

# The Book of Isaiah

## Trusting God More #21

Some of the outlines are taken from Melissa Spoelstra's book, *Isaiah: Striving Less and Trusting More*.

Review of the Book of Isaiah: What do you remember?

1. What are chapters 1-35 called?
2. What are chapters 36-39 called?
3. What are chapters 40-66 called?

This is the second and major last division of Isaiah. It contrasts with the first division of Isaiah we previously studied because in the first section we studied about the judgement of God. In this next section, we will study grace, suffering and the glory to follow.

Remember the opening statement in Isaiah 40:1 is "Comfort ye..." These words set the mood for the rest of the book. Did you hear God say, "Comfort ye my people!"

**The context: The people of Israel are in exile. The temple built by Solomon is in ruins. They appear to be defeated.**

Last time we met we studied the benefit of waiting found in Isaiah 40:31 Notice the stages: mount up, run and walk.

Chapter 41 (This chapter is commonly referred to as the "I WILL" chapter.)

How encouraging it is to you to hear God say, "I will do something?"

What is the difference between man's I will, and God's I will?  
God speaks with authority and omnipotence!

Let's read through Isaiah 41 and note or highlight the places you hear I WILL!

Read verses 10, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 27,  
How do you think these "I will's" were received during troubled times?

How are you receiving these "I will's" today?

- God knew where they were. He knew what they would face. He also knew their weaknesses. Yet, He says, "I will!"
- Would it be encouraging to read and reread these "I will" promises in our darkest hours?

Remember, this section is about God comforting His people. Also, included in this chapter, there is a further word of encouragement. Read verses 10, 13 and 14. What repeated command did you hear?

You heard “fear thou not” and “fear not.”

You heard the omnipotent God speaking to His people in exile and commanding them to fear not. How could He have expected them to not be fearful?

Read the promise in 41:10...

- For I am with you...
- Be not dismayed...for I am your God, I will strengthen you, I will help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. In this verse, you heard three reasons to not be afraid.
- 

“Fear not” occurs 71 times in the King James Version. Scholars proclaim there are 365 variations of “fear not” in the entire Bible (one for each day).

How does this verse speak to you today?

How do you think it empowered the Israelites when they were faced with the Red Sea around them and Pharaoh’s army behind them?

Read and discuss Exodus 14:1-11. The people feared greatly.....

Have you ever found yourself in a similar situation that caused you to fear greatly?

They anticipated the worst. They assumed they were going to die at the hand of the Egyptians.

Discuss what they had seen before they left Egypt. They forgot!

Now, read and discuss Exodus 14:13.

They were trapped, desperate and facing an impossible situation. Yet, God spoke to Moses, and Moses spoke to the people and said, “fear not.”

How would you have responded?

What does our fear say to God?

What does our trust in God say to Him despite our having heard alarming news or overwhelming circumstances?

Did it matter that God’s people were in Babylonian captivity?

Does where we are or what we are facing negate God’s faithfulness?

What are you taking away from today’s lesson?