

Isaiah 44-46 Notes

Precept study on Isaiah Part 2, Lesson 3

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Mar 13, 2011

1 Review

- Isaiah 1-35: Judgement on Israel and the Nations
 - God’s judgement, on His people and the nations.
 - Isaiah’s call
 - Fear God, not man.
 - The LORD will swallow up death for all time
 - Striking but healing
 - Yet the wicked take refuge in lies
 - Rely on God, not man
 - Walk in God’s way, not yours
 - a Highway of Holiness, to Zion; everlasting joy
- Isaiah 36-39: Hezekiah
 - Isaiah 36: war with Assyria, Rabshake’s verbal assault. claims Judah cannot trust their God
 - Isaiah 37: Hezekiah’s response: asks Isaiah to pray. The LORD replies - Sennacherib falls by the sword. 185,000 Assyrians killed by one angel.
 - Isaiah 38: Hezekiah’s sickness, prayer, healing
 - Isaiah 39: Hezekiah tested by Baylonian ambassadors
- Isaiah 40: Comfort
 - the LORD gives comfort to His people
 - 40:3-5: He’s’ comming (see John 1:14; this is Jesus)
 - people fade; word of the LORD stands forever
 - the LORD leads His people like a shepherd
 - No one is equal to the LORD; the nations and their godlets are nothing
 - the LORD strengthens those who wait/long/hope for Him
- Isaiah 41

- the LORD summons the people to court
 - they come with their godlets
 - 41:8-20: Israel, My servant: do not fear
 - idolators summoned, the godlets cannot reply. They are less than nothing
- Isaiah 42: the Servant of the LORD
 - Isaiah 42:1-9
 - * Isaiah 42:1-9: Jesus. Quoted in Matthew 12:14-21.
 - * Isaiah 42:5-8: the Servant. A covenant to the people. compare Matt 26:26-29 “this is My blood of the covenant...”.
 - * Isaiah 42:6: a light to the nations. John 1:1-9 and 8:12.
 - * Isaiah 42:7: opens the eyes of the blind. sets the captive free from a dark prison. Compare Matt 12:22 (Jesus).
 - * Isaiah 42:8: the LORD does not give His glory to another. Yet see John 1:14. “glory as of the only begotten from the Father”
 - Isaiah 42:10-25: the LORD has been patient, restraining Himself, but now will act
- Isaiah 43: Do not fear, the LORD will make a way
 - Isaiah 43:1-7: do not fear, the LORD will redeem and gather the exiles
 - Isaiah 43:8-13: the LORD calls the nations as witnesses
 - Isaiah 43:14-28: the LORD will make a roadway in the wilderness
- Isaiah 44:1-23: Do not fear, I wipe out your sin
 - Isaiah 44:1-5 the LORD will pour out His Spirit on Jacob
 - Isaiah 44:6-20: there is none but the LORD, the godlets are nothing
 - Isaiah 44:21-23: Jacob remembered / sins forgotten

2 The message of the LORD to His people

What is the message of the LORD to His people through Isaiah? What does God want Jacob/Israel to know, to understand, to remember?

- that Israel has sinned
- that the LORD is their Savior and Redeemer, and also for the ends of the earth
- that the LORD is the creator of all things, there is no one else
- that no idols can save anyone, they cannot even save themselves
- the LORD wants us to remember these things

3 Israel's sin

3.1 summary

3.2 verses

- 40:1-2: Israel punished for their sin
- 42:18-25: Israel deaf and blind, plundered, trapped in prison, sinned against the LORD, disobeyed the law, punished.
- 43:22-24: not called on the LORD, burdened Him with sin
- 43:26-28: Israel's sin from the first, and judgement
- 44:22 your sins are wiped out

4 The LORD as Savior and Redeemer: do not fear

4.1 summary

The LORD removes the sin of Israel, redeems them, and prepares a way for them. Gives them a deliverer: first Cyrus, and then Himself (near and far fulfilment). **Do not fear / do not tremble:** said to Israel 7 times in 7 chapters. The LORD strengthens those who wait on Him.

4.2 verses

- 40:1-2: sin of Israel removed
- 40:3-5: prepare the way of the LORD
- 40:9-11: the LORD will shepherd his flock
- 40:29-31: He strengthens those who wait on Him
- 41:2-3: the LORD sends a deliverer (Cyrus)
- 41:8-10: **do not fear**, I have chosen you and will strengthen you
- 41:13: **do not fear**, the LORD upholds your right hand
- 41:13-16: **do not fear**, the LORD will help you
- 42:1-4: The LORD's servant will bring justice to the nations.
- 42:6-8: calls His Servant (Jesus), a covenant, a light to the nations, to open blind eyes, to deliver from prison
- 42:16: leads the blind, makes a way, gives light

- 43:1-7: **do not fear**, I have redeemed you
- 43:5 **do not fear**, I am with you
- 43:11-12: no savior but the LORD
- 43:16: makes a way for them
- 43:19-21: roadway in the wilderness
- 44:1-5: **do not fear**, I formed you, I will help you, and will pour out My Spirit on you
- 44:8: **do not tremble and do not be afraid**
- 44:21-23: the LORD has wiped out Israel's sin. Return, for I have redeemed you, says the LORD. Shout for joy!
- 44:26-28: the LORD provides a deliverer: Cyrus
- 45:8: sends righteousness from heaven, like rain
- 45:13: arouses Cyrus, to let the exiles go free
- 45:15,17: the LORD is Savior. Israel not put to shame.
- 45:21-22: the LORD is Savior - for all the ends of the earth
- 45:24: only in the LORD is righteousness and strength
- 45:25: Israel will be justified
- 46:3-4: the LORD carries Israel, from birth, and will deliver them.
- 46:13: the LORD's righteousness and salvation is near, and will not delay

5 The LORD as creator

5.1 summary

The LORD alone created the heavens and earth, and man upon the earth.

5.2 verses

- 40:12-14: marked off the heavens, measured the earth
- 40:14: the LORD is full of knowledge
- 40:22: stretches out the heavens
- 40:26: created the stars, none missing (like you, Israel)

- 40:28: creator of the ends of the earth, does not tire
- 41:4: from first to last
- 42:5: stretched out the heavens
- 44:24: formed Israel from the womb, stretched out the heavens, spreading out the earth
- 45:7: creates light and darkness, well-being and calamity
- 45:8: creates righteousness
- 45:12: made the earth, made man, stretched out the heavens
- 45:18: created the heavens and earth, inhabited

6 Idols cannot save, nations that trust them will fail

6.1 overview

Contrast the command to Israel: **do not fear**. Here, **be afraid / tremble / fear** told to idolators: 3 times in 7 chapters.

In contrast to the LORD strengthening Israel, the idolators lack strength.

In contrast to the LORD as Savior, the idols cannot save anything.

In contrast to the LORD carrying Israel from birth, the idolators must carry their own idols. The idols are a burden to them.

In contrast to the knowledge of the LORD, the idols and the idolators know nothing.

6.2 verses

- 40:14: the LORD is full of knowledge
- 40:14-20: nations and their idols are nothing
- 40:23-25: nations and their idols are nothing
- 41:5-7: the idols totter
- 41:5: the coastlands are **afraid and tremble**
- 41:11-12: nations at war with Israel will perish
- 41:13-16: Israel will thresh their enemies
- 41:21-24: idols can do nothing
- 42:17: those who trust idols put to shame
- 43:8-13: no idol is like the LORD

- 43:14: Babylon taken captive
- 43:17: nations extinguished
- 44:6-8: none like the LORD; He challenges the idols to declare the future
- 44 9-17: idol-makers know nothing. **Let them tremble.** they lack strength, and cannot save themselves.
- 44:25: the LORD makes fools out of diviners
- 45:1-3: Cyrus subdues the nations
- 45:5-7: no God but the LORD
- 45:9-10: woe to those who quarrel with their Maker
- 45:14,16: idolators handed over to Cyrus, put to shame
- 45:20: idolators have no knowledge and **cannot save.**
- 46:1-2: idols are a burden and idol-makers cannot save their own idols
- 45:20: idolators have no knowledge
- 46:5-7: none like the LORD; idols are a burden and cannot save the idolators

7 To declare / to know / to remember / to forget

7.1 overview

The LORD tells Israel and the nations to listen. Remember the LORD. Forget the past (sin). The LORD will not remember their sin.

7.2 verses

- 40:21: don't you know?
- 40:27-28: you should know this, Israel
- 41:1: **listen**, coastlands.
- 42:9: the LORD is declaring these things
- 43:18: do not remember the past (sin), look to the new
- 43:25: the LORD will not remember their sin
- 43:26: remember the LORD
- 44:1: **listen**, Jacob

- 44:5: remember the LORD, write it on your hand
- 44:8: haven't I declared it? says the LORD
- 44:21: remember, Israel, I will not forget you.
- 44:22: but the LORD will wipe out their sin (see also 43:25)
- 45:11: the LORD knows the future
- 45:14-15: they will know that there is none but the LORD
- 45:19: the LORD declares in righteousness, not in secret
- 45:20: idolators have no knowledge
- 45:21: the LORD has declared it: none like the LORD
- 45:23: the LORD's word goes forth in righteousness, will not turn back
- 46:3: **listen**, Jacob
- 46:8-9: remember, transgressors, that idols cannot save
- 46:10-11: the LORD declares the future. His plans will succeed.
- 46:12: **listen**, stubborn-minded.