

Week Twenty-Nine

Days 197–203



Exile Narrative: Isaiah 11–27 | Supplemental: Tobit 13–14; Joel 1–3; Nahum 1–3; Habakkuk 1–3; Proverbs 10:13–11:8

GOD’S LOVE—AND JUSTICE—CAN COME TO ALL



Prophet Isaiah
by Pietro Perugino

This week, the prophets give us a wider and better appreciation for God’s moral expectations of all people, as well as God’s activities. Though the prophets are mainly concerned with reproaching the Israelites for their wickedness and calling them to conversion, there are universal elements. Jews and Gentiles alike are called to give themselves over to God’s will completely so they can avoid sin and destruction. God’s justice falls upon everyone, since all are called to union in God’s holiness.

- The prophets do not simply foretell the future. They speak the truths of the Lord on his behalf. Many prophecies have historical *and* spiritual meanings.
- Jesse is the father of David. God has promised that the kingdom of David will endure forever and that the Messiah will be one of his descendants.
- Only a stump will be left of the destroyed kingdom—but a shoot will come forth from it. All is not lost.
- In Isaiah 25–27, we see praise for delivery from oppression. This is expressed in the middle of the call to repentance and the promise of judgment. Isaiah says the people will be brought into captivity in the land of Babylon. Yet Isaiah 25 says God will swallow up death and wipe tears from all faces. This is the promise of the Messiah, of redemption.
- “I will restore to you the years which the swarming locust has eaten” (Joel 2:25). The promise of God, when we come back to him and are his again, is not just a restoration of our possessions, but of our time—all that we lost and more.
- God promises the same today. We are not called to be people who *look* like we love God; we are called to be people who *do love* God.
- Nahum prophesies about the fall of Nineveh, because it has been an example of bloody injustice, not only in its conquering of Israel.
- Habakkuk prophesies in a way that explores the way God brings about his justice by using foreign powers to punish immoral Israelites.

