

Discipleship University Bible Reading Guide

Hebrew Prophets 1: Isaiah 58-66, 2 Kings 21, 2 Chron. 33, Nahum, Zephaniah, and Habakkuk (For class to be held on June 3, 2017)

Read Isaiah 58-61 – Contrast of True and False Worship and Hope for a Glorious Future

1. In Isaiah 58:1-3 we learn of people that seek God daily, “delight in approaching to God,” and practice fasting, but why isn’t God pleased with them? _____
_____. What does God value far above fasting in sackcloth and ashes? _____
2. According to Is. 58:8-11, what blessings come to those whose righteousness is shown visibly in loving acts for the poor? _____
3. What breach is to be repaired according to Is. 58:12-14? _____
4. According to Is. 59:1-4, what is the only thing that can separate us from God? _____. What is the point of verses 3-8? _____. In the remainder of the chapter, the blindness and injustice of the people is detailed, but what does God promise for those who fear the name of the LORD and turn from their transgressions? _____
5. In Isaiah 60:1-3, when a glorious light breaks through the darkness upon the earth, who would come to the light? _____. What are the “forces of the Gentiles” that “shall come unto thee”? (see 6-9) _____
_____. For what will this wealth be used to build? _____.
(If there is a breach in the wall that needs repair, how does Is. 58:12-14 help us see a deeper meaning here? Does this have an end-time application?)
6. What other passages in Scripture are similar to Is. 60:18-21? _____
7. To what did Jesus apply Isaiah 61:1-2? _____. How do verses 2-7 show that God doesn’t want His followers to be a band of mourners? _____

Read Isaiah 62-64 – Future Glory for Zion and Wrath on the Enemies of God: Prayers of the Remnant

1. What is your favorite verse from Isaiah 62? _____. What is being described in Isaiah 63:1-6? _____
_____. What is different in verses 7-9? _____
2. Who quoted Isaiah 64:4 in the New Testament? _____. What verse in Isaiah 64 shows that man can never be righteous on his own? What’s your favorite verse in Isaiah 64? _____
3. Was Isaiah 64:11 prophesy or history at the time it was written? _____

Read Isaiah 65-66 – God’s Answer to the Remnant and the Glorious Consummation of History

1. According to Isaiah 65:1-7, why does Israel deserve the recompense of God? _____
_____. What hope is given in verses 8-10? _____. What about those in verses 11-15 who forsake the LORD? _____
2. Isaiah 65:17-25 has concepts that apply to what could have been the Messianic Kingdom, and other verses that will only come true in heaven or the new earth. Which verses and concepts could only be applied to heaven or the new earth? _____. Which verse, as positive as it is, can’t apply to heaven or the new earth, but rather to the Messianic Kingdom that didn’t happen? _____. (Is this verse unfulfilled prophecy? If so, why? How are we to make sense of this verse?)

3. What event is described in Isaiah 66:15-16? _____. What practices were specifically mentioned that will result in those people being consumed at the end of the world? _____
4. Why are verses 22-23 important to Seventh-day Adventists? _____

Read 2 Kings 21 and 2 Chronicles 33 – The Wicked Reigns of Manasseh and Amon

1. As 2 Kings 21 details all of Manasseh’s wickedness, to whom is he compared as the more evil? _____. What does 2 Chron. 33 reveal that God allowed to humble Manasseh? _____. What was the result of this humbling experience? _____.
2. What good things did Manasseh do? _____
3. Who followed Manasseh as king and how did it go? _____

Read Nahum – The Destruction of Nineveh and Downfall of Assyria Prophesied

1. Over one hundred years earlier, Nineveh repented from the preaching of Jonah. Why does Nahum now give a message from God of the certainty of Nineveh’s destruction? _____
2. To what animal does Nahum compare the king of Assyria in chapter 2? _____. What city did Assyria destroy that is mentioned in Nahum 3? _____. How did the Assyrians kill the children of this city? _____. Why will all who hear of Assyria’s destruction clap their hands according to Nahum 3:19?

***Suggested Reading, Finish *Prophets and Kings*, Chapter 30 (pages 362 [bottom] to 366)

Read Zephaniah – Judgment Day is Coming!

Nahum, Zephaniah and Habakkuk were contemporaries that experienced the latter part of Manasseh’s reign and the transition to Josiah. Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah all spoke of the Day of the LORD or the Day of Judgment. Zephaniah takes this concept to its fullest extent so far.

1. What is specifically mentioned in chapter one as not able to deliver from the day of the LORD’s wrath? _____. According to chapter two, what is the only way to escape the LORD’s anger? _____. What five nations were facing destruction according to Zephaniah 2? _____. What was to be the future of Nineveh? _____
2. What city is described in Zephaniah 3:1-5? _____. What hopeful concepts are in verses 12-20 to close the book? _____

Read Habakkuk – Challenging Question for God

1. What is Habakkuk’s first question? _____. What is God’s plan to punish evil in Hab. 1:5-11? _____. The second question is asked in Hab. 1:12-2:2. According to the last part of verse 13, what is his question? _____. What is God’s response in Hab. 2? _____. What is the point of Hab. 3? _____

***Suggested Reading, *Prophets and Kings*, Chapter 32 (pages 381-391)