

# The Prophets

## Falls International Baptist Institute

### Class Seven: Isaiah – Part Three

Text: Isaiah 40:1-5 “*Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.*”

Introduction: **As we come into the second part of the book of Isaiah, we enter into what some call “The New Testament of Isaiah”. In fact, Isaiah is known as the evangelical prophet.** “*The twenty-seven chapters of the second part may be seen to parallel the twenty-seven books of the New Testament, and both emphasize the grace of God. The ‘New Testament’ section of Isaiah opens with the ministry of John the Baptist (40:3-5; Mark 4:1-4) and closes with the new heavens and the new earth (Isaiah 65:17; 66:22), and in between are many references to the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and King. In the ‘New Testament’ section of Isaiah, the prophet is particularly addressing a future generation of Jews. In chapters 1-39 his audience was his own generation, and his primary message was that God would defend Jerusalem and defeat the Assyrian invaders. But in chapters 40-66 the prophet looks far ahead and sees Babylon destroying Jerusalem and the Jews going into captivity...But he also saw God forgiving His people, delivering them from captivity, and taking them back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and restore the nation...*

*Chapters 40-66 may be divided into three parts (40-48; 49-57; and 58-66), with the same statement separating the first two sections: ‘There is no peace, saith the Lord, unto the wicked’ (48:22; 57:21). Chapters 40-48 emphasize the greatness of God the Father in contrast to the vanity of the heathen idols. Chapters 49-57 extol the graciousness of God the Son, the Suffering Servant; and chapters 58-66 describe the glory of God in the future kingdom, and the emphasis is on the work of the Holy Spirit (59:19, 21; 61:1; 63:10-11, 14). Thus, there seems to be a trinitarian structure to these chapters.” – Warren Wiersbe*

Credit: the majority of the following outline and notes are from Baxter’s ‘*Explore the Book*’.

#### **I. The Supremacy of Jehovah (chapters 40-48)**

- A. Supreme in His Attributes of Omnipotence, Omniscience, and Omnipresence: Chapters 40-41
  - 1. 40:12-28 Read the passage
  - 2. 41:4
  - 3. 41:21-29
- B. Supreme in His Redemption: Chapters 42-45
  - 1. 42:5-9, 13-16

2. 43:1,3,10-12, 25 By the way, this is the chapter that Jehovah's Witnesses use as their authority. A very simple study of these verses prove their fundamental doctrine wrong!
  3. 45:5-8, 15-17, 20-22
- C. Supreme in His Judgment: Chapters 46-48
1. While these three chapters are specifically about His judgment of Babylon and its gods, it needs to be understood that God would deliver Israel through Babylon's Judgment. Judgment to some brings Redemption others.
  2. 46:5,9-10
  3. 47:4
  4. 48:12-14, 20-22

## **II. The Servant of Jehovah (chapters 49-57)**

- A. The Servant primarily speaks of the elect nation of Israel: Chapters 49-51 Israel and Jacob are called God's servant many times in the book of Isaiah. First, because they were God's servant; and second, because they represented Christ, in type. As we come toward the end of these chapters, the "servant" changes from Israel to Christ.
- B. The Servant is completely speaking of Christ: 52:13- 53:12
1. Please note that at the center of this second part of Isaiah's book, we see Christ! The heart of this middle section of chapters, and the heart of the middle section (52:13 -53:12) is the humble Servant Saviour and He is pictured as the Lamb.
  2. **"It has been truly said that the prolonged description of chapter 53 suits only one figure in all human history – the Man of Calvary.** *The following twelve points absolutely confirm this, for in their totality they cannot possibly be applied to any other.*
    - a. *He comes in utter lowliness: a root out of a dry ground*
    - b. *He is despised and rejected of men*
    - c. *He suffered for the sins and in the place of others: He was wounded for our transgressions*
    - d. *It was God Himself Who caused the suffering to be vicarious: The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all*
    - e. *There was absolute submission under the vicarious suffering: He was afflicted, yet he opened not His mouth*
    - f. *He died as a felon (a criminal): He was taken from prison and from judgment*
    - g. *He was cut off prematurely: He was cut off out of the land of the living*
    - h. *He was personally guiltless: He had done no violence neither was any deceit in his mouth*
    - i. *He would live on after His sufferings: He shall see His seed; he shall prolong his days*
    - j. *Jehovah's pleasure was then to prosper in His hand: The pleasure of Jehovah shall prosper in his hand*

