

ISAIAH

COMMENTARY

Chapter 41:

GOD foretells of the coming of one from the east (vs. 2) and the north (vs. 25) who would conquer all the nations and would be feared far and wide. Cyrus the Persian (later mentioned by name by Isaiah over 150 years before he reigned!) came from a land north-east of Judah and was the fulfillment of this prophecy.

In spite of all of this, God tells His people that He will bless them and will restore them to prosperity. Those who had punished Judah (Assyria and Babylon) would be destroyed.

God challenges the idols to foretell the future. They can't because they have no power and only HE, therefore, is worthy of man's service.

Chapter 42:

God tells of the coming of the Messiah. The Messiah will bring justice and care for the weak and afflicted. He will do the will of God.

God is to be praised because of the greatness of His power. He has demonstrated His power through His destruction of nations and lands. Those who fail to trust in Him will be ashamed that they have trusted in powerless idols, instead!

God speaks of the punishment that He will inflict on His people. He will discipline them because of their failure to listen and obey His message.

Chapter 43:

God reminds Judah that He had called them to be His people. He had protected them time and again. Even after they have been scattered (happened during the reign of Assyria [in Israel], and the reign of Babylon [in Judah]) God would gather all the exiles together again in the Promised Land (accomplished during the days of Cyrus the Persian).

God will demonstrate that He alone is the true God, for no other "god" could foretell these events or overcome Him.

God, for the sake of His people, will destroy the nation of Babylon (who has yet to come into power and has yet to afflict Judah). God tells Judah to think of how He's going to be providing in the days ahead, rather than dwelling on past deliverances.

Despite all that God has done, His people refuse to worship and serve Him. Because of their stubbornness, He will put them to shame!

Chapter 44:

God gives the people of Judah hope, stating that He will restore and bless His people and they will learn to serve Him.

He goes on to remind them that He is the only true God. No other god has the power to foretell the future. The idols are just man's creations and cannot provide for its' makers. God shows the folly of worshipping such man-made gods.

God calls for His people to return to Him. He has redeemed them and will restore the ruins of their land. God mentions Cyrus by name (150 years before he comes into power) and how He will use Cyrus to restore Jerusalem and the temple (which have yet to be destroyed!)

Chapter 45:

God promises to deliver the nations into the hands of Cyrus the Persian, even

though Cyrus will not acknowledge God. God will bless Cyrus. People will see the power of God and what He can do. They are in no position to question His ways. Those who have opposed Him (such as the Egyptians) will be conquered; while God's people are spared. In those days people will see the power of God and will find that their false gods are powerless. God then calls for all men to turn to Him and to submit to Him. Those who oppose, will be put to shame.

Chapter 46:

God again shows the fallacy of trusting in man-made gods. When Cyrus comes, the numerous gods of Babylon will be of no help. They will be carried off as loot; powerless to protect even themselves! Yet, God will care for His people. He will sustain and rescue them. He alone foretells what is to come. He has called for Cyrus (from the east) to come and carry out His will. God will deliver His people!

Chapter 47:

Though God used Babylon to discipline His people, the Babylonians have gone too far. They have mistreated God's people and are trusting in their sorcery and idols to become an everlasting Kingdom. God judges their pride and will humiliate and destroy them. He foretells that their destruction will come on a single day (vs. 9-- Babylon was captured in one night as they were all over-indulging and the Persians marched into the unprotected city and palace and destroyed them!). None of their gods or sorceries will prevent this, say the Almighty God!

Chapter 48:

God describes His people as having been stubborn. He explains that the purpose of the prophecies is to insure that Judah will recognize His power when they come to pass. The reason that He is preserving a remnant is so that He will not be maligned because He could not save. God continues to remind His people of His greatness and how they would have prospered, had they served Him faithfully. The coming kingdom of Babylon, God will one day overthrow. In that day all of the Jewish prisoners will be allowed to return home. God had always provided for His people in the past, and He will continue to do so!

Chapter 49:

God lays out how He will restore Israel and will call even the Gentiles (non-Jews) to come and worship Him. He will restore the land and bless His people again. The Messiah that He sends will be the one who will turn the hearts of Judah back to God and who will bring the Gentiles to serve God.

Chapter 50:

God describes how He has cast away His people because of their sin. He is powerful enough to save and restore them, if they would turn to Him and rely on His power. The Messiah will trust in God, and even though He will be afflicted, He will continue to trust in God. Because of this, God shall deliver and exalt Him. Those who continue to trust in their own efforts, shall be destroyed.

Chapter 51:

God calls for His people to remember how He had blessed their forefather Abraham, who had been obedient. In the same way He will eternally

bless and restore all who are righteous and trust in Him. They will call upon Him, and He will comfort and deliver them. They shall dwell in His presence forever.

God speaks as to the wrath that He will pour out on His people and how that wrath will come to an end. Then He shall pour out His wrath on those who had mistreated His people!

Chapter 52:

God calls for the people to rejoice in the day that He returns them from captivity. The Promised Land will be re-inhabited and will become prosperous again.

The Messiah, though disfigured and marred (at time of trial and crucifixion) will be exalted and raised up and all nations will look upon Him and will understand the plan of God.

Chapter 53:

The Messiah will come and be a "SUFFERING SERVANT". As this chapter unfolds, it is clear that it speaks of the trial, crucifixion and glory of Christ. The Messiah would go through such suffering for the sake of bearing the sins of men and making it possible for men to have eternal life. Because of His willingness to suffer, God will exalt Him!

Chapter 54:

Even though God will punish His people and cast them away, He will gather them together again and bless and protect them. He foretells of the glory that they will enjoy and how there will be nothing for them to fear.

Chapter 55:

God calls for all men to come to Him and He will provide. Never again will they lack as they follow the Messiah and learn how to live for God. They will reject sin and learn the thoughts of God. His Word shall cause blessing and shall transform those that it touches. These will then live forever!

STUDY GUIDE

ISAIAH 41

1. What will God do for the one from the east? (vs. 2)
2. Why was Judah not to fear or be dismayed? (vs. 10)
3. What does God challenge the idols to do? (vs. 23)

ISAIAH 42

1. What will God's chosen one do? (vs. 3)
2. What has God done? (vs. 5)
3. To whom, would the Servant be a light? (vs. 6)
4. Who handed Jacob over to become loot? (vs. 24)

ISAIAH 43

1. How does God describe Himself in verse 3?
2. What will God do to Babylon? (vs. 14)
3. What had Israel burdened and wearied God with? (vs. 24)
4. What does the Lord do for His sake? (vs. 25)

ISAIAH 44

1. What will God pour out and upon what? (Vs. 3)
2. Who are nothing and What is worthless? (vs. 9)
3. Who would call for Jerusalem and the temple to be rebuilt? (vs. 28)

ISAIAH 45

1. Why would God bless Cyrus? (vs. 3,6)
2. What does God say about His people? (vs. 17)
3. What does the Lord call for men to do? (vs. 22)
4. What will all men do? (vs. 23)

ISAIAH 46

1. What will happen to the idols and images? (vs. 1,2)
2. What will God do for His people? (vs. 4)

ISAIAH 47

1. What did Babylon do to God's people? (vs. 6)
2. How quickly would the Babylonians be overtaken? (vs. 9)

ISAIAH 48

1. What is God? (vs. 12)
2. What would have resulted had they obeyed Gods' commands? (vs. 18)

ISAIAH 49

1. What would God's servant do? (vs. 6)
2. What does the Lord do for His people? (vs. 13)

ISAIAH 50

1. What would the Messiah do? (vs. 6)
2. What should those in the dark, do? (vs. 10)
3. What will happen to those who trust in their own light? (vs. 11)

ISAIAH 51

1. Who did God tell them to look to as examples? (vs. 2)
2. What will happen to the heavens and the earth? (vs. 6)
3. What will last forever? (vs. 6)
4. What will happen when God's people go to the place prepared? (vs.11)

ISAIAH 52

1. What is beautiful on the mountains? (vs. 7)
2. What will happen to God's servant? (vs. 13)
3. Why would many be appalled at God's servant? (vs. 14)

ISAIAH 53

1. How is the servants appearance described? (vs. 2)
2. How is He described in verse 3?
3. What would He allow to happen? (vs. 4,5)
4. What are we like? (vs. 6)
5. How did he face death? (vs. 7)
6. What would He do? (vs. 11,12)

ISAIAH 54

1. How would God bring back His people? (vs. 7,8)

ISAIAH 55

1. Who does God call for to come? (vs. 1)
2. Who would be summoned? (vs. 5)
3. When are we to seek the Lord and call on Him? (vs. 6)
4. What happens when one turns to the Lord? (vs. 7)
5. What are higher than our ways and thoughts? (vs. 9)
6. What will not happen and what would happen to God's word? (vs. 11)