

# Lesson 5 – Outline of Isaiah

## Part Two

### Chapters 40-66

## Prophecies of Comfort, Salvation, and the Future Glory Awaiting Israel

"The theme of the whole (part two) is the comforting announcement of the approaching deliverance, and its attendant summons to repentance. For the deliverance itself was for the Israel which remained true to the confession of Jehovah in the midst of affliction and while redemption was delayed, and not for the rebellious, who denied Jehovah in word and deed, and thus placed themselves on the level of the heathen" – Delitzsch, Isaiah, Vol. II, p. 128.

"In each of the three parts ... a different antithesis stands in the foreground: viz. In the **first part, chapters 40-48**, the contrast between Jehovah and the idols, and between Israel and the heathen; in the **second part, chapters 49-57**, the contrast between the present suffering of the Servant of Jehovah and His future glory; in the **third part, chapters 58-66**, the contrast observable in the heart of Israel itself, between hypocrites, the depraved, the rebellious, on the one side, and the faithful, the mourning, the persecuted, on the other. The **first part** sets forth the deliverance from Babylon, in which the prophecy of Jehovah is fulfilled, to the shame and overthrow of the idols and their worshippers; the **second part**, the way of the Servant of Jehovah through deep humiliation to exaltation and glory, which is at the same time the exaltation of Israel to the height of its world-wide calling; **the third part** the indispensable conditions of participation in the future redemption and glory ... For the central point of the **first part** is really the termination of the Babylonian distress; that of the **second**, the expiation of guilt by the self-sacrifice of the Servant of Jehovah; and that of the **third**, the assurance that the sufferings will be followed by a far more exceeding weight of glory" Ibid., p. 129.

### **I. JEHOVAH AND THE IDOLS – A CONTRAST. DELIVERANCE FROM CAPTIVITY AND RESTORATION OF THE EXILES (Chapters 40-48).**

#### **A. COMFORT – ITS BASIS: ISRAEL'S INCOMPARABLE GOD (ch. 40)**

1. Prologue – four voices are heard (**vs. 1-11**).
  - a. Of Grace – **Pardon** (**vs. 1-2**).
  - b. Of Prophecy – **Providence** (**vs. 3-5**).
  - c. Of Faith – **Promise** (**vs. 6-8**).
  - d. Of Evangelism – **Power** (**vs. 9-11**).
2. Judah's God – His unique character and greatness – is able to meet the need of despondency in captivity (**vs. 12-26**).
  - a. **Compared to Creation** (**vs. 12-17**).
  - b. **Contrasted with idols** (**vs. 18-26**).
3. Therefore let no man suppose that Jehovah is ignorant of Israel's misery, or unable to cope with it, (**vs. 27-31**).

#### **B. JEHOVAH'S POWER TO PREDICT, PROOF OF HIS SOLE DEITY (vs. 41).** (This chapter is a challenge to the idols of the nations to predict the future. Prediction should be the minimum ability of a deity.)

1. Announcement of the deliverer (**Cyrus**, see **44:28; 45:1**), and the effect on the surrounding nations (**vs. 1-7**).
2. God's promise to protect and support through coming trouble (**vs. 8-20**).
3. Jehovah's **controversy with the nations and their idol-gods** (**vs. 21-19**).

#### **C. JEHOVAH'S CONSTANT CARE FOR ISRAEL – A "SERVANT" BESIDES CYRUS (42:1-43:13).**

1. The Spiritual Servant – **Messiah** – and His work (**vs. 42:1-9**).
2. Hymn of thanksgiving for deliverance (in prospect) – Jehovah's glory is at stake (**vs. 10-17**).
3. Jehovah's "blind, deaf" servant Israel to be punished (**vs. 18-25**).
4. **Jehovah alone their Savior** – they are His witnesses (**43:1-13**).
  - a. A renewed promise to Israel of protection and deliverance (**vs. 1-7**).

b. A renewed challenge to the nations (**vs. 8-13**).

D. ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE AND RESTORATION TO BE AN **ACT OF MERCY** (**ch. 43:14-45; 45:25**).

1. Israel shall be delivered – **redeemed** (**43:14-28**).

a. **The fate of Babylon** – she shall no more thwart Jehovah's plan than did Egypt (**vs. 14-21**).

b. Though unworthy, Jehovah would redeem Jacob (**vs. 22-28**).

2. Jehovah, the only **God, is able to deliver** and redeem (**ch. 44:1-23**).

a. Israel's spiritual recovery and regeneration (**vs. 1-5**).

b. **God alone can declare events to come** (**vs. 6-8**).

c. **The folly of idolatry** (**vs. 9-20**).

d. Jehovah formed Israel, not they Him (**vs. 21-23**).

3. **Cyrus**, the anointed of Jehovah (**ch. 44:24 – 45:7**).

a. The deliverer is finally named: Cyrus – **and how he does it** (**44:24 – 45:7**).

b. Results of Israel's deliverance (**ch. 45:8**).

c. Jehovah is the deliverer, and Israel is not to call in question His mode of operation (**ch. 45:9-13**).

d. **Conversion of the Gentiles** a consequence of the restoration and salvation of Israel (**vs. 14-25**).

E. THE IMPENDING **DOOM** AND **OVERTHROW** OF BABYLON (**ch. 46-47**).

1. Jehovah and the gods of Babylon (**ch. 46**).

a. The fall of the gods of Babylon (**vs. 1-2**).

b. And admonition to Israel – Jehovah vs. the gods of Babylon (**vs. 3-7**).

c. **Proof of Jehovah's greatness: power to predict the end** from the beginning (**vs. 8-13**).

2. Fall of Babylon, the capital of the World Empire (**ch. 47**).

a. A dirge over the downfall of Babylon: from queen to slave (**vs. 1-11**).

b. No amount of sorcery or enchantment will save her (**vs. 12-15**).

F. JEHOVAH'S PAST MANIFESTATIONS A GUARANTEE OF **SPEEDY DELIVERANCE AND RESTORATION** – A SUMMARY OF **ch. 40-48** (**ch. 48**).

1. Jehovah's unique power to predict – **idols are nothings** (**vs. 1-11**).

2. Jehovah's Servant will faithfully perform all His pleasure on Babylon (**vs 12-16**).

3. Chastisements were disciplinary – final promise of deliverance (**vs. 17-22**).