**TIME ALONE WITH GOD**

Ingredients:

* Half an hour, every day.
* Quiet, so you focus on yourself and on God;
* Prayer, worship, thanksgiving, as your response to God
* Word, so you can ponder His truth
* Life, people and events, so you are aware of Him in these situations

Method:

* Time – a fixed time when you are unlikely to be interrupted is best but more important is to actually start having such a time with God.
* Quiet – A simple method is to be quiet until you are aware you are in God’s presence before you start to respond to Him.
* Word – Read and be familiar with what is said. Meditate on the Word: “What does it say?” “What does it mean?” “How should I respond?” You may use the questions to help you or set them aside.
* Life – Use the time to also be aware of the things that are happening, inside you and around you. Bring these before God and speak to Him.

# Monday and Tuesday

[**ISAIAH 46:3-7**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2046&version=NIV)

Remember this is your time alone with God. It is a time to tell God what is on your mind (thinking back over the past day), listen to him speak to you (reading and meditating on a bible passage), and finally, to respond to him (prayer). The questions are there to help you do this. Ignore them if they do not help. If your time is limited, I suggest that you don’t do everything in one go but spread them over the two days.

1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [ISAIAH 46:3-7](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2046&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

The focus of the prophecy is now on the Jews, God’s people. It would be natural to consider how God would speak to us, who are God’s people in Christ.

1. *“Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born.”* How does God describe the listeners? What is his emphasis? What do you think God would emphasise to you when he describes you?
2. *“Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”* What do you think God means when he tells the Jews, “Even to your old age …”? Once again, what is the emphasis that God wants to stress to the Jews? Do you think God would say the same to you?
3. *“With whom will you compare me or count me equal? To whom will you liken me that we may be compared?”* In the context, God spoke of other gods, but gold and silver themselves may be gods, especially in our modern world. What other gods are there in our modern world? Consider having all the wealth in the world, or all the political power in the world, or all the military might in the world: how would you compare these to God? What is the difference?

# Wednesday and Thursday

[**ISAIAH 46:8-11**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2046&version=NIV)

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1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [ISAIAH 46:8-11](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2046&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

This is a fairly long passage but it is basically a prophecy that God will call upon Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem. Note that at this point the Exile is nearly 200 years away.

1. *“Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels.”* This time how does God describe the Jews? How did they get to be regarded as such by God? In what way could you be a rebel?
2. *“Remember the former things, those of long ago;”* What can the Jews take from their history? What about you? Are there experiences in your walk with God that you should remember? Why is it so important to remember?
3. *“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.”* What is it about God that he wants the Jews to remember and be mindful of? What would this description of himself mean to you?
4. *“I say, ‘My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.’ From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.”* What is the key emphasis here? What does it mean to you that your God is such a God?

# Friday and Saturday

[**ISAIAH 46:12-13**](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2046&version=NIV)

Remember this is your time alone with God. It is a time to tell God what is on your mind (thinking back over the past day), listen to him speak to you (reading and meditating on a bible passage), and finally, to respond to him (prayer). The questions are there to help you do this. Ignore them if they do not help. If your time is limited, I suggest that you don’t do everything in one go but spread them over the two days.

1. Take time to be quiet so you can focus on your time alone with God. Recall and briefly write down any significant things that happened or occupied you the past day. Share with God what you thought or felt. Pray also for those he has laid on your heart.
2. Read [ISAIAH 46:12-13](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Isaiah%2046&version=NIV). Write down what you think the passage is about and what it says to you. Feel free to use the questions in “Further Thoughts” to help you think over the text.
3. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.

**Further Thoughts**

1. *“Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are now far from my righteousness.”* How does God describe the Jews this time? Would you qualify as well? In what ways?
2. *“I am bringing my righteousness near, it is not far away; and my salvation will not be delayed.”* How does God describe what he is doing (which in context is the return of Israel from Exile)? He also describes it as “salvation”. What is the relationship between God’s salvation and God’s righteousness?
3. *“I will grant salvation to Zion, my splendor to Israel.”* Here God links his salvation to his splendour. In what way is God’s act of salvation an act of bestowing his splendour?
4. Note that in these verses the emphasis is all on what God will do. In these verses, what are the Jews supposed to do? How does this truth impact you, in your own walk with God?

# Sunday

##### MY PURPOSE WILL STAND, AND I WILL DO ALL THAT I PLEASE

*“Listen to me, you descendants of Jacob, all the remnant of the people of Israel, you whom I have upheld since your birth, and have carried since you were born. Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you.”*

In all that God may say or do with Israel, he does not shrink from his commitment to them—the covenant he made with Abraham. This is not about them; it is about God.

And so God, through his prophet Isaiah, calls out to the Jews, and calls out to us as well, “Listen! Remember! Keep it in mind! Take it to heart! Listen!”

I am he, I am he who will sustain you.

I will sustain you and I will rescue you.

I am God, and there is no other;

I am God, and there is none like me.

I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.

My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.

What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.

Listen to the words of the One True God; bow down and worship him. Bring to him all your tears and sadness, your pain and sorrow, your sin and weakness, your need and desire, your prayer and petition.

*“I am bringing my righteousness near, it is not far away; and my salvation will not be delayed. I will grant salvation to Zion, my splendor to Israel.”*

1. Review the answers/thoughts you wrote down in the past week. Read the short sharing above. Does it add anything to your own thoughts?
2. What is God saying to you? Write down a prayer in response.