

## **Isaiah: Jesus the Suffering Servant**

### **I.) Chp. 40-66 The throne of grace**

Tonight we will conclude our study in the first book of the promises of the prophets, Isaiah. By way of review these books make up the final 16 books of the O.T. Some of God's promises we like very much others such as when He promises to us that if we choose not to trust Him that harm will come to us we don't like very much. Thirteen out of the 16 prophetic books were written before or during the Babylonian captivity only the last three were after. What we learn through reading all 16 books is that God has kept all of His promises right down through history and because of this we can trust Him with His promises towards us now. Isaiah was married and had two sons based upon 8:3 and 7:3 and prophesied during the reigns of four kings of Judah for around 40 years 740 years before Jesus. He spoke right at the time when the 10 northern tribes were taken captive by the Assyrians and prophesied of Judah's future captivity to Babylon even before it was a world power. His was not the lone voice speaking to the nation as his ministry overlapped that of Amos, Hosea, and Micha.

You will recall that the book of Isaiah is like a miniature Bible:

- The first half has 39 chapters like the Old Testament and is filled with judgment as the pages are filled with immoral and idolatrous men. The first 35 chapters' center on the throne of God and His holiness. Chapters like the sixth chapter where Isaiah writes of a vision of the throne of God during a time when Uzziah the king had died and Judah's earthly throne was vacant. God shows him a true perspective that during the times when it appears that none is on the throne, or in

control of our lives God is still “*High and lifted and the train of His robe fills the temple*”.

- Then the next four chapters God makes us aware of the short comings and the failure of our choices. All of us want a Savior few of us want a Lord who upon His throne judges our foolish attempts to rule our own lives.
- The final 27 chapters (40-66) resemble the New Testament as they declare hope and grace. It is in these chapters that we are introduced in the clearest way to the Messiah where judgment and mercy join together in God’s only begotten Son, Jesus. The first 39 chapters reveals mans need for salvation and the following 27 chapters show Gods provision for mans need in the Messiah.

In this last section God offers through Isaiah; promises of hope, comfort and restoration.

In chapters 40-48 the basis of these promises is not man’s compliance but rather it is centered upon God’s sovereignty and majesty. There are 216 verses in those nine chapters and 115 of them speak specifically of God’s greatness and power. What can we deduce from this truth? Namely that **God’s promises are only appropriated by recognizing His nature and not by us exalting our nature!** God’s nature is laid next to the idols that Israel was so prone to elevate to deity and over and over again Isaiah speaks to Judah that her future restoration lies in the hands of a loving Father even though His children have chosen to reject His love and follow after and worship things which they themselves have created. Over 100 years before the event Isaiah prophesizes that Judah though has escaped the Assyrian captivity that took her sister Israel she will not escape the Babylonian one. But even though they would be carried off during the time of

Jeremiah Babylon would be judged and Judah will be restored once she is released from captivity.

The next 9 chapters (49-57) concentrate on the coming Messiah who will be their savior and suffering servant. He will be rejected by the very ones that He has come to save. His purpose is to save them from their greatest adversary and tyrant the one person that oppresses them more than any other, themselves. He will do this by placing their iniquities upon himself and paying for their sins as by His stripes they will be healed. But more than this His coming will usher in a new Kingdom of righteousness and peace, as all who place their trust in Him will be delivered.

The final 8 chapters (58-66) Isaiah see's Jerusalem being rebuilt and Israel's borders being enlarged as the Messiah will reign out of Jerusalem. God's people will confess their sins and those that oppose His righteous rule will be judged. His kingdom and reign will be with out end and be characterized by peace, prosperity and justice and He will make all things new.

### **I.) Chp. 40-66 The throne of grace**

In Isaiah 40:11 Isaiah speaks of the promise that *“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.”* Then after stating God's willingness to lead them Isaiah reveals God's ability in verses 12-13 by asking, *“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance? Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has taught Him?”* Thus Isaiah states his conclusion in 40:28 saying, *“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The*

everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.” Saint’s **the assurance of the promises lies with the Promiser and not with the recipients’ of the promises!** In 41:17-18 we read of yet another promise as we are told, *“The poor and needy seek water, but there is none, their tongues fail for thirst. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will open rivers in desolate 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.”*

And who is this One that will “hear them” what is He like? Well in Isaiah 42:2-4 we read that, *“He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law.”* Among other thing we are told in 42:7 that He will, *“open blind eyes...bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.”* In Isaiah 43:1-2 He promises, *“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned, nor shall the flame scorch you.”* Dear ones did you hear that promise? He did not say that you wouldn’t pass through the waters, no He promised that He would be with you and that they wouldn’t overflow you. He didn’t promise that you wouldn’t walk through fire, no He promised that you will not get burned and that the flame shall not scorch you! Why can we receive this promise? Because He says in 43:4, 13 *“you were precious in My sight, you have been honored, and I have loved you”*. *“Indeed before the day was, I am He; and there is no*

*one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"* Oh how wonderful these promises are but what if we mess it up? Well listen to the Lord in Isaiah 43:25-26 *"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins. Put Me in remembrance; let us contend together; state your case, that you may be acquitted."* In Isaiah 46:4 God promises that, *"Even to your old age, I am He, and even to gray hairs I will carry you! I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."* Then in 46:9-10 God says, *"Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure,'"* The in 48:12 God says, *"Listen to Me,.....I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last."*

The next nine chapters (49-57) focus on the Messiah's incarnation and we are told in 49:2 that *"He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me."* That in 49:6b that the Messiah will be given *"as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth."* And in 49:16 the Messiah declares that, *"I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands..."* Then He asks in 50:2 *"Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver? Indeed with My rebuke I dry up the sea, I make the rivers a wilderness".* In 50:6 He declares that He, *"gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting."* It is said of Him in 52:7 *"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, Who proclaims peace, Who brings glad tidings of good things, Who proclaims salvation, Who says to Zion, 'Your God*

*reigns!*” Of Him who proclaims Peace we are told in 52:14-15 that *“His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations.”* Then we have that amazing description of His suffering in Isaiah 53, a must read by all. Then we find out in 54:5 that our *“Maker is your husband, the Lord of hosts is His name; and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.”* And with this revelation comes an invitation in 55:1 *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.”* How is it possible to be so satisfied with out cost? Well it’s because as we read in chapter 53 He has already paid the cost for us! The majesty of this is beyond our understanding thus His words to us in 55:8-9 *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”* And with such truth we are told the promise that according to 55:11 *“My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”* His promise is towards those according to 57:15 to *“dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”*

The final section of 8 chapters (58-66) we see the final benefits of living under the Messiah's reign. Is it any wonder then that in 58:12 He will be known as *“the Repairer of the Breach, the Restorer of Streets to Dwell In.”* And on 59:17 we are told that *“He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.”* And it is because

of this that all will declare as 60:1-3 declares, *“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”* And in 60:19 we are told that *“The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory.”* In 61:1-3 He declares that *“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified.”* And in 63:1b He says, *“I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save.”* And in 64:4 He declares that, *“since the beginning of the world men have not heard nor perceived by the ear, nor has the eye seen any God besides You, Who acts for the one who waits for Him.”* Dear ones what an invitation this is if we but wait for Him we shall see Him act upon our behalf!!! As 64:8 says, *“But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; and all we are the work of Your hand.”* And such promises are not just for now but as 65:17-19 promises, *“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. I will rejoice in*

*Jerusalem, and joy in My people; the voice of weeping shall no longer be heard in her, nor the voice of crying.” And with that 66:1-2 declares “Thus says the Lord: Heaven is My throne, and earth is My footstool. Where is the house that you will build Me? And where is the place of My rest? For all those things My hand has made, and all those things exist,” Says the Lord. “But on this one will I look: On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word.”*