

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 06 Sept Isaiah 01-05 God Comforts
- 2) 13 Sept Isaiah 06 God Sends
- 3) 20 Sept Isaiah 07-22 God Promises
- 4) 27 Sept Isaiah 23-24 God Reigns
- 5) 04 Oct Isaiah 25-30 God Saves
- 6) 11 Oct Isaiah 31-36 God Protects
- 7) 18 Oct Isaiah 37-39 God Listens
- 8) 25 Oct Isaiah 40-44 God Renews**
- 9) 01 Nov Isaiah 45-48 God Acts
- 10) 08 Nov Isaiah 49-52 God Comforts
- 11) 15 Nov Isaiah 53-57 God Justifies
- 12) 22 Nov Isaiah 58-64 God Expects
- 13) 29 Nov Isaiah 65-66 God Restores

INTRODUCTION

- These chapters give several Messianic prophecies and strongly convey God as the one and only Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of all things, who does not become weary, who is able to help, and who's understanding is beyond our ability to comprehend.

Lifeway's ETB Focus: **Isaiah 40:18-31**

OPENING QUESTION/COMMENT

- Why does God delay in answering many of our most urgent prayers?

Passage	Comments
Isaiah 40:1-31	<p>Our God Created ALL Things and Never Grows Tired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v2. God gave Israel double punishment for her sins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ That doesn't sound fair, does it? Doesn't God deal fairly or equitably with all (e.g., eye for eye) (Ps 9:8; 75:2; 98:9)? ♦ Some suffered "sevenfold" for their sins .Gen 4:15; Pr 6:31 ♦ ...and those who spend an eternity in Hell do so for committing one unforgivable sin, blaspheme of the HS (i.e., rejection of Jesus Christ and His atoning work) ♦ How do we answer skeptics with this apparent inequity? ♦ Consider this. Severe punishment (be it 2x, 7x, or 10x) is often dispensed to get some sinners to think twice before sinning the next time (Prov 22:15; 23:13; 29:15). Wicked, foolish sinners however, never learn their lessons even if they are shown kindness (Is 26:10) or if they are harshly "crushed in a crucible" (Pro 27:22). And those who end up in Hell would rather be there for an eternity than stand before a Holy and Righteous God for a minute... John 5:40 • v3. Prophecy of John the Baptist • v5. All flesh shall see God's glory. Possibly alludes to Christ's return on a white horse in Rev 19:11-16 • v8. God's word stands forever. Ultimately true, but in our sin-soaked world, even Christians disobey the speed limit (Rom 13:1-4) and suffer broken marriages (Mat 5:32) • v12-17. More tough truths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Who is smart enough to instruct God? - What can God be compared to? - All nations before him are as NOTHING • v22. God sits upon the circle of the earth. This passage defeats the flat earth society of yesteryear • vv28-31. God, creator of the earth, does not grow tired. Instead, God gives his strength and stamina to those who need it, when they need it
41:1-29	<p>God Will Rescue Israel – BUT Not When They Want It</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. I am the First and the Last – I am HE.....Rev 1:17; 22:13 • vv10-16. FEAR NOT – FOR I AM WITH YOU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Those who harm Israel will perish, be ashamed, dishonored ♦ v14. Do Not Fear, You Worm Jacob. The MSG Bible says, "Do you feel like a lowly worm, Jacob? I will help you" ♦ IOW, Jacob/Israel may be small, weak, insignificant, but God is their true Deliverer. Does this also apply to us? • vv17-20 – Why does God wait sooo long to answer some of our most urgent prayers, even to the point where tongues are parched from waiting for life-sustaining water? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v20, Answer: To remove the probability of coincidence

Passage	Comments
42:1-25	<p>God is Totally Awesome, But Israel Could Care Less</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-4. Prophecy about the Messiah bringing true justice • v5. God created the Heavens and "stretched them out" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ ...& the Heavens / Galaxies are still expanding outwards • v6. Israel is to be a witness to the nations cf 43:12, 21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How was this to work out? Are we faithful witnesses? • v10. Sing to God a New Song. For all eternity we will learn more and more about our unfathomable God to sing new songs to Him continually..... Ps 33:3; 96:1; 98:1; 144:9; 149:1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What more is there to learn about God? Deut 29:29 ♦ The Bible, as great as it is, is not even the tip of the iceberg when it comes to revealing everything there is to know about our Triune God. There are secrets galore to explore (Deut 29:29) – and still we will not be able to comprehend it all, even when given all Eternity. • v16. The blind will be blessed. The handicapped need not fret about being short-changed in this life. Better days are coming for them. They will receive special recognition from God cf Is 56:4,5; Mic 4:6-7 • vv20-25. BUT Israel failed to willingly OBEY their GOD, therefore, God poured down destruction upon them, and they still "paid no attention" to Him John 5:40 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What does it take to wake people up to God's greatness?
43:1-28	<p>There is No Savior Besides Me and None After Me...vv10-11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-3. Promise of protection for God's chosen ones, Israel's Remnant, from fire & flood <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Ultimately and spiritually, this is true, BUT from a temporal perspective, many believers have died in abject poverty (Lazarus, widow with 2 mites), others died a martyr's deaths (Apostles); Look what happen to God's own Son. • v7. We have all been specifically created for God's glory <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ How do we bring Him glory? By obedience Rev 16:9 ♦ How do we bring Him shame? 1Cor 6:5; 11:22; 15:34 • v12. Israel (and us) are His witnesses. Are we witnessing? • vv22-24. God's own people (Israel) got tired of Him and burdened Him with their sins. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Remember, not all Israel are Israel Rom 9:6-8 • v25. In the end, God will not recall their sins, nor ours <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ What Love
44:1-28	<p>I Am the First and the Last. There is No God Besides Me .v6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv1-5. LISTEN UP ISRAEL – Better days are coming for their children • v8. Take Note – You Are My Witnesses (How many times does God have to repeat this?) Are we witnessing yet? • vv9-20. Idolatry is the fall of everyone who ends up in Hell. They prefer to worship anyone and anything besides their creator, God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ vv18-19. God blinds those who are blind toward Him • v22. God still stretches out His Hand to His people • v24. And God repeats for the 13th time He is the CREATOR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do you think this repetition is important? Should this be a part of our witnessing approach in our evolutionary society? ABSOLUTELY

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Let's bring God glory by being His faithful and obedient witnesses

NEXT WEEK: Isaiah 46-48. We see no idols can do what God does – declaring the end from the beginning; More sober prophecies against Babylon – they may profit for a time, but they delude themselves; and for Judah, God teaches them to profit – if they would only obey.

