

**Isaiah 40-48**  
***The Gospel of God for the People of God***

Introduction

Key Themes:

1. The sovereignty of Yahweh
  - over creation
  - over rulers and nations
2. The servant of Yahweh
  - Introduced as Israel
  - Identified with the nation and the Messiah
3. The Salvation of Yahweh
  - Gospel forgiveness
  - Gospel Freedom
  - Return from exile – new exodus
  - Recovery of fruitfulness – new creation

The Chiastic Structure

*Glad Tidings for Jerusalem – 40:1-31*

1. Sins are forgiven and God will bring his people home
2. God is creator of heaven and stars

*The Lord rules over the Idols – 41:1-20*

He raises up a ruler from the East

Idols Fashioned but Worthless

*The Lord Condemns the Idols – 41:21 – 42:17*

***Israel – Repentant and Restored – 42:18-43:7***

*The Lord Condemns the Idols – 43:8 – 45:19*

Idols Overthrown

Summons Bird of Prey from the East

*The Lord rules over the Idols – 45:20-46:13*

1. Sin must be punished; God will bring his people home
2. Babylon not saved by the heavens and the stars

*Bad Tidings for Babylon – 47:1-48:22*

## Isaiah 40

### I. The Way of the Lord: Isaiah 40:1-5

#### A. Double Comfort

1. "Comfort" –
  - a. Who is being "commissioned" to bring comfort? Is it:
    1. school of prophets?
    2. Isaiah
    3. "Counsel of the Lord" 1 Kings 22:19
  - b. Comfort is the concept of "speaking tenderly" (Hosea 2:14, 16; Genesis 34:3)
2. "Warfare" – "time of duress" (Motyer); not just conflict, but servitude and hopeless bondage.
3. "Penalty Paid" – the verb form is passive, which is to say Israel's penalty has been paid for her by another. The only places these words are used elsewhere in the OT occur in Leviticus 26:41, 43, and in the passive form specifically at Leviticus 1:4; 7:18; 19:7; 22:23, 25, 27. Every one of these passage deal with the blood sacrifices for sin offerings. This points ahead to the work of the "Servant of Yahweh" and his Levitical work in Isaiah 52-53.
4. "Double" – this is a tough word/concept to translate. The possible options include the following –
  - a. Folded over
  - b. Two Sides (Job 11:6 – God's wisdom has "2 sides to it")
  - c. Equivalency – exactness appropriate to the other.

#### B. The Way in the Wilderness In Isaiah 40 "The Way" is prepared for Yahweh; in later sections "The Way" is provided by Yahweh for his People. The "Way" of the Lord under construction is a royal highway built for an emperor to "smooth" his journey to a distant province over which he rules.

1. new exodus – Exodus 13:21-22
2. leave Egypt / leave Babylon
3. Highway of holiness – Isaiah 35:1-10
  - ? central idea: Liberation from oppression for holiness; saved from and saved for.
  - ? What happens between Isaiah 40-55 is that Yahweh rescues his people by a New and Greater Exodus and Leads them into a New Creation, and all by his Grace (Isaiah 55:1ff).

#### C. The Way in the Gospels and Acts

1. Ministry of John the Baptist: Matthew 3:1-3; John 1:22-23
2. Ministry and Person of the Lord Jesus: John 14:6
3. Ministry and Community of the Apostolic Church: Acts 9:2; 18:25; 22:4; 24:14
  - ? Prepare the Way
  - ? I Am the Way
  - ? Live the Way
4. Remember this with the Transfiguration story in mind: Moses and Elijah meet with Jesus to discuss his "approaching exodus" from Jerusalem.
  - ? What does that make Jerusalem!?!?
  - ? What does it mean for us that Christ led an Exodus?

## II. *The Word of the Lord: Isaiah 40:6-11*

- A. The Eternal Word of God: Proverbs 30:5; Psalm 119:89
  - 1. The grass – flesh – is transient; the ‘word’ is eternal
  - 2. The Spirit (“ruah”) blows (wind, spirit, breath) and brings both life and death, inspiring the word (Psalm 33; 2 Timothy 3:16), and “mowing down” the flesh.
- B. The Glad Word of God’s Gospel
  - 1. The Gospel “reveals” God
  - 2. The Gospel reveals the reign of God
    - a. The “kingdom of God”
    - b. Reward and Recompense – both are present in the Gospel (note carefully Paul’s argument in Romans 1-3)
  - 3. “Gospel” (*evangelion*)
    - a. Victory of the King
    - b. Birth of Son to the King
    - c. Bride/Wedding of the Son of the King
      - ? these were all called “Gospel” in the ancient world
  - 4. Gospel in John and Jesus
    - a. The Reign of God among men
    - b. The Kingdom of God – not realm/place, but rule/authority (Say to the cities of Judah, “Your God reigns!”)
  - 5. The Gospel in Paul
    - a. The reign of God in Christ – Romans 1:1-4
    - b. The forgiveness of sins – 1 Corinthians 15:1 ff
  - 6. In John the Revelator
    - ? the wrath of God against his enemies: Revelation 14:7 ff

## III. *The Wisdom of the Lord: Isaiah 40:12-27*

- A. God the Creator – No One Teaches Him – 40:12-17
- B. God the Creator – No One Compares to Him – 40:18-25
- C. God the Creator – No One Governs But Him – 40:26-27

## IV. *The Wings of the Lord: Isaiah 40:28-31*

- A. “Mount up...” – power to the faint
  - ? eagles mount up; they don’t “flap!”
- B. “Stir up...” – Maturity for the Young – Deuteronomy 32:11; Exodus 19:4
- C. Renewal – Strength for the Aged – Psalm 103
- D. Vision – Sight for the Sun/Son – Job 39:27-29
- E. Miscellaneous Matters – Proverbs 30:19
  - 1. Warfare – Deuteronomy 28:49; Job 9:26; Revelation 12:13-14
  - 2. Courtship – the glorious way eagles choose a mate