**“Insights into Isaiah”—Chapters 40-41**

**Chapter 40—Comfort and Strength for God’s People**

***Chapters 1-35 are the first section of Isaiah, with chapters 36-39 (the historical interlude)—these happen in Isaiah’s lifetime, and chapters 40-66, the final partition, look forward in history after Isaiah is dead. Isaiah is a book in three sections. Chapters 1-35 are prophetic, with the theme of condemnation. Chapters 36-39 are historic, and the theme is confiscation. Chapters 40-66 are messianic, and the theme is consolation. The tune of this chapter begins the theme of restoration, blessing, and fulfillment of the nation of Israel. This chapter begins a new attitude in the writer’s style. Chapters 1-39 speak to the Assyrian threat, while 40-66 shadow the captivity under Babylon. John 12:37-38 is a perfect reference, where John sites Isaiah as writing both sections in Isaiah 53, and in verse 40 we see Isaiah 6, and verse 39 connects both passages as “one Isaiah.” This section dramatically feels like the New Testament gospel. The previous 39 chapters of Isaiah certainly had passages of comfort and hope, but there was a strong tone of judgment and warning throughout the section. Now, beginning with Isaiah 40, the tone shifts to being predominately full of comfort and blessing, full of the glory of God. Review: Isaiah served under four kings (739 B.C.-686 B.C.): Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah (686 B.C.). His reign is coming to a close. Assyria falls to Babylon in 612 B.C. There are three deportations of the Jews to Babylon: 605 B.C., 597 B.C., and 586 B.C., when Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed. In 539 B.C. the Persians conquer Babylon, and in 538 Cyrus issues the decree for the Judean captives to go home. This section of Isaiah, 40-66, is written to the captive Jews in Babylon. Remember Zedekiah was the last of the Davidic line to serve as king of Judah, with his children being murdered in front of him; that line won’t arise as King again until the Messiah returns.***

1. **Re-read Psalm 137—the exile Psalm, as it is a parallel to Isaiah 40.**
2. **Who is the Comforter in verse 1? Compare to 2 Corinthians 1:3-4, “**Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God**,”** 2 Corinthians 1:3 speaks of our Lord as *the God of all comfort***, I John 4:4, Romans 8:37, and John 14.**
   1. **Isaiah 61:2**…”to comfort all who mourn,” Jesus quotes this when He begins His ministry and reads this in the temple.
   2. **John 14:16, “**And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, “ and **John 14:26, “**These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 26But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you, ” **and John 16:7-11, , “**Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.”
   3. **Refer to Matthew 11:28, “**Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”
3. **Why “double for all her sins” in verse 2? Refer to Exodus 26:9. Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.** Two concepts: Israel is spoken of as God’s first born who gets a double portion, and can mean, “Paid in full.” In these times, when there was an indebtedness or mortgage on a house (i.e., “the house of Israel”), that was written on a legal document, or paper, and posted on the door of the mortgaged house. A carbon copy was made to be held by the creditor until the debt was paid in full, at which time the second copy would be nailed over the first. Everyone would know that the debt was paid. Some creditors would fold it over if paid, thus doubling it.
   1. **Is this a direct prophetic word about Jesus rescuing Israel?**
4. **Discuss the word “highway?” verse 3.** The idea is that the Lord is coming to His people as a triumphant King, who has the road prepared before Him so He can travel in glory and ease. Every obstacle in the way must be removed: every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth.
   1. **Where else do we see this term used by Isaiah?**
   2. **“Prepare the way” in the highway is a word picture. Discuss the obstacles.** the road prepared before Him so He can travel in glory and ease. Every obstacle in the way must be removed: **every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth**. . The idea of preparing the way of the Lord is a word picture, because the real preparation must take place in our hearts. Building a road is very much like the preparation God must do in our hearts. They are both expensive, they both must deal with many different problems and environments, and they both take an expert engineer. **THIS SECTION POINTS TO JOHN THE BAPTIST. HE PREACHED REPENTANCE. VERSE 3 IS ABOUT JOHN THE BAPTIST!**
   3. **Compare the ministry of John the Baptist to this passage in verses 3-5 with *John 1:19-23*…..John the Baptist quotes this part of Isaiah. ALL FOUR GOSPELS HAVE THIS FIGURATIVELY LANGUAGE ABOUT JOHN THE BAPTIST.**
      1. **Matthew 3:1-3, 6 Mark 1:3, John 1:23,and Luke 3:3-6.** This passage of Isaiah 40:3-5 has a direct fulfillment in the New Testament, in the person and ministry of John the Baptist. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, knew this at the birth of his son (Luke 1:76). And three gospels directly relate this passage to the ministry of John (Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, and Luke 3:3-6).Matthew highlights this passage that is fulfilled with Jesus’ coming.
      2. **See Luke 7: 29-30, “**And when all the people heard *Him,* even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. 30But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.” REPENTANCE PREPARES THE HEART FOR JESUS……JOHN THE BAPTIST PREACHED REPENTANCE TO GET PEOPLE READY FOR JESUS!” and **See Luke 1:76-77, “**“And you, child, (JOHN THE BAPTIST) will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,77To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins…”
5. **“The flesh is grass,” verse 6, seems to point to the frailty of man. Discuss.**
   1. **Compare this with the permanence of God and His Word.** The grass withers, the flower fades, and the word of our God endures.
   2. **The Book of Revelation, we see “grass” being burnt up…**…**is this a reference to that? Check out Revelation 8:7.**
   3. **See Luke 3:7-18, and note how John the Baptist spoke of the same concept.**
   4. **Also review I Peter 1:22-25.**
      1. **Is Peter quoting Isaiah here?**
6. **Discuss the invitation issued in verse 9. What is the invitation issued to?** To the gospel.
7. **What is the gospel?**
   1. **See I Corinthians 15:1-4.**
   2. **Look at I Peter 1:21-25.**
8. **Verse 10 describes God coming with a strong hand. Why?**
   1. **Look at Revelation….rule with iron**
   2. **What is the work? The day of the Lord; the time of Jacob’s trouble**
9. **In verse 10, comment on the phrase: “Behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him.”** THIS IS THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS!
   1. **What is “His reward?” Could this be referring the rapture; note this comes before His work…..the tribulation.**  When the Lord comes back, He comes to reward His people (**His reward is with Him**). He comes to inspect His work (**and His work before Him**). This is something important for us to know about our God!
10. **Jesus is often referred to as a shepherd. Verse 11. Who else in the Bible is called a shepherd?**  God loves to identify Himself with a shepherd. Many of the greatest men of the Bible were shepherds and their character as shepherds points to Jesus Christ. *Abel* is a picture of Jesus, the sacrificed shepherd. *Jacob* is a picture of Jesus, the working shepherd. Joseph is a picture of Jesus, the persecuted and exalted shepherd. *Moses* is a picture of Jesus, the calling-out-from-Egypt shepherd. *David* is a picture of Jesus, the shepherd king.
    1. **Elaborated on in all four gospels. Note:**
       1. **Jesus the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-15). He is good in His care and sacrifice for the flock.**
       2. **Jesus the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20). He is great in His glorious triumph over every enemy.**
       3. **Jesus the Chief Shepherd (1 Peter 5:4). He is the Chief over all His people in His return.**
       4. **At His return, Jesus also exercises another aspect of His role as Shepherd: He divides the sheep from the goats (Matthew 25:31-33). “Did you ever notice that the same Shepherd, who saves the lost, will curse the finally impenitent? He shall separate them one from another as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats, and he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, ‘Depart ye cursed.’ What lips are those which pronounce those dreadful words? The Shepherd’s lips.”**
11. **Verse 10 implies the creation of the earth by God. Discuss Isaiah’s literary use of anthropomorphism.** speaking of God in human terms so we can partially understand who He is and what He does. God is not a being with the body of a giant, so large that all the waters of the earth could be cupped in His hand, or so large that the universe could be measured by the span of His hand.
    1. **Read John 4:**24. The Bible tells us that God the Father is spirit, so He does not have a body as we know it (John 4:24). But we understand exactly what the Lord tells us through the prophet Isaiah - God is so great, so dominant over all creation that we should stand in awe of His power and glory.
    2. **View Luke 12:**7. Even if a person knew the number of hairs on their head (as God knows, according to Luke 12:7), they could never calculate the dust in their own house - much less **the dust of the earth**!
    3. **Isaiah emphasizes the “measures” or the precision of God in this section. Comment.**
12. **In verses 12-14, Isaiah writes of the wisdom of God. Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord?** In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament used in the days of Jesus and the disciples), this is translated *Who has known the mind of the Lord?*
    1. **Parallel this with Paul’s New Testament reference in Romans 11:34.** This is the place where the apostle Paul quotes from in Romans 11:34.
    2. **Correlate this with Job 38.**
13. **Note how Isaiah, verses 15-17, describes God’s “huge greatness.” Elaborate on Isaiah’s descriptions.** If man were to take all the wood in the mighty forests of Lebanon, and use it to make a burnt offering of all the animals of the land, it would not be enough to satisfy God. Man’s best efforts can not satisfy the honor and glory of God. **They are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless**: In this chapter, God declares His greatness over all creation, but He never says of creation that it is **less than nothing and worthless**. But the nations have an arrogance, a pride against God that puts them lower than creation itself - He accounts them **less than nothing and worthless**.
14. **Using verses 18-20, compare God’s greatness with all idols.**
    1. **Do we have idols today? Define.**
15. **\*\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT VERSE: ISAIAH 40:28\*\*\*\* The Creator of All is detailed in verses 21-16. List some of His attributes. Have you not known? Have you not heard? Isaiah can’t believe that anyone could doubt the greatness of God when they see the glory of God’s creation. First, He sits above all creation (It is He who sits above the circle of the earth). Second, He created it all (Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain).**
    1. **“This is one of the central Old Testament passages on the doctrine of creation. It teaches that the physical fabric of creation is a direct artifact of the Creator.” Argue its merit.**
    2. **What does the phrase, “who sits above the circle of the earth” imply? How could Isaiah possibly know that the earth’s shape was a circle? He probably didn’t know; but the Lord who spoke through Isaiah did know!** Every once in a while, unlearned critics talk as if Bible believing people are members of the “Flat Earth Society” - people so out of touch with real science that they still insist the earth is flat. In response, we should be reminded that Augustine, perhaps the greatest of the church fathers, who lived about a thousand years before Columbus, professed that the earth was round, not flat. As well, in the thirteenth century, Thomas Aquinas, the most profound and prolific of medieval theologians, observed that the spherical shape of the earth could be empirically demonstrated. All they did was agree with Isaiah: **It is He who sits above the circle of the earth**.
       1. **Why do many non-Christians call the faithful “flat earthers?” Comment.**
       2. **Discuss verse 22, where space is correlated to a “curtain.” Refer back to Revelation 6:14, where the earth is rolled up like a scroll. In Genesis 1:4-5, where God separates light from darkness**….black hole.
16. **Restate the principal in verses 21-22. Why is this famous verse?**
17. **What does God say about princes and judges?** He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless: Verse 23God’s power and glory is not only exalted above the inanimate creation, but also over men of power on the earth. When people have political power (**princes**) or legal power (**judges**) it is easy for them to think of themselves as gods! Through the message of Isaiah, the Lord sets this straight. All God needs to do is to **blow on them, and they will wither**.
18. **Where else is “whirlwind” used in the Bible? Job 38:1, Psalm 77:18, 2 Kings 2:11, 2:1, Nahum 1:3, Proverbs 1:27, and Jeremiah 4:13.**
19. **In verse 25, elaborate on God’s pointed question: “To whom then will you liken Me? Or to whom shall I be equal?”**
20. **Verse 26’s numbering of the stars is a beautiful description. What is Isaiah saying here?** 
    1. **Who are the hosts?** Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name: God’s mastery over all creation is shown by the fact that He can bring out all the stars **by number**, and then **He calls them all by name**. With the billions and billions of stars in the universe, it is staggering to know that God can number and name them all!
    2. **See Psalm147:4-5.**
21. **Think about verse 27 by putting your name in the blank. Read it out loud.** 
    1. **Why the reference to both “Jacob” and “Israel?”**  In the carnal flesh, God uses “Jacob,” and when he is obedient, God calls him “Israel.”
    2. **THIS IS A PIVOTAL VERSE IN ISAIAH! (30-31). Note Isaiah’s writing technique in verse 31; does this seem to be contrary in the order?** Run and not be weary. Notice the order, because it seems strange. First we mount up with wings like eagles. Then we run. Finally we walk. Does it seem out of order? Not at all. **It seems to show three degrees of Power here, or the “Christian Growth Process:” 1. Young Christian, mounts up like an eagle; 2. An adult Christian, shall run, 3. The mature Christian, shall walk….steady.**
    3. **First, we recognize that we soar up into heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).**
    4. **Then, we set ourselves on the course to run the race (Hebrews 12:1).**
    5. **Finally, we are in the good place to walk the walk (Colossians 2:6)**
22. **Meditate on chapter 40 and what it means to really trust the Lord. Write three keys to the theme of this chapter.**

**Chapter 41—The Great “I Will” Chapter**

**This is where the Lord is going to speak through Isaiah and say to Israel that they need to trust in God….and talk to them about God being their deliverer...**

1. **Where are the coastlands? See also Isaiah 11:11 and 50:15.** The Hebrew word translated coastlands is also translated *islands* or *isles* in other passages, such as Isaiah 11:11 and 40:15. It is also translated with broader words like *territory* in passages like Isaiah 20:6. The idea is probably best expressed as “distant lands.” Here, God is calling to *all nations* - even the “distant lands” - to keep silence before Him. Why? Because they are coming to God’s courtroom: Let us come near together for judgment. “Isaiah uses the word [coastlands] as shorthand for the far reaches of the earth.”
2. **Is this a prophetic inference to the future Persian king, Cyrus?** 
   1. **Discuss Daniel in this incident.**
   2. **Why is he called righteous? From the east?** Isaiah is foreseeing a conqueror who is coming, 150 years from this point. Cyrus, the king who joined the Medes and the Persians into a fighting force which conquered Babylon - which, prophetically, is the broad time context Isaiah, speaks to... Wolf speaks for those who believe Cyrus is spoken of: “Born east of Babylon in what is now Iran, Cyrus would move through country after country, conquering every king in his path. Shortly after 550 b.c., Cyrus was able to unify the Medes and the Persians and to defeat the powerful kingdom of Lydia in Asia Minor. Then he turned south to conquer Babylon (539 b.c.).” Bultema adds regarding Cyrus: “Both secular and sacred documents present him as righteous and good, and he can be called *righteous* or, as the text actually has it, *justice*, especially since he carried out the righteous acts of vengeance on Babylon and that of the deliverance of Israel.” Who is it? It’s a tough call, and either answer can be correct according to the context. On balance, it is best to see the **one from the east** as Abraham, because of the word of the Lord later in the chapter, in Isaiah 41:22: *Let them bring forth and show us what will happen; let them show the former things, what they were*. God appeals to idols and their worshippers, and asks them to tell both the future and the past. Since Cyrus is mentioned in Isaiah 41:25 (*I have raised up one from the north . . . from the rising of the sun*), he is the figure that shows God’s knowledge of the *future*. Abraham is the figure that shows God’s knowledge of the *past*. Past and future - with the present sandwiched in-between - all belong to the Lord our God.
      1. **In verse three, “by the way that he had not gone with his feet,” gives a clue to this conqueror. Who is it?** Cyrus, the Persian.
3. **Verse 4, “the first and last” seem to echo Revelation 1:8, 17, Re21:6, and 22:13.** **I, the Lord, am the first; and with the last I am He**: Here, the Lord God of Israel declares that *He* **has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning**. He lifts up and puts down kings and nations. He is **the first** and He is **the last**; He is the “bookend” both before and after the saga of human history, starting the story, ending the story, and keeping the whole story together. If God is both the **first** and the **last**, then He also has authority over everything in-between. This means that there absolutely *is* a plan of God for human history, and He directs the path of human events toward His designed fulfillment. Our lives are not given over to blind fate, to random meaninglessness, or to endless cycles with no resolution. Instead, the Lord God who is **the first** and **the last** directs all of human history and even our individual lives.
   1. **Jesus takes the same title of *the First and the Last* in Revelation 1:17 and 22:13.** If the **Lord** is **the first** and **the last** according to Isaiah 41:4, and if Jesus is *the First and the Last* according to Revelation 1:17 and 22:13, since there cannot be *two firsts* or *two lasts*, Jesus must be the **Lord** God!
4. **Verses 5-7, seem to echo in Luke 5:8. Review.** This is a *logical* reaction. It is the same kind of reaction Peter had when he saw the great power of Jesus (Luke 5:8).Isaiah pours on the irony. It took a lot of work to make a good god. It took skilled workers (**the craftsman . . . the goldsmith . . . he who smoothes with the hammer . . . him who strikes the anvil**). It took organization and teamwork (**“It is ready for the soldering”**). If you don’t do it right, your god might not be able to stand up! (**That it might not totter.**
   1. **Look at Romans 1:18-25**. People still see something of God’s power and glory, reject it, and then make their own god. This is Paul’s whole message in Romans 1:18-25.
5. **Why does God treat Israel differently than the other nations?** (8-9) Israel is different from those in the distant lands. But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the descendants of Abraham My friend. You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called from its farthest regions, and said to you, “You are My servant; I have chosen you and have not cast you away.”
   1. **What does God label Israel? Israel means “Governed by God**.” My servant, my chosen. Israel is twice addressed as *servant* (literally ‘slave’), that is to say a person without position or rights - but this servant belongs to a great master.”
   2. **What does He call Abraham?** My friend. Genesis 18, the three visitors, God shows him the future.
      1. Jehoshaphat knew that Abraham was the friend of God (2 Chronicles 20:7).
      2. **See James 2:23**. James knew that Abraham was the friend of God (James 2:23).
      3. **Review John 15:14-15**. We are also the friends of God, not because of our relation to Abraham, but because of our relation to the Son of God, Jesus. *You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.* (John 15:14-15)
      4. **Remind yourself about the “Beloved” in Daniel 10:11, 19 and John 21:20**.
   3. **Why is “Jacob” the chosen? Jacob, whom I have chosen,** Lest Israel become proud, God pops their swelling quickly. If they are **Israel** - “Governed by God” - then they are also **Jacob** - “Conniving, untrustworthy con-man.” They are only the **servant** of God because He has **chosen** them.
   4. **Why has God chosen Israel, verse 9?**
6. **Discuss Genesis 12:3, the Abrahamic covenant and God’s promise to Israel.** in part, an outworking of God’s promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:3: *I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you*. God has always crushed anti-Semitic nations and movements, and in the reign of the Messiah, He will crush them completely.
7. **Where else do we see the reference to the “right hand of God?”** In Isaiah 41:10, God promised to **uphold you with My righteous right hand**. That was God’s hand holding us up. Now, we see God’s hand holding our **right hand**, and giving us strength over fear, doubt, and our adversaries.
8. **Re-state verse 13. “**For I, the Lord your God, will hold your right hand, Saying to you, ‘Fear not, I will help you.” **EVERY CHRISTIAN SHOULD MEMORIZE THIS!!**
9. **Why is Jacob referred to as “worm?”** ’14“Fear not, you worm Jacob, verse 14...the idea of a worm is connected to the name Jacob, but the idea of men is linked to the name Israel.
   1. **Refer to Psalm 22:6 where Jesus refers to Himself as a worm.**
10. **Note the trinity in verse 14. The Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.** **And your Redeemer**: “*Redeemer* is *goel*, see Isaiah 35:10, the Next-of-Kin who takes upon himself his people’s needs as if they were his own.” Ruth chapter 5.
11. **Verses 15-16 display God’s power to help Israel. Discuss the idioms used here.**  **Behold, I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth; you shall thresh the mountains and beat them small**: God so helps Israel, so empowers them, that they are able to cut down mountains as if they were a great **threshing** machine, removing mountains and seeing their dust blown away. The point is clear: *nothing*, not even a mountain, will stand in their way when God helps them.
    1. **Parallel with Matthew 17:20.** Jesus expressed the same idea in Matthew 17:20: *If you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there,” and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*
12. **Discuss the reference to the Millennium in verses 17-20. The trees mentioned are indigenous to Judea. Verse 17-20.** God restores the desert, with trees of fruit, and hearty plants.
13. **God puts idolatry on trial in verse 21. Elaborate.** Present your case: God is fair. He will not condemn idols, the false gods of the nations, and those who worship them, without a fair trial. So He invites these idols and their worshippers to come and **present your case**. “Let’s hear your side of the story.” **Bring forth your strong reasons**. “Let’s hear your best arguments.”
14. **In verse 21, the phrase, “King of Jacob” is used. Why? Says the King of Jacob**: This is the only place in the Bible where God uses this title. **King of Jacob** is used only here,
    1. “*King of Israel*” is used 138 times in the Bible, mostly of men, but of the Lord God in Isaiah 44:6 and Zephaniah 3:15, and of Jesus in John 1:49 and 12:13. Discuss.
15. **This is a perfect example of sarcasm by God. In verses 22-24 God examines the defendants, the idols and their worshippers, at the trial. Describe.** God invited idols to *present your case* in Isaiah 41:21. But none is presented; the next words are God’s questioning of the idols. Why don’t the idols present their case and defend themselves? Because they are dumb statues that can’t speak! So the questioning moves on, and God examines the defendants. **Let them bring forth and show us what will happen**: If these idols really are gods, then they certainly know the future and the past. Then let them speak up. **Show us what will happen**. Then, **let them show the former things, what they were**. Gods know these things, don’t they? Do it **that we may know that you are gods**.
    1. **See I Corinthians 8:4.** Indeed, you are nothing, and your work is nothing: Paul quotes this idea in 1 Corinthians 8:4, when he writes, *Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one.*
    2. **Re-state God’s challenge to the idols in the case.**
16. **Verses 25-29, discuss the appearance of Cyrus.** **Why is God foretelling this?** He comes from the north and the east. I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come: In contrast to the idols who can tell nothing of the future, the Lord knows. He knows that He will bring Cyrus from the north to conquer the Babylonians, who conquered Judah and Jerusalem and took them captive. God would use Cyrus to allow the Jews in exile to return
    1. **See Ezra 1:1-2...** . “Cyrus had the greatest respect for Jehovah, as we can read in his proclamation concerning the freeing of Israel in Ezra one. In it he states correctly that Jehovah had given him all the kingdoms of the earth.” “The ‘north’ is included because the Persians conquered the lands north of Babylon before invading her borders.”
17. **Re-state the verdict to this “trial” in verse 19.** Finally, the verdict is read at the trial: Indeed they are all worthless; their works are nothing. Apart from God, in the grand scheme of things, all of the greatness of man is worthless and all the great works are nothing. And what of the idols? Their molded images are wind and confusion.
18. **“This chapter is the great I WILL chapter of the Bible. No fewer than fourteen times in the scope of these verses does God reinforce His authority with the promise, ‘I will.’” List them**.

* *I will strengthen you*. (Isaiah 41:10)
* *I will help you*. (Isaiah 41:10, 13, and 14)
* *I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.* (Isaiah 41:10)
* *I will make you into a new threshing sledge with sharp teeth*. (Isaiah 41:15)
* *I will open rivers in desolate heights*. (Isaiah 41:18)
* *I will make the wilderness a pool of water*. (Isaiah 41:18)
* *I will plant in the wilderness the cedar and the acacia tree*. (Isaiah 41:19)
* *I will set in the desert the cypress tree*. (Isaiah 41:19)
* *I will give to Jerusalem one who brings good tidings*. (Isaiah 41:27)

1. **Contrast with Isaiah 14 - the “I will” chapter of Satan! Look at the “I wills” of Satan:**

* *I will ascend into heaven*. (Isaiah 14:13)
* *I will exalt my throne above the stars of God*. (Isaiah 14:13)
* *I will also sit on the mount of the congregation*. (Isaiah 14:13)
* *I will ascend above the heights of the clouds*. (Isaiah 14:14)
* *I will be like the Most High*. (Isaiah 14:14)

**And, here are “The Promises”……**

**Isaiah 40:3, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness:“Prepare the way of the Lord;  
Make straight in the desert. A highway for our God.”**

**Isaiah 40:8, “The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.”**

**Isaiah 40:21-23, “Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? *It is* He who sits above the circle 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.23He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.”**

**Isaiah 40:28-29, “Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. 29He gives power to the weak, And to *those who have* no might He increases strength.”**

**Isaiah 40:31, “But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.”**

**Isaiah 41:10 “Fear not, for I *am* with you; Be not dismayed, for I *am* your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.’**