

Isaiah Lesson 9

“Sovereign Creator, Compassionate Redeemer”

Isaiah 40

Day 1 – Read Isaiah 40

Ask the Lord to teach you as you study His Word. Pray for the transforming work of the Spirit.

“Starting with chapter 40, the audience Isaiah directly addresses skips forward about two centuries. The first half of the book spoke to the people of Jerusalem during the Assyrian threat, as judgment was looming, but was delayed when God spared the city. Isaiah repeatedly confronted those people about their sin and told them of the judgment to come. The second half addresses later generations who are in exile in Babylon, living under judgment, but who are about to return home or have recently arrived. Isaiah encourages them with news of their salvation. In this way, the two halves of Isaiah are a big-picture version of the book's judgment-salvation rhythm.” (Jonathan Gibson, [Isaiah](#), p.61)

"In Isaiah 40-48, God proclaims the comforting message of His redemption of His people from their physical exile and spiritual bondage." (Drew Hunter, Isaiah: a 12-week Study, p.59)

- 1) What was told to King Hezekiah in Isaiah 39:5-7?
- 2) How are the words in Isaiah 40:1-2 words of grace and hope for God's people?
- 3) What do you learn about God's comfort from the following verses?

Psalm 23:1-4 –

Psalms 119:50 –

Isaiah 41:10 –

Lamentations 3:31-32 –

Romans 8:38-39 –

2 Corinthians 1:3-4 –

4) According to Isaiah 40:3, how does God speak to His people?

What is His message?

How does this encourage you in light of your own sin?

Day 2 – Read Isaiah 40:1-8

5) Throughout this text, a voice cries. Define cry in this context.

6) Read Luke 3:1-9. How does Luke use Isaiah 40:3-4 in his writing?

How will God's glory be revealed and the salvation of God be seen?

7) Summarize the message in Isaiah 40:6-8.

Read I Peter 1:13-25. What point is Peter making as he uses Isaiah 40:8?

James also references Isaiah 40 in James 1:9-11. What is he communicating?

8) How does Isaiah 40:8 encourage you in your faithfulness to study God's Word?

Day 3 – Read Isaiah 40:9-

9) What are God's people called to herald from the mountains according to Isaiah 40:9?

In Isaiah 40:10, what particular things are the people to behold about God?

10) What further imagery of beholding God is used in Isaiah 40:11?

How does that imagery wash over you?

11) Consider how beholding God in these ways (Isaiah 40:10-11) might comfort you or someone you know right now. Record your thoughts below.

Day 4 – Read Isaiah 12-26

12) Read Isaiah 40:12-26. What is the purpose of the series of questions asked throughout this text?

What key truths do you learn about the character and nature of God?

What do you learn about the nations?

What do you learn about our idols?

13) To what or to where are you looking for comfort that only God can provide?

Ask the Lord to help you rid yourself of these idols and look to Him as your source of comfort.

14) What point is made in Romans 11:33-36 when Paul references Isaiah 40:13?

Day 5 – Read Isaiah 40:27-31

15) What is the complaint of God's people in Isaiah 40:27?

16) How is the complaint of God's people addressed in Isaiah 40:28-31?

17) Think of times in your life, currently or in the past, when your heart resonated with the complaint of God's people in Isaiah 40:27. How does Isaiah 40:28-31 offer comfort and encouragement to you?

18) The comfort God offers His people is described in so many beautiful and powerful ways in Isaiah 40. Fill out the chart below reflecting on all the Lord has taught you and how you might be transformed by it. (Adapted from Jonathan Gibson, Isaiah, p.68-70)

Verse	Comfort	Where do I need this comfort in my life?
Isaiah 40:2		
Isaiah 40:6-8		

Isaiah 40:10		
Isaiah 40:11		
Isaiah 40:13-14		
Isaiah 40:22-23		
Isaiah 40:29-31		

Which of these comforts is most meaningful to you today, and why?

19) **Sovereign Creator, Compassionate Redeemer.** How have you seen Him this week?

20) How might these living words from Isaiah 40 transform your life this week? Pray for the Spirit to help you.

