have we fasted,’ they say,

‘and you have not seen it?’

Why have we humbled ourselves,

and you have not noticed?’

“Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please

and exploit all your workers.

[4] Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife,

and in striking each other with wicked fists.

You cannot fast as you do today

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and expect your voice to be heard on high.
[5] Is this the kind of fast I have chosen,
only a day for people to humble themselves?
Is it only for bowing one's head like a reed
and for lying in sackcloth and ashes?
Is that what you call a fast,
a day acceptable to the LORD?
[6] "Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice
and untie the cords of the yoke,
to set the oppressed free
and break every yoke?
[7] Is it not to share your food with the hungry
and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—
when you see the naked, to clothe them,
and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?
[8] Then your light will break forth like the dawn,
and your healing will quickly appear;
then your righteousness will go before you,
and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard.
[9] Then you will call, and the LORD will answer;
you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I.
"If you do away with the yoke of oppression,
with the pointing finger and malicious talk,
[10] and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the
hungry
and satisfy the needs of the oppressed,
then your light will rise in the darkness,
and your night will become like the noonday.
[11] The LORD will guide you always;
he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land
and will strengthen your frame.
You will be like a well-watered garden,
like a spring whose waters never fail.
[12] Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins
and will raise up the age-old foundations;
you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls,
Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.
[13] "If you keep your feet from breaking the
Sabbath
and from doing as you please on my holy day,
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the LORD's holy day honorable,
and if you honor it by not going your own way
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,
[14] then you will find your joy in the LORD,
and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights
of the land
and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Isaiah 59

Sin, Confession and Redemption

[59:1] Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to
save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.
[2] But your iniquities have separated
you from your God;
your sins have hidden his face from you,
so that he will not hear.
[3] For your hands are stained with blood,
your fingers with guilt.
Your lips have spoken falsely,
and your tongue mutters wicked things.
[4] No one calls for justice;
no one pleads a case with integrity.
They rely on empty arguments, they utter lies;
they conceive trouble and give birth to evil.
[5] They hatch the eggs of vipers
and spin a spider's web.
Whoever eats their eggs will die,
and when one is broken, an adder is hatched.
[6] Their cobwebs are useless for clothing;
they cannot cover themselves with what they make.
Their deeds are evil deeds,
and acts of violence are in their hands.
[7] Their feet rush into sin;
they are swift to shed innocent blood.
They pursue evil schemes;
acts of violence mark their ways.
[8] The way of peace they do not know;
there is no justice in their paths.
They have turned them into crooked roads;
no one who walks along them will know peace.
[9] So justice is far from us,
and righteousness does not reach us.
We look for light, but all is darkness;
for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows.
[10] Like the blind we grope along the wall,
feeling our way like people without eyes.
At midday we stumble as if it were twilight;
among the strong, we are like the dead.
[11] We all growl like bears;
we moan mournfully like doves.
We look for justice, but find none;
for deliverance, but it is far away.
[12] For our offenses are many in your sight,
and our sins testify against us.
Our offenses are ever with us,
and we acknowledge our iniquities:
[13] rebellion and treachery against the LORD,
turning our backs on our God,
inciting revolt and oppression,
uttering lies our hearts have conceived.

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[14] So justice is driven back,
and righteousness stands at a distance;
truth has stumbled in the streets,
honesty cannot enter.
[15] Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.
The LORD looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.
[16] He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;
so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.
[17] He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;
he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.
[18] According to what they have done,
so will he repay
wrath to his enemies
and retribution to his foes;
he will repay the islands their due.
[19] From the west, people will fear the name of the
LORD,
and from the rising of the sun, they will revere his
glory.
For he will come like a pent-up flood
that the breath of the LORD drives along.
[20] “The Redeemer will come to Zion,
to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,”
declares the LORD.
[21] “As for me, this is my covenant with them,” says
the LORD. “My Spirit, who is on you, will not depart
from you, and my words that I have put in your
mouth will always be on your lips, on the lips of your
children and on the lips of their descendants—from
this time on and forever,” says the LORD.

Isaiah 60

The Glory of Zion

[60:1] “Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
[2] See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
[3] Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
[4] “Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.
[5] Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;

the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.
[6] Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.
[7] All Kedar's flocks will be gathered to you,
the rams of Nebaioth will serve you;
they will be accepted as offerings on my altar,
and I will adorn my glorious temple.
[8] “Who are these that fly along like clouds,
like doves to their nests?
[9] Surely the islands look to me;
in the lead are the ships of Tarshish,
bringing your children from afar,
with their silver and gold,
to the honor of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor.
[10] “Foreigners will rebuild your walls,
and their kings will serve you.
Though in anger I struck you,
in favor I will show you compassion.
[11] Your gates will always stand open,
they will never be shut, day or night,
so that people may bring you the wealth of the
nations—
their kings led in triumphal procession.
[12] For the nation or kingdom that will not serve
you will perish;
it will be utterly ruined.
[13] “The glory of Lebanon will come to you,
the juniper, the fir and the cypress together,
to adorn my sanctuary;
and I will glorify the place for my feet.
[14] The children of your oppressors will come
bowing before you;
all who despise you will bow down at your feet
and will call you the City of the LORD,
Zion of the Holy One of Israel.
[15] “Although you have been forsaken and hated,
with no one traveling through,
I will make you the everlasting pride
and the joy of all generations.
[16] You will drink the milk of nations
and be nursed at royal breasts.
Then you will know that I, the LORD, am your
Savior,
your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.
[17] Instead of bronze I will bring you gold,
and silver in place of iron.
Instead of wood I will bring you bronze,
and iron in place of stones.
I will make peace your governor
and well-being your ruler.

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[18] No longer will violence be heard in your land,
nor ruin or destruction within your borders,
but you will call your walls Salvation
and your gates Praise.

[19] The sun will no more be your light by day,
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you,
for the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

[20] Your sun will never set again,
and your moon will wane no more;
the LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your days of sorrow will end.

[21] Then all your people will be righteous
and they will possess the land forever.
They are the shoot I have planted,
the work of my hands,
for the display of my splendor.

[22] The least of you will become a thousand,
the smallest a mighty nation.
I am the LORD;
in its time I will do this swiftly.”

Isaiah 61

The Year of the LORD's Favor

[61:1] The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me,
because the LORD has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim freedom for the captives
and release from darkness for the prisoners,

[2] to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor
and the day of vengeance of our God,
to comfort all who mourn,

[3] and provide for those who grieve in Zion—
to bestow on them a crown of beauty
instead of ashes,

the oil of joy

instead of mourning,

and a garment of praise

instead of a spirit of despair.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,
a planting of the LORD

for the display of his splendor.

[4] They will rebuild the ancient ruins
and restore the places long devastated;
they will renew the ruined cities
that have been devastated for generations.

[5] Strangers will shepherd your flocks;
foreigners will work your fields and vineyards.

[6] And you will be called priests of the LORD,
you will be named ministers of our God.

You will feed on the wealth of nations,
and in their riches you will boast.

[7] Instead of your shame
you will receive a double portion,
and instead of disgrace
you will rejoice in your inheritance.

And so you will inherit a double portion in your land,
and everlasting joy will be yours.

[8] “For I, the LORD, love justice;
I hate robbery and wrongdoing.

In my faithfulness I will reward my people
and make an everlasting covenant with them.

[9] Their descendants will be known among the
nations
and their offspring among the peoples.

All who see them will acknowledge
that they are a people the LORD has blessed.”

[10] I delight greatly in the LORD;
my soul rejoices in my God.

For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness,
as a bridegroom adorns his head like a priest,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

[11] For as the soil makes the sprout come up
and a garden causes seeds to grow,
so the Sovereign LORD will make righteousness
and praise spring up before all nations.

Isaiah 62

Zion's New Name

[62:1] For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet,
till her vindication shines out like the dawn,
her salvation like a blazing torch.

[2] The nations will see your vindication,
and all kings your glory;
you will be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will bestow.

[3] You will be a crown of splendor in the LORD's
hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

[4] No longer will they call you Deserted,
or name your land Desolate.

But you will be called Hephzibah,
and your land Beulah;

for the LORD will take delight in you,
and your land will be married.

[5] As a young man marries a young woman,
so will your Builder marry you;
as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride,
so will your God rejoice over you.

[6] I have posted watchmen on your walls, Jerusalem;
they will never be silent day or night.

You who call on the LORD,
give yourselves no rest,

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[7] and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem
and makes her the praise of the earth.

[8] The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:

“Never again will I give your grain
as food for your enemies,
and never again will foreigners drink the new wine
for which you have toiled;

[9] but those who harvest it will eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather the grapes will drink it
in the courts of my sanctuary.”

[10] Pass through, pass through the gates!
Prepare the way for the people.
Build up, build up the highway!
Remove the stones.

Raise a banner for the nations.
[11] The LORD has made proclamation
to the ends of the earth:

“Say to Daughter Zion,
‘See, your Savior comes!
See, his reward is with him,
and his recompense accompanies him.’”

[12] They will be called the Holy People,
the Redeemed of the LORD;
and you will be called Sought After,
the City No Longer Deserted.

Isaiah 63

God's Day of Vengeance and Redemption

[63:1] Who is this coming from Edom,
from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson?
Who is this, robed in splendor,
striding forward in the greatness of his strength?
“It is I, proclaiming victory,
mighty to save.”

[2] Why are your garments red,
like those of one treading the winepress?

[3] “I have trodden the winepress alone;
from the nations no one was with me.

I trampled them in my anger
and trod them down in my wrath;
their blood spattered my garments,
and I stained all my clothing.

[4] It was for me the day of vengeance;
the year for me to redeem had come.

[5] I looked, but there was no one to help,
I was appalled that no one gave support;
so my own arm achieved salvation for me,
and my own wrath sustained me.

[6] I trampled the nations in my anger;
in my wrath I made them drunk
and poured their blood on the ground.”

Praise and Prayer

[7] I will tell of the kindnesses of the LORD,
the deeds for which he is to be praised,
according to all the LORD has done for us—
yes, the many good things
he has done for Israel,
according to his compassion and many kindnesses.

[8] He said, “Surely they are my people,
children who will be true to me”;
and so he became their Savior.

[9] In all their distress he too was distressed,
and the angel of his presence saved them.
In his love and mercy he redeemed them;
he lifted them up and carried them
all the days of old.

[10] Yet they rebelled
and grieved his Holy Spirit.
So he turned and became their enemy
and he himself fought against them.

[11] Then his people recalled the days of old,
the days of Moses and his people—
where is he who brought them through the sea,
with the shepherd of his flock?

Where is he who set
his Holy Spirit among them,
[12] who sent his glorious arm of power
to be at Moses' right hand,
who divided the waters before them,
to gain for himself everlasting renown,

[13] who led them through the depths?
Like a horse in open country,
they did not stumble;

[14] like cattle that go down to the plain,
they were given rest by the Spirit of the LORD.

This is how you guided your people
to make for yourself a glorious name.

[15] Look down from heaven and see,
from your lofty throne, holy and glorious.

Where are your zeal and your might?
Your tenderness and compassion are withheld from
us.

[16] But you are our Father,
though Abraham does not know us
or Israel acknowledge us;
you, LORD, are our Father,
our Redeemer from of old is your name.

[17] Why, LORD, do you make us wander from your
ways

and harden our hearts so we do not revere you?
Return for the sake of your servants,
the tribes that are your inheritance.

[18] For a little while your people possessed your
holy place,

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but now our enemies have trampled down your sanctuary.

[19] We are yours from of old;
but you have not ruled over them,
they have not been called by your name.

Isaiah 64

[64:1] Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,

that the mountains would tremble before you!

[2] As when fire sets twigs ablaze
and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies

and cause the nations to quake before you!

[3] For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.

[4] Since ancient times no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.

[5] You come to the help of those who gladly do right,

who remember your ways.

But when we continued to sin against them,
you were angry.

How then can we be saved?

[6] All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.

[7] No one calls on your name
or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us
and have given us over to our sins.

[8] Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

[9] Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.

Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

[10] Your sacred cities have become a wasteland;
even Zion is a wasteland, Jerusalem a desolation.

[11] Our holy and glorious temple, where our
ancestors praised you,
has been burned with fire,
and all that we treasured lies in ruins.

[12] After all this, LORD, will you hold yourself
back?

Will you keep silent and punish us beyond measure?

Isaiah 65

Judgment and Salvation

[65:1] “I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me;

I was found by those who did not seek me.
To a nation that did not call on my name,
I said, ‘Here am I, here am I.’

[2] All day long I have held out my hands
to an obstinate people,
who walk in ways not good,
pursuing their own imaginations—

[3] a people who continually provoke me
to my very face,
offering sacrifices in gardens
and burning incense on altars of brick;

[4] who sit among the graves
and spend their nights keeping secret vigil;
who eat the flesh of pigs,

and whose pots hold broth of impure meat;
[5] who say, ‘Keep away; don’t come near me,
for I am too sacred for you!’

Such people are smoke in my nostrils,
a fire that keeps burning all day.

[6] “See, it stands written before me:
I will not keep silent but will pay back in full;
I will pay it back into their laps—

[7] both your sins and the sins of your ancestors,”
says the LORD.

“Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains
and defied me on the hills,
I will measure into their laps
the full payment for their former deeds.”

[8] This is what the LORD says:
“As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes
and people say, ‘Don’t destroy it,
there is still a blessing in it,’

so will I do in behalf of my servants;
I will not destroy them all.

[9] I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,
and from Judah those who will possess my
mountains;

my chosen people will inherit them,
and there will my servants live.

[10] Sharon will become a pasture for flocks,
and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds,
for my people who seek me.

[11] “But as for you who forsake the LORD
and forget my holy mountain,
who spread a table for Fortune

and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny,
[12] I will destine you for the sword,
and all of you will fall in the slaughter;
for I called but you did not answer,

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I spoke but you did not listen.

You did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me.”

[13] Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD
says:

“My servants will eat,
but you will go hungry;
my servants will drink,
but you will go thirsty;
my servants will rejoice,
but you will be put to shame.

[14] My servants will sing
out of the joy of their hearts,
but you will cry out
from anguish of heart
and wail in brokenness of spirit.

[15] You will leave your name
for my chosen ones to use in their curses;
the Sovereign LORD will put you to death,
but to his servants he will give another name.

[16] Whoever invokes a blessing in the land
will do so by the one true God;
whoever takes an oath in the land
will swear by the one true God.
For the past troubles will be forgotten
and hidden from my eyes.

New Heavens and a New Earth

[17] “See, I will create
new heavens and a new earth.
The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

[18] But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,
for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

[19] I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

[20] “Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach a hundred
will be considered accursed.

[21] They will build houses and dwell in them;
they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

[22] No longer will they build houses and others live
in them,

or plant and others eat.

For as the days of a tree,
so will be the days of my people;
my chosen ones will long enjoy

the work of their hands.

[23] They will not labor in vain,
nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
they and their descendants with them.

[24] Before they call I will answer;
while they are still speaking I will hear.

[25] The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
and dust will be the serpent's food.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,”

says the LORD.

Isaiah 66

Judgment and Hope

[66:1] This is what the LORD says:

“Heaven is my throne,
and the earth is my footstool.
Where is the house you will build for me?
Where will my resting place be?

[2] Has not my hand made all these things,
and so they came into being?”

declares the LORD.

“These are the ones I look on with favor:
those who are humble and contrite in spirit,
and who tremble at my word.

[3] But whoever sacrifices a bull
is like one who kills a person,
and whoever offers a lamb
is like one who breaks a dog's neck;
whoever makes a grain offering
is like one who presents pig's blood,
and whoever burns memorial incense
is like one who worships an idol.

They have chosen their own ways,
and they delight in their abominations;
[4] so I also will choose harsh treatment for them
and will bring on them what they dread.

For when I called, no one answered,
when I spoke, no one listened.

They did evil in my sight
and chose what displeases me.”

[5] Hear the word of the LORD,
you who tremble at his word:

“Your own people who hate you,
and exclude you because of my name, have said,
‘Let the LORD be glorified,
that we may see your joy!’
Yet they will be put to shame.

[6] Hear that uproar from the city,
hear that noise from the temple!
It is the sound of the LORD

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repaying his enemies all they deserve.

[7] “Before she goes into labor,
she gives birth;
before the pains come upon her,
she delivers a son.

[8] Who has ever heard of such things?
Who has ever seen things like this?
Can a country be born in a day
or a nation be brought forth in a moment?
Yet no sooner is Zion in labor
than she gives birth to her children.

[9] Do I bring to the moment of birth
and not give delivery?” says the LORD.

“Do I close up the womb
when I bring to delivery?” says your God.

[10] “Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice greatly with her,
all you who mourn over her.

[11] For you will nurse and be satisfied
at her comforting breasts;
you will drink deeply
and delight in her overflowing abundance.”

[12] For this is what the LORD says:
“I will extend peace to her like a river,
and the wealth of nations like a flooding stream;
you will nurse and be carried on her arm
and dandled on her knees.

[13] As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you;
and you will be comforted over Jerusalem.”

[14] When you see this, your heart will rejoice
and you will flourish like grass;
the hand of the LORD will be made known to his
servants,

but his fury will be shown to his foes.
[15] See, the LORD is coming with fire,
and his chariots are like a whirlwind;
he will bring down his anger with fury,
and his rebuke with flames of fire.

[16] For with fire and with his sword
the LORD will execute judgment on all people,
and many will be those slain by the LORD.

[17] “Those who consecrate and purify themselves to
go into the gardens, following one who is among
those who eat the flesh of pigs, rats and other unclean
things—they will meet their end together with the
one they follow,” declares the LORD.

[18] “And I, because of what they have planned and
done, am about to come and gather the people of all
nations and languages, and they will come and see
my glory.

[19] “I will set a sign among them, and I will send
some of those who survive to the nations—to
Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as
archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant

islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my
glory. They will proclaim my glory among the
nations. [20] And they will bring all your people,
from all the nations, to my holy mountain in
Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in
chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says
the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites
bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the
LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. [21] And I will
select some of them also to be priests and Levites,”
says the LORD.

[22] “As the new heavens and the new earth that I
make will endure before me,” declares the LORD,
“so will your name and descendants endure. [23]
From one New Moon to another and from one
Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow
down before me,” says the LORD. [24] “And they
will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who
rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not
die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched,
and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

Question 14a

Isaiah 64:8-9; [8] Yet you, LORD, are our
Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all
the work of your hand.

[9] Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look on us, we
pray, for we are all your people.

Jeremiah 18:1-10; At the Potter's House

[18:1] This is the word that came to Jeremiah from
the LORD: [2] “Go down to the potter's house, and
there I will give you my message.” [3] So I went
down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at
the wheel. [4] But the pot he was shaping from the
clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it
into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him.

[5] Then the word of the LORD came to me. [6] He
said, “Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter
does?” declares the LORD. “Like clay in the hand of
the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. [7] If at any
time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be
uprooted, torn down and destroyed, [8] and if that
nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent
and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. [9]
And if at another time I announce that a nation or
kingdom is to be built up and planted, [10] and if it

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does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

Romans 9:20-21; [20] But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’ ” [21] Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?

Question 16

Isaiah 66:2; [2] Has not my hand made all these things, and so they came into being?”

declares the LORD.

“These are the ones I look on with favor:
those who are humble and contrite in spirit,
and who tremble at my word.

SIXTH DAY

Review **Isaiah 49-66**

See above days

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