



PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

English Standard Version

Isaiah

Part 2

COMFORT MY PEOPLE

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English Standard Version

ISAIAH PART 2
COMFORT MY PEOPLE

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

ARTHUR, KAY; ARTHUR, DAVID; DE LACY, PETE

The New How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2010

The New Inductive Study Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2013

Hebrew Word Study Tools

(The following is a list of helpful Hebrew Word Study Tools:)

HARRIS, R. LAIRD; ARCHER, GLEASON L. JR.; WALTKE, BRUCE K.

Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament

Chicago, Illinois: Moody Press, 1980

VINE, W. E.; UNGER, MERRILL F.; AND WHITE, WILLIAM, JR.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words

Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985

RICHARDS, LAWRENCE O.

Expository Dictionary of Bible Words

Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan Publishing House, 1985

RECOMMENDED SOFTWARE

Logos Bible Software

Powerful search engines and up to 4,000 electronic Bible study resources (commentaries, lexicons, Bible dictionaries etc.) make it fast and easy to do simple and complex searches of multiple sources, then pull materials together for orderly presentation—excellent for word and topical studies based on English or original Hebrew and Greek. Available at www.logos.com.



LESSON ONE

Chapters Forty and Forty-One

THIS LESSON INCORPORATES The following located in the Appendix:
Observation Worksheets of Isaiah 1, 40, 41
Isaiah Timeline
“Isaiah at a Glance” chart
Cross-references
Word studies

COMFORT, O COMFORT MY PEOPLE

What a privilege—to be called by God to comfort His people, especially when you’ve also been the messenger of His displeasure and His forthcoming judgment.

If you did Isaiah Part 1 (chapters 1-39), you sensed its stern tone—like a father’s lecture before a spanking.

The tone of the second segment which we are about to study, chapters 40-66, is entirely different. It is more like *after* the whipping—when your Father takes you in His everlasting arms drawing you so close you can feel the beat of His heart as your head rises and falls with His every eternal breath.

DAY ONE

As we begin, I cannot help but stop and tell you how very thrilled I am that you are doing this segment of Isaiah. I would be so grieved if you missed this incredible portion of Isaiah. It is so filled with truths you need to make it through the days ahead. And it’s filled with promise. Do you realize that no other Old Testament prophet is quoted more in the New Testament by the Son of God than Isaiah?

Over the past two years, I have spent hours, days, weeks in these chapters simply basking in the Word of God—hanging on His every word. And how it has paid off as my life has taken some surprising and difficult twists and turns! I can honestly say that it is all joyously manageable because I know that I know to an even greater depth who God is and what is to come when the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Christ.

I am so excited for you! You are going to be so equipped, so strengthened, so readied for the days ahead as you gain a deeper understanding for yourself of what it means that God is your Lord, your Holy One, your King—and there is no other. And there doesn’t need to be!



1. In preparation for our study of Isaiah 40 and 41 this week, I want us to read the Observation Worksheet of Isaiah 1 in the Appendix. It will put you in context for the second segment of Isaiah. Read Isaiah 1 and color-code the key subjects in broad segments of color. This will help you focus on the big picture.
 - a. the *Lord* in yellow
 - b. *Israel* in blue
 - c. *sin* (*disobedience, failure, hypocrisy, etc.*) in brown
 - d. references to *the future* in pink.
2. Look at where you marked *Israel*. What is their condition?
3. Now, let's make sure you know the essential who and when of the book of Isaiah. Read Isaiah 1:1-2. Note below the answers to these W's.
 - Who is speaking and for whom?
 - To whom? Who does this vision concern?
 - When is it given?
4. Look at the Isaiah Timeline foldout at the end of this book.
 - a. Note where the kings mentioned in Isaiah 1 appear on the timeline.
 - b. Read Isaiah 6:1 and 14:28. Who among those mentioned in Isaiah 1:1 dies? Write their names.
 - c. Now read Isaiah 39:1-8. Write the name of the king of Judah at this time and the name of the foreign power who visits him. Also note what Isaiah says is going to happen with respect to this foreign power and Israel. (By the way, Isaiah 36-39 focuses on a portion of this king's reign)



- d. Finally look at the timeline and list the dates of the three stages of Judah's captivity.

- e. Does Isaiah prophesy before or after the captivity?

Great! You are ready for Isaiah 40 tomorrow. Just remember, faithful student, this is only a nine-week commitment. You can do it. In the days and months and years to come you'll find it an investment that will pay great dividends for your future.

DAY TWO

Our desire for you, Beloved, in doing this study is to have *you* encounter God—for *you* to hear and know what these chapters *say*. There are so many different interpretations of Isaiah, approaches, understandings, suppositions, that we can easily become confused. We rush to “the meaning”—to another's insights—and miss the message. Has anyone ever said to you, “But that is not what I said!”? This can happen with God also. I wonder how often we misunderstand God simply because we did not hear what He said? Or because we listened to someone else's opinion of God and life?

Our goal over these next nine weeks is to have you hear God. To savor His words. To know what He says. And then to patiently wait for understanding to come.

Therefore our one goal will be to immerse ourselves in the text. With it will come an unfolding of truth—in His time. Like the opening of a bud, petal after petal reveals the shape and beauty of the flower until you stand in delight beholding the wondrous and delightful center of its being. The center will be Messiah—the Lord's servant, the Redeemer—in all His wonder.

So relax. Enjoy the revelation and breathe deeply the sweet aroma of the fragrance of the Messiah, the Christ, whom God will name *Jesus*.

1. Before observing Isaiah 40, make a bookmark with the following key words and color-code them the way you want to mark them. You could use the back of the perforated card on the back cover of your Precept book. Marking suggestions for some frequently used words are on the front of the card. **Key words** are repeated words that help to unlock the meaning of the text. If removed, the text would lose its meaning. The bookmark will become your ready reference for Isaiah Part 2, so make it big enough to add more words as you go along. *For those of you who want extra help in marking, we've given you some suggestions as to how you might mark the words. Note we said they are “suggestions.”*



- a. *Jerusalem, Zion* (diamond colored blue)
 - b. the *nations* (colored green and underlined in brown)
 - c. *iniquity, sin* (color it brown)
 - d. *comfort* (pink cloud)
 - e. *glory* (do not mark *glorious, glorified, etc.*)
 - f. any references to *the coming of the Lord* (purple cloud colored light blue with yellow center)
 - g. *idol* (big **I** in black over the i of idol)
 - h. *wait (waits)* You want to observe what God says about waiting and those who wait.
 - i. *Creator (created, Maker, any reference to God as the Creator)* This is very important as this is a predominant theme in reference to God.
 - j. You might want to color all references to *God*. (See front of key word card for a marking suggestion.) Doing that and then seeing what you learn from each occurrence helps you develop your systematic theology on the person of God.
 - k. *fear* (Watch for the phrase “Do not fear.”)
2. Now, do your observations on Isaiah 40. Begin by talking to the Author. Tell Him you want to hear what He’s saying, that you don’t want to miss a single truth He has for you. Observation Worksheets for Isaiah 40 are in the Appendix.
 - a. Mark the key words on your bookmark including synonyms and pronouns. If you have done this before, you know marking key words helps you focus on and retain what God is saying.
 - b. Mark all references to time in a distinctive way. See the front of your bookmark for a marking suggestion.
 - c. Double underline in green all geographical locations.
NOTE: You’ll want to mark all references to time (when) and geographical locations (where) throughout your study. If you are new to Precept Bible studies and need a reminder to mark these, put them on your bookmark.
 - d. As you observe the text, if something speaks to your heart, write **LFL** (Lessons for Life) in the margin and write down what you learn for yourself. By the way, I started using a good pencil—it mobilizes my notes! I can erase and/or move them without a hassle.
 3. Now, look at what you’ve marked. Choose one of the words you marked. What do you learn from its use in the text? Does it answer any of the 5 Ws and an H: who, what, when, where, why and how? For example, look at what you learn from marking *comfort*.
 - a. Who is to be comforted?



- b. Who is giving the order? Who says they need to be comforted?
 - c. What brought or created the need for comfort?
 - d. How are they to be comforted?
 - e. Now look at the other words you marked and see what you observe about them.
4. One last insight. As you observe the second half of Isaiah, you are going to notice that God often combines Jacob and Israel indicating that the entire nation is still before Him; He hasn't abandoned the Northern Kingdom although by this second segment of Isaiah they have gone into captivity. The captivity happens in the sixth year of Hezekiah, king of Judah, the ninth year of Hoshea, king of Israel. Isaiah 36-39 occurs after the Assyrian captivity of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

The combination of Jacob and Israel which appeared several times in Isaiah 1-39 greatly increases in Isaiah 40-66. You might want to mark this, or at least pay attention to it.

Don't want you to be worn out, so call "time" when you are ready. There's more to be learned tomorrow. As you bring your study time to a close, why don't you talk to God about what you've observed—your questions—what He brings to your heart. By the way, it's always good to talk to Him aloud; it helps keep you focused.

Thank you again for wanting to discover truth for yourself. It's a sanctifying process—and an answer to Jesus' prayer (John 17:17) for you as He prepared to die on the cross for your sins. By the way, it was His death that enabled you to have an "in-resident" Comforter! Read John 14:16. The word Comforter or Helper is "Paracletos" in Greek and is used for one called alongside another to help or comfort.

Can you hear His heartbeat for you?

DAY THREE

1. After you pray, read Isaiah 40 so you can go over the text again and review your markings.
2. Now, read through Isaiah 40:1-11. Underline every reference to speaking, a voice, *lifting up your voice, cry, saying*. Then thoroughly answer the questions that follow.



- a. What is to be spoken in 40:1-2?
 - b. What is the voice crying in Isaiah 40:3-5? Or to put it another way, what is it saying?
 - c. What is the cry, the message of Isaiah 40:6-8?
 - d. Now who is to speak in Isaiah 40:9-11, what is the message and to whom is it to be spoken?
 - e. Think through your observations regarding these voices (messages). Do any of them have anything in common? If so, what?
3. Do a word study on the Hebrew word for *glory* in verse 5.



- a. What do you learn from marking references to the revelation of the Lord's glory, the Lord God coming in Isaiah 40:1-11?
 - b. Do you get any possible insight on the reference to the glory of the Lord in Isaiah 40:5 when you compare it with John 1:14? Write out your insights.

4. Let's do some cross-referencing. Note what you observe when you compare Isaiah 40:3-6 with:
 - a. Malachi 3:1 and Malachi 4:5-6

 - b. Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:1-3; Luke 3:4-6 and John 1:23 (If God repeats this in all four Gospels, how important do you think it is?)

 - c. Next to Isaiah 40:3-5 (and you may want to do this in your Bible also), write **Jesus**, then the time in Jesus' life or ministry the prophecy refers to and list the New Testament references. **Do this throughout this study. You will be awed at what you see.**



5. Compare Isaiah 40:10 with Revelation 22:12. What do you observe? (Once again write **Jesus** in the margin, list when in Jesus' ministry this will happen, and put the New Testament reference.)

6. Now read Isaiah 40:12-31. Record below what is dealt with in each paragraph. You want to see what God is doing at this point. Consider who God is speaking to and what He has said so far in this chapter.
 - a. Isaiah 40:12-17

 - b. Isaiah 40:18-20 (watch the contrast in this paragraph)

 - c. Isaiah 40:21-23

 - d. Isaiah 40:24-26

7. In Isaiah 40:12-26, through a set of questions and statements, God causes His people to think about who He is. Then comes Isaiah 40:27-31. What is God bottom-lining and for whom?



8. Once again in Isaiah 40:31 God speaks about waiting on Him. Waiting isn't easy, is it? We are people of action. People who want what we want now. And what can get us past the impatience? It's what we have seen—remembering who God is!

Wait, *qavah*, in the Hebrew means “to look for, hope, expect...to wait or look eagerly for.”¹ Think about Isaiah 40:31 in light of this.

If you did Isaiah Part 1, you looked at references to waiting on God. It would be good to look at a couple of those again and be reminded of why we are to wait and/or what happens to those who wait on God. Record what you learn from each of them.

a. Isaiah 25:9

b. Isaiah 33:2



9. Why don't you consider memorizing Isaiah 40:31? Write it down on a card and read it out loud three times in succession at three different times of the day. Saying it aloud nine times a day will soon make it yours for keeps. Then the Spirit of God will have it to bring to your remembrance when you need to wait on God—to hope in Him alone. He is enough!
10. Record the main theme of Isaiah 40 on the “Isaiah at a Glance” chart in the Appendix under chapter themes. This will become an invaluable chart helping you to see the content and flow of material in Isaiah. (By the way, if you don't know how to do this, look it up in the book, *How to Study the Bible*.²)
11. Finally, let's think “application.” What has God done in your mind and in your heart? Has He spoken to you to any way? Brought questions to your mind? Stirred your heart? What have you heard (learned) from listening to His voice? And what difference might it make if you live in the light of it? Would it change anything? Would it please God? Talk to God about it.

¹ James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible: Showing Every Word of the Text of the Common English Version of the Canonical Books, and Every Occurrence of Each Word in Regular Order*, electronic ed. (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship, 1996). H6960.

² You may buy this book by going to your local bookstore, or by going online to www.precept.org or calling 800-763-8280, or by writing to PO Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218.



DAY
FOUR

1. Observe Isaiah 41 today. Add the following to your key word bookmark and mark them along with those words already on your bookmark:
 - a. *servant*—note who the servant is and what you learn about him.
 - b. *Redeemer*—*redemption*, *redeemer*, and *redeemed* are key words in this second segment of Isaiah. You don't want to miss a single reference.
 - c. *righteousness* (*righteous*, *righteously*)
 - d. *chosen*
 - e. *declare* (in any form when it is a declaration of God)
 - f. *listening*, *hearing* or *not hearing*. I usually mark it with an ear like this  and then put a slash through it if they are deaf or unhearing, refusing to listen.
 - g. If you did Isaiah Part 1, you know that *the Holy One of Israel* is used only of God in the book of Isaiah with the exception of several places outside the book—in Psalms (about 3x), Jeremiah (2x), and once in 2 Kings 19:22. Therefore it is good to mark it in a distinctive way.
 - h. *water(s)* (*rivers*, *streams*, *thirst*, *thirsty*) I mark it with a blue line like waves above the word:  water.
 - i. *what is to happen*, *what is coming*—terms that talk about future things — underline in a distinctive color.
2. Now read Isaiah 41 again. Make sure you marked all references to time and geographical locations. Look up the Hebrew word for *Redeemer*. References to redemption and a redeemer are going to become predominant in this second segment of Isaiah, therefore you want to pay attention to its usage and meaning. Write out the Hebrew word along with its definition. If you're not sure how to do a word study, check the book, *How to Study the Bible*, or ask your leader or another student to help you.
3. Now, as we bring today to a close, think about what is happening in Isaiah 41 and its relationship to Isaiah 40. Record the theme of Isaiah 41 on the At a Glance chart.



You are doing well, Beloved. One more day and you will have finished your first week of study. Are you awed at what you are learning about God? Is this your Father? Are you living accordingly?

DAY
FIVE

1. After you seek God in prayer for His help in understanding Isaiah, read Isaiah 40 and 41. Watch the flow of the text and think “context,” the setting of Isaiah 41. Let’s see what is happening—what God is doing. Note what happens in the following verses:
 - a. Isaiah 41:1

 - b. Isaiah 41:2-4

 - c. Isaiah 41:5-7

 - d. Isaiah 41:8-16

 - e. Isaiah 41:17-20—Let’s look at this passage this way and then you can write after it your explanation of what’s happening.
 - 1) verse 17—What is the condition?

 - 2) verses 18-19—the answer?



3) verse 20—the end result?

Are you in a similar condition, Beloved? Any insight into what to do? believe? cling to?

f. Isaiah 41:21-24

g. Isaiah 41:25-29

2. Now, review what you have just written and think through what God is doing in Isaiah 41 and why. *Why* is important. Israel is God's covenant nation (remember His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and his descendants); a nation He will never abandon although He has to chasten them. What does God want them to see, to know, to do? Think about it, Beloved.

3. Now, as you saw in Isaiah 41:1, God first addresses the coastlands. Who—what are the coastlands? They are mentioned more in Isaiah than any other



book of the Bible. If you watch the parallelism³ in 41:1 and 5, it is evident they refer to all peoples—clear to the ends of the earth. If so, they include you, your people. So what do you learn from Isaiah 41 about the coastlands? How are they described? What are they doing? What is God’s message to them? What will happen to them? You may want to list your observations.

4. Now who is contrasted in Isaiah 41 with the coastlands, and what is the difference between the two? Think about it. What is the major point God is making in this chapter?

5. God says He has stirred up one from the east (41:2) and one from the north (41:25). Does the text tell you who these are? If not, don’t speculate—wait. **Stay away from commentaries at this point as they are going to simply state their opinions.** We can look at it later. Just see what God wants you to know now. Don’t miss His point: it is not *who* it is; He would have made it clear if it were crucial for you to know it. Rather, why does He speak of arousing someone from the east, the north? Who is He speaking to each time? What does He want “them” to know?

³Hebrew poetry many times contains “parallelism” between one line or section and the next line or section. An idea is expressed a second time or added to in the next line or section, or one idea is contrasted with another.



6. Idol is on your bookmark. Although the word *idol* itself is not used in this chapter, if idols are referenced, mark them and then see why or how they are referenced and what you learn.
7. Finally, diligent one, in God's lesson for Israel, is there a lesson for you? An application? Is the God of Israel God of the church? of those who have believed in Messiah? What then does this mean to you—today...and tomorrow? Is there anything that has usurped the place of God in your life? Could it be considered an idol? Write out your application so you can see it in black and white and think about it.

You have just completed your first lesson! I'm proud of you. Press on!



ISAIAH 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

THE vision of Isaiah the son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

- 2 Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth;
for the LORD has spoken:
“Children have I reared and brought up,
but they have rebelled against me.
- 3 “The ox knows its owner,
and the donkey its master’s crib,
but Israel does not know,
my people do not understand.”
- 4 Ah, sinful nation,
a people laden with iniquity,
offspring of evildoers,
children who deal corruptly!
They have forsaken the LORD,
they have despised the Holy One of Israel,
they are utterly estranged.
- 5 Why will you still be struck down?
Why will you continue to rebel?
The whole head is sick,
and the whole heart faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head,
there is no soundness in it,
but bruises and sores



and raw wounds;
they are not pressed out or bound up
or softened with oil.

7 Your country lies desolate;
your cities are burned with fire;
in your very presence
foreigners devour your land;
it is desolate, as overthrown by foreigners.

8 And the daughter of Zion is left
like a booth in a vineyard,
like a lodge in a cucumber field,
like a besieged city.

9 If the LORD of hosts
had not left us a few survivors,
we should have been like Sodom,
and become like Gomorrah.

10 Hear the word of the LORD,
you rulers of Sodom!
Give ear to the teaching of our God,
you people of Gomorrah!

11 “What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?
says the LORD;
I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
and the fat of well-fed beasts;
I do not delight in the blood of bulls,
or of lambs, or of goats.

12 “When you come to appear before me,
who has required of you
this trampling of my courts?



- 13 “Bring no more vain offerings;
incense is an abomination to me.
New moon and Sabbath and the calling of convocations—
I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly.
- 14 “Your new moons and your appointed feasts
my soul hates;
they have become a burden to me;
I am weary of bearing them.
- 15 “When you spread out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers,
I will not listen;
your hands are full of blood.
- 16 “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil,
- 17 learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the fatherless,
plead the widow’s cause.
- 18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be as white as snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.
- 19 “If you are willing and obedient,
you shall eat the good of the land;
- 20 but if you refuse and rebel,
you shall be eaten by the sword;
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”



- 21 How the faithful city
has become a whore,
she who was full of justice!
Righteousness lodged in her,
but now murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become dross,
your best wine mixed with water.
- 23 Your princes are rebels
and companions of thieves.
Everyone loves a bribe
and runs after gifts.
They do not bring justice to the fatherless,
and the widow's cause does not come to them.
- 24 Therefore the Lord declares,
the LORD of hosts,
the Mighty One of Israel:
"Ah, I will get relief from my enemies
and avenge myself on my foes.
- 25 "I will turn my hand against you
and will smelt away your dross as with lye
and remove all your alloy.
- 26 "And I will restore your judges as at the first,
and your counselors as at the beginning.
Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness,
the faithful city."
- 27 Zion shall be redeemed by justice,
and those in her who repent, by righteousness.
- 28 But rebels and sinners shall be broken together,
and those who forsake the LORD shall be consumed.



- 29 For they shall be ashamed of the oaks
that you desired;
and you shall blush for the gardens
that you have chosen.
- 30 For you shall be like an oak
whose leaf withers,
and like a garden without water.
- 31 And the strong shall become tinder,
and his work a spark,
and both of them shall burn together,
with none to quench them.



ISAIAH 40

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

COMFORT, comfort my people, says your God.

- 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
- 3 A voice cries:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 "Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
- 5 "And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
- 6 A voice says, "Cry!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All flesh is grass,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades
when the breath of the LORD blows on it;
surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.



- 9 Go on up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”
- 10 Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
- 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.
- 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand
and marked off the heavens with a span,
enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure
and weighed the mountains in scales
and the hills in a balance?
- 13 Who has measured the Spirit of the LORD,
or what man shows him his counsel?
- 14 Whom did he consult,
and who made him understand?
Who taught him the path of justice,
and taught him knowledge,
and showed him the way of understanding?
- 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
and are accounted as the dust on the scales;
behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.
- 16 Lebanon would not suffice for fuel,
nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.



- 17 All the nations are as nothing before him,
they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.
- 18 To whom then will you liken God,
or what likeness compare with him?
- 19 An idol! A craftsman casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and casts for it silver chains.
- 20 He who is too impoverished for an offering
chooses wood that will not rot;
he seeks out a skillful craftsman
to set up an idol that will not move.
- 21 Do you not know? Do you not hear?
Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- 22 It is he who sits above the circle of the earth,
and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers;
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,
and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
- 23 who brings princes to nothing,
and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
- 24 Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown,
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,
when he blows on them, and they wither,
and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- 25 To whom then will you compare me,
that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
- 26 Lift up your eyes on high and see:
who created these?
He who brings out their host by number,
calling them all by name,



by the greatness of his might,
and because he is strong in power
not one is missing.

- 27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
- 28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The LORD is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
- 29 He gives power to the faint,
and to him who has no might he increases strength.
- 30 Even youths shall faint and be weary,
and young men shall fall exhausted;
- 31 but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;
they shall run and not be weary;
they shall walk and not faint.



ISAIAH 41

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- LISTEN** to me in silence, O coastlands;
let the peoples renew their strength;
let them approach, then let them speak;
let us together draw near for judgment.
- 2 Who stirred up one from the east
whom victory meets at every step?
He gives up nations before him,
so that he tramples kings underfoot;
he makes them like dust with his sword,
like driven stubble with his bow.
- 3 He pursues them and passes on safely,
by paths his feet have not trod.
- 4 Who has performed and done this,
calling the generations from the beginning?
I, the LORD, the first,
and with the last; I am he.
- 5 The coastlands have seen and are afraid;
the ends of the earth tremble;
they have drawn near and come.
- 6 Everyone helps his neighbor
and says to his brother, “Be strong!”
- 7 The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith,
and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil,
saying of the soldering, “It is good”;
and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved.



- 8 But you, Israel, my servant,
Jacob, whom I have chosen,
the offspring of Abraham, my friend;
- 9 you whom I took from the ends of the earth,
and called from its farthest corners,
saying to you, “You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
- 10 fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.
- 11 Behold, all who are incensed against you
shall be put to shame and confounded;
those who strive against you
shall be as nothing and shall perish.
- 12 You shall seek those who contend with you,
but you shall not find them;
those who war against you
shall be as nothing at all.
- 13 For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, “Fear not,
I am the one who helps you.”
- 14 Fear not, you worm Jacob,
you men of Israel!
I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD;
your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.
- 15 Behold, I make of you a threshing sledge,
new, sharp, and having teeth;
you shall thresh the mountains and crush them,
and you shall make the hills like chaff;



- 16 you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away,
 and the tempest shall scatter them.
And you shall rejoice in the LORD;
 in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.
- 17 When the poor and needy seek water,
 and there is none,
 and their tongue is parched with thirst,
I the LORD will answer them;
 I the God of Israel will not forsake them.
- 18 I will open rivers on the bare heights,
 and fountains in the midst of the valleys.
I will make the wilderness a pool of water,
 and the dry land springs of water.
- 19 I will put in the wilderness the cedar,
 the acacia, the myrtle, and the olive.
I will set in the desert the cypress,
 the plane and the pine together,
- 20 that they may see and know,
 may consider and understand together,
 that the hand of the LORD has done this,
 the Holy One of Israel has created it.
- 21 Set forth your case, says the LORD;
 bring your proofs, says the King of Jacob.
- 22 Let them bring them, and tell us
 what is to happen.
Tell us the former things, what they are,
 that we may consider them,
 that we may know their outcome;
 or declare to us the things to come.
- 23 Tell us what is to come hereafter,
 that we may know that you are gods;



- do good, or do harm,
that we may be dismayed and terrified.
- 24 Behold, you are nothing,
and your work is less than nothing;
an abomination is he who chooses you.
- 25 I stirred up one from the north, and he has come,
from the rising of the sun, and he shall call upon my name;
he shall trample on rulers as on mortar,
as the potter treads clay.
- 26 Who declared it from the beginning, that we might know,
and beforehand, that we might say, “He is right”?
There was none who declared it, none who proclaimed,
none who heard your words.
- 27 I was the first to say to Zion, “Behold, here they are!”
and I give to Jerusalem a herald of good news.
- 28 But when I look, there is no one;
among these there is no counselor
who, when I ask, gives an answer.
- 29 Behold, they are all a delusion;
their works are nothing;
their metal images are empty wind.



ISAIAH AT A GLANCE

Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes	
Judah and Jerusalem's sin, coming judgment, and restoration	DISCOURSES REGARDING JERUSALEM	GOD'S CHARACTER AND JUDGMENT	1 You've despised the Holy One of Israel
Isaiah's vision and calling			2 In the last days the nations come to Zion
Judgment of Ephraim, then Assyria/Israel's restoration			3 God's pending judgment on Jerusalem
Oracles of judgment against nations	ORACLES		4 The branch of the Lord will be beautiful
			5 Woe to the vineyard of the Lord
			6 Isaiah's vision, confession, and commission
			7 Ahaz told of Assyrian attack and Immanuel
			8 Spoil of Samaria will be carried away but God is with us
			9 Light for those in darkness—a Child is born/His anger
			10 Lord will punish king of Assyria/A remnant will return
			11 A shoot from Jesse/A highway for the remnant
			12 God is my salvation: The Holy One is in our midst
			13 Oracle re: Babylon—used and destroyed by God
			14 Taunt against king of Babylon (Oracle against Philistia)
			15 Oracle re: Moab
			16 Moab's wailing
			17 Oracle re: Damascus/Events in that day
			18 Word to Cush (Ethiopia)
			19 Oracle re: Egypt and its future faith
			20 Assyria will lead away captives of Egypt and Cush
21 Oracles re: wilderness of sea, Dumah, and Arabia			
22 Oracle re: Valley of Vision/Key of David			
23 Oracle re: Tyre			
Destruction of earth/Lord will reign on Mount Zion	DISCOURSES REGARDING THAT DAY		24 When the Lord makes the earth desolate
			25 When the Lord's hand rests on the mountain
			26 The path of the righteous
			27 The day He punishes the Leviathan



Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes	
Woes/the coming King and Kingdom	WOES	GOD'S CHARACTER AND JUDGMENT	28 Proud crown of drunkards of Ephraim/Cornerstone to be laid in Zion
			29 I will distress Ariel/Zion
30 Stubborn children who carry out their own plan			
31 Woe to those who go to Egypt—Turn to Him			
32 When the King reigns in righteousness			
33 Those who live with the consuming fire, who behold the King in His beauty			
Promises for the future re: the King, Edom, the	GOD'S RANSOM		34 God's judgment on the nations and Edom
			35 God's recompense comes/Ransomed walk Way of Holiness
	HISTORICAL INTERLUDE		36 Rabshakeh asks Hezekiah to surrender Jerusalem
			37 Hezekiah's prayers and God's promise
		38 Hezekiah's illness, prayer, and deliverance	
		39 Hezekiah receives Babylonians/Isaiah prophesies Babylon's conquest of Judah	
	DISCOURSES REGARDING:	40	
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Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes
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	DISCOURSES REGARDING:	57
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