

- 1 Be concise.** Please share your thoughts and answers, but be considerate so that others will have time to share their answers also. Be charitable and kind. Be willing to share with the group, but do not try to dominate the conversation. Use the time after the class to find help with any personal issues or problems you may be confronting in your life.

“Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.”  
(James 1:19–20)

- 2 Be thoughtful with your answer.** Consider your words. Do not simply regurgitate what you have always heard. We have the tendency to speak in “Christianese” — words that only people who grew up on the pews would understand. Think about how your words will be heard by others. Will they understand what you are saying? Is what you are about to say going to be useful for the building up of the faith of others? Or will your words be confusing, cause hurt, or worse, damage someone’s faith? Speak without harshness or anger, but with kindness and humility.

“Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”  
(Ephesians 4:29)

- 3 Rely on the scriptures for truth.** It is easy to rely upon conventional, worldly wisdom as truth. Bible study is about seeking God’s answers for our lives, not dispensing the advice of the world. We must consider that our natural answers may be the wrong answers if they are not founded on God’s word.

“For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.”  
(1 Corinthians 1:25)

1. How has Isaiah concluded the previous prophetic section (Isaiah 39:6)? What is the message to the people as chapter 39 ends?
2. What is the new message to the people (40:1)?

What is encouraging about what God says in the first verse? (cf. Exodus 6:7; Genesis 17:7-8)

3. What are the three aspects of the tender message (40:2)? What will happen in the future? (Remember the prophet speaks of these things in the past tense, not because it has happened, but because it is so certain to occur in the future that it is as if it has already occurred — the prophetic perfect)

Explain each of the three aspects:

#### HERALD #1 (40:3-5)

4. What is the voice crying (40:3)? What does this mean?

**KEY:** Remember “the wilderness” represents the nation being separated from God and his blessings and covenant (cf. Isaiah 27:10; 32:15-16; 35:1,6)

5. What is the condition of Israel so that the cry in 40:3 is “in the wilderness?”
6. Where is this passage quoted and fulfilled in the New Testament? What was John’s message to Israel?
7. What is Isaiah calling for the people to do in verse 4?
8. What will the people see (40:5)? Why is this important? When would this be fulfilled (cf. John 1:14-18)?

#### HERALD #2 (40:6-8)

9. What are people (“flesh”) compared to (40:6)? What happens to the grass, according to the text?
10. What is permanent (40:8)? Therefore, where should be put our hope?

**KEY:** The word translated “beauty” (ESV), “loveliness” (NASB, NKJV), “goodness” (HCSB) is the Hebrew word “hesed” which refers to steadfastness, loyalty, and devotion. It is the same word used in the Old Testament to speak of God’s “steadfast love” or “faithful love.”

Therefore, the NIV translates: “All people are like grass, and all their **faithfulness** is like the flowers of the field.”

11. Based on the above key, what is the message about our faithfulness and loyalty to God? What is the message about God’s faithfulness and loyalty to us?

12. This is quoted in 1 Peter 1:22-25. What is the message to us?

13. This imagery is also quoted in James 1:11-12. What is the message to us?

14. Therefore, what is our hope to be founded on (40:8)?

**HERALD #3 (40:9-11)**

15. What is the “good news” (gospel), according to verse 9?

16. Describe how God is going to come (40:10-11).

17. What are the people to do because of this (40:9)? What does this teach us? How can we fulfill this call to us?

18. How does this herald in verses 10-11 fit what Jesus said about himself in John 10:1-21? Who is Jesus?

19. Summarize the heralds. What is the comfort to the people?

## **ISAIAH 40:12-14**

1. What characteristics of God are being emphasized in these verses?

## **ISAIAH 40:15-17**

2. What characteristics of God are being emphasized in these verses?

## **ISAIAH 40:18-20**

3. What characteristics of God are being emphasized in these verses?

## **ISAIAH 40:21-26**

4. What characteristics of God are being emphasized in these verses?

## **ISAIAH 40:27-31**

5. What characteristics of God are being emphasized in these verses?

6. What does verse 29 teach us to do?

7. What does verse 31 teach us to do?

8. What will be the result for us?

9. How are we to “wait” during life’s difficulties and suffering circumstances?

1. What are the peoples of the earth called to do (41:1)?
2. What is God doing (41:2-4)? Who is in charge over the events of the earth from generation to generation? What should this do to our faith? How should it change our behavior?
3. How do people handle trouble and uncertainty (41:5-7)? What are their idolatrous actions? How do we commit the same sins?
4. How are God's people to be different (41:8-13)? What does God promise to do?
5. How are we to see ourselves before God (41:14)? What will God do for his people (41:15-20)? What does this mean?
6. What are God's promises and actions to cause us to do (41:17)? Why does God care for his sinful people (41:20)?
7. Can any of our idols do what God has promised (41:21-29)? What life changes must be make?

1. What two things will God do for his servant (42:1)? What does this mean?
2. What does it mean that God delights in his servant (42:1)? What does this mean for us?
3. What will the servant do (42:1)? How will the servant accomplish this task (42:2-4)? What do these things mean? Where is this quoted in the New Testament? What lessons do we learn?
4. Explain God's description of himself (42:5). Why does God say this here?
5. Notice the call of the servant. Explain what these tasks mean:  
"I will give you as a covenant for the people"  
  
"A light to the nations"
6. What will the servant do (42:7)? Why is important? What do we learn about our condition?
7. What do we learn about God in verse 8? What does this teach us? What must we do knowing this truth?
8. Why must the people sing a new song (42:10)? What does this mean?
9. What must the peoples do (42:11-12)? What is our life purpose?
10. How is God going to go out (42:13)? What will God do?
11. What is God going to do (42:14-16)? What is the glorious message being presented? How does this tie to the servant of God?
12. What are the consequences for trusting in idols (42:17)?

**ISAIAH 42:18-25**

1. What is the problem with Israel? What are the people supposed to learn?
2. What was the Lord pleased to do (42:21)? Why?
3. Did the people learn (42:22-25)?

**ISAIAH 43:1-7**

4. What is God going to do (43:1)? What do we learn about God from this?
5. What does God promise in verse 2? What do we learn from this?
6. What is God's stance toward his rebellious people (43:4)?
7. What is God going to do (43:5-7)?

**ISAIAH 43:8-13**

8. What is God's purpose?
9. What is the argument made against idolatry?

**ISAIAH 43:14-21**

10. What is God pictured doing for his people? Where have we seen this imagery in Israel's history before?
11. But how is this event going to be different than the one in the past (43:18-19)?
12. What is the purpose of God's people (43:21)?

# ISAIAH

# 43:22-44:5

## **ISAIAH 43:22-28**

1. Why did the people not call on the Lord?
2. What have the people not done?
3. How have the people burdened God? Consider the significance of this statement.
4. What is the character of God (43:25-26)?

## **ISAIAH 44:1-5**

5. Why should the people not fear? What is God going to do?
6. Look at the context. What does it mean that God will pour out his Spirit? Is there anything miraculous described in this paragraph?
7. What would the people experience when the Spirit is poured out according to this text?
8. After the Spirit is poured out, what will the people do? What does this mean?



1. What is God trying to teach the people by describing himself in 44:6-8? What is the contrast between God and idols?
2. What is the value of idols and what is the value of the person who makes idols (44:9-10)?
3. What will happen to the person who creates idols (44:11)?
4. Describe the foolishness and absurdity of idolatry (44:12-20). What is the sarcastic humor God uses?
5. What are the idols that we struggle with in our lives? Just because we do not have statues in our homes does not mean we have idols. Honestly evaluate what you trust in and desire in life that may be idols of the heart.
6. What is God's promise (44:21-23)? What is to be our response?

1. Describe the power of God's word. When God speaks, what happens (cf. Genesis 1)?
2. What does God say he speaks and confirms (44:24-28)? What is going to happen to Israel?
3. Who is going to be the leader/king who will fulfill God's purpose (44:28-45:1)? Who is this person? When did he fulfill this prophecy in history?
4. Why is God going to do these things (45:2-7)?
5. What are people warned not to do with God (45:8-13)?
6. What reversal will happen to Israel (45:14a)? Since this did not happen physically in history, what is this prophecy picturing? What will the people of the world do (45:14b-17)?
7. Who will receive the opportunity for salvation (45:20-25)?

Notice that Isaiah pictures that the salvation of the Jews will cause the Gentiles to desire salvation. Do we see this fulfilled in the book of Acts?

1. What do people have to do with their idols (46:1-2)?
2. What has God done with his people (46:3-4)?
3. What makes God different from idols and false gods (46:5-11)? List and explain all the different points God makes.
4. Contrast the faithfulness and righteousness of God with the character of Israel described in 46:12-13. Why is God continuing to keep his promises and his word so amazing?
5. The wrath of God against Babylon is described in chapter 47. Write down the sins listed in this chapter for which God will judge them.
6. Which of these sins are seen in our own country? Which of these sins are seen in our own lives? What can we do to fight and overcome these sins?

1. What sin of the people is identified in 48:1-2?
2. How does God describe the character of his people (48:3-5)? What did God do because this was their character?
3. What is God doing (48:9-11)? Why is he doing this? What is one of the reasons that motivates God to act?
4. What is God's appeal in verses 12-13?
5. What is God going to do (48:14-16)?
6. What is God's cry to the people (48:17-19)? What would have happened if the people had obeyed? Explain.
7. What will God accomplish for the people (48:20-21)? What does the imagery remind you of in Israel's history? What is going to happen again?

1. Who is speaking in Isaiah 49:1-6?
2. What is the first thing the servant calls for (49:1)? Why?
3. What did the Lord make the servant (49:2)? Read Revelation 1:16 and Revelation 19:15 to see this in vision form.
4. Explain how the servant can now we be called Israel in verse 3. To help, consider John 15 and John 1:47.
5. What does the servant think of his work (49:4)? What is his hope?
6. What is the purpose of the servant (49:5)?
7. What else is the servant to do (49:6)?
8. Read Acts 13:44-49 where this passage is quoted. Who does Paul apply this prophetic text to? What does this mean for us?

1. Describe the servant in 49:7.
  
2. What will be the work of the servant according to 49:8-13?  
  
Where is verse 8 cited in the New Testament? What is the meaning there?  
  
Where is verse 10 cited in the New Testament? What is the meaning there?
  
3. Who will be coming into the kingdom during this time of restoration (49:12)?
  
4. What will be the result of the servant's work (49:13)?
  
5. What do the people think God has done toward them (49:14)?
  
6. Explain God's response to their concern (49:15-18).
  
7. What will this restoration look like (49:19-21)?
  
8. What is God's message to the people in 49:22-23?
  
9. What will God do to the enemies (49:24-26)?
  
10. Has God forsaken his people (50:1-3)? What is the hope for this people?

1. What has the Lord given the servant (50:4)? Explain the picture.
2. How is the servant pictured in 50:5-6? Read Matthew 26:66-68 and Matthew 27:27-31 for the New Testament fulfillment.
3. Though the servant is struck, what is the hope and vindication of the servant (50:7-9)? Will the servant forsake his mission in the face of his suffering?
4. What call is made to the people (50:10-11)?
5. What does it mean to walk in the darkness? What are those who walk in darkness supposed to do?
6. Look at John 8:12 and John 9:39-41. What does Jesus bring?
7. What will happen to those who follow by their own light (50:11)? Consider Proverbs 16:25.

**There are three promises made in the first eight verses of chapter 51.**

1. What promise does God make in 51:1-3? Explain.
2. What promise does God make in 51:4-6? Explain.
3. What promise does God make in 51:7-8? Explain.
4. What does Isaiah (or the people) pray for God to do in 51:9-11? What are the people looking for?
5. What is God's response to this prayer (51:12-16)? What will God do?

**There are two comfort declarations made in the rest of this section.**

6. What comfort does God give in 51:17-23? What is the hope for the people?
7. What comfort does God give in 52:1-10? What is the hope for the people?
8. What is the result from God's work (52:11-12)? Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18 to see a New Testament fulfillment of this prophecy.



1. What will the servant do (52:13)? What will God accomplish with the servant?
2. How will the people respond to the servant (52:14)?
3. What will the servant do (52:15)?
4. Will the people believe the message of the servant (53:1)?
5. Why will the people not receive the servant's message (53:2-3)?
6. What will the servant do (53:4-6)? What will this accomplish for the people?
7. What will happen to the servant (53:7-9)? Will what happens to the servant be just and right?
8. Who ultimately did this to the servant (53:10)?
9. What will be the result of the servant's suffering (53:10-12)?

Isaiah 54 continues to describe the results of the work of the servant. We should not be distracted by the chapter break. Isaiah's prophetic message continues.

1. What will happen through the servant's work (54:1-3)? How is this the fulfillment of the covenant promises made to Abraham?
2. Because of the work of the servant, what will God do for his people (54:4-8)?
3. What was the covenant made with Noah? What covenant does God make with his people (54:9-10)? Why is Noah used to confirm this new covenant?
4. What will God do for his people in this covenant (54:11-12)? Read Revelation 21:10-21 to see the New Testament picture of this prophecy.
5. What will God do for his people in this covenant (54:13)? Read John 6:43-45 to see the New Testament fulfillment of this prophecy.
6. What will God do for his people in this covenant (54:14-17)? Read Romans 8:31-34 to see the New Testament fulfillment of this prophecy.

Isaiah 55 continues to describe the results of the work of the servant. We should not be distracted by the chapter break. Isaiah's prophetic message continues.

1. Who is invited? What does it cost? (55:1)
2. Explain the question being asked in verse 2. What is God trying to get his audience to consider?
3. What are the first things the people must do in order to receive the invitation (55:2-3)?
4. What will God make with these people (55:3-4)? How does David fit into this picture?
5. Explain verse 5. What is going to happen with the arrival of the Messiah?
6. What is the call for the people to do (55:6-9)? What are the benefits of making this exchange? Why should we want to make this change?
7. Explain verses 10-11. What is God's message to the people? Can God do what he has promised? How does this give you hope for your life and your difficulties?
8. What will be the result in the lives of those who accept the invitation (55:12-13)?

Isaiah 56 continues to describe the results of the work of the servant. We should not be distracted by the chapter break. Isaiah's prophetic message continues.

1. With the knowledge of what God is going to do through the servant, what must the people do (56:1-2)?
2. Who is this glorious offer extended to (56:3-6)? What is being offered?
3. Why will eunuchs and foreigners keep the Sabbaths (5:4,6), especially when these promises would be fulfilled after Christ came? For help, read Deuteronomy 5:12-15 and consider what the Sabbath law represented.
4. How will the eunuchs have a house, a monument, a name, and a family better than a physical family after Christ comes? Consider Matthew 12:46-50; Revelation 3:5,12.
5. What will be the result that God will accomplish for these people (56:7-8)? What will the people desire to do (56:7-8; cf. Isaiah 2:2-3)?
6. Jesus quotes Isaiah 56:7 as recorded in Matthew 21:13, Mark 11:17, and Luke 19:46. How does Jesus use Isaiah's prophecy to make his point? What was Jesus' message to the people?

1. Describe the sins of the leaders (56:9-57:2). What are they doing wrong for which God condemns them? What lessons do we learn for a godly leadership in our churches today?
2. What are the people condemned for in 57:3-13?
3. What is the heart of the people to do (57:8-10)? What warning do we learn from this for our idolatry? How does this help us see what idols we have in our lives?
4. What is the message of 57:11-13?
5. What hope does God give (57:14-21)? Contrast 57:14 with Isaiah 40:3. What is the difference between these pictures?
6. How does God describe himself (57:15)? What do we learn about God? What is amazing about our God?
7. What is amazing about what God says he will do (57:17-19)?
8. But what will become of the wicked (57:20-21)?

1. What is the hypocrisy of the people that God sees (58:1-3)?
2. Why does God not accept the people's worship and outward devotion (58:3-5)? Does God merely want external acts (58:5)? What lessons do we learn from this for us today?
3. What does God desire for the people to do (58:6-8)? What will be the result of they will do what God desires (58:8-9)?
4. What more does God call for the people to do (58:9-12)? What promise does God make to the people if they will do this?
5. What more does God call for the people to do (58:13-14)? What should be their heart toward worship?
6. How does God describe himself (57:15)? What do we learn about God? What is amazing about our God?
7. Jesus taught this concept in the New Testament in Matthew 6:21. What did Jesus teach and how is it the same message as here in Isaiah? Does God want us to treat his law and his worship as obligation and duty?

1. Does God have the power to save a person or nation from any circumstance (59:1; cf. Numbers 11:23)?
2. Then why will God not save the people (59:2-8)? Describe all the things God says sin does (59:2-3).
3. What are the sins of the people (59:3-8)? The apostle Paul quotes some of these sentences in Romans 3:15-17. What was Paul's message to us?
4. What is our condition before God (59:9-15)? What are we supposed to understand about ourselves (59:12-13)?
5. What was God's response (59:16-19)? What does God say he will do? Could any person save us?
6. Who will the Redeemer come for (59:20)?
7. What is God's covenant with the people (59:21)? What does this look like for us today (cf. Romans 8:9-17)?

1. What is the hope for the world (60:1-3)? Look at Ephesians 5:7-14 and explain how Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in the New Testament according to the apostle Paul.
2. Who will come to Zion (60:4-9)? What will they bring? How is this a contrast to what is about to happen to Israel in a few years for their sins?
3. What will the nations do (60:10-16)? Did this happen in the days of Nehemiah or is this looking at a spiritual rebuilding? Explain your answer.
4. How will Zion be transformed (60:17-22)? Read Revelation 21:22-27 to see the New Testament picture of this.
5. What will God's people now glory/boast/rejoice in (60:19; cf. 1 Corinthians 1:31; 2 Corinthians 10:17; Galatians 6:14)?
6. What will God do for his people (60:21)?



Isaiah 61 gives us the opportunity to hear from the Servant.

1. What is the task given to the anointed servant (61:1-3)?

This imagery has its roots in the year of jubilee that we read about in Leviticus 25. The freedom that is described here is the same Hebrew word used in Leviticus 25:10. It is not a commonly used word in the scriptures, found only in Jeremiah 34 and Ezekiel 46:17. Listen to the declaration concerning the year of jubilee: "And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants." Leviticus 25 goes on to talk about how this was the year of redemption. The people could redeem their property and land that they had lost because of their debts they incurred. It was a year of harvest. It was the year of redemption. It was the year of restoration. Isaiah calls this time "the year of the Lord's favor" (61:2). In Isaiah 49:8 we read similar imagery which was also called "the time of favor" and "a day of salvation." The prisoners will be released and those in darkness will be brought out (49:9).

2. What else is proclaimed besides the day of the Lord's favor (61:3)?
3. Read Luke 4:16-21. Explain what Jesus teaches and why is this so important. What is Jesus saying about himself and about his work?
4. What will be the result of the year of the Lord's favor (61:4-7)?
  - What will we do (61:4)?
  - What will be now be called (61:6; cf. 1 Peter 2:9)?
  - What will we have (61:6-7)?
5. What is the Lord's response (61:8-9)?
6. What is our response (61:10-11)?

1. How will Zion be different (62:1-5)?
2. How will our relationship with God be changed (62:3-5)? Hebrews 13:5-6 pictures this promise of God continue on for all his children.
3. What does God tell the watchmen to do (62:6-9)? Consider how God tells us to do likewise in the New Testament (Luke 18:7; Philippians 4:6; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2).
4. What are the people to do (62:10-12)?
5. What is the Lord's proclamation (62:11-12)?
6. Who do the people see (63:1-6)? How is he pictured? What has he done? Turn to Revelation 19:11-21 to see another picture of this in the New Testament.
7. Who is the servant judging in Isaiah 63:1-6? Who is the servant judging in Revelation 19-20?

1. What are the people supposed to remember (63:7-9)? Write down the various descriptions that show God's love for us and connection to us.
2. What are the people warned against doing (63:10-14)? Turn to Ephesians 4:30 to see the New Testament command of this idea. Based on Isaiah and Ephesians, what does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit?
3. What does God tell the watchmen to do (62:6-9)? Consider how God tells us to do likewise in the New Testament (Luke 18:7; Philippians 4:6; Romans 12:12; Colossians 4:2).
4. What is Isaiah's prayer to God for (63:15-19)? What he is asking of God?
5. Explain Isaiah 63:17. How did God make them wander from his ways and harden their heart?
6. What is Isaiah asking God to do in Isaiah 64:1-4?
7. What is the confession of the people (64:5-7)? What does God think of our righteous deeds? What does this mean?
8. What is the hope of the people (64:8-12)?

1. What is God's call to the people (65:1-7)?
  
2. What have been the sins of the people (65:1-7)? What will God do anyway?
  
3. Despite all of these sins, how do the people perceive themselves (65:5)? How do we make the same mistake?
  
4. What does God promise (65:8-10)?
  
5. What is the outcome for those who forsake the Lord (65:11-12)?
  
6. What will the servants of God do (65:13-16)?
  
7. How radical of a reversal will happen (65:17-25)? What pictures are used to show how different things will be?
  
8. What is God describing? Consider 2 Corinthians 5:17-19 and Galatians 6:14-15 for a similar picture.
  
9. Consider 2 Peter 3:13 and Revelation 21:1 for more similar New Testament pictures.

1. What will be the heart of the people under the new covenant (66:1-2)?
2. Stephen quotes this passage in Acts 7:49-50 (cf. 1 Kings 8:27). What is the point Stephen is making?
3. What does the heart of the false worshipers look like (66:3-6)?
4. What is God's message in 66:7-14? What is the hope for the people?
5. What else is God going to do (66:15-17)? Parallel this to the New Testament message in Matthew 3:11-12.
6. What will God do with the nations (66:18-19)? What is being pictured happening under the new covenant?
7. What will all the earth do (66:20-23)?
8. What else does God promise to do (66:24)? Read Mark 9:42-48 for a similar picture. What was Jesus describing?

# ISAIAH



COMFORT, COMFORT MY PEOPLE,  
SAYS YOUR GOD

CHAPTERS 40-66  
SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

by: Brent Kercheville

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