

## The Prophecies of Isaiah <sup>57</sup>

### Lesson 25

It is some time before 710 BC, the year Sargon II successfully removes Merodach-Baladan from his self-proclaimed kingship in the Babylonian area. Merodach's men have come and gone from Hezekiah's palace where he showed them everything in the Southern Kingdom's treasury. The event catapults Isaiah to tell all he knows about the future to King Hezekiah; furthermore, Isaiah instructs Hezekiah to repeat the entire vision to all the Jewish people in order to give them comfort in their uncertain days. According to his own record carved into what is now known as the Taylor Cylinder housed in the British Museum, Sennacherib has taken 200,156 inhabitants of 46 walled cities and numerous small unwallled villages into exile from Hezekiah's country. The Southern Kingdom is straining for necessary food and supplies; the people need a word of comfort and this vision lays out God's plan in many scenarios.

After the instruction to Hezekiah concerning his descendants, Vision 22 can be divided into three sections.

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3
<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b> Isaiah 40 – 48	<b>The Suffering of the Lord</b> Isaiah 49-57	<b>The Coming of the Lord</b> Isaiah 58-66

Figure 52: Design of Isaiah 40-66

Each section is filled with prophecies.

### Vision 22 Begins

*Near Prophecy*

#### **ISAIAH'S PROPHECY – EXILE AND TREASURE TO BABYLON**

**Isaiah 39:5** Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts, <sup>6</sup>Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD.

**2 Kings 20:16** Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD. <sup>17</sup>Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and all that your fathers have laid up in store to this day shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD.

"Hear the word of the LORD of hosts," Isaiah says to Hezekiah as he begins with a near prophecy. Some time in the future, all the treasures of the Southern Kings, from Rehoboam to Zedekiah, all Hezekiah's ancestors and descendants, will be gathered up and taken to Babylon. Nebuchadnezzar fulfills this prophecy in 586 BC when he destroys the Temple and removes the position of king in the Southern Kingdom.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 39:5-6	<i>Near Prophecy</i> The combined treasures of the Southern Kingdom will be taken to Babylon.	Fulfilled in 586 BC by Nebuchadnezzar

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Near Prophecy

**ISAIAH'S PROPHECY – DESCENDANTS BECOME OFFICIALS IN BABYLON**

**Isaiah 39:7** 'And some of your sons who shall issue from you, whom you shall beget, shall be taken away; and they shall become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'

**2 Kings 20:18** 'And some of your sons who shall issue from you, whom you shall beget, shall be taken away; and they shall become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon.'

Isaiah foretells Hezekiah that some of his descendants will be exiled to Babylon and become officials in the service of the king in that country. Nebuchadnezzar fulfills this prophecy in 606 BC with the exile and elevation of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 39:57	Near Prophecy The descendants Hezekiah will become officials in Babylon.	Fulfilled in 606 BC with Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego by Nebuchadnezzar

History/Isaiah's Eye Witness Account

**HEZEKIAH'S THOUGHT**

**Isaiah 39:8** Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "For there will be peace and truth in my days."

**2 Kings 20:19** Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the LORD which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Is it not so, if there shall be peace and truth in my days?"

Hezekiah is delighted with Isaiah's words, thinking the Southern Kingdom will experience peace and truth during his days as king. Hezekiah has experienced truth because 14 of the 22 visions of Isaiah are delivered during his reign; furthermore, those 14 visions comprise 52 of the 66 chapters. God's truth is a hallmark of Hezekiah's entire reign; peace is not; only the last 15 years of his reign are peaceful.

**Section 1: The Majesty of the Lord - Isaiah 40 – 48**

Far Prophecy

**COMFORT MY PEOPLE**

**Isaiah 40:1** "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God. <sup>2</sup> "Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins." <sup>3a</sup> A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness;"

"Comfort, O comfort My people," is God's message to Hezekiah through the prophet Isaiah who delivers the message but it is Hezekiah's responsibility to transmit the message to his people of God's promises for the future. The people of Jerusalem are to be the first to hear the message and understand that the war with Assyria is over. Neither Sennacherib nor his successors will return. The sins of many of the people of the Southern Kingdom have been forgiven. But many members of that kingdom have refused to trust the Lord and have received a double death penalty.<sup>58</sup> Many in the Southern Kingdom have died because of Assyria's war efforts; additionally, when the Lord returns to reign on His throne, many Jews will pay a double penalty for their sins then as well. What is the double penalty? They will die in their trespasses because they have rejected the Lord and they will enter the second

<sup>58</sup> Jeremiah 16:18; Zechariah 9:12; Revelation 18:6

death in the lake of fire; it is the double penalty that everyone who rejects the Savior will experience.

"Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness," God says. John the Baptist will repeat these words in Mark 1:3. God promises His people that the Savior will come. He will come as a child in 4 BC, just 706 years away. John the Baptist introduces the Savior to the people of the world at Jesus' baptism in 72 AD; the way has been prepared.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 40:1-3a	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The way for the coming of the Savior will be prepared.	Fulfilled in 27 AD when John the Baptist baptizes Jesus

*Far Prophecy*

**MOUNTAINS AND HILLS MADE LOW**

**Isaiah 40: 3b** "Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley;

The beginning of the fulfillment of the coming Savior starts with His birth, baptism, ministry, death and resurrection, but it culminates with His return and reign as King of kings and Lord of lords. When He returns, the rugged deserts will be made into a highway, the valleys will be lifted up and the mountains will be lowered so that the highest place on earth will be the Lord's home in Jerusalem.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 40:1-3a	<i>Far Prophecy</i> When the Savior returns, the topography of the world will change.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

*Far Prophecy*

**GLORY OF THE LORD REVEALED**

**Isaiah 40:5** Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

What is the glory of the Lord? It is His very presence and being. When He returns to reign for 1,000 years, everyone will be fully aware of the glory of the Lord.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 40:5	<i>Far Prophecy</i> When the Savior returns, everyone alive will see His glory.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

*Present Day*

**HEZEKIAH'S QUESTION**

**Isaiah 40:6a** A voice says, "Call out." Then he answered, "What shall I call out?"

The Lord wants King Hezekiah to be involved in the conversation. "What shall I call out?" Hezekiah asks.

*Present Day*

**THE LORD'S ANSWER**

**Isaiah 40:6b** All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

The Lord wants Hezekiah to proclaim to his people that life is fragile yet precious and all life on earth fades away; nevertheless, God's word and promises never fade away.

#### The Majesty of the Lord

- His glory will be seen by all.
- His word stands forever.

Present Day

#### BEARER OF GOOD NEWS

**Isaiah 40:9** Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift *it* up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, " Here is your God!"

The Lord tells Hezekiah to go to the highest mountain and proclaim to all of the Southern Kingdom that God is present.

Far Prophecy

#### THE LORD COMES WITH MIGHT

**Isaiah 40:10** Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him, And His recompense before Him. <sup>11</sup> Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs, And carry *them* in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes. <sup>12</sup> Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance, And the hills in a pair of scales? <sup>13</sup> Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? <sup>14</sup> With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding? And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, And informed Him of the way of understanding?

The Lord is specific about the message Hezekiah is to deliver to the Southern Kingdom. He is to comfort the people with the knowledge that the Lord will come with power and might, yet He will be gentle to those He gathers in His arms. Hezekiah is to remind them that He is the One who created everything and that He needed no help in the process.

#### The Majesty of the Lord

- He comes with might.
- He tends His flock.
- He has created everything.
- He consults no one.

Present Day

#### COMPARISON TO THE LORD

**Isaiah 40:15** Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands like fine dust. <sup>16</sup> Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. <sup>17</sup> All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless. <sup>18</sup> To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? <sup>19</sup> *As for* the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith *fashions* chains of silver. <sup>20</sup> He who is too impoverished for *such* an offering selects a tree that does not rot; he seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter.

Hezekiah's message is to make it plain that no one can compare to the Lord and no one can create anything. The works of man are just a drop in the bucket compared to the Lord, "nothing and meaningless."

#### The Majesty of the Lord

- He is greater than all creation.
- He cannot be duplicated.

Present Day

**THE LORD'S POWER**

**Isaiah 40:21** Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? <sup>22</sup> It is He who sits above the vault of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. <sup>23</sup> He *it is* who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. <sup>24</sup> Scarcely have they been planted, Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble. <sup>25</sup> "To whom then will you liken Me That I should be *his* equal?" says the Holy One. <sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these *stars*, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of *His* power Not one of *them* is missing. <sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"?

In this portion of the message, Hezekiah is to comfort his people by proclaiming the power of the Lord and all that He has created with no one as His equal. His power not only applies to the earth but also extends to heaven and the stars which He created and named. He knows the name of each star He created. Why would Jacob, the city of Bethel, and Israel, the Northern Kingdom, even consider the thought that their ways are hidden from God. He sees and knows everything!

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| <p><b>The Majesty of the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He sits above the vault of the earth.</li> <li>• He stretches out the heavens.</li> <li>• He removes the rulers of the earth.</li> <li>• He cannot be equaled.</li> <li>• He has created the stars.</li> <li>• He has named the stars.</li> <li>• He sees and knows everything.</li> </ul> |
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Present Day

**THE LORD'S ENDURANCE**

**Isaiah 40:28** Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

It is important for Hezekiah to make the people understand that God does not become weary or tired and His understanding of what people will do is a mystery. No one can understand how God does what He does.

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| <p><b>The Majesty of the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He always existed.</li> <li>• He never becomes weary.</li> <li>• His knowledge is a mystery to us.</li> </ul> |
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Present Day

**THE LORD GIVES STRENGTH**

**Isaiah 40:29** He gives strength to the weary, And to *him who* lacks might He increases power. <sup>30</sup> Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, <sup>31</sup> Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

It is also important for Hezekiah to help the people understand that all will become weak and weary, even if they are young men, and all will stumble, but the Lord can give renewed strength for their endeavors.

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| <p><b>The Majesty of the Lord</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He gives strength to the weary.</li> <li>• He increases man's power.</li> <li>• He gives strength to the man who waits on Him.</li> </ul> |
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Far Prophecy

**COASTLANDS LISTEN TO GAIN STRENGTH**

**Isaiah 41:1** "Coastlands, listen to Me in silence, And let the peoples gain new strength; Let them come forward, then let them speak; Let us come together for judgment.

The Hebrew word translated here as coastlands is found in the Bible only 15 times and 14 of those times are in Isaiah. When the Lord speaks of the people of the coastlands, He is referring to the gentile nations which surround Israel. Here the Lord is giving His permission for nations to gain strength and then proceed to the designated place where, although they will speak their minds, they will also be judged by the Lord.

<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He silences His enemies.</li> <li>• He gives strength to His enemies.</li> <li>• He gathers His enemies.</li> <li>• He judges His enemies.</li> </ul>

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Time of Fulfillment</b>
Isa. 41:1	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The nations will gather to be judged by the Lord.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

*Near Prophecy*

**ONE FROM EAST CALLED RIGHTEOUSE**

**Isaiah 41:2** " Who has aroused one from the east Whom He calls in righteousness to His feet? He delivers up nations before him, And subdues kings. He makes them like dust with his sword, As the wind-driven chaff with his bow. <sup>3</sup> "He pursues them, passing on in safety, By a way he had not been traversing with his feet. <sup>4</sup> " Who has performed and accomplished *it*, Calling forth the generations from the beginning? ' I, the LORD, am the first, and with the last. I am He.'"

With the gentile nations gathered together at the appropriate time, the Lord will come from the east without His feet touching the earth to subdue His enemies in judgment. They will be gathered together, not of their own doing but because He has called them.

<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He comes to earth from the east.</li> <li>• He subdues all kings.</li> <li>• He is the first.</li> <li>• He is the last.</li> </ul>

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Time of Fulfillment</b>
Isa. 41:2-4	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will come from the east to judge the nations.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

*Far Prophecy*

**COASTLANDS SEE AND BE AFRAID**

**Isaiah 41:5** The coastlands have seen and are afraid; The ends of the earth tremble; They have drawn near and have come. <sup>6</sup> Each one helps his neighbor, And says to his brother, "Be strong!" <sup>7</sup> So the craftsman encourages the smelter, *And* he who smooths *metal* with the hammer *encourages* him who beats the anvil, Saying of the soldering, "It is good"; And he fastens it with nails, *That* it should not totter.

The gentile nations will have gathered at the appointed location because they have helped each other get there under false pretenses saying, "Be strong." They will arrive with man-made gods which they have to secure with nails to keep them in place, images that can do nothing to help the people. Fear will overcome them and they will tremble. All the encouragement in the world will not remove their fate, fear or future.

<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He causes the people of the earth to fear.</li> <li>• He causes the people of the earth to tremble.</li> </ul>

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Time of Fulfillment</b>
Isa. 41:5-7	<i>Far Prophecy</i> When the nations arrive with their idols , they will be afraid and tremble as they gather together.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

**ASSURANCE TO GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE**

**Isaiah 41:8** "But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My friend, <sup>9</sup>You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts, And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you. <sup>10</sup>'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

The nation of Israel needs not fear, for the coming of the Lord will establish her as the premier country of the world. All the forces of evil will be handled by the Lord and He will enable Israel to survive.

<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He chose Israel.</li> <li>• He calls Israel back from the ends of the earth.</li> <li>• He upholds and protects Israel with His right arm.</li> </ul>

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Time of Fulfillment</b>
Isa. 41:8-10	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The nation of Israel need not fear when they are attached because the Lord will protect her when He comes.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

**PROTECTION FOR GOD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE**

**Isaiah 41:11** "Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored; Those who contend with you will be as nothing, and will perish. <sup>12</sup> " You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them, Those who war with you will be as nothing, and non-existent. <sup>13</sup> "For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, ' Do not fear, I will help you.' <sup>14</sup> "Do not fear, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel; I will help you," declares the LORD, " and your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

Within moments after the Lord arrives, all of Israel’s enemies will be eliminated. At that time, the Lord will redeem Israel and make her into the nation He promised she would be.

<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He will protect Israel.</li> <li>• He will exterminate Israel’s enemies.</li> <li>• He is the Redeemer of Israel.</li> </ul>

<b>Passage</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Time of Fulfillment</b>
Isa. 41:11-14	<i>Far Prophecy</i> Israel will become a nation without enemies.	Will be fulfilled after the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

**LORD’S CHOSEN PEOPLE MADE ANEW**

**Isaiah 41:15** "Behold, I have made you a new, sharp threshing sledge with double edges; You will thresh the mountains, and pulverize *them*, And will make the hills like chaff. <sup>16</sup> "You will winnow them, and the wind will carry them away, And the storm will scatter them; But you will rejoice in the LORD, You will glory in the Holy One of Israel.

When the Lord returns and changes Israel into the nation He promised she would be, Israel will finally live on all the Promised Land and turn it into the finest agricultural center ever imagined and it will remain that way for 1,000 years.

<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He will make Israel new.</li> <li>• He will make Israel powerful against her enemies.</li> </ul>

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 41:15-16	<i>Far Prophecy</i> Israel will successfully work the Promised Land and it will become a land flowing with all sorts of agricultural products.	Will be fulfilled after the Second Coming of the Lord

*Far Prophecy*

**LORD'S SAVING OF THE NEEDY AND SEEKING**

**Isaiah 41:17** "The afflicted and needy are seeking water, but there is none, And their tongue is parched with thirst; I, the LORD, will answer them Myself, As the God of Israel I will not forsake them. <sup>18</sup> "I will open rivers on the bare heights, And springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water, And the dry land fountains of water. <sup>19</sup> "I will put the cedar in the wilderness, The acacia, and the myrtle, and the olive tree; I will place the juniper in the desert, Together with the box tree and the cypress, <sup>20</sup> That they may see and recognize, And consider and gain insight as well, That the hand of the LORD has done this, And the Holy One of Israel has created it.

Prior to the coming of the Lord, Israel will experience seven years of tribulation. During that time, access to food, water and vegetation will be limited. Finally, the leaders of Israel will direct the people to the Lord just before His return. After the Lord's enemies are destroyed and Israel is set as the premier nation of the world, the Lord will prepare the Promised Land so that all the needs of Israel are met. The preparation of the land is a sign to Israel that He is their Provider.

<b>The Majesty of the Lord</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He answers the needy.</li> <li>• He will not forsake Israel.</li> <li>• He will recreate Israel's land.</li> </ul>

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 41:17-20	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will make sure that the Promised Land meets all the needs of Israel.	Will be fulfilled after the Second Coming of the Lord