

ISAIAH – Chapter 40

Chapters 40 through 66: While the first 39 chapters of the book are filled with messages of judgment, this section emphasizes restoration and deliverance.

Chapters 40-48: Deliverance from captivity in Babylon ends with “there is no peace for the wicked,” says the Lord. Isa. 48:22

Cyrus is the chief deliverer! Isa. 44:28-45:1

Chapters 49-57: The rejection and restoration of the suffering servant ends with “there is no peace...for the wicked,” says my God. Isa. 52:13-53:12

Chapters 58-66 The consummation of God’s restoration of Israel and the world.

The heart of this section is the coming of the Messiah, ch. 61-63.

HISTORICAL NOTE: God sent Sennacherib, king of Assyria, home in 701 B.C. 115 years of continued deterioration still lies ahead for Judah followed by a 70-year captivity in Babylon. Judah’s future is certain! God has a continuing plan for His people. As they live through these difficult times they will be able to review and remember the word’s of Isaiah and wait for their “renewal.”

Vs. 1-2 God begins by saying to His people that their time of trial is coming to an end. The 70-year captivity (the 2000-year dispensa) is spoken of as if it’s almost over. Judah’s captivity was like (will be like) the hardships of war.

Her sins are the cause of her suffering.

Her sin has been paid for.

God’s blessing awaits her.

Question: At this time in history who are “God’s people?”

Who is connected with Jerusalem?

Did He not come “unto His own” first! John 1:11

Without her (our) sins being paid for, God cannot bless. Rom. 3:24-26 (“her iniquity has been removed.” Rom. 11:25-36)

She had received from the Lord “double for all her sins.” Jer. 16:10-18 (Note: the nations of the earth – Babylon will also receive double for their sins, Rev. 18:1-8ff.)

Vs. 3-5 A voice is calling – John the Baptist. Mt. 3:1-4; Mk. 1:1-4; Lk. 1:76-78; John 1:23

– Isaiah calling the nation to repentance – immediate fulfillment.

Prepare the roadway for God – roll out the red carpet.

Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed:

- 1) first to the Apostles. John 1:1-5, 18; 2 Pet. 1:16-21; 1 John 1:1-4; Mt. 17:1-3
- 2) then to the whole world. Rev. 1:7

The mouth of the Lord has spoken this! Isa. 55:11; 34:16

Vs. 6-8 A second voice calls out (God or another created being) “call out”...probably directed to Isaiah.

- 1) All flesh is grass...surely; the people are grass, but the Word of God stands forever. John 10:35 (Ps. 82:6)
- 2) There is a difference between man and God.

People are temporary and they change.

God changes not, He never fails, and His Word endures forever.
- 3) A good truth to remember when your nation with its people are about to go into 2600 years of difficulty.

Vs. 9-11 Tell the towns of Judah and Jerusalem that their God is coming to Jerusalem. Zech 14:1-6; Rev. 19:11-21

- 1) With might – with His arm ruling for Him.
- 2) With Israel’s reward and recompense. Heb. 11:39-40
- 3) Like a shepherd. John 10:1-18; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25

ISAIAH – Chapter 40 (continued)

Vs. 9 Context

- 1) You have been saved – your iniquity has been removed, vs. 2.
- 2) Your warfare is behind you, vs. 2.
- 3) Your (our) God is coming to you, vs. 3.

When He comes, His glory will be revealed – all flesh will see it, vs. 5.

- 4) You can count on it – for the mouth of the Lord has spoken, vs. 5!

Text

Get yourself up to the highest point you can.
Shout out with all your might.
You have “good news” for the world.
Shout your message out – let them hear.
Let Judah listen.

Here is your God.

Vs. 10 Behold!

When the Lord God comes.

He will come with power.

With His arm ruling for Him. Isa. 51:5-6, 9-11; 52:10

He will come with reward...recompense.

Vs. 11 While His power and His might will be the experience of “the nations”; to those who belong to Him, He will be seen and will be experienced as a shepherd.

The same arm that is thrust out in power to those without...will gather the lambs and hold them close, gently leading them.

Here is your God...behold Him.

Vs. 12 The greatness of God can be appreciated when He is compared to His creation:

- 1) As to the waters found on planet earth. God can hold it all in the hollow of His hand.
- 2) As to the distance existing between the farthest sides (not yet discovered by man) of the universe, God marks the entire distance by measuring it as nothing more than the distance between His thumb and His little finger.

- 3) The entire ground beneath man's feet could be stored by God in a "basket" He has made.
- 4) All the mountains standing on our planet could be weighed out on a "small scale" coming from God's realm.

Vs. 13 All that is, ever has been, or ever will be, comes from the mind of God, from all eternity – who was "in the beginning" to direct His creating, offer Him council, or inform Him (He created it all, it is not we who are creating Him).

Vs. 14 With whom did He consult? Rom 11:33 - 36
Who gave Him understanding?

Justice, knowledge and understanding come from Him and do not stand apart from Him to judge Him.

Vs. 15a Behold, the nations:

- 1) A drop from a bucket.
- 2) A speck of dust on a scale.

Vs. 15b - 16 Behold:

- 1) The weight of the islands of the world is so insignificant when lifted up by Him, that their weight is not noticed.
- 2) The forest of Lebanon:
 - a) not enough lumber for a sufficient offering fire.
 - b) not enough animals for an acceptable burnt offering.

Vs. 17 All the nations of the earth individually or corporately are as nothing when placed before Him.

His assessment of them – less than nothing and meaningless.

Vs. 18-20 Take the God who IS and compare Him with the finest god man can make (an idol):

- 1) A craftsman casts it.
- 2) A goldsmith plates it with gold.
- 3) A silversmith fits it with chains so it can be "raised up."

The finest a rich man can make.

For the rest of us and what we can make – warning:

- 1) Be careful to pick a tree that won't rot while you worship it.
- 2) Make sure the craftsman who makes your God for you is careful to make it well enough that it won't fall over while you are worshipping it.

Vs. 21 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to you?
Have you not understood?

Vs. 22-24

- 1) It is the God of Israel who sits above the horizon (circle) watching His creation. Job 26:10; Prov. 8:27
- 2) From where He sits, men look like grasshoppers.
- 3) God stretches out the heavens. He created earth as the home for his crown of creation and then stretches (continuous action) out the heavens with the end result that man has a tent under which he dwells.
- 4) He sets up and removes rulers...He makes the judges of the earth (final say) meaningless.
- 5) Verse 24 – scarcely have the rulers and the judges of the earth been planted, sown, has their stock taken root in the earth?

He merely blows on them – they wither, they're gone.

Vs. 25 The question is asked again: Is there anyone or anything that compares with the God who both created and sustains it? Jn 1:10

Vs. 26 Consider the stars that cover the universe:

Stars – millions upon millions of them, all of them in motion being led by Him.

God has named every one of them. (Adam named the animals. There are too many stars and only God could have named them.)

The stars are out there because God maintains them. Heb. 1:3; Col. 1:17

Vs. 27 Why would God's own possession say?

- 1) God is not aware of us.
- 2) God doesn't know what we are living through.

Vs. 28 Do you not know?

Have you not heard?

God **never** ceases to be totally involved in the affairs of His children.
He knows what He is doing.

Vs. 29 He gives strength.

He increases power.

Vs. 30-31 Without removing His people from their circumstances knowing youths grow
weary and tired...

Knowing vigorous young men stumble badly (they do)...

Yet...