

Isaiah 41:1-10 *Keep silence before me [God], O islands; and let the people [Israel, God's people] renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment [let the people from faraway lands bring their grievances before God and He will pass judgement on every issue, so that all will be treated fairly].*

²Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings [It is God who called the king from the east and gave his army victory everywhere he went]? He gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow [God made sure that king's army was equipped with powerful weapons and was able to use them effectively]. ³He pursued them, and passed safely; even by the way that he had not gone with his feet [That king conquered anyone he wanted to, and was able to pass by other nations without harassment]. ⁴Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning [Who had planned out that all these events would happen from the beginning of time]? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

⁵The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came [All the people from faraway lands saw these strong nations conquered]. ⁶They helped everyone his neighbor; and every one said to his brother, "Be of good courage [They saw what was happening so they encouraged each other and fought together]." ⁷So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil [They designed new weapons from skilled craftsmen], saying, "It is ready for the soldering:" and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved [saying to each other, "this new weapon will make us safe].

⁸But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend [But Israel can be secure knowing God will protect them]. ⁹Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof [I could have chosen any of the nations on earth, but I chose Israel for my people], and said unto thee, "Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. ¹⁰Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

I. Introduction

A. Isaiah wrote the book during the reigns of four kings of Judah

1. Book written by Isaiah about 740 BC -690 BC
2. King Uzziah (first), King Jotham (second), & King Hezekiah (fourth) were good kings
3. King Ahaz of Judah was an evil king

B. The theme of Isaiah chapters 40-44 is instructions on handling life's fears

1. God makes a way of escape
2. Isaiah chapter 40 describes how God will reveal His glory
3. Isaiah chapter 42 describes the coming of the promised Elect Servant (Messiah, Jesus)
4. Isaiah chapter 43 calls Israel to remember God their Redeemer
5. God has not forgotten His people
6. God's people can trust Him in all their ways

C. Uncertainty verses certainty

1. Troubling, uncertain times comes with experiences that we have never heard or seen before
2. Fear comes from the unknown
3. But God is timeless because He sees the end from the beginning

Isaiah 46:10 [God declares] *the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done* [God tells you at the beginning what will happen at the end], *saying, "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure."*

D. Three reasons to trust God

II. God's Power is Universal

A. God calls all people into His presence

1. God rules over all the nations (verse 1)
2. God will raise up a king from the east (verse 2)
 - a. Isaiah called the king by name long before his birth

Isaiah 44:28 [The LORD your redeemer] *saith of Cyrus, "He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure* [he will do exactly what I want him to do]: *even saying to Jerusalem, 'Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid.'*"

- b. The Prophet Ezra called King Cyrus of Persia a fulfillment of Jeremiah's prophecy in Jeremiah 29:10 – Ezra 1:1

B. God sees direction that nations take (verse 3)

1. All nations in God's sight are as nothing in Isaiah 40:14-17

Isaiah 40:17 *All nations before him* [God] *are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing* [nothing the nations do will change even the most trivial of God's plans], *and vanity.*

2. God direct the hearts of national rulers

Proverbs 21:1 *The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water []: he turneth it whithersoever he will.*

III. God's Perception is Supernatural

A. Who is like God? (verse 4)

1. God is timeless & everlasting (verse 3)

Isaiah 40:28 *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary* [the Creator of the earth doesn't get tired or out of breath]? *there is no searching of his understanding* [no one has the kind of understanding that He does].

2. God's knowledge is unlimited

Isaiah 46:10 *Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:*

3. God is still in control

B. Man is afraid of God (verse 5)

1. Nations make their own plans (verses 6-7)

Psalms 2:2-3 *The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD* [The kings and rulers of the earth set themselves against the LORD and make plans to rebel against Him], *and against his anointed, saying, ³Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us* [Let us not consider His laws, not be bound by His standards of right and wrong].”

2. Men also made plans after the flood at the Tower of Babel, directly contrary to what God told them to do (see Genesis 9:1 & 7)

Genesis 11:4 *And they* [the people who were living right after Noah's flood] *said, "Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name* [let us establish a country], *lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."*

3. Man's future fear of God's judgement

Luke 21:26 [Jesus speaking:] *"Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth* [and because of what they see happening on the earth]: *for the powers of heaven shall be shaken."*

Revelation 6:15-17 *And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶And said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne* [God], *and from the wrath of the Lamb* [Jesus]: *¹⁷For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand* [who will survive]?"

C. But God has the final decision

1. God will laugh at man's attempts to stop His plans

Psalm 2:4-6 *He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision* [the Lord shall scoff at them]. ⁵*Then shall he speak unto them* [the kings and rulers of the earth] *in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure* [and terrify them with his fierce anger]. ⁶*Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion* [Yet even with all this opposition, My plan to set My king on His throne has not been effected].

2. God prevented man's future plans by changing everyone's languages at the Tower of Babel

Genesis 11:7-8 *[God said] "Go to, let us go down, and there confound* [change] *their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."* ⁸*So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence* [that place] *upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city* [and they were not able to finish building the city they had planned].

IV. God's Promises are Eternal

A. God made eternal covenant with Israel (verse 8)

1. God chose Abraham & Jacob and their descendants as His people

Genesis 17:7 *And I* [God] *will establish my covenant between me and thee* [Abraham] *and thy seed* [children] *after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*

2. God promised that Jacob's & David's offspring to rule & Israel to return to the land

Jeremiah 33:25-26 *Thus saith the LORD; "If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth* [If I, God, break the cycle of day and night on the earth, and change the pattern of the stars in heaven]; ²⁶*Then will I cast away* [reject] *the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return* [for I will allow them to be taken captive (for 70 years), but I will be sure they return to their inheritance], *and have mercy on them."*

B. God told His people not to be afraid (verse 9)

1. Sin is everywhere anyone lives

2. Phrase "fear not" mentioned over 360 times in Bible

3. But God asks His people to trust Him

a. Jesus called the disciples His friends

John 15:15 *Henceforth I* [Jesus] *call you* [disciples] *not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth* [because a slave doesn't need to know the reason his master tells him to do something]: *but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.*

- b. God gave Christian the Holy Spirit of adoption

Romans 8:15 *For ye [Christians] have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.*

- c. God did not give Christian a fearful spirit but of power, love, & sound mind

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

- d. Christian can boldly say that the Lord is their helper

Hebrews 13:6 *So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*

- e. Perfect love throws out fear

1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment []. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*

V. Five Eternal Promises (verse 10)

- A. No fear because God is with each Christian just as He is with Israel

Hebrews 13:5 *Let your conversation [lifestyle] be without covetousness [wanting what someone else has]; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*

- B. God is the personal God of the Christian

Psalm 27:1 *The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I [God] know the thoughts that I think toward you [plans that I have for you], saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end [to give you hope and a future].*

- C. God will give strength to the Christian

Isaiah 40:29 *He [God] giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.*

Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.*

- D. God will give help beyond human possibility

- 1. God has helped in the past, is helping now, & will help in the future

- 2. God will protect & preserve His people

Psalm 140:1 *Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man;*

Isaiah 49:8 *Thus saith the LORD, "In an acceptable time have I heard thee [At just the right time I will respond to you], and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee [Messiah] for a covenant of the people [I will give you to the people as my covenant with them], to establish the earth [to reestablish the land of Israel], to cause to inherit the desolate heritages [and to give it back to its people, even though their heritage has been destroyed];"*

3. God will preserve Christian

Hebrews 13:6 *So that we may boldly say, "The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*

E. God will support Christian

Psalms 119:116 *Uphold me according unto thy word, that I may live: and let me not be ashamed of my hope [don't let my hope in your promises be crushed].*

VI. Conclusion

A. God promises to save anyone who comes to Him

Romans 10:11, 13 *For the scripture saith, "Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." ... ¹³For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

B. God promises Christian that He will never leave him

Deuteronomy 31:6 *Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them []: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee [for it is the same God that brought you out of Egypt and kept you alive in the wilderness for these 40 years that is going with you into this new land to conquer it]; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*