

Treasure Hunt

- What are the two reasons for which people fast in the Old Testament?
- What two things were wrong with how people in Isaiah's day fasted?
- What two things does the Lord ask people to do to observe a godly fast?

Overview of Isaiah 58-66

False vs. True Worship	58:1-14	66:1-24
Indictment & Confession	59:1-15a	63:7-65:25
The Redeemer	59:15b-21	63:1-7
Zion's Glory (2fs)	60:1-22	62:1-12
The Redeemer	61:1-11	

Overview of Isaiah 58

1-5, Jacob's Failed
Worship

6-14, Three Descriptions
of True Worship

Speaker

The Lord

Isaiah

First Approximation...
refinement coming

<i>Condition</i>	<i>Promise</i>
6-7 Fast by caring for the poor	8-9a Light, Health, Righteousness The Lord shall answer
9b-10a Free the oppressed, feed the hungry	10b-12 Light The Lord shall guide thee
13 Keep the Sabbath	14 Delight I will cause thee to ride ... feed thee ...

Cf. James 1:27, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. "

Chiasm in 58:2

<i>Participation in Worship</i>	Yet they seek me daily,	they take delight in approaching to God.
<i>Attendance on Teaching</i>	and delight to know my ways,	they ask of me the ordinances of justice;
<i>Apparent spiritual health</i>	as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God:	

Fasting in the OT

Lev 16, Day of Atonement: “ye shall afflict your souls,” vv. 29, 31

To get God to do something:

Defeat of Israel before Benjamin, Jdg 20:26: Then all the children of Israel, and all the people, went up, and came unto the house of God, and wept, and sat there before the LORD, and **fasted that day** until even, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

Threat from the Philistines: 1Sa 7:6 And they gathered together to Mizpeh, and drew water, and poured *it* out before the LORD, and **fasted** on that day, and said there, We have sinned against the LORD.

After the death of Saul and his sons: 1Sa 31:13 And they took their bones, and buried *them* under a tree at Jabesh, and **fasted** seven days.

David, seeking the healing of his son: 2Sa 12:22-23 And he said, While the child was yet alive, I **fasted** and wept: for I said, Who can tell *whether* GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? 23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.

Ahab, when Elijah told him of coming judgment: 1Ki 21:27 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard those words, that he rent his clothes, and put sackcloth upon his flesh, and **fasted**, and lay in sackcloth, and went softly.

Fasting for Men, or for God?

Mat 6:16-18 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. 17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face; 18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

How Many Conditions and Promises?

Conditions

6 loose the wicked bands
7 feed the hungry



9b **If** ... take away the yoke
10a feed the hungry

13 **If** keep the Sabbath

Promises

8 **Then** ... thy light
9a The Lord shall answer ...



10b (Then) ... thy light
11 The Lord shall guide ...

14 **Then** ... I ... will feed thee

Fasting

Sabbath

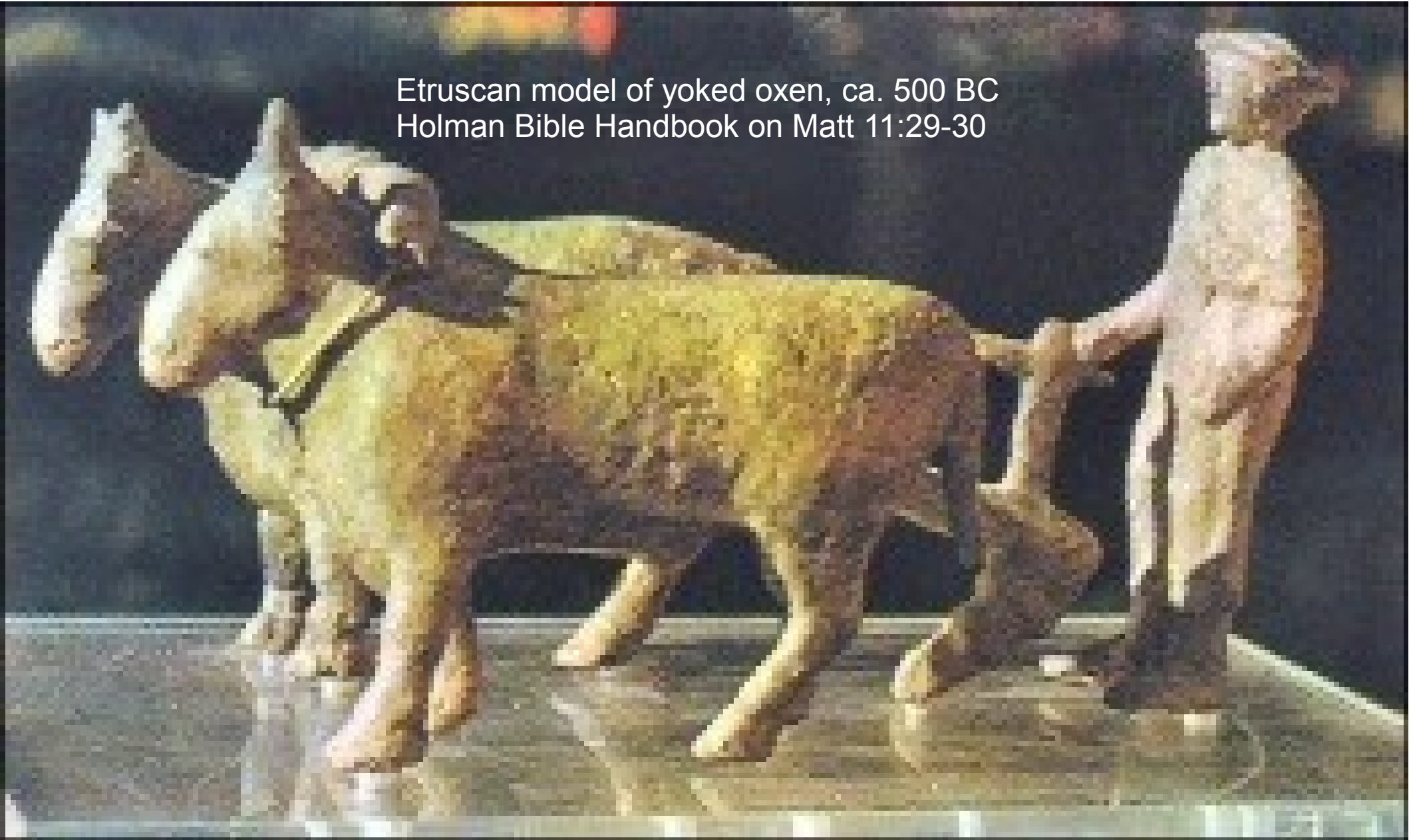
A Primitive Yoke

Contemporary Palestinian farmer
Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary, article "Yoke"



Another Yoke

Etruscan model of yoked oxen, ca. 500 BC
Holman Bible Handbook on Matt 11:29-30



The Works of the Righteous

Isa 58:7	Matt 25:35-40
7 <i>Is it</i> not to deal thy bread to the hungry,	35 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink:
and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house?	I was a stranger, and ye took me in:
when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him;	36 Naked, and ye clothed me:
	I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.
and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?	40 ... Inasmuch as ye have done <i>it</i> unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done <i>it</i> unto me.