



LESSON 11

ISAIAH 40

1. Reflecting on **Isaiah 38-39**, what lessons did you learn from Hezekiah, and how did they speak into your life?
2. Pray and ask for wisdom before reading **Isaiah 40**. Decades have passed since **Isaiah 39**. Chapters **40-48** present Judah in exile under Babylonian rule. As **Isaiah 40** opens, Isaiah makes a dramatic shift from judgment and warning to extending God's comfort and blessing to Judah. Read **2 Kings 24-25** for a glimpse into the years that passed, which include the fall of Jerusalem and Judah's captivity. Summarize what you uncover.
3. In **Isaiah 40:1-2**, God gave Isaiah a new commission. What was Isaiah to do, what was the message to Judah, and how does the new commission compare to the one given to him in **Isaiah 6:8-10**?

4. **Isaiah 40:3-5** gives a word picture for preparing the way for the LORD. What is the significance of these verses to the entrance of Jesus into history, which is quoted in all four gospels? See e.g., **Matthew 3:1-3, Luke 1:67, 76-80**.
5. How would you describe the nature of man, and to what does Isaiah compare it based on **Isaiah 40:6-8**?
6. Read **V9-10**. What was the announcement, and in what manner was it to be made?
7. In contrast to the picture of God approaching in great power, how did Isaiah portray the relationship of God to His chosen people (**V11**)? Share a treasured Scripture that speaks of God in the same way.
8. **V12-17** includes a series of rhetorical questions followed by a set of statements. Which questions capture your attention, and which attributes of God are pictured?
9. What observations about God and what comparisons does Isaiah make in **V18-26**?

10. What was Israel's complaint, and what beautiful truths about God address their complaint **(V27-31)**?
11. Describe a time you felt disregarded or forgotten by God. Where did you find hope or strength during that season? Give reference to Scripture if you can.
12. Reflection on who God is: **Incomparable (El Gadol)**
- Isaiah 40:25**, the Holy One asks, "**To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?**" King David prayed "**How great you are, Sovereign Lord! There is no one like you, and there is no God but you, as we have heard with our own ears**" in **2 Samuel 7:22**. Our God is great, and no other can compare! Select favorite phrases from **Isaiah 40** to pour out a prayer that the comfort and power of His great name will be known.

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST