

## Paths to Dwell In

### The Man Isaiah

- Isaiah was referred to as “The Messianic Prophet” because many of his prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus. More scriptures from *his* book were quoted in the NT than from any other OT prophets.
- He was God’s spokesman to Judah and Jerusalem at a time when the nation was immersed in sin. He spoke God’s indictment against their sins and foretold their destruction if they didn’t return to God.
- In the midst of these warnings, he also foretold of a bright future with the coming Messiah. God didn’t forget His covenant made to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David. He spared a remnant of the nation of Israel out of which would come the Messiah and His new kingdom.

### The Times of Isaiah

- **The Assyrian Period**
  - Great political turmoil
  - Assyria expanding its empire
  - Israel and Syria attacked by Assyria
  - Judah attacked by Israel and Syria
  - Samaria falls
  - Assyrian host destroyed
- **The Babylonian Captivity or Babylonian Exile**
  - Among the first to be taken into exile was Daniel, and he rose to high prominence in the Babylonian and later Persian courts while still remaining faithful to God
  - Jeremiah prophesied a 70-year duration of the exile
  - Ezekiel ministered directly to the exiles in Babylon and provided messages of hope and future restoration

- The captivity formally ended when Cyrus the Great of Persia issued a decree that allowed the Jews to return to their homeland

## Isaiah 58

*1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. 2 Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God.*

*Isaiah 53:5-7 But he [was] wounded for our transgressions, [he was] bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace [was] upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.*

*3 Wherefore have we fasted, [say they], and thou seest not? [wherefore] have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours.*

*4 Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as [ye do this] day, to make your voice to be heard on high. 5 Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? [is it] to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes [under him]? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD?*

*6 [Is] not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? 7 [Is it] not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?*

*8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward.*

*9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I [am]. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of*

*the finger, and speaking vanity; 10 And [if] thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness [be] as the noonday: 11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.*

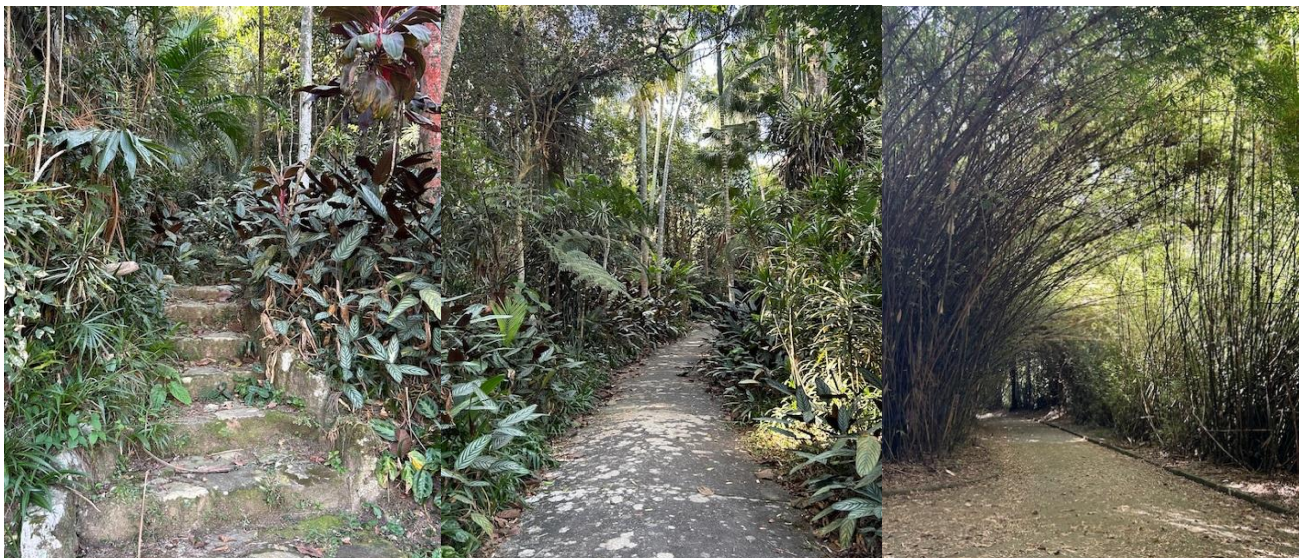
*12 And [they that shall be] of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach (perets), The restorer of paths to dwell in.*

## **Soles of Your Feet**

**Joshua 1:3** says ...

*Joshua 1:3 Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.*

*Deuteronomy 11:24-25 Every place whereon the soles of your feet shall tread shall be yours: from the wilderness and Lebanon, from the river, the river Euphrates, even unto the uttermost sea shall your coast be. 25 There shall no man be able to stand before you: [for] the LORD your God shall lay the fear of you and the dread of you upon all the land that ye shall tread upon, as he hath said unto you.*



Photos by Nancy Dushion  
**Jardim Botânico de São Paulo**  
(Botanical Garden of São Paulo)