

# The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

A Weekly Publication of the Christians Meeting at  
Westlake church of Christ, 2291 Highway Z, Wentzville, Missouri 63385

Website: [westlakechurchofchrist.org](http://westlakechurchofchrist.org)

Sunday: AM Bible Study – 9:30 a.m., AM Worship – 10:30 a.m., PM Worship – 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday: PM Bible Study 7:30 p.m.

*Dedicated to the Proclamation of the Truth in the Spirit of Love (Ephesians 4:15)*

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## Introduction to Isaiah 40 – 66

*by Dempsey Collins*

In Chapters 1 – 39 both Israel and Judah have been sternly rebuked for their many sins and warned of terrible consequences if they do not repent. Samaria falls in 721 B.C. to the Assyrians and God warns Judah the same will happen to them if they do not repent.

The great overriding theme of Isaiah is twofold:

1. Isaiah 6:3 “Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.”  
Isaiah 6:17 “The pride of man will be humbled and the Lord alone exalted.”
2. Trust in the Lord and He will save you physically and spiritually. Physically He will save Judah from the Syrians, Assyrians, Israel and all her human enemies. Spiritually, God will save Judah and all men from their greatest enemy – sin, if we fully trust Him (Isaiah 7:14; 8:13, 14; 10:20; 11:10; 12:2).

Judah must learn to not place her trust in idols, other nations or her own military strength. Mixed among the many warnings, rebukes and consequences are frequent messages of hope both near and distant, physical and spiritual.

1:16, 17	8:13, 14	25:1-12	30:15, 18-33
2:1-5	9:1-7	26:1-21	31:6 – 9
2:17-21	10:20-27	27:1-13	32:1-8, 15-20
4:5, 6	11:1-16	28:5-6	33:15-24
6:1-13	12:1-6	28:23-29	35:1-10
7:14-16	24: 23	29:17-24	

During the reign of Ahaz; Rezin, King Aram and Pekah, King of Israel attacked Judah and killed 120,000 Judeans (Cp. Isaiah 7,8 with II Chronicles 28:5, 6). The attack was a serious wake up call for Judah. Hezekiah, the son of Ahaz, was a far better man than his father, but the people of Judah continued in sin and even Hezekiah turned to Egypt for help from their enemies (Cp. II Kings 18:21 with Isaiah 30, 31).

God used Sennacherib and the Assyrians to punish Judah, but when Hezekiah repented and turned to the Lord for help, God answered by killing 185,000 Assyrian soldiers in one night (Cp. II Kings 19:14-37 with Isaiah 36, 37).

Though Hezekiah and his great grandson Josiah enacted many reforms in Judah, the hearts of the people in general were turned away from the Lord. Hezekiah's own son Mannaseh was a wicked ruler and responsible for leading Judah back in to idolatry and rejection of God's prophets. Even during righteous Josiah's reign, the prophet Jeremiah describes Judah as Israel's sister who had learned nothing from God's punishment of Israel. "She (Judah) was also a harlot, she did not fear ... she polluted the land and committed adultery with the stones and trees ... Judah did not return to me with all her heart but rather in deception declares the Lord." (Jer. 3:6-10).

Because Judah did not repent and return to the Lord, God raised up the Babylonians to punish her. Isaiah writes long before the Babylonians were the dominant empire. Through the inspiration of God, Isaiah sees Judah's fall and redemption. Isaiah once again writes in the historical perfect as if the events have already transpired. In Chapters 40-66 Isaiah writes to comfort and encourage Jews in captivity. He assures them of great blessings to come. The storm of punishment and correction is past, it is now time to learn from the past, trust in the Lord and seek His favor. Though Isaiah will die long before the events he describes in much of the book, especially Chapters 40-66, yet by the guidance of the Holy Spirit he was able to provide tremendous help to countless Jews for centuries to come.

The following is from brother Homer Hailey:

The subject of Part Two (Chapters 40-66) is the preparation of the people for captivity in Babylon. They are assured of their return and of Jehovah's care for them until the coming of the Seed of Abraham. Confidence in their eventual return from exile would of course depend upon their faith in God and in His ability to keep His promise; therefore, the first major section of Part Two (Chapters 41-48) is devoted to God's claim to power, which rests on His sole deity and Godhood. As proof of His power and sole deity, He points to His ability to foretell events and then bring them to pass. Of all evidence for the inspiration of the Bible there is none more convincing than the declaration of events to come and their fulfillment as foretold. This also affords grounds for faith in every crisis; God is a promise-keeping God.

This section is not restricted to the raising up of someone who will deliver the people from the Babylonian exile, but it looks beyond to a superior Deliverer who will free all peoples from a greater bondage – the Servant of Jehovah who will deliver from spiritual captivity. Out of the Servant's work will emerge a spiritual kingdom destined to endure forever, a kingdom that will overcome all political kingdoms. Anything human or physical is fore destined to pass away; only that which is spiritual will endure.

Verses 1-11 of Chapter 40 serve as a prologue to the remainder of the book. Part One (Chapters 1-39) closed with the dark anticipation of captivity; and now in contracts, Part Two opens with the joyous assurance of comfort and redemption. The prophet speaks to the people who will find themselves in Babylonian exile over a hundred years in the future. They will be oppressed under the heel of a powerful tyrant, their beloved city will be in ruins, and the temple razed to the ground.

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## **News and Notes:**

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses. "...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."- James 5:16