

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Series: The Book of Isaiah

Teaching Summary for Week 46

Chapter 40

Isaiah 40 in the New Testament

Isaiah 40	New Testament
Verses 3-5	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

Notes on individual passages

Verses 1-11 are eschatological. This means that Isaiah is prophesying about events in the far future – namely the message of salvation: the redemption of the nation and people and city of Jerusalem, the coming of the Messiah and the promised blessings of the Kingdom.

Verses 3-5:

The highway is for the LORD to travel on when He reveals His glory in a way that all mankind will see it. The New Testament identifies the “voice” in verse 3 as John the Baptist. (see table above – especially John 1:23). This confirms that these verses are speaking about the coming of the LORD Jesus Christ.

Verse 6: “all flesh” and “the people” both refer to the gentile nations.

Verse 10: the Lord’s reward -He will share the blessings of His work of salvation with His people.

Verse 12:

Consider the enormous size of the ocean. The billions of gallons of water.

Consider the vastness of the heavens. The trillions of miles

Consider the height and grandeur of the mountains. The tons of rocks and soil in each mountain, and the great mountain ranges of the earth like the Rockies, the Andes, and the Himalayas

Verses 13-14: Since we cannot grasp the measurements of the world, how can we possibly take the measure of God who created the world!!

Verse 15: contrast with verse 12. A drop from a bucket compared to the oceans. A speck of dust compared to the mountains and the stars.

Verse 18: There is nothing or no one in this universe that compares to the Lord God. Yet people today also act as if He does have rivals – the seemingly supernatural, powerful, and all-knowing. Such as:

Satan

Science

The “deep state”

The new world order

Big tech/Social media giants

China

Verse 24: Notice the similarity between this verse and verses 7-8.

Verses 25-26: If God can keep track of billions of stars, He will certainly keep track of each one of His chosen people!

Verse 29: see 2 Corinthians 12:8-10

Chapter 41

Outline of chapter 41

Verses 1-7	The LORD challenges the nations: Who controls history? Hint: Not your idols!
Verses 8-16	“Do not fear O Israel; I will help you”
Verses 17-20	Miracles in the desert: the Lord will provide water and shade for the needy.
Verses 21-29	The LORD’s case against the “gods”, their idols, and their worshippers.

Let’s read all of chapter 41 together.

It is the Lord who speaks throughout this entire chapter.

Verses 2-4: Again we have rhetorical questions. Again the question “Who?”

The answer is in 4b:

I AM THE LORD!

I AM THE FIRST

I AM WITH THE LAST

I AM HE!

Verses 5-7 describe the futility of idol-making.

Verses 8-16 are about “I” and “you”. “I” appears 18 times and “you” appears 24 times!

The powerful subject of this chapter:

I, the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.

He appears in verses 1,4,8,9,10,13,14,15,16,17,18,19,20, 25, 27, and 28! (phew!)

Verse 8 mentions the servant for the first time in chapters 40-66. There are two different servants in this portion of Isaiah. There is a nation – Israel – and an individual – Christ.

Verse 10: DO NOT FEAR; for I ...

- am with you
- am your God
- will strengthen you
- will help you
- will uphold you with My righteous right hand.

Verse 12 echoes 40:17.

Verses 11-12 concern Israel’s enemies

Those who	Will be
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Are angered at you	Shamed and dishonored
Contend with you	Will be as nothing and perish
Quarrel with you	Unable to be found
War with you	As nothing and non-existent

See also 38:17-24; 35:1-10

Verses 13-16 pick up where verse 10 left off

“Do not fear”

I am the LORD your God

And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel

Who upholds your right hand

I will help you!

See 37:20

Verses 17-20

For more passages on the miraculous and water, see 30:35 and 35:1-7. Both passages are speaking about the Messianic Kingdom.

Why will the LORD do these miracles?

So people will:

See ----→ Recognize ----→ Consider ---→ Gain Insight

That

The hand of the LORD has done this.

The Holy One of Israel has created it.

THE LORD versus the Idols

Compare with 40:18-20

Passage	Gentile king	The LORD	The idols
Verses 1-7	Sennacherib	What He HAS accomplished See also Isai 37:26-29	Impotence in the face of the attack See also Isa 21:9-10; 31:7; 36:18-20; 37:11-13, 18-19
Verses 21-29	Cyrus	He predicts what He WILL accomplish	SILENCE Does nothing

The LORD

Past	Present	Future
Accomplishments Fulfilled prophecy	Works	Predictions Will be fulfilled

Verses 21-29

The LORD is now speaking directly to the “gods”. But of course they cannot hear, so He actually is speaking to those who chose these idolatrous “gods” to be their gods.

An EXAMINATION for the “gods”:

Tell us the predictions you made that have been fulfilled

Predict the future

Accomplish anything, good or bad

{great big SILENCE } after verse 23

The VERDICT

Verse 24: the LORD provides the ruling:

You are NOTHING....

Your work is NOTHING

Your followers an abomination

Verse 25: Now I, the LORD, will make MY prediction! , which He will carry out 150 years later.

See also 2Chr 36:11-23; Ezra 1:1-4; Isa 44:38-45:7, 13 ‘ Jer 25:12; 50:1-3

Verses 26-29: there is NO one like the LORD!