

# Read Through the Old Testament

Daily Bible Reading Guide with Devotional Thoughts-and Prayer Starters © Pastor Frank Eckert

**GET INTO IT ANYWAY YOU CAN!**

**APRIL, YEAR B**

(Recommended: READ summary BEFORE reading the Bible verses!)

☐ **April 1**                      **Isaiah 19: 1-25**

Reflect: Isaiah foretold God's judgement would fall upon Egypt and not even their idols would be able to prevent it. The Nile would dry up and there would be no food. The people would cry out to the true God to help them. God would then treat them with mercy. In time, they and all the earth would be blessed by the promise given to Abraham.

*Prayer: Lord God, thank You that the Gospel will go out to all nations. Amen.*

☐ **April 2**                      **Isaiah 20: 1-6**

Reflect: Isaiah, on God's behalf, said Egypt would fail to help Judah against the Assyrians. So he warned Judah not to enter an alliance with Egypt. King Hezekiah seems to have taken heed. The Assyrians did not attack Jerusalem at this time.

*Prayer: Father Almighty, help us to trust in You rather than in people. Amen.*

☐ **April 3**                      **Isaiah 21: 1-17**

Reflect: Babylon tried to draw Judah into an alliance against Assyria. Isaiah warned against this plan. Sennacherib captured Babylon, but 70 years later it became the centre to the empire which would swallow up the land of Judah and become a symbol of hostility to God.

*Prayer: O God, we are thankful it is You, not people, who control the nations. Amen.*

☐ **April 4**                      **Isaiah 22: 1-25**

Reflect: Sadly, the people of Judah acted no differently than their heathen neighbours, as if God didn't exist. Their perverse ingratitude and their detestable conceit incurred God's sentence of destruction. Sennacherib massacred the troops that tried to stop his advance on Jerusalem. But the people did not look to God or hear His call to repentance.

*Prayer: O Jesus, we magnify You that the promises of Your Word are eternal truth. Amen.*

☐ **April 5**                      **Isaiah 23: 1-18**

Reflect: This oracle concerning a foreign nation announces Israel's impending doom. No ships will sail the seas for seventy years, not until the decreed period of judgement has run its course. The renewed commercialism ventures would be dedicated to the Lord.

*Prayer: O Father, thank You that Your mercy moves people to repent and be saved. Amen.*

☐ **April 6**                      **Isaiah 24: 1-23**

Reflect: Universal desolation, the result of sin, will devour the earth. The Prophet predicts they will not escape death any more than did the people of Noah's time. But in the final day, the demonic powers will be shut up and will no longer interfere with the ultimate goal of the Lord of hosts. For He will usher in His kingdom, which will last forever.

*Prayer: God, thank you for giving us not the horrors of hell but the joys of heaven. Amen.*

☐ **April 7**                      **Isaiah 25: 1-12**

Reflect: The bliss of deliverance evokes endless rounds of deliverance from cruel enemies evokes endless rounds of songs at a banquet to which all peoples are invited. Death, prime cause of lamenting is swallowed up forever. Reflection on the eternal joys of heaven leads to renewed singing.

*Prayer: O God, our Refuge, we look forward to the joy of final defeat over death. Amen.*

☐ **April 8**                      **Isaiah 26: 1-21**

Reflect: The land of Judah, once Israel's land of promise, has become the land of fulfilment for all nations. To wait patiently on the Lord was not in vain even though doubts may have arisen when His chastening was upon them. They need to be patient for the Lord's coming.

*Prayer: O Holy Spirit, when the going is tough, enable us to hang on to Your reliable promises that You will deliver us and give us the joy of eternal salvation. Amen.*

☐ **April 9**                      **Isaiah 27: 1-13**

Reflect: We now have further prophetic glimpses into the kingdom which God will usher in. Every dragon of resistance has been slain. God has carried out his plans to establish perfect peace for His subjects. The redeemed of God will stream into the Jerusalem above, grateful for the care and the fatherly discipline that brought them there.

*Prayer: Lord, through Your Word keep us ever grafted into Your Son, the Vine. Amen.*

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☐ **April 10**                      **Isaiah 28: 1-29**

Reflect: There will be a faithful remnant that will continue to be channels of God's grace to all nations. Only those who believe God's promises of salvation have solid ground under their feet. God acts like a wise farmer. He proceeds with care lest he damage the grain. He ceases adversity when it has achieved its purpose.

*Prayer: Lord Christ, help us to understand that the hard times are not meant to crush us but to separate the chaff from the wheat in our lives. Amen.*

☐ **April 11**                      **Isaiah 29: 1-24**

Reflect: God will not be mocked when people desecrate His means of grace, making them devices to coerce Him to favour them, regardless of their disobedience. He will turn their city into a vast altar on which enemies will slaughter its people like sacrificial animals.

*Prayer: O Spirit of Truth, may we worship the living God, truly from our hearts. Amen.*

☐ **April 12**                      **Isaiah 30: 1-33**

Reflect: Gifts sent to Pharaoh to curry his favour and get his help will produce results as empty as a desert mirage encountered on the way to Egypt. To be saved from the Assyrians, they needed only to commit themselves in trust to the Lord. Affliction is the means employed by the divine Teacher. God will finally conquer Assyria.

*Prayer: Father, strong forces are against us, but we are safe in Your strong hands. Amen.*

☐ **April 13**                      **Isaiah 31: 1-9**

Reflect: Scheming politicians may think they are clever. But they cannot outsmart the Lord. How unnecessary it was to go to Egypt for help! God is like a lion that cannot be scared from carrying off its prey. He is like a mother bird spreading His wings over His nestlings to protect Jerusalem. The Assyrian king will be forced to flee in terror.

*Prayer: Redeeming Lord, thank You that You fight for us, and You protect us. Amen.*

☐ **April 14**                      **Isaiah 32: 1-20**

Reflect: Isaiah's vision now reveals that no military might will deflect the Lord of history from achieving His goal of establishing His Messianic kingdom. His subjects, once blind and deaf to the truth, live by high ethical standards. Their hearts have been changed.

*Prayer: O Christ, thank You for final victory for Your Church, through Christ. Amen.*

☐ **April 15**                      **Isaiah 33: 1-24**

Reflect: The theme of the past six chapters, with their six predictions of woe and destruction, is God's absolute control and unerring guidance of history. Only His believers will escape the final punishments because they are forgiven their iniquity.

*Prayer: Gracious Lord, we praise You for delivering us from the everlasting burning of hell that we had deserved for the times we treated others in a loveless manner. Amen.*

☐ **April 16**                      **Isaiah 33: 1-24 (Also peruse 34: 1-17)**

Reflect: When the sword of divine justice descends for judgement, evildoers will have little prospect for survival, like animals waiting to be slaughtered at a sacrifice. Their land once a well watered-garden, will be transformed by fire and brimstone into a howling desert.

*Prayer: O God, we praise You for being the Protector of all Your children against the enemies of Your Church and against all the forces of evil. Amen.*

☐ **April 17**                      **Isaiah 35: 1-10**

Reflect: God's day of vengeance on His enemies will be at the same time a day of everlasting joy for the ransomed of the Lord, prefigured by the great Exodus. Let the redeemed therefore be strong in faith, for the bliss awaiting them passes understanding.

*Prayer: O God, with joy we await Paradise Regained when sorrow will flee away. Amen.*

☐ **April 18**                      **Isaiah 36: 1-22**

Reflect: The next few chapters tell us of the miraculous destruction of Sennacherib's army at the gates of Jerusalem. A century later, God will summon the Babylonians to do what He did not let the Assyrians do, namely, destroy Jerusalem and exile the inhabitants.

*Prayer: Jesus, King of kings, even if others may mock our trust in You as being useless, keep us firm in faith toward You. Amen.*

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☐ **April 19**                      **Isaiah 37: 1-38**

Reflect: The prayer of Hezekiah demonstrates his trust in God. Jerusalem survived intact. The angel of the Lord destroyed the Assyrian army camped near Jerusalem. Sennacherib was assassinated by members of his own family. He died in a temple alongside his idol.

*Prayer: O God, preserve us from arrogance and help us to honour You above all. Amen.*

☐ **April 20**                      **Isaiah 38: 1-20**

Reflect: Hezekiah's illness and His submissiveness to the will of God and his recovery from sickness are closely linked to the deliverance of Jerusalem. His psalm of thanksgiving includes a lament from the time of his distress and then his thanksgiving for recovery.

*Prayer: Dear Father, turn our eyes of faith to You in times of distress and make us always humbly and truly thankful for Your deliverance. Amen.*

☐ **April 21**                      **Isaiah 39: 1-8**

Reflect: The protection of the Davidic lineage depended on the obedience of each ruler. The comment of Hezekiah, "There will be peace and security in my days" is not selfish complacency but acceptance of conditions under which God's promises were conferred.

*Prayer: O God, move us to true repentance as we confess our sins before You. Amen.*

☐ **April 22**                      **Isaiah 40: 1-31**

Reflect: Israel is called upon to give comfort to God's people. Jerusalem's freedom is now at hand. Isaiah pictures a highway stretching across the desert and leading to Jerusalem. God will strengthen the weakened survivors to make the journey.

*Prayer: Creator God, we magnify You for Your forgiveness and comfort, and for renewing our strength and promising us glory with You in heaven forever. Amen.*

☐ **April 23**                      **Isaiah 41: 1-29**

Reflect: Cyrus the Persian king was to be God's instrument to free the chosen people from Babylonian exile. The descendants of Abraham will survive only because God has chosen them to be His servant-people to carry out His gracious promises.

*Prayer: O God, our God, we glorify You that You will supply whatever we need to conquer the Evil Foe in our lives. We need never fear, for You have redeemed us. Amen.*

☐ **April 24**                      **Isaiah 42: 1-25**

Reflect: God will use Israel as His servant to bring His kingdom to the whole world. He has called Israel, His covenant people, to bring light to the nations groping in the darkness of ignorance. Voices singing glory to the Lord are heard from the ends of the earth.

*Prayer: Lord God, thank You for sending, Jesus to rescue us from darkness. Amen.*

☐ **April 25**                      **Isaiah 43:1-28**

Reflect: Blindness to God's will is Israel's chief sin. Instead of pleasing the Lord, Israel had burdened Him with their iniquities. Even their worship had added insult to injury. There was hope for them only if God would blot out their transgressions by His grace.

*Prayer: O Saviour, thank You for giving Yourself as a ransom to blot out our sins. Amen.*

☐ **April 26**                      **Isaiah 44: 1-28**

Reflect: God spoke tenderly to them that they would not perish. He would still pour out his blessings upon them and their descendants. The real reason for their fear had been removed because their sins had been swept away. His redemption invited them to sing for joy.

*Prayer: Lord of Life, there is no other god but You. Thank You for pouring out Your Holy Spirit upon us, making us Your own in Baptism. We are Yours forever. Amen.*

☐ **April 27**                      **Isaiah 45: 1-25**

Reflect: Contrary to expectations God would use the Persian King Cyrus to overthrow Babylonia.. This is the way the only true God had shaped events. The non-Jewish king Cyrus will set Israel free. Other nations would seek everlasting salvation in the Lord.

*Prayer: Lord, thank You that in Christ You free us from the fatal wages of our sins. Amen.*

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☐ **April 28**                      **Isaiah 46: 1-13**

Reflect: The gods of the victorious army seemed to say Israel's God was powerless. But the Lord once more exposed the folly of worshipping idols. The true God will care for His people like no silver or gold idol can.

*Prayer: Lord of Grace, we praise You for Your promises to care for us and save us right from our birth and through to old age. Amen.*

☐ **April 29**                      **Isaiah 47: 1-15**

Reflect: From being the mistress of the world, Babylon now sits in dust as a slave of Cyrus. Misled by her astrologers, she became so infatuated with self-idolatry, she refused to bow to God. Babylon cannot ward off disaster, which comes upon them with devastating power.

*Prayer: Lord, help us never to attribute our success to ourselves, but always to You. Amen.*

☐ **April 30**                      **Isaiah 48: 1-22**

Reflect: It seemed unrealistic to the exiles to have full confidence in God in view of His apparent inability to protect them against a nation boasting of the help of superior idols. While the slaves of sin would have no peace, the time was near when the believers could go forth from Babylon with a shout of joy. How are you profiting from affliction?

*Prayer: Jesus, our Messiah, help us to use the crucible of affliction to thank and trust You all the more for Your mercy and help. Amen.*