

PRECEPT
UPON
PRECEPT®

Isaiah

Part 2

COMFORT MY PEOPLE

PRECEPT UPON PRECEPT®

ISAIAH PART 2
COMFORT MY PEOPLE

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HELPFUL STUDY TOOLS

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

How to Study Your Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 1994/2010

The New Inductive Study Bible—New American Standard Bible

Eugene, Oregon: Harvest House Publishers, 2000

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, calling out, saying. Then thoroughly answer the questions that follow.

- a. What is to be spoken in 40:1-2?

 - b. What is the voice calling out in Isaiah 40:3-5? Or to put it another way, what is it saying?

 - c. What is the call, 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 40:21-26

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.

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:

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.

- 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 going to take place*, *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

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.

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 aroused 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?

ISAIAH 1

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

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

- 2 Listen, O heavens, and hear, O earth;
For the LORD speaks,
“Sons I have reared and brought up,
But they have revolted against Me.
- 3 “An ox knows its owner,
And a donkey its master’s manger,
But Israel does not know,
My people do not understand.”
- 4 Alas, sinful nation,
People weighed down with iniquity,
Offspring of evildoers,
Sons who act corruptly!
They have abandoned the LORD,
They have despised the Holy One of Israel,
They have turned away from Him.
- 5 Where will you be stricken again,
As you continue in *your* rebellion?
The whole head is sick
And the whole heart is faint.
- 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head
There is nothing sound in it,
Only bruises, welts and raw wounds,
Not pressed out or bandaged,
Nor softened with oil.

- 7 Your land is desolate,
Your cities are burned with fire,
Your fields—strangers are devouring them in your presence;
It is desolation, as overthrown by strangers.
- 8 The daughter of Zion is left like a shelter in a vineyard,
Like a watchman’s hut in a cucumber field, like a besieged city.
- 9 Unless the LORD of hosts
Had left us a few survivors,
We would be like Sodom,
We would be like Gomorrah.
- 10 Hear the word of the LORD,
You rulers of Sodom;
Give ear to the instruction of our God,
You people of Gomorrah.
- 11 “What are your multiplied sacrifices to Me?”
Says the LORD.
“I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams
And the fat of fed cattle;
And I take no pleasure in the blood of bulls, lambs or goats.
- 12 “When you come to appear before Me,
Who requires of you this trampling of My courts?
- 13 “Bring your worthless offerings no longer,
Incense is an abomination to Me.
New moon and sabbath, the calling of assemblies—
I cannot endure iniquity and the solemn assembly.
- 14 “I hate your new moon *festivals* and your appointed feasts,
They have become a burden to Me;
I am weary of bearing *them*.
- 15 “So when you spread out your hands *in prayer*,
I will hide My eyes from you;
Yes, even though you multiply prayers,
I will not listen.
Your hands are covered with blood.

- 16 “Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean;
Remove the evil of your deeds from My sight.
Cease to do evil,
- 17 Learn to do good;
Seek justice,
Reprove the ruthless,
Defend the orphan,
Plead for the widow.
- 18 “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the LORD,
“Though your sins are as scarlet,
They will be as white as snow;
Though they are red like crimson,
They will be like wool.
- 19 “If you consent and obey,
You will eat the best of the land;
- 20 “But if you refuse and rebel,
You will be devoured by the sword.”
Truly, the mouth of the LORD has spoken.
- 21 How the faithful city has become a harlot,
She *who* was full of justice!
Righteousness once lodged in her,
But now murderers.
- 22 Your silver has become dross,
Your drink diluted with water.
- 23 Your rulers are rebels
And companions of thieves;
Everyone loves a bribe
And chases after rewards.
They do not defend the orphan,
Nor does the widow’s plea come before them.

- 24 Therefore the Lord GOD of hosts,
The Mighty One of Israel, declares,
“Ah, I will be relieved of My adversaries
And avenge Myself on My foes.
- 25 “I will also turn My hand against you,
And will smelt away your dross as with lye
And will remove all your alloy.
- 26 “Then I will restore your judges as at the first,
And your counselors as at the beginning;
After that you will be called the city of righteousness,
A faithful city.”
- 27 Zion will be redeemed with justice
And her repentant ones with righteousness.
- 28 But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together,
And those who forsake the LORD will come to an end.
- 29 Surely you will be ashamed of the oaks which you have desired,
And you will be embarrassed at the gardens which you have
chosen.
- 30 For you will be like an oak whose leaf fades away
Or as a garden that has no water.
- 31 The strong man will become tinder,
His work also a spark.
Thus they shall both burn together
And there will be none to quench *them*.

ISAIAH 40
Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

“COMFORT, O comfort My people,” says your God.

- 2 “Speak kindly to Jerusalem;
And call out to her, that her warfare has ended,
That her iniquity has been removed,
That she has received of the LORD’S hand
Double for all her sins.”
- 3 A voice is calling,
“Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;
Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.
- 4 “Let every valley be lifted up,
And every mountain and hill be made low;
And let the rough ground become a plain,
And the rugged terrain a broad valley;
- 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
And all flesh will see *it* together;
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
- 6 A voice says, “Call out.”
Then he answered, “What shall I call out?”
All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the
field.
- 7 The grass withers, the flower fades,
When the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
Surely the people are grass.
- 8 The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.

- 9 Get yourself up on a high mountain,
O Zion, bearer of good news,
Lift up your voice mightily,
O Jerusalem, bearer of good news;
Lift *it* up, do not fear.
Say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
- 10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might,
With His arm ruling for Him.
Behold, His reward is with Him
And His recompense before Him.
- 11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock,
In His arm He will gather the lambs
And carry *them* in His bosom;
He will gently lead the nursing *ewes*.
- 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
And marked off the heavens by the span,
And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,
And weighed the mountains in a balance
And the hills in a pair of scales?
- 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD,
Or as His counselor has informed Him?
- 14 With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding?
And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him
knowledge
And informed Him of the way of understanding?
- 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales;
Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust.
- 16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn,
Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering.

- 17 All the nations are as nothing before Him,
They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and
meaningless.
- 18 To whom then will you liken God?
Or what likeness will you compare with Him?
- 19 *As for* the idol, a craftsman casts it,
A goldsmith plates it with gold,
And a silversmith *fashions* chains of silver.
- 20 He who is too impoverished for *such* an offering
Selects a tree that does not rot;
He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman
To prepare an idol that will not totter.
- 21 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
Has it not been declared to 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 out like a tent to dwell in.
- 23 He *it is* who reduces rulers to nothing,
Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.
- 24 Scarcely have they been planted,
Scarcely have they been sown,
Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth,
But He merely blows on them, and they wither,
And the storm carries them away like stubble.
- 25 “To whom then will you liken Me
That I would be *his* equal?” says the Holy One.
- 26 Lift up your eyes on high
And see who has created these *stars*,
The One who leads forth their host by number,

He calls them all by name;
Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His*
power,
Not one *of them* is missing.

- 27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the LORD,
And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God”?
- 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard?
The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the
earth
Does not become weary or tired.
His understanding is inscrutable.
- 29 He gives strength to the weary,
And to *him who* lacks might He increases power.
- 30 Though youths grow weary and tired,
And vigorous young men stumble badly,
- 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD
Will gain new strength;
They will mount up *with* wings like eagles,
They will run and not get tired,
They will walk and not become weary.

ISAIAH 41

Observation Worksheet

Chapter Theme _____

- “COASTLANDS, listen to Me in silence,
 And let the peoples gain new strength;
 Let them come forward, then let them speak;
 Let us come together for judgment.
- 2 “Who has aroused one from the east
 Whom He calls in righteousness to His feet?
 He delivers up nations before him
 And subdues kings.
 He makes them like dust with his sword,
 As the wind-driven chaff with his bow.
- 3 “He pursues them, passing on in safety,
 By a way he had not been traversing with his feet.
- 4 “Who has performed and accomplished *it*,
 Calling forth the generations from the beginning?
 ‘I, the LORD, am 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 have come.
- 6 Each one helps his neighbor
 And says to his brother, “Be strong!”
- 7 So the craftsman encourages the smelter,
And he who smooths *metal* with the hammer *encourages* him
 who beats the anvil,
 Saying of the soldering, “It is good”;
 And he fastens it with nails,
So that it will not totter.

- 8 “But you, Israel, My servant,
Jacob whom I have chosen,
Descendant of Abraham My friend,
- 9 You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth,
And called from its remotest parts
And said to you, ‘You are My servant,
I have chosen you and not rejected you.
- 10 ‘Do not fear, for I am with you;
Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, surely I will help you,
Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’
- 11 “Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and
dishonored;
Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish.
- 12 “You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find
them,
Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent.
- 13 “For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand,
Who says to you, ‘Do not fear, I will help you.’
- 14 “Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel;
I will help you,” declares the LORD, “and your Redeemer is the
Holy One of Israel.
- 15 “Behold, I have made you a new, sharp threshing sledge with
double edges;
You will thresh the mountains and pulverize *them*,
And will make the hills like chaff.
- 16 “You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away,
And the storm will scatter them;
But you will rejoice in the LORD,
You will glory in the Holy One of Israel.

- 17 “The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none,
And their tongue is parched with thirst;
I, the LORD, will answer them Myself,
As the God of Israel I will not forsake them.
- 18 “I will open rivers on the bare heights
And springs in the midst of the valleys;
I will make the wilderness a pool of water
And the dry land fountains of water.
- 19 “I will put the cedar in the wilderness,
The acacia and the myrtle and the olive tree;
I will place the juniper in the desert
Together with the box tree and the cypress,
- 20 That they may see and recognize,
And consider and gain insight as well,
That the hand of the LORD has done this,
And the Holy One of Israel has created it.
- 21 “Present your case,” the LORD says.
“Bring forward your strong *arguments*,”
The King of Jacob says.
- 22 Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take
place;
As for the former *events*, declare what they *were*,
That we may consider them and know their outcome.
Or announce to us what is coming;
- 23 Declare the things that are going to come afterward,
That we may know that you are gods;
Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us
and fear together.
- 24 Behold, you are of no account,
And your work amounts to nothing;
He who chooses you is an abomination.

- 25 “I have aroused one from the north, and he has come;
From the rising of the sun he will call on My name;
And he will come upon rulers as *upon* mortar,
Even as the potter treads clay.”
- 26 Who has declared *this* from the beginning, that we might
know?
Or from former times, that we may say, “*He is right!*”?
Surely there was no one who declared,
Surely there was no one who proclaimed,
Surely there was no one who heard your words.
- 27 “Formerly *I said* to Zion, ‘Behold, here they are.’
And to Jerusalem, ‘I will give a messenger of good news.’
- 28 “But when I look, there is no one,
And there is no counselor among them
Who, if I ask, can give an answer.
- 29 “Behold, all of them are false;
Their works are worthless,
Their molten images are wind and emptiness.

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 Swift is the booty but God is with us
			9 Light for those in darkness—a Child is born/His anger
			10 Woe to 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
Destruction of earth/Lord will reign on Mount Zion	DISCOURSES REGARDING THAT DAY		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, Edom, and Arabia			
22 Oracle re: Valley of Vision/Key of David			
23 Oracle re: Tyre			
24 When the Lord lays the earth waste			
25 When the Lord's hand rests on the mountain			
26 The way 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 Woe to the proud/Cornerstone to be laid in Zion
	GOD'S RANSOM		29 Woe, O Ariel (Zion)
HISTORICAL INTERLUDE			30 Woe to rebellious who follow their own plan
	31 Woe to those who go to Egypt—Return to Him		
	32 When the King reigns righteously		
	33 Those who live with the consuming fire, who see the King in His beauty		
	34 God's judgment on the nations and Edom		
	35 God's recompense comes/Ransomed walk Highway of Holiness		
	36 Rabshakeh asks Hezekiah to surrender Jerusalem		
	37 Hezekiah's prayers and God's promise		
Promises for the future re: the King, Edom, the Arabah	DISCOURSES REGARDING:	38 Hezekiah's illness, prayer, and deliverance	
		39 Hezekiah receives Babylonians/Isaiah prophesies Babylon's conquest of Judah	
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Segment Divisions		Chapter Themes		
DISCOURSES REGARDING:		49		
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		DISCOURSES REGARDING:		58
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