

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 42

Overview of chapters 40-66

There are two major sections in the book of Isaiah: chapters 1-39, and chapters 40-66.

We have now finished the first section. Tonight, we begin the second section. We start out with an overview.

Please refer to the handout “**Teaching Summary Complete for Orientation**”.

We first used this at the outset of our study of Isaiah. We return to it tonight. This time we will focus on:

#9 “*What is the scope of Isaiah’s prophetic vision?*”; and

#10 “*What is a good outline to follow?*”

There are relatively few historical references in chapters 40-66. Similarly, there are few direct statements that identify speaker and audience.

God knows and plans the future. These amazing prophecies in chapters 40-66 demonstrate this. These prophecies are supernatural revelation from God about His plans for the future.

One day the Lord will come in glory and power to redeem His people, transform nature, establish justice, and bring people from many nations into His kingdom – which will never end.

Chapter 40

Stepping across the threshold from chapter 39 to chapter 40, you find yourself in an utterly different place. Things have completely changed.

Let's read 39:5 through 40:5.

Let's look at some of the changes:

End of chapter 39	Beginning of chapter 40
Doom	Comfort & good news
Judgment	Grace & salvation
One voice pronouncing doom	A chorus of comforters (the 3 imperatives in verses 1-2 are all plural) Three voices in verses 3,6, & 9
One faithless nation	Embraces the whole world

Outline of chapter 40

Verses 1-11	The message of comfort
Verses 12-26	The majesty of the one and only God, the creator of all things
Verses 27-31	The Lord gives strength to the weary people who wait expectantly for Him

Let's read chapter 40 together.

Expanding verses 12-26: **"to whom will you liken God?"**

Nature? No! (verses 12-14)

The nations? No! (verses 15-17)

Idols? You're kidding me, right? (verses 18-20)

The refrain in verses 21-26:

Nature (verses 21-22)

Rulers (verses 23-24)

Angels (verse 26)

Verse 18 and verse 25 ask the same rhetorical question.

Verse 18 uses the third person “God”.

Verse 25 uses the first person “Me”.

Isaiah 40 in the New Testament

Isaiah 40	New Testament
Verses 3-6	Matthew 3:3 Mark 1:2,3 Luke 3:4-6 John 1:23
Verses 6-8	1 Peter 1:24, 25 James 1:10,11
Verse 9	Romans 10:15
Verse 10	Revelation 22:12
Verse 13	Romans 11:34 1 Corinthians 2:16