

Notes on Isaiah 40:1-41:29

Intro: Isaiah has been called a microcosm of the Scriptures. The first half of Isaiah begins with a message of judgment. Chapters 36-39 serve as the historical transition from part one to part two. The second half begins with a message of hope of salvation!

Prologue to the second section--40:1-11

- v. 1-2 The message of comfort--judgment is over. Salvation through the Messiah is near.
- v. 3-4 A spiritual excavator prepares the way--John the Baptist. See Lk. 3:3-6
- v. 5 God's glory will be revealed. How? In the Messiah (Lk. 1:68ff; Lk. 2:30)
- v. 6-8 The assurance of accomplishment. God's word endures forever!
- v. 9-11 Thus, the appeal to proclaim the good news. God is coming to His people. He will rule with strength and care for his people with tenderness.

What are the fulfillment of these things?

The Incomparable God of Israel vs. the gods of the nations

His greatness (transcendence over all)

His omniscience (v. 14)

Cf. the idol (v. 18-20)

Greatness over the creation (v. 21-22) Note the "vault" means sphericity or circle.

Preeminence over and judgment of earthly rulers (v. 23-24)

Control of the heavenly bodies (v. 25-26) Kepler in 1605 counted 1005 stars in the sky. Now we know there are 25 sextillion. 25 with 21 zero's. Isaiah says he calls them all byname.

Israel to hope in God's power (v. 27-31)

Israel's captivity not unknown to God (v. 27)

The blessing of patience (v. 28-31)

God calls the idols to a trial

41:1-7 God's proof of his greatness, the prophecy of Cyrus whom God will use to judge the Babylonians. The idols are helpless to aid their worshippers.

41:8-20 God in contrast to idols promises blessings to Israel (deliverance).

Do not fear (I will protect you) v. 8-16

Do not fear (I will provide for you) v. 17-20

41:21-29 Now God challenges the idols to prove what they can do! God can, in contrast, announce the coming of Cyrus, his king of the North, naming him years before his birth!