



Christ in Isaiah: Through the first section of Isaiah, the Messianic prophesies highlighted the divinity and glory of the coming Messiah, while providing many titles that described His person and nature. In this week’s reading we come across four more prophesies. These prophesies are often called the “Servant Songs” because they poetically speak of the Messiah in terms of God’s perfect servant.

Israel is sometimes called God’s servant, but Israel often rebelled. The Messiah would be what national Israel never was—God’s perfect and wholly obedient servant. Sometimes the Servant Songs speak about the Servant; sometimes they are told from the voice of the Servant. All together, these poetic prophesies vividly describe the true nature, work, rejection, and victory of the Servant. They tell the story of Jesus!

The Ideal Servant: Isaiah 42:1-9

The Work of the Servant: Isaiah 49:1-13

The Submissive Servant: Isaiah 50:4-9

The Suffering Servant: Isaiah 51:13—52:12

Questions:

- Isaiah 40:3-5 is a prophecy about a Biblical person. Who is that person?

- What has the Lord put upon His chosen Servant? _____
- What type of song does Isaiah say to sing to the Lord? _____
- “When you pass through the _____, I will be with you; And through the _____, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the _____, you shall not be _____, nor shall the _____ scorch you.” (NKJV)
- Summarize the foolishness of idolatry that Isaiah discusses in Isaiah 44:9-20

- What is the name of the king who would deliver the Jews from captivity and commission the rebuilding of the Temple? _____
**EXTRA: Using a Bible dictionary, encyclopedia, or some other research tool, can you determine how many years before this man’s birth Isaiah prophesied his name and role in God’s plan?*
- What nation is discussed in Isaiah 47?
- Where in the New Testament is Isaiah 52:7 referenced? _____



Isaiah 40-53
“Besides Me there is no God”

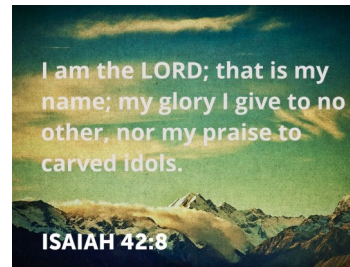
Overview

Isaiah 40 begins the “second” section of the book (ch. 40-66). From this point on, the primary focus and tenor of Isaiah’s message changes. The very first words of this section sum up the overall theme quite beautifully; “*Comfort, yes, comfort My people!*” (NKJV). This section of Isaiah focuses more on the deliverance of God’s chosen people—both their deliverance from pending Babylonian captivity, as well as the true deliverance that would be brought about through the Messiah.

Suggested Reading Schedule

- Monday: Isaiah 40-42
- Tuesday: Isaiah 43-45
- Wednesday: Isaiah 46-48
- Thursday: Isaiah 49-51
- Friday: Isaiah 52-53

While deliverance and redemption become a primary theme of this section, warnings against sin do not vanish. On the contrary, many warning passages are still found, especially against idolatry. Idolatry had played a huge role in Israel and Judah’s failures. As God prepares to redeem the people, He wants them to be fully aware of the awful nature of idolatry. He wants a people that is loyal and dedicated to Him and Him alone. Thus, as Isaiah proclaims God’s word, he highlights the great and powerful works of God; from His creative powers to His desire to redeem. Isaiah seeks to move the people to trust in God alone, and continues the earlier theme of blessing for those who “*wait upon the Lord!*” It is also in this section that some of the most vivid and poignant Messianic prophesies (the “Servant Songs”) are found.



Over and over again Isaiah stressed the folly of idolatry. The nations of the earth worshipped created images and imagined gods, and Israel had followed their example too many times. While God promises deliverance, He also makes it clear He will not tolerate idolatry. God’s power and glory are shown throughout Isaiah’s prophecy, particularly in this week’s reading. Isaiah speaks many times of God’s power in creation, God’s power to deliver, and God’s power of salvation. Compared to this, Isaiah

shows how foolish idolatry really is. We should pay careful attention to these passages. Idols take many forms, and not all are molded images. Money; family; careers; education; popularity—these are just a few things that can become idols in our lives. Whenever we place something else ahead of God, we commit idolatry, and we need to remember the fruitlessness of such wicked behavior.

Foolishness of Idolatry: *Isaiah 40:18-20; 41:20-29; 44:9-20; 45:20*

Only One God: *Isaiah 43:10-13; 44:6-8; 45:5-22; 46:9*



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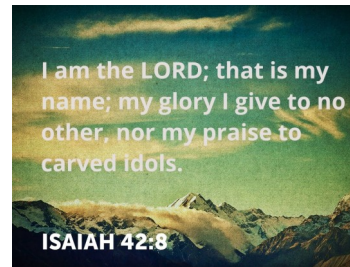
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