

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
August 6, 2016

Isaiah 10:20–12:6. Destruction of Assyria and God’s coming Messianic Kingdom.

Luke 4:1–44. Satan tempts Jesus.

Job 3:17–26. Job desires death to be free from pain.

COMMENTS:

Isaiah 10:20–12:6. In spite of judgment on Israel by God through the Assyrians, as per the previous section, a remnant of God’s people will return to the land and rely on the Lord, **10:20-23**. God, then, depicts Assyria’s defeat in terms of lofty trees (Assyrian soldiers and leaders) being cut down, **10:28-34**. After the fall of the Assyrian Empire, another empire would arise, namely, God’s glorious empire, **11:1-12:6**. This kingdom will involve righteous rule because the Son of God and the Holy Spirit will administer its affairs justly, **Isa. 11:1-5**. Moreover, the Earth, once again, will enjoy the harmony it enjoyed before sin entered, **Isa. 1:6-9**; Rom. 8:18-25. The nucleus of the kingdom will be a regathered and reunited Jewish nation (**Isa. 11:10–16**), which will take place at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ (see Revelation 19). In “that day” Israel will recognize Jesus as the Messiah and sing praises to Him, **12:1-6**.

Luke 4:1–44. This section can be divided into three parts: (1) the temptation of Jesus (**4:1-13**), (2) Jesus is rejected at Nazareth (**4:14-30**), and (3) Jesus heals at Capernaum (**4:31-44**). Note Jesus’s priority of the spiritual life over the temporal life as Satan tempted Him. Jesus set the standard for us all. The spiritual life must take priority over everything else, even legitimate things like eating. Again, there is no spiritual victory apart from valuing God and His Word above all of the circumstances of life. Moreover, we have at our disposal the same spiritual resources that Jesus used when He faced and defeated Satan: prayer (**Luke 3:22**), the Father’s loving provisions (**Luke 3:23**), the power of the Spirit (**Luke 4:1**), and the Word of God (“It is written”). Plus, we have in Heaven the interceding Savior who has defeated the enemy completely. Satan tempts us in order to bring out the worst in us, but God can use these difficult experiences to put the best into us. Temptation is Satan’s weapon to defeat us, but it *can become* God’s tool to build us (see James 1:1–8, 13–17). Note in the first temptation how Satan is suggesting that there must be something wrong with the Father’s love since His “beloved Son” was hungry. Not only do Satan and his demons tempt us to think that God does not love us when we are in times of want, he is always attempting to get us to think that God is not our greatest good. In other words, Satan is suggesting that God is not only not the greatest good, He is not even good as a means to get other goods. In other words, God really is not that good and you are better off rejecting Him or at least marginalizing Him, so says Satan—and those he has brainwashed.

Job 3:17–26. After Job expresses his desire that he would never have been born (3:16), he entertains wider questions that pertain to suffering existence: ‘Why can’t people simply die when they are ready for death?’ (3:20-23) and ‘Why can’t he just die?’ (3:24-26). He is pointing out that God had been a hedge of protection about his life (1:10) that ensured his well-being; but now that he wants to die, he can think only of God’s preservation of his life as an artificial prolongation of his misery; what was a hedge of protection has become a thorny prison of pain and misery.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

Pastor Don