

ONE WORD

TAKING A B.I.T.E. OF ISAIAH 26 ONE WORD AT A TIME

To follow this Bible Interaction Tool Exercise (BITE), copy and paste your section/chapter of Scripture into a word processing document and double space it and make the right margin larger to give you room to write out your questions and observations. Circle one word in each verse and then write your annotations in the margin. There's no right or wrong way to do this. Here's my copy for you to reference.

Isaiah 26 – ESV - You Keep Him in Perfect Peace

26 In that day ^athis song will be sung in the land of Judah:

^b"We have a strong city; he sets up ^csalvation ^das walls and bulwarks.

simile: walls & bulwarks provide protection & support
salvation provides protection & support.

^eOpen the gates, that the righteous nation that ^fkeeps faith may enter in.

keeps faith implies ongoing commitment

^gYou keep him in perfect peace

whose mind is ^hstayed on you,
because he trusts in you.

ⁱTrust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock.

who is on us to trust... He is trustworthy... there is no end to Him & while so much is temporary He is not.

^jFor he has humbled
the inhabitants of the height,
the lofty city.

dust is where we began... it's like he's bringing the city, the people who thought much of themselves back to a form he could use

He lays it low, lays it low to the ground,
casts it to the ^kdust.

^lThe foot ^mtramples it,
the feet of ⁿthe poor,
the steps of ^othe needy."

When God lays us low we can still feel trampled

^pThe path of the righteous is ^qlevel;
^ryou make level the way of the righteous.

level x 2 - oh how a level path is peaceful to me

^sIn the path of your judgments,
O LORD, we wait for you;
^tyour name and ^uremembrance
are the ^vdesire of our soul.

What truly is the desire of my soul?
His name?
His remembrance? Yes, Lord! May it be so.

^wMy soul ^xyearns for you in the night;
my spirit within me earnestly seeks you.

Oh Lord, may my soul yearn for you

^yFor when your judgments are in the earth,
the inhabitants of the world ^zlearn righteousness.

how do we learn righteousness? It's not a gift it's something we learn & we learn it through God's judgments

^{aa}If ^{ab}favor is shown to the wicked,
he does not learn righteousness;
in the land of uprightness he deals corruptly
and does not see the majesty of the LORD.

this whole first phrase is interesting to me of course God shows His favor on the just & unjust, but that is not what leads to their learning of righteousness

^{ac}O LORD, ^{ad}your hand is lifted up, but ^{ae}they do not see it.
Let them ^{af}see your zeal for your people, and be ashamed.
Let ^{ag}the fire for your adversaries consume them.

↳ they don't even see... not even aware of God's favor or majesty... no acknowledgment at all.

^{ah}O LORD, you will ordain ^{ai}peace for us,

if they could see it would lead to repentance

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for you have indeed done for us all our works.

13 O LORD our God,

other lords besides you have ruled over us,

but your name alone we bring to remembrance

14 They are dead they will not live;

they are shades, they will not arise;

to that end you have visited them with destruction

and wiped out all remembrance of them.

15 But you have increased the nation, O LORD,

you have increased the nation; you are glorified;

you have enlarged all the borders of the land.

16 O LORD, in distress they sought you;

they poured out a whispered prayer

when your discipline was upon them.

17 Like a pregnant woman

who writhes and cries out in her pangs

when she is near to giving birth,

so were we because of you, O LORD;

18 we were pregnant, we writhed,

but we have given birth to wind. ← not new life... Wind... Shucks

We have accomplished no deliverance in the earth,

and the inhabitants of the world have not fallen.

19 Your dead shall live; their bodies shall rise.

You who dwell in the dust, awake and sing for joy!

For your dew is a dew of light

and the earth will give birth to the dead.

20 Come, my people, enter your chambers,

and shut your doors behind you;

hide yourselves for a little while

until the fury has passed by.

21 For behold, the LORD is coming out from his place

to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity,

and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it,

and will no more cover its slain.

Any accomplishment we may want to claim really comes from Him

I see this over & over in Scripture It's really important that we REMEMBER

Who are dead? The other lords... the idols

That's the thing... idols... the things we value most & allow to rule us are really dead. We believe they are fulfilling BUT GOD is the one who brings increase & enlarges the borders in our lives

vs 16 reminds me of what I studied in Jonah his distress was caused by disobedience... actually God discipline to call him back to the standard after disobedience

Sometimes discipline is painful... like SUPER painful... writhing is a strong word But birth leads to new life... right?

I REALLY tend to value my accomplishments & yet earlier I see all of those belong to God & the biggest accomplishment... deliverance cannot be done by us.

Jesus is referred to as light & all of us ground to dust are promised new life in Him

Those who belong to the lord are offered a refuge... a place to hide

The lord disciplines His own but punishes the children of iniquity... the wicked who cannot see