

The Prophecies of Isaiah ⁵⁹

Lesson 26

Present Day

LORD'S QUESTION

Isaiah 41:21a "Present your case," the LORD says. "Bring forward your strong arguments," The King of Jacob says. ²² Let them bring forth and declare to us what is going to take place; As for the former events, declare what they were, That we may consider them, and know their outcome; Or announce to us what is coming. ²³ Declare the things that are going to come afterward, That we may know that you are gods; Indeed, do good or evil, that we may anxiously look about us and fear together.

The Lord, the King of the nation of Israel, calls for the gentile nations of the world to inquire of their gods whether or not they can foretell the future or explain the past. If they can perform this simple feat, then they, whether good or evil, can be considered gods.

Present Day

LORD'S ANSWER – AN ABOMINATION

Isaiah 41:24 Behold, you are of no account, And your work amounts to nothing; He who chooses you is an abomination.

The Lord answers for the gentile nations; their gods are worthless, revealing nothing and accounting for nothing. They are mute and lifeless and those who choose to worship the gods of wood, gold and silver are an abomination to the true God.

Near Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – ONE FROM THE NORTH

Isaiah 41:25 "I have aroused one from the north, and he has come; From the rising of the sun he will call on My name; And he will come upon rulers as upon mortar, Even as the potter treads clay."

Here, the Lord gives a near prophecy that is proved within 100 years. Nebuchadnezzar will approach the Southern Kingdom from the north, coming around the fertile crescent from Babylon in the east. Every ruler of every nation will fall at his feet; the Lord has placed every human and beast under his domain; no nation can refuse to let Him be their king or He will tread over them.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 41:25	Near Prophecy The Lord will send one from the north.	Fulfilled in 606 BC

Near Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – HE HAS DECLARED FALSE AND WORTHLESS

Isaiah 41:26 Who has declared *this* from the beginning, that we might know? Or from former times, that we may say, "He is right!"? Surely there was no one who declared, Surely there was no one who proclaimed, Surely there was no one who heard your words. ²⁷ "Formerly I said to Zion, 'Behold, here they are.' And to Jerusalem, 'I will give a messenger of good news.' ²⁸ "But when I look, there is no one, And there is no counselor among them Who, if I ask, can give an answer. ²⁹

⁵⁹ ALL SCRIPTURES IN THIS LESSON ENTITLED "THE Prophecies of Isaiah" ARE TAKEN FROM THE NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, COPYRIGHT (C) 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1988, BY THE LOCKMAN FOUNDATION. USED BY PERMISSION.

"Behold, all of them are false; Their works are worthless, Their molten images are wind and emptiness.

The Lord has sent His prophets to Zion and Jerusalem to proclaim the good news of His message to the people. However, none of the gods of the coastlands have ever given the message of the good news; their prophets have neither proclaimed the truth nor answered the prayers of their followers.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 41:26	<i>Near Prophecy</i> The Lord has proclaimed Israel's prophets worthless.	Fulfilled in 606 BC

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – THE SERVANT LORD

Isaiah 42:1 " Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. ² "He will not cry out or raise *His voice*, Nor make His voice heard in the street. ³ "A bruised reed He will not break, And a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish; He will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ "He will not be disheartened or crushed, Until He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His Law." ⁵ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk in it, ⁶ "I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness, I will also hold you by the hand and watch over you, And I will appoint you as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon, And those who dwell in darkness from the prison.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He comes as a Servant. • He brings justice. • He does not cry out as a servant. • He is not disheartened. • He is not crushed. • He gives the Law to the Gentiles. • He makes Israel a covenant to the Gentiles. • He makes Israel a light to the Gentiles. • He frees Gentiles from the prison of darkness.

Here, the true God provides the good news that He will send the Lord to be His Servant to the people. This passage provides nine characteristics of the majesty of the Lord that will be the hallmark of His first coming to earth as a Child. God, the Lord has chosen the nation of Israel to take the covenant of the Lord to all the people of the world. When He arrives, He will heal and free people from all sorts of hurt and heartache.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:1-7	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will come to bring healing.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – HIS NAME AND GLORY

Isaiah 42:8 " I am the LORD, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images.

The Lord is a jealous God and He will not share His glory with any so-called god made by man.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord is God's name. • His glory belongs only to Him.

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – NEW KINGDOM SINGS ALOUD IN THE COASTLANDS

Isaiah 42:9 "Behold, the former things have come to pass, Now I declare new things; Before they spring forth I proclaim *them* to you." ¹⁰ Sing to the LORD a new song, *Sing* His praise from the end of the earth! You who go down to the sea, and all that is in it. You islands and those who dwell on them. ¹¹ Let the wilderness and its cities lift up *their voices*, The settlements where Kedar inhabits. Let the inhabitants of Sela sing aloud, Let them shout for joy from the tops of the mountains. ¹² Let them give glory to the LORD, And declare His praise in the coastlands.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He requires the praise of Israel. • He requires the praise of the Gentiles.

With the coming of the Lord as the Servant of the people, the good news will be spread to all the nations of the coastlands and they will proclaim His glory. The prophecies of the past have been fulfilled. This new prophecy promises to put a new song in the hearts of the people of the gentile world and they will sing praises to the Lord rather than to their idols and gods.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:8-12	Far Prophecy The inhabitants of the world will sing a new song to the Lord.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – THE LORD A WARRIOR

Isaiah 42:13 The LORD will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse *His* zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies. ¹⁴ " I have kept silent for a long time, I have kept still and restrained Myself. *Now* like a woman in labor I will groan, I will both gasp and pant. ¹⁵ "I will lay waste the mountains and hills, And wither all their vegetation; I will make the rivers into coastlands, And dry up the ponds. ¹⁶ "And I will lead the blind by a way they do not know, In paths they do not know I will guide them. I will make darkness into light before them And rugged places into plains. These are the things I will do, And I will not leave them undone." ¹⁷ They shall be turned back and be utterly put to shame, Who trust in idols, Who say to molten images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸ Hear, you deaf! And look, you blind, that you may see.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will come like a warrior and shout a war cry. • He will change the topography of the earth. • He will make darkness into light. • He makes the rugged places into plains.

Although the Lord will come as a Servant, He will also come as a warrior. When He comes, He will change the world; He will change its topography; He will change its environment; He will heal the people who are infirmed; He will rid the world of His enemies.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:13-18	Far Prophecy The Lord will change the topography of the world, heal the infirmed and eliminate His enemies.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – SERVANT AND MESSENGER BLIND AN DEAF

Isaiah 42:19 Who is blind but My servant, Or so deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is so blind as he that is at peace *with Me*, Or so blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰ You have seen many things, but you do not observe *them*; *Your* ears are open, but none hears.

The Lord foretells that both times He comes to the earth, the leaders of His people, who ought to be His servants and messengers, will reject His appearance and message. The first rejection is fulfilled when they nail Him to the cross and they will reject Him again when He returns to destroy them before He sets up His kingdom on earth.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:19-20	<i>Far Prophecy</i> Israel's eyes and ears will not be opened to the Lord until His Second Coming.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – GREAT AND GLORIOUS LAW

Isaiah 42:21 The LORD was pleased for His righteousness' sake To make the Law great and glorious.

The Law was clearly delivered in Deuteronomy 28; if the people live by the Law, it will reveal His righteousness to the world; if the people forsake the Law, they will be removed from the land.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He makes the Law great. • He makes the Law glorious.

Deuteronomy 28:49 " The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as the eagle swoops down, a nation whose language you shall not understand, ⁵⁰ a nation of fierce countenance who shall have no respect for the old, nor show favor to the young. ⁵¹ "Moreover, it shall eat the offspring of your herd and the produce of your ground until you are destroyed, who also leaves you no grain, new wine, or oil, nor the increase of your herd or the young of your flock until they have caused you to perish. ⁵² " And it shall besiege you in all your towns until your high and fortified walls in which you trusted come down throughout your land, and it shall besiege you in all your towns throughout your land which the LORD your God has given you. ⁵³ " Then you shall eat the offspring of your own body, the flesh of your sons and of your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, during the siege and the distress by which your enemy shall oppress you.

Those who refuse to serve the Lord and keep His Law will be exiled in prison as seen in the next passage.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:21	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will rid the world of the Israelites who do not keep His Law.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – PEOPLE PLUNDERED AND DESPOILED BY THE LORD

Isaiah 42:22 But this is a people plundered and despoiled; All of them are trapped in caves, Or are hidden away in prisons; They have become a prey with none to deliver *them*, And a spoil, with none to say, "Give *them* back!" ²³ Who among you will give ear to this? Who will give heed and listen hereafter? ²⁴ Who gave Jacob up for spoil, and Israel to plunderers? Was it not the LORD, against whom we have sinned, And in whose ways they were not willing to walk, And whose Law they did not obey? ²⁵ So He poured out on him the heat of His anger And the fierceness of battle; And it set

him aflame all around, Yet he did not recognize *it*; And it burned him, but he paid no attention.

The future of Israel after Isaiah's day until the Lord's Second Coming is not bright and beautiful. Her dark future consists of defeat and plunder until His return, all directed by the hand of the Lord. He will send Nebuchadnezzar to capture and enslave the Jews; He will send Antiochus Epiphanies to wreak havoc on Israel; He will send Caesar to destroy the Temple in 70 AD; He will revive the Roman Empire and send its king to make a treaty with Israel; He will send the king of Rosh to attack Israel; He will gather all the nations of the earth in the valley of Jezreel to attack Israel; He has planned it, foretold it, and will cause it to happen as He has designed.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He gives up Israel to plunder because of her sin. • He gives up Israel because she does not keep His Law.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:22-25	<i>Far Prophecy</i> Israel will be plundered until the Lord's second return.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Near Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – ISRAEL REDEEMED

Isaiah 43:1 But now, thus says the LORD, your Creator, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine! ² "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; And through the rivers, they will not overflow you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be scorched, Nor will the flame burn you. ³ "For I am the LORD your God, The Holy One of Israel, your Savior; I have given Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in your place. ⁴ "Since you are precious in My sight, *Since* you are honored and I love you, I will give *other* men in your place and *other* peoples in exchange for your life.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He formed Israel. • He will ransom Israel.

Although the Lord has planned the numerous attacks on the nation of Israel, He has also promised her eventual redemption. To redeem means to buy back. When Israel is taken to Babylon for 70 years, the Lord will buy her back through the actions of Cyrus the Great who will let Israel leave Babylon and return to the Promised Land. History proves that Cyrus' action on behalf of Israel is rewarded when the Lord allows Cyrus to overthrow Egypt, Cush and Seba who had rebelled and regained their freedom from the last weak kings of the Babylonian Empire. Israel is redeemed from Persia and Egypt, Cush and Seba are given to Cyrus in return for Israel's freedom.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 43:1-4	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will redeem Israel.	Fulfilled in 536 BC

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – ISRAEL RETURNED

Isaiah 43:5 "Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, And gather you from the west. ⁶ "I will say to the north, 'Give *them* up!' And to the south, 'Do not hold *them* back.' Bring My sons from afar, And My daughters from the ends of the earth, ⁷ Everyone who is called by My name, And whom I have created for My glory, Whom I have formed, even whom I have made." ⁸ Bring out the people who are blind, even though they have eyes, And the deaf, even though they have ears. ⁹ All the nations have gathered together In order that the peoples may be assembled. Who among them can declare this And proclaim to us the former things?

Let them present their witnesses that they may be justified, Or let them hear and say, "It is true." ¹⁰ "You are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, In order that you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, And there will be none after Me. ¹¹ "I, even I, am the LORD; And there is no savior besides Me.

The Lord promises the redemption and safety of Israel from Babylon and the utter parts of the earth. All of this prophecy is given to prove that the Lord is in control and that He can accomplish what He has promised. Other gods cannot accomplish this feat for their followers. God is the only Savior and the only Lord. God is the only god who ever existed with none before Him and none after Him. In this Scripture the Lord says that He is God, the I am, the Savior, the only God.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He will reunite the Israelites. • He is the only God and there are no other gods. • He, the Lord is God and He is the only Savior.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 43:5-11	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will gather all of Israel together.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – I DECLARED, SAVED, PROCLAIMED

Isaiah 43:12 "It is I who have declared and saved and proclaimed, And there was no strange *god* among you; So you are My witnesses," declares the LORD, "And I am God. ¹³ "Even from eternity I am He; And there is none who can deliver out of My hand; I act and who can reverse it?"

Stated plainly and simply, God is the only god; all other so-called gods are creations of man's imagination. He has existed from the beginning and He will exist for all time. No one can stop or derail God.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He has existed from all eternity. • Nothing God does can be reversed.

Near Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – I SEND BABYLON

Isaiah 43:14 Thus says the LORD your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "For your sake I have sent to Babylon, And will bring them all down as fugitives, Even the Chaldeans, into the ships in which they rejoice.

Therefore, because the Lord is God, here He promises to send the Babylonians to take Israel into captivity. It will be fulfilled in 104 years in 606 BC. Not all of the exiles will travel to Babylon by land; some of the Israelites will be shipped to Babylon by way of the Red Sea, to the Arabian Sea and on to the Persian Gulf.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:12-14	<i>Near Prophecy</i> The Lord will send Israel to Babylon.	Fulfilled in 606 BC

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – I CREATED ISRAEL

Isaiah 43:15 "I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King." ¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, Who makes a way through the sea And a path through the mighty waters, ¹⁷ Who brings forth the chariot and the horse, The army and the mighty man (~~They will lie down together and not rise again; They have been quenched and~~

extinguished like a wick): ¹⁸ " Do not call to mind the former things, Or ponder things of the past.

The Lord has Hezekiah tell his people to forget all their past experiences with Egypt, Aram and Assyria. He is Israel's creator, He has a grand plan for her future and He will make a way for her. What will He do for Israel in the future?

Far Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – I WILL DO SOMETHING NEW

Isaiah 43:19 "Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert. ²⁰ "The beasts of the field will glorify Me; The jackals and the ostriches; Because I have given waters in the wilderness And rivers in the desert, To give drink to My chosen people.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The beasts glorify God. • He will make the desert an oasis.

When the Lord returns to set up His kingdom on earth, He will make Israel the premier nation of the world. At the same time, He will settle Israel on all the land promised to Abraham and Jacob. Some of that land is desert but he will change it into the best land in the world.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 43:15-20	<i>Far Prophecy</i> The Lord will change the desert into an oasis.	Will be fulfilled at the Second Coming of the Lord

Near Prophecy

LORD'S ANSWER – ISRAEL WEARY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 43:21 "The people whom I formed for Myself, Will declare My praise. ²² "Yet you have not called on Me, O Jacob; But you have become weary of Me, O Israel. ²³ "You have not brought to Me the sheep of your burnt offerings; Nor have you honored Me with your sacrifices. I have not burdened you with offerings, Nor wearied you with incense. ²⁴ "You have bought Me no sweet cane with money, Neither have you filled Me with the fat of your sacrifices; Rather you have burdened Me with your sins, You have wearied Me with your iniquities. ²⁵ "I, even I, am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins. ²⁶ " Put Me in remembrance; let us argue our case together, State your *cause*, that you may be proved right. ²⁷ "Your first forefather sinned, And your spokesmen have transgressed against Me. ²⁸ "So I will pollute the princes of the sanctuary; And I will consign Jacob to the ban, and Israel to revilement.

The Majesty of the Lord
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He gives strength to weary Israel. • He sends Israel to exile.

Soon, Israel will become weary of the Lord and His plan that places them in Babylon. There she will turn to the worship of Babylonian gods and forget the Lord her Redeemer. Her leaders will sin against the Lord while in Babylon; therefore, the Lord will send Nebuchadnezzar to cause all the pollution and destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BC. Israel's rebellion will exacerbate her need to be taken into exile.

Passage	Summary	Time of Fulfillment
Isa. 42:21-28	<i>Near Prophecy</i> The Lord will send Israel into exile in Babylon.	Fulfilled in 606 BC