

Handout: Isaiah Lesson 14

In 38:9-20, Hezekiah wrote a poem of thanksgiving after his recovery, and Isaiah included it in his book. The poem can be divided into two sections:

1. Hezekiah's thoughts concerning his anguish over the Lord's decree that he would die (38:9-15)
2. Hezekiah's reflection on the grace God has extended to him and the lessons he learned through his anguish (38:16-20)

In verses 16-20 of his poem of thanksgiving, Hezekiah reflects on the lessons he has learned in his encounter with Yahweh through the prophet Isaiah:

- The Lord has restored him to health (38:16)
- His sins have been forgiven (38:17)
- He has a new opportunity to testify to Yahweh's faithfulness (38:19)
- He pledges himself to a life filled with worshipping in God's Temple (38:20)

Chapters 40-66: The title "the Book of Consolation" is commonly given to this third part of the Book of Isaiah and is based on the opening verses of chapter 40. This third part of Isaiah's book focuses on three major themes:

1. God's covenant people have been sent into exile in Babylon because of their sins.
2. Their captivity in Babylon proved God's omniscience because He predicted it through His prophet Isaiah.
3. God promises to redeem His people through a man named Cyrus and in other mighty works.

The first two themes appear more often in the earlier chapters and the third appears throughout.

The third part of Isaiah can be divided into three sections:

1. Prophecies of Israel's Deliverance (40:1-48:22)
2. Prophecies of Israel's Promised Redeemer-Messiah (49:1-57:21)
3. Prophecies of Israel's Restoration and the Glorious Future in God's Divine Plan (58:1-66:24)

Isaiah chapter 40 can be divided into two major parts:

1. Isaiah announces the good news that God will redeem His people and lead them back home (verses 1-11).
2. Isaiah proclaims God's sovereignty and His power to do what He promised in verses 1-11 (verses 12-31).

In 40:12-14 Isaiah contrasts God's creative power and wisdom with mankind's inability to contribute anything to God's awesome work of creation. He asks 10 rhetorical questions to make his point:

1. Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand?
 2. Who marked off the heavens to the nearest inch?
 3. Who has gaged the dust of the earth to the nearest bushel?
- over

4. Who has weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?
5. Who has understood the spirit of the Lord?
6. Who instructed the Lord as his counselor?
7. Whom did the Lord consult to teach Him wisdom?
8. Who taught the Lord about justice?
9. Who taught the Lord knowledge?
10. Who showed the Lord the path of understanding?

The answer to Isaiah's first four questions is "God." The answer to the last six questions is "No one."

Michal E. Hunt Copyright © 2015 www.AgapeBibleStudy.com