

JULY 2018

CELEBRATING
30 Years

TODAY IN THE WORD™



*From the ends of the earth we hear singing:
“Glory to the Righteous One.”*

Isaiah 24:16

THE BOOK OF ISAIAH: Seeing the Glory of God

A devotional from



MOODY
GLOBAL MINISTRIES

TODAY WITH GREG THORNTON

Interim President of Moody Global Ministries

God's Glory Eclipses Everything



The solar eclipse last August was the first to be visible across the entire contiguous United States since 1918. And this was the first solar eclipse

in the age of social media, with viewers using their smartphones to capture and share the spectacle. Eclipse glasses sold out in some areas, so people created viewers from cardboard boxes.

Why the need for glasses or cardboard viewers? Because the sun is far too bright to glance at directly. In fact, experts warned that staring at the sun—even for a brief moment—could result in permanent vision loss.

This warning not to stare directly at the sun reminds me of a passage in the Old Testament. The book of Exodus records how Moses left the Israelite camp by himself and set up a tent in order to meet with the Lord. There God would speak directly to Moses “as one speaks to a friend” (33:11).

Moses and God had an intriguing conversation. Moses demands: “Now show me your glory” (v. 18). God responds: “You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live” (v. 20).

God’s glory, the tremendous weight of His majesty, is too much for a mere mortal to observe. So when the Lord’s glory passed by, Moses was picked up and placed in the cleft of a rock, safely covered by God’s hand. “Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen” (v. 23). Moses had the amazing opportunity to view the Lord’s back, but he was not allowed to see His face.

God allows us to see glimpses of His glory in the world around us: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isa. 6:3). And we are being transformed to reflect God’s glory through our relationship with Jesus Christ: “And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord’s glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit” (2 Cor. 3:18).

One day those who have believed in Jesus as our Savior will be reunited with Him in glory. We will see God face to face, the weight of His majesty no longer too much to bear. There we will see God’s glory: “The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives us its light, and the Lamb is its lamp” (Rev. 21:23). How glorious that will be! ■

THEOLOGY MATTERS

by Dr. John Koessler

Speaking for God

Today we use the term *prophet* to describe someone who speaks bluntly and with forthrightness. The Bible uses the term *prophet* in a more specialized sense. Biblical prophets spoke for God under the control of the Holy Spirit.

The unique role of the Spirit separates the prophets from others who speak for God. The Spirit's influence was described in Isaiah's assertion that the Lord's "strong hand" was upon him when he spoke (Isa. 8:11). In the New Testament, biblical prophets were described as being "carried along" by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). This language emphasizes God's control over their words. While speaking under the influence of the Holy Spirit, the prophets spoke only those things that God wanted them to say. The control and direction of their words by the Holy Spirit means that the words of the prophets are God's Word. The prophets' words are true.

God's Spirit also guarantees the truth of Scripture to all believers. The theological word that we use to refer to this unique act is *inspiration*. It comes from 2 Timothy 3:16–17, where it is translated "God breathed." In the act of inspiration, the Holy Spirit empowered the prophets and writers of Scripture

so that they would write only what God wanted them to record. His controlling influence preserved the Scriptures from error.

The Spirit empowers believers who have the gifts of preaching and teaching the Scriptures (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11). But He does not divinely dictate their utterances in the same way that He did those of the prophets and writers of Scripture. Their words were to be regarded as God's words. The words we use when we preach or teach have the authority of God only to the degree that what we say agrees with God's Word. This is an important difference. It obligates those who speak for God to base their message on the Bible and to study it carefully.

The church's pastors, preachers, and teachers have a calling and charge to speak about God and proclaim the truth of Scripture. Though they are not divinely inspired, they still must ensure that their preaching is consistent with God's revelation through His inspired, inerrant Scripture. ■

FOR FURTHER STUDY

To learn more, read *My Servants the Prophets* by Edward J. Young (Eerdmans).

FROM THE EDITORS

by Jamie Janosz

Moody Radio Hosts Share Favorite Scripture Passages

“Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”—Psalm 119:105

Students of Scripture know that God speaks to us through His Word to direct our lives and draw us closer to Him. We invited Moody Radio hosts to share a Bible passage and why it holds special meaning for them.

Kurt Goff, host of *Kurt Goff Live*

“Who is among you that fears the LORD that obeys the voice of His servant, that walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.”—Isaiah 50:10, NASB

This verse has come to my rescue so many times. We are followers of Jesus, seeking to be obedient and investing in our relationship with Him. That’s *always* the right thing to do when we’re not sure what to do next. Grab your Bible, hit your knees, and remember who Jesus is. The light will come as you wait on Him. Avoid the temptation to come up with your own answers, to light up your own darkness. God has a plan. You may be in the dark, but He’s not!

Chris Fabry, host of *Chris Fabry Live*

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the

Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”—Colossians 3:23–24

Perhaps it was my father’s work ethic that made me want to throw myself into anything I did, but these verses have always comforted me about whatever I’m doing. If I know that I’m trying to please Him and not just my earthly bosses or leaders, I can do everything wholeheartedly and with passion.

This frees me to simply jump into any assignment with tenacity and abandon. I don’t care if you’re a bricklayer, a ditch digger, carpenter, or wordsmith, you are serving the Lord Christ!

Janet Parshall, host of *In the Market with Janet Parshall*

*“I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust.’”
—Psalm 91:2, NASB*

With all the instability in the world today, I have been pressing in to the reality that God is not only sovereign but He is my protector. I love that the God of all creation cares enough to protect me. But I also gravitate to the declaration the psalmist makes that God can be trusted. People will disappoint us, institutions will fail us, and life comes with turbulence and tribulation. But God, who loves and protects us, can always be trusted. I hold tightly to that truth-anchor in my life. ■

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MANAGING EDITOR

Heather Moffitt

SENIOR EDITOR

Elena Mafter

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Jamie Janosz

John Koessler

WRITER

Eric C. Redmond

ART DIRECTOR

Lynn Gabalec

GRAPHIC DESIGNERS

Larry Bohlin, Rachel Hutcheson

MARKETING & PRODUCTION

Paul B. Currie

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TODAY IN THE WORD™

The Book of Isaiah: Seeing the Glory of God

Jerusalem is in the news—again. With the plans to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, thus affirming it as Israel's capital, controversy around the city continues. And it's not new! Jerusalem has been the center of wars, disagreements, and differences for centuries.

The prophet Isaiah knew exactly what Jerusalem is and to whom the city belongs. The book of Isaiah—our study with *Today in the Word* this month—paints a powerful picture of the coming Messiah. This Messiah—the Christ—will deliver humanity from the prison of sin and will become “light for the Gentiles” (42:6). Isaiah creates incredible, poetic imagery of the Lord's kingdom where He reigns in righteousness, and all nations stream to the holy mountain of Jerusalem (2:2–4). Jerusalem then will truly be the “City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel” (60:14).

We hope this month's study will encourage you to contemplate in a fresh way the glory of our Lord and Savior. We pray that Isaiah's words will help you to see the events in the Middle East, around the world, and in your own life in the light of the glory of Christ's coming. Thank you for your support that allows us to bring this study to God's people! ■

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SUNDAY
JULY

1

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

Isaiah 52:13

Israel's Restoration through the Servant

In 1884, William Le Baron Jenney designed the first skyscraper to be built in Chicago. The Home Insurance Building was completed a year later and towered over the city—though it was only ten stories and 138 feet tall! If Jenney could see Chicago today, he would see a number of new skyscrapers being built. Tall cranes dot the skyline, and holes that are ten stories deep are dug out for foundations to support the new buildings.

This month we'll examine the book of Isaiah. The writers of the New Testament quote from and allude to this prophet frequently, especially pertaining to Isaiah's glorious vision of Christ. John writes, "Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him" (John 12:41; see Isa. 6:10; 53:1). Similarly, when Christ emerged from His testing in the wilderness, Matthew writes, "The people living in darkness have seen a great light" (Matt. 4:16; Isa. 9:1–2). And

Paul writes, "And again, Isaiah says, 'The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope'" (Rom. 15:12; Isa. 11:10).

Isaiah's prophecy serves as the construction equipment that helps us see the towering masterpiece of the glory of Christ. It is the message the world long awaits to hear. Isaiah explains how to solve the problem of Israel's sin: they must be washed white as snow in order to see God's glory (1:18). Isaiah depicts the glorious Branch who redeems Israel (11:1). The Servant in Isaiah suffers for the iniquities of all (53:6). And Isaiah's comfort for Israel comes through a Redeemer from Zion (44:24).

Give praise to God for His glory in vindicating us through Christ when He returns to judge the earth. Isaiah's beautiful truths show us that our salvation draws near.

APPLY THE WORD

As we begin to study this book, pray that the Lord will reveal His glory to you through your study of His Word. It might be helpful to keep a notebook or journal to record new things you learn about God and His promise of salvation, including the many images and references that Isaiah uses to focus our attention on Jesus.

PRAY WITH US

We start our prayer journey with *Today in the Word* this month with upholding in prayer the ministry of our board of trustees. May the Lord grant them wisdom and insight as they serve Moody Global Ministries with dedication and integrity.

*Come, descendants of Jacob,
let us walk in the light of the LORD.*

Isaiah 2:5

MONDAY
JULY

2

Avoiding the Nation's Terror

Dante's classic *Inferno* describes idol worshipers inhabiting the sixth circle of hell, its capital. Their souls are either in fiery tombs or nailed to flaming, inverted crosses. The terror these idolatrous souls have earned is great.

As terrifying as is the judgment experienced by Dante's figures, Isaiah's word of judgment against those who have filled Israel's land with idols is even more severe (v. 6). So great will be the day of the Lord's judgment that they should hide in rocks to try to escape from the terror to come (vv. 10, 12, 19). This day is the Day of the Lord (13:6, 9; 58:13). This will be a day for crushing the pride of those who proudly placed their trust in the idols of people rather than in the Lord.

The power of idols is so strong over God's people that it takes terror from the Lord to break it. As the idols of this world hold us in sway with

the promises of prosperity, justice, pleasure, and peace, it is easy to forget that breaking the First and Second Commandment will bring fierce judgment! Yet, to regain the hearts of His children, the Lord will bring judgment even on vegetation and commerce (vv. 13–16).

The Lord, however, offers His people the hope of the mountain of the Lord's temple (vv. 2–3). Orienting our focus on the temple of the Lord keeps the temptations of the idols of this world in proper perspective. At His temple, the Lord will teach us His ways. At His temple, He will mete out justice and bring an end to all war.

If we are to turn away from substitutes for the Lord, we must “walk in the light of the LORD” (v. 5). Paul calls believers in Ephesus to the same walk (Eph. 5:8). We too must cease from fearing people and trust the one true God.

APPLY THE WORD

The fear of the Lord receives scant attention today. We are encouraged to accept everyone and criticize no one—even if that means ignoring the commands of the Lord. Scripture reminds us that God's holiness is not to be trifled with, and He will judge idolaters. Submit to Him and align your priorities so that His glory is your most important concern.

PRAY WITH US

Please support in prayer Moody's leadership team headed by Greg Thornton, interim president and senior VP of Media, asking the Lord for unity, team spirit, and unwavering adherence to His Word and His will, as we start the new fiscal year.

TUESDAY
JULY

3

*Tell the righteous it will be well with them,
for they will enjoy the fruit of their deeds*

Isaiah 3:10

Absent Leadership, Present Sin

A shareholder revolt in 2017 made it impossible for Uber founder Travis Kalanick to remain the leader of his company. The loss of support from those leading the company was followed by an investigation into the practices of the ride-sharing business. Kalanick's removal from leadership allowed people to realize the extent of the problems within the operation and culture of the company.

In the midst of Israel's rampant idolatry, the Lord removed the resources supporting the leadership in Israel. Natural resources of food and water, military strength, government officials, and skilled labor all meet their demise (vv. 2–3). In a similar way to the shake-up at Uber, by removing the resources that allowed the leadership to remain in power, the Lord left His people exposed. They now were vulnerable and in a position to hear from the Lord

about their sin. The kindness of Christ and severity of Christ both work to bring about repentance (see Rom. 2:4; 11:22).

An organization without leadership for several years might loosen their qualifications; and in this way, Israel panics out of desperation. Any man with a coat, or even a young child, becomes a candidate for leadership (vv. 6–7, 12)! In the absence of support for a current course of actions, the Lord often reaches us when we panic without any other places of help.

Now the Lord could ask Israel, "What do you mean by crushing my people and grinding the faces of the poor?" (v. 15). When we are without our normal sense of strength and props, we are forced into introspection and able to hear from the Lord that we need complete obedience to Him.

APPLY THE WORD

If you have felt abandoned by God, prayerfully consider whether God has removed the props you've used to justify sinful choices in order to force you to repent and rely on Him. Read Isaiah 4:2–6, and rejoice that the Lord washes away our sin and offers us refuge in Him. Our Savior desires our full love and obedience.

PRAY WITH US

Jim Elliott, vice president of Stewardship, will be grateful for your prayers for his team in Chicago, as well as Stewardship representatives across the United States. Praise God for establishing wonderful relationships with our donors!

Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight.

Isaiah 5:21

WEDNESDAY
JULY

4

Woe to the Vineyard

“Lift every voice and sing, / Till earth and heaven ring, / Ring with the harmonies of Liberty; ... / Facing the rising sun of our new day begun, / Let us march on till victory is won.” The lyrics of James Weldon Johnson’s “Lift Every Voice and Sing” convey a hope for justice. Former enslaved Americans and their descendants have sung these words for decades to express hope that God would heal the deep rifts in American society. The song asks our just God to act in accordance with His own character.

Isaiah 5 presents another song of justice, only this time the singer is the Lord Himself. The lyrics sing of His failure to find the fruit for which He has labored in the fertile soil of the vineyard of His beloved. From the opening allegory in which God portrays Israel as a vine, it is evident that the fruit He seeks is justice and

righteousness rather than bloodshed of the weak.

Israel’s disregard for the words of the Holy One of Israel brings woe. The Lord prepares a merciless nation to devour them into the darkness of exile. With great poetic justice, Israel will taste the disregard it has had for the most fragile members of society.

Justice is tied to the just and righteous character of the Lord. Bloodshed and violence against the poor came from a disregard for the word of the Holy One. In Isaiah’s vision, God’s people need repentance that leads to obedience to the word of the Lord. As James reminds the church, “Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?” (James 2:5).

APPLY THE WORD

The people had failed to see the Lord’s holiness in Isaiah 5, but Isaiah sees His glory and holiness in Isaiah 6. The classic hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy” is inspired by verses from this chapter. Take some time as part of your personal worship to sing or listen to renditions of both “Lift Every Voice and Sing” and “Holy, Holy, Holy.”

PRAY WITH US

On this Independence Day, let’s thank the Lord for our students, Christian leaders of tomorrow. Ask God to give them a refreshing and relaxing summer break and a year that will challenge, inspire, and equip our student body for kingdom work.

THURSDAY
JULY

5

*The Lord himself will give you a sign:
The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son,
and will call him Immanuel.*

Isaiah 7:14

The Sure Sign of the Son

The phrase “between a rock and a hard place” describes the desperation we feel when caught between two bad options. When money is tight, do we forego food or medicine? When the boss asks us to be unethical at work, do we refuse and lose our job or compromise our principles? How do we have hope when it appears there are no right answers?

Facing an overwhelming coalition of forces from Syria and Ephraim, King Ahaz threw his lot in with Assyria, hoping the great superpower would protect Judah. Then the Lord sent him a word from Isaiah the prophet, a message appropriate for a child of God facing great human enemies.

The name “Shear-jashub” means “The remnant shall return.” The Lord would preserve a people for Himself in keeping with the promises made in the Davidic covenant. A remnant—

smoldering wicks that look like raging fires—and future judgment when Ahaz is too old to enjoy it might not seem like hope. But it is, because it was the Lord’s assurance to Ahaz that He has absolute control of the situation. And the Lord’s assurances are always trustworthy.

The promise of judgment did not mean, however, that Ahaz would see prosperity. It only meant that he would see the Lord act faithfully. God will provide *Immanuel*: He Himself will be with us.

Our circumstances can be hard, but Christ did not promise easy decisions for this life. He does not promise prosperity. He does promise that our inheritance in Him can never be corrupted or destroyed. He does promise that we can make the hard choice to remain faithful to Him, and He will never let us go. We might not get the answer we want, but we will have the strength we need.

APPLY THE WORD

Ahaz faced real threats from Syria and Ephraim. The challenges we face in life are also real. God never pretends that these difficulties don’t exist, and we don’t have to sugarcoat our struggles. But we must also not forget that God’s promise is real, and He is “God with us.” Jesus intercedes for us. The Holy Spirit indwells us. We are His beloved children.

PRAY WITH US

We appreciate your prayers for the upcoming academic year. Bring to God in prayer the operation, curriculum, concerns, and hopes of our undergraduate school.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Isaiah 9:2

FRIDAY
JULY

6

From Darkness to Joy

Anguish can come from being under oppression; perhaps creativity has been stifled or guilt from past mistakes and failures will not let someone have rest. Others experience matters of injustice that continually drain mental, emotional, and financial resources. People with these experiences long for relief that will give way to joy, that will remove weights and burdens of the heart.

When Judah anguished under threat of judgment, Isaiah announced that the gloom would lift. The Lord promises a great light where there is darkness and anguish. And we have confirmation that this promise was kept: when Christ began His public ministry in Capernaum, the Gospel of Matthew said that He fulfilled this prophecy (Matt. 4:13–14).

The very presence of Christ is the light of God to Naphtali and Zebulun. His preaching of repentance from sin and call to His kingdom is the revelation of the way to God. In doing so, He came as Abraham's promised seed who will be a blessing to Israel and all nations. Gentiles can repent and look to Him for freedom from their spiritual darkness, and His people can place their hope in Him to expel the anguish of oppressive rule.

When life ahead of us seems so dark, as though we were sinking in the Slough of Despond of Bunyan's *The Pilgrim's Progress*, it is then that the child born to Israel, Jesus Christ our Savior, offers to rule our lives with counsel that is beyond the wisdom of this world. He has divine power to reign in our lives. He is faithful and loving, offering us peace from anguish.

APPLY THE WORD

When fellow believers have prolonged periods of anguish, they might feel like a burden. Caregivers, too, might feel the weight of sustained physical, financial, and emotional drain. Ask the Lord to show you how you can help someone living with anguish for a long time. Pray for grace to walk with the person until Christ provides tangible relief.

PRAY WITH US

Our Intercultural Studies faculty carries on Moody's tradition of equipping the next generation of global ambassadors for Christ. Please pray for the ministry of professors Timothy Sisk, Michael Rydelnik, and Mary Cloutier.

SATURDAY
JULY

7

*With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.*

Isaiah 12:3

Wells of Salvation

In recent decades a number of groups have focused efforts on digging and maintaining wells for access to fresh water throughout the developing world. One group in Burkina Faso, in West Africa, says that a single well that is 50 meters deep can provide clean water for 2,000 people. The ability to drink, wash, and cook with clean water is a life-saving and life-changing opportunity for many.

In a similar way, God's people had a life-changing experience with the Lord's wells—the "wells of salvation." Isaiah uses the metaphor to speak of the depths or greatness of the Lord's salvation toward His people. The prophet considers the outpouring of God's Spirit and the subsequent peace on the earth and restoration of the remnant. He sees salvation as deep wells of water, representing many

aspects of salvation. Christ will gather Israel from the distant lands to which they have fled and plant them back in Jerusalem, the holy mountain of the Lord. The Lord will destroy the enemies of God's people.

In the day of the Lord, the celebrations of Israel will exalt the depths of the Lord's salvation. Isaiah foretells a day when the Lord's people will rejoice in Him with thanksgiving, remember His mercy, ascribe strength to Him, sing songs of gladness, declare His deeds to the earth, and exalt the Holy One. In that day, the Lord will fulfill His covenant promises to make the nations of the earth know His glory, and to dwell forever in the midst of His people. As Paul writes, "And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit" (Eph. 2:22).

APPLY THE WORD

Look at your life prior to salvation, and sing to the Lord a song of praise or thanksgiving for turning away His anger from you by pouring out His wrath on Christ. Think of the many things the Lord has changed for you since you became a Christian. Rejoice in these wells of God's salvation!

PRAY WITH US

Would you continue to uplift in prayer the Intercultural Studies faculty, Stephen Clark, Clive Craigen, Samuel Naaman, and Kyeong-Sook Park? May the Lord inspire and strengthen them as they prepare students to serve in diverse world cultures.

*The Lord will have compassion on Jacob;
once again he will choose Israel and will
settle them in their own land.*

Isaiah 14:1

SUNDAY
JULY

8

The End of Babylon

Some of the most famous war stories made for the big screen depict the gruesomeness of humankind's conflict. Images of gore, cruelties, and destruction; the sound of bombs and screams of pain; the reenactment of maimed bodies and loss of life—all now made even more vivid by the use of CGI technology. But even worse than the devastation in a war movie is seeing war and its aftermath, either on the nightly news or in person, when the tragic consequences are even ghastlier than a Hollywood production.

Without any computer or visual technology to aid him, Isaiah goes into great details to paint a stunningly horrid picture of the coming destruction of Babylon. The Lord's raising of the Mede army against Babylon signals Babylon's full destruction. There will be wailing a lament, the melting of hearts, and pains among the pains like those of being in labor.

The Lord intends to make desolate the great enemy of Israel, so that it will be easier to find gold in the land than people! The Lord will have the Medes hunt down the people of Babylon, slaughtering even children and pregnant women. The Lord's judgment upon evil will be thorough and complete. Likewise, Assyria and Philistia will meet the terrors of the Lord's wrath against their mistreatments of Israel.

No foes of God and His people will escape the rod of His wrath. Every act of wickedness committed will meet an end worse than the ravages of war that came against ancient Babylon and that will come against future Babylon (see Revelation 17). Without the mercy of God in Christ offered to us, God's fierce anger would remain upon us (Rom. 5:9; Eph. 2:3).

APPLY THE WORD

These chapters of Isaiah remind us of the truths of God's judgment and His mercy. Both truths should motivate us to share the gospel of Christ with others. Only by turning to Him and accepting the salvation He offers will anyone escape the just punishment for sin. Ask God to open the door for you to share the gospel with someone this week.

PRAY WITH US

Today, our prayers go to God for the Enrollment Services department headed by vice president Anthony Turner. We are grateful for their dedicated service as they process hundreds of new student applications every year and provide counseling.

In love a throne will be established; in faithfulness a man will sit on it . . . who in judging seeks justice and speeds the cause of righteousness.

Isaiah 16:5

Weeping in Moab

A local train service in Chicago was disrupted when a man left a suicide note in a backpack on the station platform—and then jumped into the path of an oncoming train. Even without witnessing the accident or knowing the victim, we feel pain and sorrow for the tragic choices made by such troubled souls. If only they could have found someone to talk to for an alternative way to deal with pain.

The account of the Lord’s coming judgment of Moab is horrifying. For two full chapters, we hear the weeping and wailing of the peoples of Moab as the Lord severely crushes them. With words similar to those exclaimed by the prophet when he stood in the presence of God—“I am ruined!” (6:5)—Isaiah describes the destruction of Moab (15:1). The terror of God’s judgment brings fierce soldiers to tears as Moab is laid to waste (15:4). So incredible is the

wreckage that Isaiah also weeps over the devastations experienced by this great enemy of Israel (15:5).

It would be easy to imagine that witnessing the final destruction of our most wicked enemy would be an experience of vindication and joy only. As demonstrated by Isaiah, however, a heart that seeks after Christ weeps even when an enemy meets his demise. In the case of Moab, such weeping erupts even over an enemy who also is an enemy of God.

May the Lord give us grace to see enemies of the cross of Christ as people in jeopardy of facing the coming wrath of God. May our hearts be broken and hope for mercy for their souls, and may we pray for the day to come quickly when Jesus’ throne of love and faithfulness establishes righteousness across the world (16:5).

APPLY THE WORD

As Moab flees the sword of the Assyrian army, Isaiah calls the people of Israel to provide shelter and asylum for the fugitives (16:3–4). Look for opportunities to provide kindness to your enemies, especially those who are unbelievers—who are enemies of Christ. Ask the Lord to use your acts of mercy to point your enemy to salvation in Christ.

PRAY WITH US

Lillie Hill, Louis Ballasch, and Todd Sacco, as well as their student helpers, serve in The Commons, Moody’s cafeteria on our Chicago campus. Ask for God’s grace and favor for them during their busy days in the workplace.

*In that day people will look to their Maker
and turn their eyes to the Holy One of Israel.*

Isaiah 17:7

TUESDAY
JULY

10

The Mighty Cush's Tribute

A pastor and his family accepted a call to a new position, which required them to move from their long-time home. They were excited about the opportunity and believed God was leading them. But the move revealed a spiritual truth for them. “We were grieved over leaving our home—or more accurately, our *house*—in which we had invested much and which held great memories. In lamenting the loss of our house, we were awakened to something hidden and unknown in our hearts: We had made an idol of our home. Even though we often gave thanks for our home and the peace we enjoyed there, we had assumed the security of our shelter would be forever. Only in the removal of the home from our hands could we see that the treasure of our hearts was a plot of land and a building.”

As the Lord unleashed righteous judgment on Damascus and her

citizens, her cities would be stripped bare. Israel, too, would have fields empty of gain and devoid of fruit on the tree (v. 6). The void of natural resources would expose the people's idolatry, revealing their futility of trusting in man-made gods who provided the illusion of peace, safety, and prosperity but were unable to provide lasting salvation.

The Assyrians besieged Damascus in 732 B.C., making it the heap of ruins that Isaiah prophesied. This shattered the alliance Israel held with Damascus, bringing both nations low. God's people faced judgment for breaking the first two commandments and trusting in Damascus for salvation rather than the protection that comes from obeying the Lord. Sometimes the Lord uses painful moments to smash our idols and help us grow in the fruit of godliness for His glory.

APPLY THE WORD

The mighty nation of Cush—the ancient Nubians—was brought low by the Lord (18:1–6). Almost all of her residents became food for the birds of prey. Yet the Lord is merciful to save a remnant who brings tribute to Him (18:7). Consider what tribute or testimony you might give to the Lord as a sacrifice of thanksgiving for His mercy.

PRAY WITH US

Would you include in your prayers the leadership responsibilities of Dr. John Jelinek, interim provost and dean of Moody Theological Seminary? He appreciates your prayer support for Moody's ministry of undergraduate and graduate education.

WEDNESDAY
JULY

11

They will turn to the LORD, and he will respond to their pleas and heal them.

Isaiah 19:22

Egypt Meets God Again

What an amazing sight when someone is pulled from the ruins of a catastrophe or natural disaster! Millions of people around the world have watched in hope as rescue workers reach someone clinging to a tree in the midst of flood rapids or find a person alive under mounds of rubble. We cheer with gladness for the heroic efforts to save lives from the fire or flood or earthquake. The only thing that can add to the elation of the moment is to witness the rescued victim worship Christ with thanksgiving for sparing his life in mercy.

In Isaiah 19, Egypt meets with disaster for a second time in her great history with Israel. Repeated references to the contamination and disappearance of the waters of the Nile River should remind us of the plagues the Lord unleashed on Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let the Israelites go (see Exodus 7–11). Now the Lord would make

Judah a victor over Egypt, weakening Egypt without any recourse for help (19:17).

We should note that Egypt's punishment leads to the worship of the Lord. Remnants of peoples from both Egypt and Assyria will bow at altars dedicated to the Lord. Members of these polytheistic nations will turn to Israel's God. What a wonderful word of hope for people who had been in opposition to the Lord and His people! Even in His judgment, God makes a way for people to know and worship Him.

We can participate in this work of reconciliation through the preaching of the gospel. We can make the Lord known to nations in the world hostile to Christ so that they too become His handiwork (Eph. 2:10). Our trust is in the Lord to bring people of all nations to faith in Him.

APPLY THE WORD

What people or nations do you think are beyond the reach of the gospel? The answer is—no one! Even in places where Christians are oppressed and the government officially bars missionaries, servants of God use online media channels, smuggled Bibles, and distribution of food aid to share the gospel. Pray that many will believe and worship the Lord!

PRAY WITH US

Today, please remember in prayer Moody Aviation and its administration team—James Conrad, director, and Jan Siersen, administrative assistant—as they facilitate the training of missionary pilots on Aviation's campus in Spokane, Wash.

I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Isaiah 22:22

THURSDAY
JULY

12

Tumult in the Valley

Schoolchildren in tornado-prone areas of the country are familiar with the tornado drill. When the alarm sounds, they are to file quickly out of the classroom, perhaps carrying large binders or hardcover books, and follow the teacher to a basement room or interior hallway.

Once there, they assume a kneeling position and try to protect their heads with the binders or books. But any safety provided by the tornado drill and secure location depends on an advance warning that a tornado is coming. All the drills mean nothing if people don't know when a tornado is headed their way.

The prophet Isaiah issues an advance warning in our chapters today, alerting the nations of the looming wrath of God. The coming ruin prepared for

Babylon is so terrifying that the prophet shakes in fear and goes to great lengths to act as a watchman.

Already he has walked around naked and barefoot for three years in order to warn Egypt and Cush (Isaiah 20). Now he will stand like a sentinel in a tower for an indefinite number of long days and nights so that Babylon might hear of judgment and be warned.

Isaiah's heart was broken over the refusal of people to heed the warnings and call to repentance. Not only did he care about his own nation of Judah but he was also faithful to God's instruction to warn the enemy nations around him. We too need to be heartbroken over sin and faithful in proclaiming God's message of sin, judgment, repentance, and faith.

APPLY THE WORD

One of Judah's sins was their refusal to obey God's instruction to repent and lament (22:12). Do you have times of confession and repentance in your relationship with God? Does your church, small group, or Sunday school class practice regular times of lament? They are important for keeping our focus on the holiness and glory of God.

PRAY WITH US

Keeping Moody Aviation in prayer, please add these Airframe and Powerplant staff to your list: Brian Writebol, Gregory Heller, Jodi Appleby, Mark McIntire, and Steven Thimsen. Pray the Lord's hand would be on their teaching and ministry to students.

FRIDAY
JULY

13

*From the ends of the earth we hear singing:
“Glory to the Righteous One.”*

Isaiah 24:16

Earth’s End and God’s Glory

Prostitution is called the world’s oldest profession. Just as the act of prostitution trades the value of sex, which should be treasured in a marriage relationship, for the cheapness of money, the image or metaphor of prostitution is used to describe a person or institution that cheapens its value and resources for financial gain. Both literally and figuratively, prostitution exchanges something of value that should be protected for mere money.

The writers of the Old Testament use the prostitution metaphor to describe faithless Israel when she looked to the nations rather than the Lord for help in her crises (see Judges 2:17; Ps. 106:39; Isa. 1:21; Jer. 2:20; Ezek. 16:15–41; Hosea 4:15). Israel would woo other nations in order to gain their military partnerships or have their gods’ blessings, preferring foreign armies and deities to the blessing of her Husband, the Lord (see Isa. 54:5; Jer. 3:20; Ezek. 16:32).

Isaiah also indicted Tyre as a whore for the nations (23:15–17). Successful, prosperous Tyre thought they could trust in their wealth and trading partnerships for security. They adopted a value system that prized financial rewards over righteousness, and profits over obedience. They would learn that money cannot buy security, forgiveness, or peace with God; nor can financial reserves be hoarded into eternity. The only lasting wealth comes from a relationship with the Lord (23:18).

The wail for Tyre is the lament for those who would prostitute themselves for status or financial gain. It is tempting to sacrifice our obedience to Jesus in order to seek approval from the right social group or to placate family members. We must beware the dangers of spiritual prostitution and remember that Christ alone must be exalted.

APPLY THE WORD

Students and alumni of Moody Bible Institute have long had a heart to reach vulnerable populations such as prostitutes and victims of sex trafficking with the good news of the forgiveness and love found in the gospel of Christ. Thank God for His miraculous deeds of salvation and deliverance, and pray that they would find true worth in Jesus.

PRAY WITH US

Ken Heulitt, chief financial officer, would like to thank all Moody friends for your support. The Lord has been stretching us and testing our faith in the area of finances, but we know that He is a wonderful provider, and always faithful in all circumstances!

*LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you
and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness
you have done wonderful things.*

Isaiah 25:1

SATURDAY
JULY

14

A Mount Swallowed in Joy

In F. Scott Fitzgerald’s classic novel *The Great Gatsby*, the character Nick describes the Saturday evening parties he sees at Gatsby’s home: “The bar is in full swing, and floating rounds of cocktails permeate the garden outside. . . . The lights grow brighter as the earth lurches away from the sun, and now the orchestra is playing yellow cocktail music, and the opera of voices pitches a key higher. Laughter is easier minute by minute, spilled with prodigality, tipped out at a cheerful word.” So great are the parties that it takes eight house servants working all day each Monday to clean up the mess from the extravagant celebration.

Compared to the party that Judah will have on Mount Zion, Gatsby’s parties will seem like one insignificant candle flickering on a poorly made cake! The Lord Almighty Himself will make this festival for His people (v. 6). He will serve only the richest wine and best

meats, swallowing up the mountain in His joy.

Four things will turn the day that the Lord saves Judah into a party like no other (v. 8). First, He will destroy death, the great enemy to life. No more will we feel the loss of the deterioration of a body. Second, the Lord will remove the sorrow we have experienced in this present world. Sadness from our own mistakes or from the wrongs of others will be wiped away.

Third, the guilt of our sin will be removed; no more will this weight plague us or destroy our fellowship with the Lord. Fourth, the pride of those who have exalted themselves against the Lord and His people will be brought low. Never again will believers be persecuted or hear someone mock our God. Instead we will hear, “Let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation” (v. 9)!

APPLY THE WORD

These points can help guide our celebrations. Rather than debauched parties, we can have times of feasting and festival that remind us that our God delights in praise. Our times of celebration now on earth should celebrate life, encourage joy, resist sinfulness, and provide opportunities for God’s people to come together in worship and rejoicing.

PRAY WITH US

Linda Wahr, controller, leads a capable team of finance professionals in Controller’s Office. She welcomes your prayers for Alice Leighton-Armah, Annita Smith, Marya Preston, and Eunice Childress as they provide analysis and oversee Moody’s budget.

QUESTION AND ANSWER

by Dr. Winfred O. Neely, Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Studies

Q Is there a difference between the will of God and the guidance of God?

A Yes, there is a difference between the Lord's will and the Lord's guidance. God's *will* for our lives is plainly revealed in Scripture. For example, it is God's will for us to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in everything (1 Thess. 5:16–18). God's will is for a husband to love his wife as Christ loved the church (Eph. 5:25–33). It is God's will for every follower of Christ to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

The *guidance* of God, on the other hand, is dependent on and connected with our obedience to God's revealed will in Scripture. As we obey the will of God, the Lord guides us to the places where He wants us to serve and to the people He wants us to meet. Proverbs 3:6 sums up well the relationship between God's will and God's guidance in our lives: "In all of your ways submit to him [in other words, obey the will of God revealed in His Word] and he will make your paths straight [we will experience the guidance of God]."

Q In Revelation 3:20, Jesus says: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person,

and they with me." Is Jesus addressing unbelievers or Christians?

A This verse is often used in evangelistic messages as an invitation from the Lord Jesus to lost people. Unbelievers are told that Christ is standing at the door of their hearts, and if they open the door of their hearts, the Lord will save them. But if we take the immediate context of Revelation 3:20, as well as the larger context of chapter 2 and 3 of Revelation into consideration, it is clear that Jesus is speaking to lukewarm Christians who have become apathetic about their relationship with Him.

The Lord is ready and desires to renew His fellowship with these believers. If they open up their hearts to Him, fellowship with Him will be restored. The message is directed toward Christians who are out of fellowship with Christ. Of course, we may use this passage in evangelistic appeals, and many people have been encouraged to open their hearts to the salvation offered through faith in Christ as a result of hearing this text. But Jesus' words in context are directed first and foremost to lukewarm Christians.

Q I was told that according to Matthew 18:20, all that is required for a church to exist is two or three people gathered

There is a difference between the Lord's will and the Lord's guidance.

together in Jesus' name. Is that the teaching of this passage?

A No. This is a misunderstanding, the result of not paying careful attention to the context of this verse. In context, the concern under discussion is church discipline (Matt. 18:15–20), not the number of people required to be considered a church. And in the context of church discipline, the Lord Jesus says His blessing is on all congregations, even on small ones, when they exercise church discipline according to the Word of God.

Q **What does the Bible mean when it says, “You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God” (Ex. 20:7)?**

A The name of God is a summary statement of the totality of His person. God commands us not to treat His name in a way that is careless, thoughtless, or empty of purpose. We are not to lift up the Lord's name in a way that empties His name of its holy and redemptive content.

Q **Would you provide an example of misusing or taking God's name in vain?**

A The use of God's name in profanity is a sad case in point. Sometimes people call down

God's damnation on other people. This is serious offense to God for a number of reasons. When these profane words are uttered, they are trivializing or ignoring God's holiness and His authority to judge.

Furthermore, the words are not correct doctrinally; God does not damn anyone (John 3:16–21). People are in hell not because God sent them there but because they refused to receive Christ as their personal Lord and Savior. Lost people are responsible for their eternal plight and we cannot and ought not to blame God (Rev. 20:11–15). This profane use of God's name may even place ideas about God that are incorrect in the minds of our children, our family members, and in the minds of people that we love and care about. Yes, judgment is coming, but the notion that God damns people to hell misrepresents God and insults His love, grace, and mercy.

If you have profanely used the Lord's name in the past, commit to ceasing from this profanity. Confess your sin to God. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you guard your tongue, especially if your profanity has become a habit or pattern of speech. By the power of the Spirit, bless the name of God at home, in the workplace, and with your friends, praising His name for His glory and honor in all situations in life.

SUNDAY
JULY

15

In days to come Jacob will take root, Israel will bud and blossom and fill all the world with fruit.

Isaiah 27:6

Mighty Warrior for Jacob

U.S. basketball teams dominated in international competitions—until the 1988 Olympic Games, when the men’s team mustered only a bronze medal instead of the expected gold. But unlike every other country, the American team was comprised of amateur players rather than professionals. The following year the rule was changed, and for the 1992 Olympic Games USA Basketball introduced “The Dream Team.” Led by Michael Jordan, Larry Bird, and Magic Johnson, the “Dream Team” went undefeated in international play, easily besting all other nations’ champions.

When Israel needed a champion to defeat a foe that was too great for her earthly power and skill, the Lord Himself stepped up as warrior and champion. Leviathan is depicted figuratively as a mythological creature to represent the forces of evil (27:1). The three-fold description of the Lord’s sword as “fierce, great, and powerful” surpasses

the fearfulness of Leviathan as the gliding, coiling serpent and monster of the sea. A fierce, great, and powerful champion must defeat this foe!

The final enemy of God’s people is death (see 1 Cor. 15:26). For now, we are subject to death and the suffering that attends it in this world. Death stands in the way of everlasting life in the presence of God forever. This foe is too menacing for amateur spiritual athletes and warriors. Even our most advanced medical heroics only stave off death temporarily. A real champion is needed.

Jesus, through His obedient death on the cross and His resurrection from the grave, has defeated death and its power to hold people in the grave and away from life with God. He has defeated this adversary where we could not. He is the one who makes the full atonement on our behalf (27:9). He is the warrior who slays the Leviathan.

APPLY THE WORD

Death is sorrowful for believers as we weep with others over loss of life. But it should not be fearful. God is more powerful than even death (see Rom. 8:38–39). Meditate today on what it means for you that Christ has defeated death and offers eternal life. How does this change the way you think about death? How does it affect the way you live?

PRAY WITH US

Again, please pray for the Controller’s Office team: Michael Duong, Robert Jones, and Roger Sipes. We are grateful for their service, as well as for the team’s faithful prayers for Moody during their department devotions with *Today in the Word*.

The wisdom of this world is foolishness in God’s sight.

1 Corinthians 3:19

MONDAY
JULY

16

Ariel Unveiled

A recent study by members of the Yale University psychology department found that people disdain hypocrisy for a reason other than the stigma of failing to practice what one preaches. People hate hypocrisy because false moralizing seems to be signaling the hypocrite’s virtue. In any of our hypocritical beliefs or acts, we want others to see us as the one who is right on the issue in question.

As much as hypocritical virtue brings contempt from other people, it brings far more contempt from the Lord, who sees right through our words and deeds to our true motives, intensions, and goals. His words to the inhabitants of Jerusalem—identified here as “Ariel”—specifically focus on the two-faced nature of their approach to the Lord in worship.

The people approached the Lord with words of praise and contrition, songs

of thanksgiving and joy, prayers of supplication, and intercession. Perhaps they even quoted the words of the Law and shouted a hearty “Amen.” But their failure to fear the Lord in obedience to His Word demonstrated the root problem of their hearts. Their concern was not to bring glory to the Lord but to appear virtuous. Unimpressed, the Lord silenced His prophetic word toward Israel so that their hypocrisy might be unveiled.

When we gather for corporate worship as followers of Christ, the temptation to hypocrisy is ever with us. Worshipping the Lord in order to esteem Him as worthy is both a command and privilege for our good. Therefore, worshipping for the Lord’s approval only is a pursuit we must undertake with diligence and humility. We must relieve ourselves of concerns with how we appear in worship and resolve to have hearts that thirst for the Lord.

APPLY THE WORD

Throughout this week, prepare for corporate worship next Sunday. Will your clothing be chosen to honor God or impress your friends? Will you praise even if your least favorite songs are selected? Can you get up early on Sunday morning to travel without a rush and have a spirit of anticipation for worship?

PRAY WITH US

Moody Distance Learning brings Moody education to students everywhere in the world. We are thankful for the MDL Product Development staff—Alin Vrancila, Kevin Mahaffy, and Mary Oprea—and for their creativity and love of learning.

TUESDAY
JULY

17

The LORD's justice will dwell in the desert, his righteousness live in the fertile field.

Isaiah 32:16

Reigning in Righteousness

Nineteenth-century philosopher John Stuart Mill, in an address at the University of St. Andrews, said: “Bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing.” This famous quote (a version of which is sometimes attributed to Edmund Burke) has been adapted and repeated since, from Tolstoy to John F. Kennedy, by those who warn that complacency toward evil is dangerous for any society.

The Lord kicks Israel's complacency toward evil right in the gut. He will come to establish His own righteousness where His children have been at ease. He will open eyes, ears, and hearts to see injustice in the land, and He will open up the mouths of the righteous to speak up on injustice (vv. 3–4). The people will cease to view corrupt people as noble and honorable. Mistreatment of the poor will disappear from the land.

According to Isaiah, proclaiming the good news of God's salvation includes the work of justice in society. Isaiah's message of deliverance also condemns the nation for mistreatment of the poor. The condemnation of sin (which is spiritual) concerns the treatment of members of society (which is social). Without a gospel that addresses social concerns, we could not fight for the lives of the unborn or care for the elderly, for such fights are against unjust laws and murderous practices (both of which are social). The battles take place in social locations, such as women's clinics and courtrooms, not only in the spiritual locations of our prayer closets and sanctuaries.

Jesus' message of righteousness is consistent with the one proclaimed by Isaiah (see Matt. 7:12; James 2:1–13): Believers cannot be complacent toward society's disregard for the poor and the vulnerable.

APPLY THE WORD

Caring for the marginalized and needy members of society is easy to pass off as someone else's concern. But Paul instructs all believers to reserve a portion of our incomes to give to the one in need (see Eph. 4:28). The Lord cares for us as whole persons—body, soul, and spirit. Stewardship of our resources includes giving such care.

PRAY WITH US

As we continue to pray for Moody Distance Learning's Product Development, we praise God for the graphic and web design skills of Philip Brown, Richard Lin, and Sandra West who maintain and develop web pages of the MDL courses.

*LORD, be gracious to us; we long for you.
Be our strength every morning, our
salvation in time of distress.*

Isaiah 33:2

WEDNESDAY
JULY

18

The Lord Rises in Majesty

After a judging scandal in women's figure skating at the 2002 Winter Olympics, an investigation was launched into the sport's judging practices. Independent research found bias in most judges' judgment, especially toward skaters from their own country. Though instructed to adjudicate the performances of all athletes impartially, judges routinely award extra points to their homeland representatives.

When the Lord comes in judgment, He too will distinguish His own from those who are not His own. This is not improper bias. God's judgment is an extension of His perfect glory and holiness. He will judge in righteousness when He is exalted (vv. 5, 22). The foe too great for Israel will meet his demise. God's words, "Now will I arise" (v. 10), will be welcomed with excitement among God's people but met with trembling by their enemies (v. 14).

The descriptions of "burned to ashes," "set ablaze," "consuming fire," and "everlasting burning" (vv. 12, 14) remind us of the final end of the enemies of Christ. This is the other side of the beauty of our King and the majesty of Christ. He will come to us as our gracious Savior; He will come to His enemies as the fearsome Judge, the accusing Lawgiver, and the warring King (v. 22).

The Lord's judgment will not be like the cavalry in a cowboy movie that rides in to save the day. Instead, it will be analogous to a top corporate law firm, the Supreme Court, and military superpower aligning against a small gang of teenagers who are guilty of a crime spree, have no legal representation, and are out of weapons and ammunition. Both gang and town will see the glory of the kingdom of righteousness. They—and we—will see the beauty of Christ in its fullness.

APPLY THE WORD

We often want to secure our own justice when wronged. We seek vindication or vengeance through gossip, disregard for an enemy, passive aggression, withholding affection, or blunt criticism. We have a King who will defend and vindicate us. Let go of your bitter means of attaining justice. Wait on Christ.

PRAY WITH US

In conclusion of our prayer time for Moody Distance Learning, pray for Christian Martinsen, who provides online mentoring for MDL's regional classrooms, and Cal Lockett, who oversees modular courses for MDL's graduate programs.

THURSDAY
JULY

19

You alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

Isaiah 37:16

Trembling and Taunting

“The Prince of Darkness grim / We tremble not for him / His rage we can endure / For lo! his doom is sure / One little word shall fell him.” Martin Luther’s great Reformation hymn “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” recognizes the powerful spiritual warfare faced by all believers. The enemy’s “craft and power are great,” says Luther. Yet this hymn also affirms that there is a God-given means to defeat the enemy.

When Rabshakeh, spokesman for the armies of the Assyrian king Sennacherib, came to offer terms of surrender to Hezekiah and Israel, he unleashed great words of taunting. The might and power of Assyria were foreboding enough that the mocking words carried the force of a real threat. So scary were the words that the envoys of Hezekiah appealed to Rabshakeh to speak in Aramaic so that the soldiers might not understand the predicament before them.

Instead, Rabshakeh became even more vulgar with his proclamations of doom for Jerusalem’s residents (36:12). His heckling revealed true dangers ahead. But he made a mistake when he mocked the Lord and His power to save Jerusalem.

Unlike his envoys, Hezekiah did not seek to silence the enemy. Rather, he humbled himself in fear before the Lord and His word. He recognized that God is sufficiently able to handle the army of Assyria. God heard his prayer, and by supernatural guidance Sennacherib’s army pulled away from Jerusalem and Sennacherib met his death.

Both Hezekiah and Martin Luther knew that the Word of the Lord—Jesus, the Word of Life—is more powerful than the attacks of the enemy (see John 1:1; Heb. 4:12). Like Isaiah’s word to Hezekiah, the Word of Truth is the sword against our foe.

APPLY THE WORD

Read about the powerful spiritual armor we have in Christ, including “the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Eph. 6:10–20). Sing the words of “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” and consider what Luther says about the word of Christ. Ask the Lord to ready you for greater spiritual warfare through trust in His Word.

PRAY WITH US

Dr. Timothy Arens, VP and dean of Student Life, has been faithfully serving our students for over three decades. Join us in thanking God for Dr. Arens’s commitment to Moody and the wealth of experience and knowledge he brings to campus.

*The living—they praise you, as I am doing today;
parents tell their children about your faithfulness.*

Isaiah 38:19

FRIDAY
JULY

20

Deliverance from Certain Death

After an experience of healing in his life, Augustine wrote: “At that time you [God] tortured me with a toothache, and when it had grown so severe that I could not speak, the thought entered my heart that I should urge all my own people who were there to pray for me to you, the God of every kind of healing. . . . The moment we knelt down and begged this favor from you, the pain vanished.”

In our passage today, God healed Hezekiah from a near-fatal illness (vv. 1–9). The king’s reflections after his recovery offer us some insights into a godly response to the trials of illness and pain. First, Hezekiah accepted the Lord’s work that had brought him to the brink of death (vv. 10–13). Second, when Hezekiah cried out in pain for God to help, he knew that he was relying on God’s work and not the magical power of his own words to

change his situation (vv. 14–16). And third, he saw the purpose of God to bring him to a place of thanksgiving (vv. 17–19).

Hezekiah recognized that the Lord was dealing with his sins by striking him with illness (v. 18), and he wept out of a repentant heart. Hezekiah’s reflection on his healing records his acceptance of the Lord’s sovereignty in the face of death and pain. Sometimes God allows us to know the reason for our suffering, and other times we are never told. The Lord has the freedom to reveal or withhold His full plan from His servants.

Our hope rests in the resurrected Savior, who promises to transform our frail earthly bodies into the likeness of His glorious eternal body. Like Augustine and Hezekiah, we can entrust our health, bodies, and lives into His care.

APPLY THE WORD

Many people in nursing home or hospice care (and their caregivers) become invisible to us and suffer alone. Consider taking time to write cards to those in failing health or making time to visit, call, and pray with them. You don’t have to have the answers, only the willingness to share the love and compassion of our Great Physician.

PRAY WITH US

Our Residence Life department oversees all the aspects of students’ social life outside the classrooms. Please uphold in prayer the help and guidance that Sarah Youssef, Sarah Koch, Neal Anderson, and Hannah Cosper provide for our students.

SATURDAY
JULY

21

*Do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.*

Isaiah 41:10

Behold Your God

At the height of the Great Depression, President Franklin Roosevelt gave his first Inauguration speech, in which he included the famous line, “Let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.” Roosevelt continued the address by pointing to the commitment of U.S. citizens to one another, the shared history of overcoming tough challenges, and the need for disciplined work by the country’s financial institutions. The end of fear would come through a joint effort.

In our passage today, the Lord promised to remove the fear of His Servant. Yes, enemies confronted and contended against His people, but the helping presence of the Lord would be sufficient to drive out their terror. They were His chosen people, the descendants of

Abraham—the friend of God (v. 8). They were the only nation from among all peoples called to be the Servant of God. They were loved by God, and they could trust that He would be near to defend those He called His own.

As you read this text, take note of all the ways that God will act to save His people. They are described as “little,” to contrast with the Lord’s unsurpassed majesty (v. 14). Their confidence can never be in themselves but only in Him.

The end result of God’s work is that the people will rejoice in Him and recognize His sovereign might and gracious power (vv. 14, 20). Every fear we face in this life should be confronted with the words, “I am the Lord’s servant whom he has chosen” (see v. 8). He alone can fight our battles, conquer our enemies, and dispel all our fears.

APPLY THE WORD

Have you ever tried to will yourself to stop worrying? Or lectured yourself out of feeling fear? Our own effort is never sufficient. But we are not without hope. Review a list of verses when you feel beset by fear as a way to focus on the Lord’s sovereign power and love for you: Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 94:19, 1 Peter 5:7, and Psalm 68:20.

PRAY WITH US

Thank God for the diligent work of our Residence Life staff: Bruce Norquist, David Chizum, and Jeffrey Anderson. Keep them in your prayers as they plan programs for the upcoming school year and prepare to welcome students back to campus.

The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Mark 10:45

SUNDAY
JULY

22

The Called Servant

One of literature's most memorable miscarriages of justice occurs in Fyodor Dostoevsky's novel *The Brothers Karamazov*. After he makes several blunders on the witness stand, Dimitry, the protagonist, is found guilty of a murder he did not commit. Evidence that could exonerate him is withdrawn and destroyed. His attorney, Fetyukovich, makes powerful cross-examinations that are certain to discredit false witnesses and clear his client. In the end, however, Dimitry is convicted and sentenced.

The Lord's people never need to fear the divine justice system. His justice on the earth rests in His character of holiness, and He has the power to enact His righteousness over creation.

Our text today continues the section of Isaiah often called the "Servant Songs." This Servant (41:8; 43:10) is one on whom the Lord will set His

Spirit. This Servant will be full of compassion and will have strength to be untiring in His pursuit of justice for Israel. The Lord will give this Servant as His sworn promise that He will act in righteousness on behalf of His people.

The New Testament writers identify Jesus as the Servant of whom Isaiah spoke. Luke's Gospel says He is the "light for the Gentiles" and those in the prisons of darkness (Isa. 42:6-7; Luke 1:79; 2:32). All four Gospels say that He fulfills Isaiah's prophecy to "open eyes that are blind" (Matt. 11:5; Mark 8:25; Luke 7:22; John 9:25). He is the One who comes to serve in order to bring about the righteousness required by God (Mark 10:45; Acts 3:14; Rom. 3:22).

Complete righteousness must come from outside of us; full justice must come from above. Thankfully, Christ brings both without fail.

APPLY THE WORD

Second Corinthians 1:20 declares, "For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God." Seeing how Jesus has fulfilled God's promises can increase our faith and praise for Him. Thank Him for the light of salvation and His perfect righteousness.

PRAY WITH US

Janet Stiven, General Counsel at Moody has been serving the Moody family with integrity, enthusiasm, and commitment. May the Lord continue to give her strength, wisdom, and insight in lending her expertise to various projects at MBI.

MONDAY
JULY

23

This is what the LORD says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Isaiah 44:6

The God of No Comparison

A favorite pastime for sports fans in recent years has been to argue about who is the G.O.A.T.—the Greatest Of All Time. Is Michael Jordan or LeBron James the greatest basketball player? Has Tom Brady conclusively claimed G.O.A.T. quarterback status? Did Tiger Woods supplant Jack Nicklaus as the G.O.A.T. golfer? Can anyone dispute boxer Muhammad Ali’s proclamation, “I am the greatest!”?

When it comes to greatness, the Lord is in a category by Himself. There are no opponents worthy of rank or competition. Notice how often in our passage today Isaiah repeats the refrain: “There is no other” and “no God apart from me” (45:5, 14, 18, 21, 22). And then notice all the evidence that the Lord offers to support His claim to be the one and only God of hosts.

For instance, God knows the future with certainty, identifying Cyrus by

name more than a century before his birth. This separates Him from lifeless idols who can never be omniscient or infallible (41:22–23; 44:8; 45:1–5; 46:10).

God created the heavens and earth. Light and darkness are His accomplishments, which no one else may claim (45:7, 18). He did this for His own pleasure and delight. The Lord is alone in His glory. Our response to His greatness should be repentance for our sins and singing for joy in His salvation (44:21–23).

Deciding the G.O.A.T. athletes is a subjective task, for the results are determined by ever-changing categories of comparison. But an examination of God reveals that He is the only One who has given His Son, Jesus Christ, for the salvation of the world. The Holy One of Israel alone is great!

APPLY THE WORD

Set aside time today to thank the Lord for the great things He has done in your life, the lives of those you love, and the life of your church. Praise Him as the one who alone is God, and who alone planned to redeem the world through the death and resurrection of His own Son. “Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise” (Ps. 48:1)!

PRAY WITH US

Please support in prayer the staff of Moody Radio’s Program Production department: Chris Segard, Joe Carlson, and William Davis. The programs they produce have brought much joy, encouragement, consolation, and strength to thousands of listeners.

*I have made you and I will carry you;
I will sustain you and I will rescue you.*

Isaiah 46:4

TUESDAY
JULY

24

The God Who Carries You

The inspirational poem “Footprints” recounts a person’s conversation with God about his sojourn through life. After noticing that the two sets of footprints that the traveler and the Lord make dwindle to one set at time of trouble, the traveler asks the Lord why He apparently departed at the sojourner’s hour of greatest need.

The lines of God’s response are well-known: He whispered, “My precious child, I love you and will never leave you; never, ever, during your trials and testing. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.”

The idols to which faithless Israel ran for help needed to be carried. They were portable and pliable, and they could not keep themselves from being carried into captivity with Israel. They even had to hitch rides on beasts of burden. They were helpless.

In stark contrast, the Lord reveals Himself to be the One who carries those who worship Him. He takes responsibility to be the strength and support of Israel, not the other way around. Unlike manmade idols, which are carved by people, set in their locations by people, mute, and unable to save, the Lord has been the maker, keeper, and sustainer of His people. And He will faithfully keep His promise to carry His people throughout all our trials.

Our idols today remain weak and worthless. Whether we secretly worship wealth, the success of our children, the happiness of our marriages, or our health, we must choose the idol and keep it propped up in our lives. None of these things will ever satisfy our deepest needs. But the Lord Jesus, the one true God who is the way, the truth, and the life, offers us His power to carry us (John 14:6).

APPLY THE WORD

Like the man in the “Footprints” poem, we often focus on our own struggle rather than on God’s faithful provision for us. When you reflect on your life, can you trace the hand of God that has sustained you? Share the story of your spiritual journey or testimony with loved ones as a way to give glory to God for His faithfulness in your life.

PRAY WITH US

Please add the rest of Moody Radio’s Program Production team to your prayer list: Amy Rios, Joel Swan, Ryan McConaughay, and Steven Tabor. Thank the Lord for this team’s contribution to Moody Radio’s ministry of spreading God’s Word.

WEDNESDAY
JULY

25

*My righteousness will last forever,
my salvation through all generations.*

Isaiah 51:8

Provider of Righteousness

Gelotophobia (literally, “fear of laughter”), sometimes also known as *catagelotophobia*, is the fear of being ridiculed or laughed at by others because of a mistake, miscue, or malfunction. It is a social disorder affecting millions of people, keeping some from speaking or performing in public settings. As everyone knows, the pain from ridicule can be great.

In a similar though nonclinical way, the fear of being ridiculed keeps many believers from proclaiming the gospel to others. Some hesitate to even practice their Christianity at work or in their social settings. Many do not want to be laughed at for living counter to cultural mores, or for not having answers to the questions of skeptics.

In our reading today, the Lord tells Israel that the righteousness He provides takes away their need to fear reproach by mere mortals (v. 7). His righteousness

provides everlasting salvation (v. 6), so what is there to fear?

When Christ summons us to salvation, He calls us to believe and practice what seems foolish to the people of this age. It starts with believing that He is the Creator of all things and that we are too sinful to save ourselves. We experience salvation by trusting in the work of Jesus rather than self-reliance. We believe that Jesus died but is now alive from the dead. We further believe Jesus Christ is the only way to be in a saving relationship with God (John 14:6). As the apostle Paul said, “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor. 1:18).

The righteousness of God will never fail (v. 8). We can have this encouragement to ward off the pain from any reproach of man. We have the approval of God.

APPLY THE WORD

No one enjoys being mocked. But if we do experience ridicule for the sake of following Jesus, we know we are in good company. Jesus has said, “Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me” (Matt. 5:11). What a privilege to be able to identify with our Lord!

PRAY WITH US

Through her service as Research and Learning specialist, Jennifer Epperson provides valuable data to Moody Radio that promotes development of our radio ministry. Would you pray for the Lord’s blessing on Jennifer’s work at Moody?

*How beautiful on the mountains are
the feet of those who bring good news.*

Isaiah 52:7

THURSDAY
JULY

26

The One Who Brings Good News

The expressions “I’m just the mailman” and “Don’t shoot, I’m just the messenger!” try to ward off bad consequences for those who must deliver harsh or unwelcome news or instructions. The message bearer seeks to avoid receiving the ire that’s really directed toward the sender of the message. Being a bearer of good news often has the opposite effect on people. Many messengers have found themselves receiving joyful embraces and affection simply for being the go-between in a communication of reward or celebration.

“Beautiful” will be the identification of the one who announces the coming reign of the Lord to the people of God in Jerusalem (v. 7). Upon hearing the good news, people will burst into shouts and sing songs of joy! Great will be the celebration of God’s people when they hear the word that proclaims their deliverance from captivity.

The apostle Paul draws from Isaiah’s prophecy to speak of the glory of those who preach the good news of Jesus Christ—the gospel (see Rom. 10:15). The preaching of the death and resurrection of Christ, and belief in Him alone, is the only message one can hear to receive salvation.

Those who obey the call of God to proclaim the gospel are beautiful in the eyes of people who need mercy. God delights to use us to share the good news of His love with others. We should all look for opportunities to be the “beautiful feet” that bring good news, share peace, and proclaim salvation. And in addition, we should support the ministries of those whom God has called as full-time ambassadors of the gospel, the missionaries and pastors and teachers whose vocational call is to share the gospel with those who need to hear it.

APPLY THE WORD

If you’ve never accepted the beautiful salvation through faith in Jesus, trust Him today. He offers forgiveness instead of bondage to sin and joy instead of fear. A relationship with God is available not because you are good enough but because Jesus has taken your punishment and conquered sin and death through the cross and resurrection.

PRAY WITH US

Effie Rolfe and Josue Villa oversee streaming audio programming for Moody Radio. They thank God for the opportunity to use the internet to share His Word and His love, for His glory. Would you pray for Moody Radio’s internet ministry?

FRIDAY
JULY

27

“With everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,” says the LORD your Redeemer.

Isaiah 54:8

Faithfulness to the Covenant

After the long, cold, cloud-covered winters in Chicago, residents of the Windy City are glad to see the blue sky peek through in March or April. Sometimes the blue sky will be accompanied by a few rainclouds. But after the spring storms have passed, the sign of the Lord covenant often breaks through: A huge rainbow or double rainbow appears in the sky. We are reminded of God’s faithful mercy toward us—and that even a Chicago winter will eventually give way to spring and summer!

Our Lord uses the record of His faithfulness to keep His promise to Noah to remind Israel of His promises to her (54:9–10). Although Israel fears that she has been too sinful and has experienced too much oppression for the Lord still to claim her, she need not be racked by anxiety. The Lord will remove her barrenness, and He will remarry her rather than casting her

off forever. “With everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you,” the Redeemer says to His people Israel (54:8).

Our human relationships are filled with disappointments. We have experienced rejection by some people and failure to keep promises by others. It might be tempting to think salvation is not fully secure—that it can be lost through our disobedience. But salvation is a promise of the God who is faithful to keep His word, the One who is faithful to keep His covenant.

The promise of the everlasting “covenant of peace” is the promise of the New Covenant (see Ezek. 34:25; 37:26), which Jesus inaugurated the night before His death (see Luke 22:20). God’s people will experience the benefits of peace and joy when they turn to their Messiah for salvation and trust in Him alone.

APPLY THE WORD

For thousands of years, all around the globe, Christians have obeyed the command of Christ to remember the new covenant in His blood by partaking of the Lord’s Supper (see 1 Cor. 11:25). The next time your church celebrates the Lord’s Supper or Communion, remember this passage from Isaiah and God’s unfailing love for His people.

PRAY WITH US

As we continue to uphold Moody Radio in prayer, please ask God to enlarge the scope of its ministry through the work of the Satellite Network Operations staff: Andrew Dhuse, Sam Beirut, Benjamin Fredricks, Jose Lemus, and Joseph Bangit.

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen:
to loose the chains of injustice?*

Isaiah 58:6

SATURDAY
JULY

28

Sinful Ways of Seeking

On October 25, 1964, the Minnesota Viking's defensive end Jim Marshall made one of the most infamous plays in NFL history. When San Francisco 49ers quarterback, Billy Kilmer, fumbled the football, Marshall picked up the loose ball and ran for the end zone untouched. But he didn't score a touchdown: Marshall, becoming disoriented on the field direction, ran the ball to the wrong end zone, scoring a safety and giving two points to the 49ers! The entire time he thought he was going the right way down the field.

Much in the same way, Israel sought the Lord daily. They were fasting and coming before the Lord on the Sabbath. But they weren't hearing the applause from heaven. When they inquired why, they discovered that they had been seeking the Lord in the wrong way. But if fasting is the wrong way, what would be the right way down this field?

The acts of bowing before the Lord are meaningless when not coupled with works of righteousness. Israel had conducted business on the Sabbath, mistreated workers, overlooked the hungry, left the homeless in the streets, and forgotten the poor. No amount of fasting and Sabbath-keeping could cover their sin. They were seeking the Lord as hypocrites.

The Lord loves faithful acts of liturgy, but He also requires faithful acts of justice (see Micah 6:8). Both are involved in making true worshipers who seek Him the right way. The contrition that should make us seek the face of God for His mercy, joy, and blessing should also lead us to return such mercy, joy, and blessing to marginalized people in society who are in need. True worship also must transform our work for the needy in society. This is God's chosen fast.

APPLY THE WORD

God wants our hearts to break over the pain that breaks His heart—injustice, oppression, neglected children who are hungry, and violence. We can't claim to be worshiping Him if we are participating in or perpetuating any of these evils. How can you and your church bring glory to God by addressing some of these needs in your community?

PRAY WITH US

Today, as you pray, please add to your list the rest of the Satellite Network Operations team: Thomas Svoboda, Rodney Simon, Philip Shappard, and David Woodworth. We praise God for their ministry of extending the reach of Moody Radio.

SUNDAY
JULY

29

*The LORD will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.*

Isaiah 60:19

Israel His Light

“If you build it, he will come.” In the movie *Field of Dreams*, Iowa corn farmer Ray Kinsella kept hearing a voice in his head repeat this phrase. Kinsella understood the voice to be directing him to build a baseball diamond on his farm—a place where eventually his father comes in order for father and son to be reconciled. In the final scene of the movie, one sees cars for miles lining the road to Kinsella’s field. Their coming fulfills the words of Kinsella’s friend, Terence Mann: “Ray, people will come Ray. They’ll come to Iowa for reasons they can’t even fathom.”

Isaiah envisions a day when the people of the nations will come to Jerusalem. They are coming to the exalted city, made radiant by the glory of the Lord’s light resting upon the city. This is one picture of the glorification of God’s people. The shining city will point the

way to God, even as it points the way to the glory of God’s work in His people. In fulfillment of God’s promises to Abraham, many will bring their riches from every country and will serve the people of Jerusalem.

The exaltation of Jerusalem means that the city and its inhabitants will be glorified. The Lord will place His character upon us, and for all eternity we will experience the fullness of all of His attributes, the fullness of Christ, and the fullness of the Spirit. We will know God fully and experience being fully known (see 1 Cor. 13:12; 15:28; Eph. 1:23; 3:19; 4:13; Gal. 4:9).

At that time, the Mighty One of Jacob will make the enemies of His people bow down (vv. 14–16). They will see His glory and be forced to submit to His perfect will.

APPLY THE WORD

Ephesians 5:26–27 says that Christ will make His bride perfect in holiness, “a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.” All believers will be holy with the complete holiness of God. **Revelation 21** describes the bride of Christ as a radiant city. Awesome is the God who will share His glory with us!

PRAY WITH US

Please focus your prayers on Moody Publishers, headed by Paul Santhouse, vice president of Publications. Ask the Lord to guide Paul and his staff in operational, financial, and editorial decisions, and thank God for this fruitful ministry.

*You will be a crown of splendor in the Lord's hand,
a royal diadem in the hand of your God.*

Isaiah 62:3

MONDAY
JULY

30

Crimson Mercy

The opening lines of the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” used to be taught to nearly every American school-aged child: “Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord / He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored / He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword / His truth is marching on.” Some of the images in this hymn of the coming wrath of God and truth of God are drawn from Isaiah.

The major image in our reading today is that of the crimson-stained Lord coming to save. His salvation has two aspects. First, He comes to destroy the enemies of God. In His perfect justice, He will slaughter His enemies and be splattered with their blood (63:3–7). The picture of the wrath of God is akin to someone standing in a winepress to tread grapes. The Lord crushes those

in rebellion against Him to release the grapes of wrath.

The second aspect of salvation is God’s rescuing of His people. In this same vision, Isaiah reveals the Lord as One full of pity, mercy, compassion and love for the children of God. The Lord is One who pours out His Spirit upon those in need of redemption. With the arm of His power He frees His people from captivity.

The great contrast between the fate of the enemies of God and the fate of His own people should cause us to remember the mercy of the Lord (63:7). We once were the enemies of God, but Christ saved us while we were enemies and sinners! We once were the objects of wrath, but now we will be saved through Christ from the terrible wrath of God (Rom. 5:9–11).

APPLY THE WORD

We need to ponder long and hard the reality of hell. It is a conscious, dark, fiery, evil, horrid, everlasting place of punishment forever away from the presence of God, His mercy, and His joys. People without salvation in Christ are tormented there for all eternity. We have been rescued from hell by Christ. Many have not. What must we do?

PRAY WITH US

Join us in prayer for WRMB, Moody Radio station broadcasting to southern Florida. Thank God for its staff—Dolores King-St. George, Eric Johnson, Audrey Altman, Brigitte Sylvestre, and Rebecca Borgstrom—and ask for His help and power in their ministry.

TUESDAY
JULY

31

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

Isaiah 65:18

Completely New

In *The Republic*, Plato attempts to outline a Utopian society. The fifty-year education of the upper class would give the leaders the wisdom to eliminate poverty, live in a just society without lawyers, and rarely send people to war. The wise philosopher-kings would bring about a harmonious society free from the vices common to humankind.

The true removal of vice and creation of a perfect society comes not from philosopher-kings but with the dawning of the New Jerusalem. Here, memories of the troubles of this life will not exist, rejoicing will have no end, and people will have length of days without fear of death. Work will not be futile, and threat of invasion will cease! The Lord Himself promises to answer a prayer before it is spoken. Even the animal kingdom will be in harmony.

The magnitude of pain experienced by so many in this present world is great:

legal injustice, financial theft, natural disaster, job loss, cancer, physical abuse, broken marriage, victim of violence, lack of clean water, poverty, disease, malicious and tyrannical rule, mental illness, wayward child, religious or political oppression, the ravages of war, stillbirth, squandering of opportunities for advancement and success, racial discrimination, death of a child, sexual harassment, and much more. Were we to take these memories with us to the next world, we would behold pains for all eternity, and it could hinder our enjoyment of God. But the Lord has promised freedom from pain and sorrow on His great mountain.

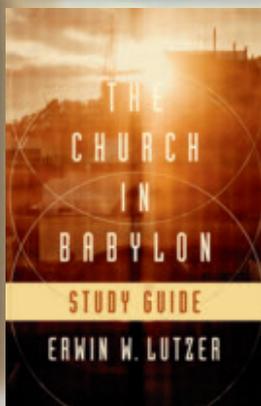
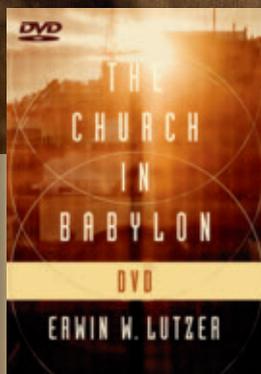
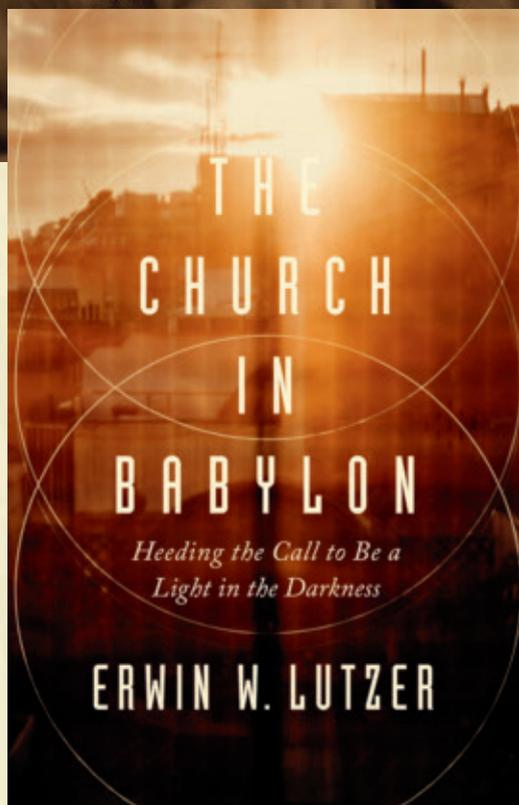
Instead of experiencing hurt and destruction, we will rejoice in the Lord forever. Christ will rejoice over the New Jerusalem promised to His people. In peace, Christ will rule over the kingdom that every heart truly longs to see.

APPLY THE WORD

As we conclude this study of Isaiah, spend time in prayerful reflection. What did you learn or see in a fresh way about God's character? How does His glory affect your life today? How does this glimpse of our promised future in the New Jerusalem shape your worship of the Lord? Thank God for the blessing of reading His Word and seeing His glory.

PRAY WITH US

In conclusion of our Scripture study and prayer journey this month, let us come to God with thanksgiving for His power and glory revealed in the book of Isaiah. Let us also praise Him for extending to us, in Christ, His mercy and grace.



HOW DO WE LIVE
FAITHFULLY IN A
COUNTRY BECOMING
MORE AND MORE
HOSTILE TO OUR
FAITH IN CHRIST?

Dr. Erwin Lutzer, pastor emeritus at The Moody Church, answers this important question by drawing parallels between the people of ancient Judah and the church in America today. In The Church in Babylon, he shows Christians how to impact the culture without being spiritually destroyed by it.

Be on the lookout for The Church in Babylon (with Study Guide and DVD) by Dr. Erwin Lutzer coming August 2018.

Find it at your local or online bookstore in August or pre-order directly from Moody Publishers by calling (800) 678-8812 or at moodypublishers.com.



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