



## Week Eight Devotions

Provided by the Ministry and Program Staff of  
The Presbyterian Church of Stanley

### Day 50

#### Scripture: Isaiah 14:1-Isaiah 28:29

Isaiah is regarded as the easily one of the greatest Old Testament prophets in large part because so many of his writings point so clearly to Jesus Christ. A lot of us are familiar with Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53 and the child who will become the Wonderful Counselor and Prince of Peace of Isaiah Chapter 9.

You don't have to be a prophet to see Jesus Christ Isaiah 28:16, **Behold, I am the one who has laid AS a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'**

We see Him in at least three ways in the passage:

1. Jesus Christ is a firm foundation. He is a rock and cornerstone upon which we can safely build our entire lives. In the parable of the man who built his house upon the rock and the house upon the sand, Jesus Himself is the rock He is referring to. In three of the Gospels, Jesus calls Himself the "cornerstone" whom the builders rejected.
2. Jesus is a "precious" cornerstone. He is the only begotten Son of God, the pearl of great price, the perfect lamb without blemish or spot—given so that you and I may know God.
3. The foundation stone will be laid in Zion, another name for Jerusalem, the city where Christ went to the cross, where the blood of the Divine was spilled, soaking into the earth, changing her and her people forever.

As you read this passage think and pray upon its promise that belief in Jesus Christ will not be in haste. He is our cornerstone and foundation. We are safe in building our life upon Him.

~Eric Laverentz, Senior Pastor

### Day 52

#### Scripture: Isaiah 41:19-Isaiah 52:12

*Isaiah 51:1 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug."*

This section of Isaiah, like the preceding one, reflects on the third Servant Song (50:4-9). Here the emphasis is on the expectations of those who will listen to the Servant as well as encouragement to those followers of righteousness. From this point through 52:12 the Servant theme builds to its climax in 52:13—53:12.

God called His people to listen three times in verses 1-8. They should listen and look back, to remember what He had done (vv. 1-3). They should listen and look up, to remember who God is (vv. 4-6). And they should listen and not fear, to remember what God had promised (vv. 7-8).

In our busy and chaotic lives we find it hard to make time for God. True listening is part of any good relationship and that includes our time with God. When was the last time that you simply sat quietly in God's presence and listened for Him. God will be our rock and anchor in life but we must be connected to Him and listening for His voice just as Isaiah was.

~Molly Jones, Associate Pastor for Discipleship

### Day 53

#### Scripture: Isaiah 52:13-Isaiah 66:18

Isaiah 55: 1-2 "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare."

How true are these words from Isaiah! Why is it that we try to fill ourselves up with things that only leave us feeling more empty? This is what Jesus was talking about when he said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." (John 6:35) There is a hunger and a thirst that is inside each one of us,

and nothing will satisfy that hunger and thirst except a relationship with Jesus. When we truly seek him, he will never leave us unsatisfied. As Isaiah said, "Our souls will delight in the richest of fare."

~Jan Zimmerman, Children's Ministries Director

## Day 54

### Scripture: Isaiah 66:19-Jeremiah 10:13

Have you ever felt that you were not capable? Ever felt a little lost in your own life? Jeremiah felt the same way, but God communicated to Jeremiah " Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart." Perhaps you have not heard God's whisper of confidence in your ear or upon your heart. God was speaking to Jeremiah, but maybe we all need to come to know that God has set us apart as well. Throughout these verses the people of Israel have turned their backs on and God laments over them. We all stumble within our every day life, and maybe we too turn our backs on God. The good news is that " a cry is heard on the barren heights, the weeping and pleading of the people of Israel ( people of Stanley, my version) because of their perverted their ways and have forgotten the Lord their God. Return, faithless people; I will cure you of backsliding." We need to take confidence that though we make mistakes/backslide, but God hears our cries and wants to cure us of our sinful ways. Take confidence today that God formed you and knew you, and is wanting you to call out to Him.

~Harlan Harper, Youth Ministries Director

## Day 55

### Scripture: Jeremiah 10:14-Jeremiah 23:8

Jeremiah prophesied in the kingdom of Judah as Jerusalem was being destroyed and the people carried off into exile. Intermingled with Jeremiah's words of warning are words of hope. As you read this book watch for Jeremiah's encouragement; the last word is not death but life—in Jesus Christ, life that will never end. In chapter 18, you read about God's message to Jeremiah at the Potter's House...*like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.* How old are you? Although we may be advanced in years, the heavenly Potter has not yet put the finishing touches to our lives. There are still glorious possibilities ahead. **The past was not better than the future can yet be.**

When the beautiful clay ornament the potter was fashioning, collapsed under his hand, he may have thrown the clay on the scrap heap, and taken a fresh lump that would be more responsive to his molding touch. But he did not do so! Instead, "*the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him*" (Jeremiah 18:4). Even when we have messed up the purpose of the divine Potter in our lives, he does not despair of us and cast us aside. The reworked vessel may not be as beautiful as the one the heavenly Potter originally planned, but we can still become "*an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work*" (2 Timothy 2:21). The divine Potter cannot be *discourage!* Thank you, Lord!

~Rev. Dr. Larry Thornton, Parish Associate

## Day 56

### Scripture: Jeremiah 23:9-Jeremiah 33:22

Today's portion of Jeremiah tells of the "tough love" that God used on the people of Israel. Because the people continued to break their covenant with God, His judgment was brought to them through the captivity and exile of the people. But through all their rebellion, God continues to love them—"*His love endures forever.*" Jer. 33:11. As a parent I can relate to this concept. When our children are rebellious or disappoint us, we correct them—but our love continues. In fact it is because of that love that we do correct them, to help them become better people.

Even through all the trials and rebellion of the Old Testament, God continues to plan good things for the people of Israel. "*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...'*" (29:11)

I'm reminded of the words in the song, "The One True God." "I don't have a thing that I got on my own, I don't have a care that I carry alone, but I have a God who's carrying me. I don't have sin that He doesn't forgive, and I don't have a heart that is worthy of His, but I have a God who still loves me." I'm thankful that God loves me so much He continues to forgive me when I disappoint him. I also need to remember to be thankful for those times when He corrects me, knowing that He is preparing me to become the person He's called me to be.

~Debbie Miller – Finance/Stewardship Director