



# prayer *life!*

## Weekly Prayer Focus

October 11, 2020

### God's Plan

*And he said, "Go, and say to this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."*

—Isaiah 6:9-10

From Jonah we learn that it's better to say yes to God's call from the start. And that's exactly what Isaiah did. Frankly, though, I'd rather have Jonah's call than Isaiah's. Jonah led Nineveh in national repentance. Isaiah pronounced Israel's final doom.

God called His people Israel so He could use them to reach the world. This they persistently refused to do, preferring to consume His blessings for themselves. But God's purpose cannot be thwarted, so He used their stubborn refusal to accomplish His plan. And God called Isaiah to announce this plan to Israel.

Isaiah's unenviable task was to pronounce God's judgment. A deep, internal deadness would come over the nation, rendering them unresponsive to the Word of the God, who'd nurtured them from infancy.

*Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed (6:10).* Israel wouldn't listen, so God would make them deaf. Their eyes looked away from His will, so He'd render them blind. Their hearts turned from loving God. Now they could no longer turn their affection back to Him.

This is the doom Isaiah pronounced. The symptoms of judgment wouldn't be obvious. They'd appear slowly at first. But irrevocably and definitely, Israel's broken relationship with God would sever their connection with the Source of their blessing and protection. And their judgment followed a divine deliverance.

Under Isaiah's influence, good king Hezekiah led Israel in its greatest revival, obliterating idolatry and establishing the worship of the One True God throughout the land. Later, when the ruthless Assyrian army surrounded Jerusalem, the faithful king laid the enemy's threats before the LORD and trusted Him to deliver. The next morning, the 185,000 Assyrian soldiers surrounding Jerusalem woke up dead.

But victory can lead to overconfidence. Hezekiah's great faith turned in a self-serving direction. He became sick and naturally asked God to heal him, even after Isaiah told him to get his house in order and prepare to meet his God. Hezekiah's intentions were ostensibly to serve God, who graciously granted him 15 more years of life. He gave the Lord suitable praise, but soon his pride got the better of him.

The king of an obscure minor kingdom named Babylon paid Hezekiah a visit, so he showed off everything he had in his storehouses. In response, Isaiah prophesied Israel's captivity in Babylon for 70 years. This doom didn't come for 200 years, but come it did, with deep devastation and deeper disgrace.

But the horrors of captivity weren't the end of God's plan. As the prophet described in advance, Israel's cities lay *waste and without inhabitant*. *The land [was] a desolate waste, [because] the LORD removed their people far away*, and Israel became like the burned out *stump* of a fallen tree. But still there was hope. The *holy seed* was in that stump (Isaiah 6:11-13). God's promise was sure and His plan unfailing.

Then Isaiah followed his words of doom with the words, *Comfort, comfort my people, says your God (40:1)*, and a promise that's brought hope to millions for millennia: *They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint (40:31)*.

He also prophesied of One who would bring God's salvation to the world. *But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all (53:5-6)*.

God called Isaiah to pronounce Israel's decline and doom, but through it God brought hope to the world.

To the praise of His glory.

## Prayer for Our Land

Continue to pray for our Nation. Ask God to ...

- spread the testimony of Jesus
- curb the spread of coronavirus
- heal the sick and afflicted
- comfort those who have lost loved ones
- revive His Church world-wide,
- bring spiritual renewal in America,
- grant divine protection for our upcoming elections,

## Prayer for Our Church

**Sunday (Church):** Pray for Megan Cordill: Ministry Assistant for Students to bring Christ's truth and love to students at Northpoint, so they will mature into His image.

**Monday (Home and Family):** Pray for Christian character to develop in everyone in your home (Galatians 5:22-23).

**Tuesday (Job/School):** Pray for the colleagues you have the most difficulty with to they see the love of Christ in you and hear of His love from you.

**Wednesday (Neighborhood and Community):** Pray for ways to connect with and reach your neighbors as they visit during Halloween. Ask God to show you how to use this opportunity.

**Thursday (Our Nation):** Pray for the spread of the Gospel and the study of God's Word among the people serving in the three branches of our government.

**Friday (The World):** Pray for the persecuted Church throughout the world. May their testimony of Jesus Christ win their persecutors to Him.

**Saturday (Praise and Rejoicing):** Thank God for the bounty of harvest and His daily provision. Ask God to use us as a church to lead our neighbors to Christ.

**Prayer for Northpoint's Leaders:** Seek God's power, protection, and leading in their lives and ministries.

1. **Our Pastors and Directors:** Tony Chute, Taylor Mendoza, Terilyn Brown, Steve Dahlgren, Tamene Menna, and Marti Wiegman.
2. **Our Lay Elders:** Tim East, Steve Flood, Mark Kiker, Vinoj Zechariah, and our new incoming elders.
3. **Our Church Staff:** Michelle Balga, Bob Brown, Colin Cordill, Megan Cordill, Zac Gutierrez, Carolee Jefferson, Amber McEwen, Mark Norland, Corie Saunders, Karen Sherwood, Dani Tiqui, Micah Valdez.

## Prayer Record

Record specific prayers you have below. Note when and how God answers your prayers. It will help you to see that He really is paying attention.

Date	Request	Date	Answer

*Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. –Revelation 19:10*