

Jan 15, 2023



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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Class Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

God's guidance is essential and trustworthy for living a fulfilling life and not creating messes

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

God, before I seek Your advice about things I don't know, help me to practice obedience in the areas I do know, and in loving You and others

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful
(Ps 1:1 NKJV)

(From "Our Daily Bread", Dec 09, 2020)

**Series: From Darkness
to light**

UNIT 2: God's Promises

NEXT WEEK

**God's Promises Light
(Isaiah 58:6-10)**

God Promises to Guide Isaiah 48:3-8, 17

Lesson Background and Introduction

The Babylonians had taken full control of the southern kingdom of the Israelites, called Judah, by 586 BC. The temple was destroyed, its vessels were confiscated, and many people were deported to Babylon. That was about 136 years after Assyria had done the same to the northern kingdom, called Israel. The various sections of the book of Isaiah are unified by their repeating of important themes about the Lord and His relationship to Israel. One such section that refers to the "servant" of the Lord is often recognized as Isaiah 40-55. Beyond seeing the role of the Lord's servant (sometimes understood to be the nation of Israel, sometimes as an individual to come), the reader of this section will notice some consistent messages. First, Isaiah points out the absurdity of worshipping idols (example: Isaiah 41:22-24). The idolater takes a piece of wood, uses part of it to make a fire and bake bread. And then with the rest of the wood he makes a "god" that he worships (44:14-17)! Second and closely related to the first, Isaiah emphasizes that there is no other God but the Lord (44:6; 45:6). Third, Isaiah frequently notes the Lord's knowledge and control of the future. He knows the "end from the beginning" and "will do all [His] pleasure" (Isaiah 46:10). Furthermore, the Lord challenges the false gods to match Him by revealing the future (41:22; 43:9; 44:7; 45:21; 48:14). Fourth, the role of the Lord as the Creator of all things is also prominent (Isaiah 40:28). God laid the earth's foundation and stretched out the heavens above (48:13; 51:13). Included in His activity is the creation of the nation of Israel (43:15), often expressed as childbirth (example: 66:7-13).

The tragedy of Israel's history is that God had revealed many things to them: His law, His will for their nation, His choices of leaders, and so on. Despite the long history of such revelations, the nation often acted as though the people did not have ears to hear. Time after time, Israel ignored the Lord's directives and warnings. Iron-necked Judah would not change its course of action despite the warnings of the Lord's prophets, making punishment inevitable. We have a major advantage: we are empowered by the Spirit to grow in our relationship with the Father and become more like Jesus each day. When we do so, we will be better able to hear warnings when we are following a way not set out by the Lord. And we will have ears hearing what the Lord is doing as He calls to us to join His work. Listen for the call!

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Guidance from the Knowing God (Isa 48:3-8)

Knowledge of their stubbornness (3-4)

- Stubbornness that comes from being stiff-necked (Exodus 32:9)
- Stubbornness that comes from not listening (2 Chron 24:19)
- Stubbornness that comes from not responding to discipline (Jer 32:33)
- Stubbornness that comes from resisting the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51)
- Stubbornness that comes from not having understanding (Ps 32:9)
- Stubbornness that if not turned from will result in being cursed by God (Mal 2:2)
- Stubbornness that comes from not being submissive to God (Rom 10:3)

Knowledge of their idolatry (5-6)

- Idolatry that God forbids (Deut 5:7-9)
- Idolatry is exchanging God's truth for a lie (Rom 1:25)
- Idolatry must be avoided (1 Cor 10:14)
- Idolatry is participating with demons (1 Cor 10:18-22)
- Idolatry through rebellion and arrogance (1 Sam 15:23)
- Idolatry through things that belong to the earthly nature (Col 3:5)

Knowledge of their pride (7-8)

- Pride that causes destruction (Prov 16:18)
- Pride that never makes sense (Isa 10:15-16)
- Pride that makes one think more highly of himself (Rom 12:3)
- Pride that is an abomination to God (Prov 16:5)
- Pride that keeps one from seeking God (Ps 10:4)
- Pride that makes one a fool (Prov 26:12)

Guidance from the Living God (Isa 48:17)

Living God who redeems (17)

- A redeemer that God sent to redeem those under the law (Gal 4:3-5)
- A redeemer that gave Himself for us (Titus 2:12-14)
- A redeemer that provided redemption through His blood (Eph 1:7)
- A redeemer that entered the Most Holy Place to provide eternal redemption (Heb 9:12)
- A redeemer that is the only mediator of the new covenant (Heb 9:15)

Living God who provides guidance (17)

- Guidance into truth (John 16:13-15)
- Guidance by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:18)
- Guidance that represents we are a child of God (Rom 8:14)
- Guidance into insight (Ps 119:99-100)
- Guidance as a light for our path (Ps 119:105)
- Guidance into understanding (Ps 119:130)
- Guidance into wisdom (Prov 2:6)