

## The Book of Isaiah

# 2

## Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

## Morning Study

This morning we will be reading the second section of **Isaiah**, which includes a number of very short chapters. Just to put the book of **Isaiah** into its biblical and historical context, here is a short rundown on the prophet's background:

- Isaiah lived during the ascendancy of the Assyrian empire in the Near East, seven centuries before the birth of Christ. During Isaiah's lifetime, Judah at first experienced prosperity and relative peace under the reign of Uzziah. Egypt's power was weak and Assyria was distracted by problems elsewhere. But when the aggressive empire-builder, Tiglath-Pileser III, came to power in Assyria, all that changed. Assyria first conquered the northern kingdom of Israel, then plundered the southern kingdom of Judah, besieging Jerusalem during the reign of Hezekiah. All would have been lost had not God miraculously turned back the Assyrian tide.
- Other prophets that prophesied around the time of Isaiah's ministry included Amos and Hosea in Israel, and Micah in Judah. Amos and Hosea, of course, ministered at the close of the northern kingdom's existence as a separate nation.
- Jerusalem's reprieve was short-lived, however, and Judah was to fall to Babylon just over a century later. The book of **Isaiah** prophetically looks forward to that exile, the return of the Jews to their homeland, and the messianic era that would follow this.

Before you read the second section of **Isaiah**, read **chapter 6** once more. The revelation that Isaiah receives in this chapter, and the commission he is given following that revelation, sets the pace for the rest of the book, and particularly for the prophecies you will read this morning.

So let's get ready, find that comfortable chair once more, and begin reading the second section of **Isaiah** – **chapters 13-23**.

# Memory Verse

This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer,  
the Holy One of Israel: “I am the Lord your God,  
who teaches you what is best for you, who directs  
you in the way you should go.”

Isaiah 48:17

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➡ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➡ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➡ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its “address” (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear “reference tag.”
- ➡ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➡ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➡ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➡ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➡ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➡ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➡ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➡ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is his Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!