BIBLE READING LIST FOR JULY 17-23	
July 17 Micah 3-7	This week's reading begins to show vividly how the preaching of the prophets dealt with events current at the time. God's preachers do have a message for their generation. Second Chronicles and II Kings tell different sides of Hezekiah's reign, with Chronicles as usual emphasizing the spiritual side. The revival under Hezekiah is given in detail over chapters 29-31. The steps were: they went back to the Temple (church is important); they observed the Passover (church without Christ misses the point); they did away with idols (influence of the revived church upon society); leaders of the Temple and government were organized to ensure righteousness in the land—the reasons God instituted both the church and government. But Kings mentions the revival in four verses and turns to its effect on politics. Hezekiah revolted against giving tribute to Assyria and drove back the Philistines. But he faltered in his faith in the face of Assyrian pressure and tried to appease them by sending the gold the king required, even if he had to get it from God's house! The result was that Assyria sent troops to besiege Jerusalem. There is no point in compromising with the Devil or his world system. It will not stop his pressure and opposition. Hezekiah was victorious as long as he trusted God. Many great prophecies are written in this period, including the Book of Nahum. As Assyria was attacking, this prophet was foretelling the fall of Assyria—even though it was the unstoppable superpower of the time. About 150 years earlier, Jonah had gone there and they had repented. But they were now marked for judgment because they had forsaken that repentance and returned to wickedness. The psalmist likely also had Assyria in mind when he penned Psalm 48:4-6. But as you read in Isaiah this week, notice how he deals with the political reality of the time. In 14-20 he tells of judgment on Moab (south), Damascus (north), and Ethiopia and Egypt in Africa. These judgments came through Assyria, so he was foretelling their conquests. Also, in 28-29 he predicted the captivity of the North, using it as a warning to the South to get right with God. Chapter 21 is written later a year before the assault on Jerusalem as a warning. But 24-27 could comfort them with promises of the future Kingdom after a time of tribulation—a prophecy also for our day.
July 18 II Kings 18 Nahum 1-3	
July 19 Isaiah 14:28-19:25	
July 20 II Chronicles 29-30	
July 21 II Chronicles 31 Isaiah 20-22 Psalm 48	
July 22 Isaiah 23-26	
July 23 Isaiah 27-29	