**ISAIAH KINSHIP WEEK FIVE**

This week’s reading plan –

Isaiah 24:1 – 27:13. ‘The final end’

The two cycles of judgement in last weeks reading lead up to this point. Each set of oracles (Isaiah 13-20 and 21-2) addressed particular nations. Now in chapters 24 – 27 we come to the climax of God’s message of judgement and salvation for the whole world. The wicked will be condemned, and God’s people will be lavishly blessed. These four chapters are often called ‘apocalyptic’ because of the imagery used to depict God’s final victory

The three passages for Kinship Study this week are:

Isaiah 25: 6 - 12

Isaiah 26: 1 - 21

Isaiah 27: 1 - 13

**SEVEN QUESTIONS**

1. Isaiah 25:6 - After overthrowing human tyranny (Is 25:1-5) God will spread a banquet for his people. Note how Revelation draws on the promises of vv 6-9 to give hope to God’s people (Revelation 19:7-9, 21:3-4. And also 1 Corinthians 15:54). What do the descriptions of the food and wine indicate about the way God blesses?

2. Jesus talks about the Feast / Banquet in Luke 14. In the light of Isaiah 55:1-3 who is invited to the feast and how much will it cost?

3. The City is a powerful image in these chapters. (Is 24:10, 12; 25:2; 26:1-2, 5; 27:10). It is described as a place of imagined safety and prideful self-sufficiency. How / why does this draw the Lord’s wrath and judgement?

4. God will destroy this city and replace it with a ‘Strong City’ for his people. What is the primary characteristic of those who will be in God’s city (Isaiah 26:1-4; see also 7:9; 12:2; 30:15)

What are the specific ways that the mind-set of the ‘lofty city’ is seen today, and how are we tempted to embrace it?

5. Isaiah 26 records Israel’s song of praise to God in light of his coming triumph. They sing as those who have not yet received all of God’s blessings. They wait, even in the midst of distress (Is 26:16-18, 20-21)What does this chapter show us about the heart of God’s people? (note especially vv 7-9). See also Psalm 63:1-8; 73:23-28; Philippians 1:21-23; 3:7-11)?

6. In what ways is the vineyard story in Isaiah 27:2-5 similar to that of Isaiah 5:1-7? How is it different? How does this description remind us of Eden before the curse in Genesis?

7. The Jubilee Year was announced by the blowing of the trumpet on the Day of Atonement. Read the description on Leviticus 25:8-12. What does Isaiah 27:13 say when this trumpet sounds in the future? How does this help us understand New Testament texts like Matthew 24:31 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16?