

A Study of the Prophets

O.T. Survey Lesson 127--Isaiah 40:1-41:29

Introduction: Chapter forty begins a new division of the book of Isaiah. Based on the prophecy of 39:6 it presupposes the captivity of Israel by the Babylonians. Isaiah's messages are designed to give hope to the captive people. In this section there is special emphasis upon the Lord as the true God as opposed to the idols that Israel and the nations had worshipped.

Lesson aim: To emphasize God's greatness and power in accomplishing His purposes.

Prologue to the second major division of Isaiah--Isaiah 40:1-11

1. What three-fold message of comfort does God urge Isaiah to give to the people?
2. What does a voice cry out? (v. 3) What does Isaiah say would be revealed? (v. 5)
3. What assurance did Isaiah give that the word of God would stand? (v. 6-8)
4. What "good news" is Zion instructed to herald forth? (v. 10-11)

The incomparable greatness of God--Isaiah 40:12-31

1. Isaiah in this section establishes the reason why God can execute His purposes. How does Isaiah describe God's greatness in relation to the creation? (v. 12-14)
2. How does Isaiah describe God's greatness in relation to the nations? (v. 15-17)
3. What does Isaiah say about the idols made by men? (v. 18-20)

4. How does Isaiah convey the idea that there is no god like the true God? (v. 21-26)
5. Knowing God's greatness would prevent one from saying what about the Lord? (v. 27) What did Isaiah affirm about God's nature? (v. 28) To whom does God give His strength? (v. 29-31)

God's confrontation with the idols of the ancient world--Isaiah 41:1-29

1. God invites the coastlands to come together for what? (v. 1) God will make use of a king from what direction? (v. 20) What will he do?
2. What does God's use of the king from the east reveal to all? (v. 4)
3. What are the nations pictured as doing to prepare for battle with the Lord's chosen king? (v. 5-7)
4. What encouraging words does God give to His people? (v. 10-16)
5. What is God promising to do in v. 17-20?
6. What challenge does God make to the idols of the pagan nations? (v. 21-23) Since they cannot respond, what does God say to them? (v. 24)
7. Again, God mentions the coming of one from what direction? (v. 25) What will he do?
8. Now, a final challenge to the idols. What question does God ask them? (v. 26) God, in contrast had said what to Zion? (v. 27)
9. What conclusions does God make about the idols of the pagan nations? (v. 29)