

Isaiah: Prince of the Prophets

Lesson 4

Isaiah 40:1-31

October 2, 2022

Who But God?

INTRODUCTION

We serve an awesome God! Isaiah is instructed by God to proclaim comforting words and a call to Israel to remember His strength and goodness. Isaiah paints a tremendous image of God's infinite power and unparalleled nature, coupling this with His love and tenderness to His people, those who are faithful to Him.

Here, within the declaration of God's faithfulness and promise to deliver His people, Israel, we see God's plan for salvation revealed in the coming of His Son, our savior, Jesus Christ.

Isaiah reminds us that our hope in God is not a hollow or useless endeavor, but a very real, active, and effective connection with God's strength.

***Memory verse: "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."
—Isaiah 40:31***

Pray, and read Isaiah 40:1-31. What questions or observations do you have about this passage?

OBSERVATION: What does the passage say?

1. What kinds of words does God instruct Isaiah to speak to His people? (Isaiah 40:1-2)
2. What actions do we see called for by “the voice of one calling”? (Isaiah 40:3-5)
3. How does God view His people’s faithfulness? (Isaiah 40:6-8)
4. What comparisons are made to God’s greatness? (Isaiah 40:12, 15)
5. What is promised to those who hope in the Lord? (Isaiah 40:29-31)

INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?

1. God spoke comfort and promise to the people of Israel during their time of trial. His words resonate with us now, as well. What is this hope for which we are called to have faith? (Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 40:3-5; Jeremiah 31:10-13)

2. What can be understood about our faithfulness in comparison to God's? (Psalms 36:5, 117:2; Isaiah 40:6-8; Romans 3:3-4)

3. God is incomparable in all things, but He is unquestionably good. His faithfulness and goodness are great news for us! What does God want us to understand about having faith in Him despite challenging circumstances or interpersonal struggles? (Psalms 27:13, 33:5; Isaiah 40:28-31; Nahum 1:7; Romans 11:22)

4. Twice, Isaiah says, “Do you not know? Have you not heard?” and follows up with proclamations of God’s majesty. Why does God feel it is necessary to repeat the same words?

APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?

1. The people of Israel were under great duress during the time of Isaiah’s writings, having been divided into two kingdoms and repeatedly invaded by other nations. Despite these trials, God remained faithful to His people and continued to call out to them. He wanted them to put their trust in Him and to follow His commands. During your own times of stress and difficulty, in what ways has God given you comfort and promise of His blessing?

2. Consider “He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers” (Isaiah 40:22) and “He tends his flock like a shepherd; He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart.” (Isaiah 40:11) Our God is infinite, yet cares for us deeply. From this, what can we conclude about His consideration for our needs and in our times of hardship?

3. Write a prayer to God considering His greatness and His love for us and how from that we can derive hope in any circumstance or difficulty. Ask Him for continued strength and guidance to renew your strength and hope in Him daily.