

/We will begin with the eighth lecture on the book of Isaiah. / We will begin with Isaiah chapter 39. / The title is, "Envoys."

/First, Babylon's envoys bring letters and gifts. / Verse 1. / Second, Hezekiah shows the envoys what is in his storehouses. / Verse 2.

/Third, Isaiah prophesies that everything in Judah will be taken by Babylon. / Verses 3-7. / Fourth, Hezekiah recognizes his arrogance and accepts God's words. / Verse 8.

/Read verse 1. / At that time Merodach-Baladan son of Baladan king of Babylon sent Hezekiah letters and a gift, because he had heard of his illness and recovery.

/"At that time" is the time when King Hezekiah defeated 185,000 men in the Assyrian army. / This was also when Hezekiah was about to die from his sickness, but was healed by God's sign. / There were great works from God at this time.

/King Hezekiah defeated the Assyrian army, the strongest nation at the time. / The king of Babylon heard about this. / Babylon was a newly growing nation at the time. / Babylon was beginning to grow.

/Babylon was Assyria's rival nation. / Then Babylon began to think, "How did such a small nation like Judah defeat Assyria?"

/Thus, the king of Babylon sent envoys to King Hezekiah. / God wanted to test Hezekiah's faith. / 2 Chronicles 32:31

/Verse 2. / Hezekiah received the envoys gladly and showed them what was in his storehouses--the silver, the gold, the spices, the fine oil, his entire armory and everything found among his treasures. There was nothing in his palace or in all his kingdom that Hezekiah did not show them.

/King Hezekiah did not know the king of Babylon's intentions. / Hezekiah became arrogant because a big nation brought him gifts. / Hezekiah became proud. / Thus, King Hezekiah showed

the envoys everything in his kingdom. / 2 Chronicles 20:13

/This was King Hezekiah's big mistake. / Hezekiah needed to show the Babylonian envoys God's power. / He needed to show that Judah was "a nation under God's protection."

/He needed to show that he was able to defeat Assyria with God's power. / What would have happened if he testified to God's power? / Then the envoys of Babylon would have been afraid. / They would have been afraid of God.

/Verses 3-4. / Then Isaiah the prophet went to King Hezekiah and asked, "What did those men say, and where did they come from?" "From a distant land," Hezekiah replied. "They came to me from Babylon." The prophet asked, "What did they see in your palace?" "They saw everything in my palace," Hezekiah said. "There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them."

/The prophet Isaiah went to Hezekiah to rebuke his sins. / What was Hezekiah's sins? / First, he did not boast of God, but boasted of his wealth.

/Also, God protected Judah. / God healed King Hezekiah's illness with his power. / God gave him many things. / However, Hezekiah relied on his possessions. / 1 Timothy 6:17

/Second, Hezekiah did not rely on God's power, but on man's power. / He boasted of his weaponry. / He forgot that it was God who allowed him to defeat 185,000 men of the Assyrian army. / 2 Chronicles 14:8

/We must rely on God's power, and not on the world. / Third, Hezekiah did not display God's grace, but he was arrogant. / He was supposed to die, but was saved by God's grace, and he forgot this grace.

/In this way, King Hezekiah was arrogant. / 2 Chronicles 32:25, 31 / We must think about God's grace. / We must be thankful that God saved us.

/We must remember God's grace for saving us. / We must not rely on our possessions and not rely on the world. / We must rely only on God. / We must rely on God's power and grace.

/Verses 5-6. / Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD Almighty : The time will surely come when everything in your palace, and all that your fathers have stored up until this day, will be carried off to Babylon. Nothing will be left, says the LORD.

/God said that all of Judah's possessions will be taken to Babylon because of Hezekiah's sin. / Isaiah prophesied this. / 2 Kings 20:16-17

/Verse 7. / And some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon."

/Some of King Hezekiah's descendants would be taken captive to Babylon and made eunuchs in the palace. / Later, Daniel and his three friends became governors of Babylon. / When we rely on our possessions and forsake God, our descendants will be ruined as well. / 2 Kings 10:8

/Verse 8. / "The word of the LORD you have spoken is good," Hezekiah replied. For he thought, "There will be peace and security in my lifetime."

/Hezekiah was thankful that God had mercy on him. / 2 Kings 20:19 / Hezekiah had no choice but to be ruined because of his sins, but received God's mercy.

/Hezekiah thanked God for peace in times of his wrath. / Hezekiah realized that he was arrogant in his heart. / 2 Chronicles 32:26

/Hezekiah temporarily made a mistake, but he repented immediately when God's prophet prophesied about disaster. / We too must thank God for his grace, repent, and have humble faith.

/We will continue with Isaiah chapter 40. / The title is "New Power."

/First, make way for a redeemer. / Verses 1-5. / Second, the things of the flesh are for a moment, but the word of God is forever. / Verses 6-8. / Third, the Lord will come as a conqueror and a shepherd. / Verses 6-11.

/Fourth, God is mighty and the nations are weak. / Verses 12-17. / Fifth, idols are empty, but God controls life and death, fortunes and misfortunes. / Verses 18-26. / Sixth, those who hope in the Lord will gain new strength. / Verses 27-31.

/Read verses 1-2. / Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

/Isaiah prophesied that God would deliver the people of Judah from captivity in Babylon. / The people of Judah would be taken captive to Babylon, and then return after seventy years.

/Then at the time, God would comfort the people of Judah. / This also means that believers who believe in the gospel will be saved through Christ.

/The "hard service" is the time of captivity in Babylon. / We were spiritually slaves to sin before we believed in Jesus. / Now, we believe in the gospel and we have been freed from being slaves of the devil.

/"That she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." / This means that Jerusalem has received enough punishment for her sins.

/Verse 3. / A voice of one calling : "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.

/It says that there will be a voice of one calling in the desert. / "Prepare the way for the LORD. / "Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God." / This prophesies about John the Baptist's ministry in the New Testament period.

/John the Baptist was the voice of one calling in the desert. / John 1:33 / Voices deliver messages and then fade away. / John the Baptist lifted up Jesus, who is the logos. / John 3:33 / John lifted up the Lord.

/Verse 4. / Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain.

/John the Baptist testified to Christ. / Then the people prepared a way for Christ. / Luke 3:4-6 / First, every valley shall be raised up.

/This meant that the people were to repent of dark hearts, conspiracies, scheming hearts, and greed that were like valleys. / We must repent of dark hearts, / conspiracies, scheming hearts, / and greed. / Then we can receive Jesus in our hearts.

/Second, every mountain and hill will be made low. / This meant to repent of arrogant hearts, pride, and boasting. / This meant to be humble. / James 4:6 / Third, the rough ground would become level.

/This meant to get rid of lies, jealousy, and greed. / 1 Peter 2:1 / Fourth, the rugged places would become a plain. / This meant that they were to throw away stubborn and hardened hearts, and become gentle in heart.

/We must repent of our rough hearts. / We must have the heart of Jesus. / John the Baptist did all this. / John the Baptist would come and prepare people to receive Christ.

/Verses 6-8. / A voice says, "Cry out." And I said, "What shall I cry?" "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field. The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass. The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever."

/The prophet Isaiah cried out. / The prophet Isaiah was to proclaim these words to the people. / He was to proclaim that John the Baptist would come to make a way for Christ. / Man's life is like grass.

/His glory is like flowers of the field. / 1 Peter 1:24 / Job 25:4-6 / Here, “the breath of the LORD” is the Lord’s judgment. / God judges each of us. / God judges the sinners. / Man exists only for a moment. / Psalm 90:15

/However, the word of God stands forever. / God’s word is forever unchanging. / Our obedience to God’s word will remain forever.

/Verse 9. / You who bring good tidings to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, "Here is your God!"

/“Good tidings” is the news that the people of Judah would return from captivity in Babylon. / This refers to Christ’s gospel. / The people were to proclaim this good news. / We must diligently preach Christ’s gospel. / Isaiah 52:7

/Verses 10-11. / See, the Sovereign LORD comes with power, and his arm rules for him. See, his reward is with him, and his recompense accompanies him. He tends his flock like a shepherd : He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

/God is the strong ruler and shepherd. / God would save the people of Judah from Babylon. / He would give them rewards. / This prophesied that Christ would come and save all His chosen people.

/Jesus became our Good Shepherd and gave us bread of life to eat. / Jesus would nurture us.

/Verse 12. / Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?

/God is the Creator. / We humans cannot begin to measure God’s creation. / Then, how can we

humans know the Creator God?

/Our God is omniscient and omnipotent. / The things of the world are nothing. / The things of the world are weak and are nothing before God.

/Verse 18. / To whom, then, will you compare God? What image will you compare him to?

/God is great. / Our God cannot be compared to anyone or anything. / Therefore, we must not compare God to any images. / We must not make idols.

/We must not make idols, and we must not bow down to or serve idols. / Today, we believers serve idols. / We chase after the idols of money, / the idols of power, / the idols of children, / the idols of the world. / However, God is the only one who gives us life and salvation.

/Verse 27. / Why do you say, O Jacob, and complain, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God"?

/The Israelites thought that they could hide their ways from the Lord. / They thought that God disregarded their causes. / Yet, why wouldn't God know the ways of the people?

/God avenges our bitterness. / Psalm 13:1 / Lamentations 3:2-3 / God knows all our circumstances. / God knows the number of hair on our heads. / God avenges our enemies. / Psalm 8:3-4 / Psalm 147:4

/Verse 28. / Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

/No one can fathom God's understanding. / Therefore, God knows the circumstances of all the believers. / God never grows tired or weary. / He does not grow sleepy nor does he sleep. / God protects his believers to the end.

/Verse 29. / He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

/The Almighty Lord God created believers. / He called us and allowed us to believe in Christ. / We have been made children of God. / God gives strength to the weary. / God gives power to the weak.

/God is almighty. / The Almighty God gives us wisdom. / The Almighty God gives us power and strength.

/What must we do when we do not have wisdom? / We must seek wisdom from the Almighty God. / James 1:5 / What must we do when we do not have strength? / We must seek strength from the Almighty God.

/Verses 30-31. / Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

/Even youths grow tired and weary. / Young men stumble and fall. / The youths sometimes grow weak. / There are children in hospitals.

/There are younger people in hospitals. / Even the young fall and get sick, and sometimes they die. / People grow weaker as they become older.

/However, those who hope in the Lord will gain new strength. / They will be renewed each day. / They will soar on wings like eagles. / They will run and not grow weary.

/They will walk and not be faint. / 2 Corinthians 4:16 / 2 Corinthians 4:8-9 / John 16:33 / We must look upon the Lord and rely on him. / Then we must pray and enter deep into the spiritual world.



/We must run toward Jesus, who is our cornerstone. / Then we can enter into the spiritual world. / Then we will be clothed with God's power.

/Then our spirits will be renewed. / Our bodies will be strengthened. / Therefore, when we are tired and weary in the world, we must look only upon our God.

/Let us continue with Isaiah 41. / The title of chapter 41 is "The Righteous."

/First, the King of righteousness will come reign over the world and save them. / Verses 1-4. / Second, it is useless to stand against the King of righteousness. / Verses 5-7. / Third, God will protect his chosen people and destroy the enemies. / Verses 8-16.

/Fourth, water for the persecuted, and the desert will be restored. / Verses 17-20. / Fifth, no one but God knows what will happen in the future. / Verses 21-24. / Sixth, the world will not know about Christ's salvation and judgment. / Verses 25-29.

/Read verse 1. / "Be silent before me, you islands! Let the nations renew their strength! Let them come forward and speak; let us meet together at the place of judgment.

/The "islands" here symbolize all the nations of the world. / The "nations" refer to all the peoples of the world. / It says that one from the east will come. / Verse 2. / This is about the road of salvation.

/Verse 2. / "Who has stirred up one from the east, calling him in righteousness to his service? He hands nations over to him and subdues kings before him. He turns them to dust with his sword, to windblown chaff with his bow.

/One from the east will come. / This is historically Cyrus the Great of Persia. / In prophetic terms, it means that Christ will come. / Cyrus the Great of Persia came to the throne 160 years after Isaiah prophesied this.

/Cyrus became king at 536 B.C. / At the time, Cyrus set the people of Judah free from Babylon. /

The “east” is the nation of Persia.

/This also prophesies that Christ will come. / The “east” is God’s direction. / Ezekiel 43:1-2 / Ezekiel 44:1 / The east is where the work of salvation and the work of life takes place.

/It does not matter where a nation is located. / The east is wherever the salvation movement takes place. / However, some people today believe that the east is China.

/Some people believe that it is Korea. / Some people think that it is Japan. / They are all wrong. / There are many heresies today that believe this. / The east is the direction where God saves his people.

/It says, “He turns them to dust with his sword, to windblown chaff with his bow.” / This means that historically, Cyrus would conquer many nations. / Prophetically, it means that Christ will save people with the gospel.

/Jesus conquers all unbelief. / Jesus conquers unbelievers. / Jesus defeats all who stand against God. / Jesus makes all unbelievers believe. / Jesus builds up God’s kingdom.

/Verses 5-7. / The islands have seen it and fear; the ends of the earth tremble. They approach and come forward; each helps the other and says to his brother, "Be strong!" The craftsman encourages the goldsmith, and he who smooths with the hammer spurs on him who strikes the anvil. He says of the welding, "It is good." He nails down the idol so it will not topple.

/The nations will attack King Cyrus when he conquers all the nations. / The nations will rely on idols and attack King Cyrus. / Prophetically, this means that the power of unbelief will attack Christ.

/Verse 8. / "But you, O Israel, my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend,

/“Jacob, whom I have chosen, you descendants of Abraham my friend” refer to the Israelites. / It

refers to believers today. / Jesus would call believers from all over the world and save them.

/Verse 10. / So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

/This is a verse we all need to memorize. / This is a verse that comforts us and gives us strength. / Let us read it together. / Let us all read it together.

/"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."

/Believers receive suffering in a world that is like Babylon, but there is no need to be afraid. / God will not forsake his people, but he will hold onto them.

/God holds onto his chosen people with his might. / God will save us as he promised.

/Verse 11. / "All who rage against you will surely be ashamed and disgraced; those who oppose you will be as nothing and perish.

/"All who rage against you" is Babylon. / This means that all who stand against God will be destroyed by God.

/Verse 14. / Do not be afraid, O worm Jacob, O little Israel, for I myself will help you," declares the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

/A worm is a tiny bug. / The people of Judah were low like a worm. / Job 15:6 / Worms do not have eyes. / They are low. / They live in the ground. / They cannot do anything by their own strength.

/The worm symbolizes us believers today. / We believers are weak and low. / 1 Corinthians 1:27-28 / God loves even the lowly people like us. / God saved us.

/God gave us power. / He gave us wisdom. / He made us noble. / Therefore, we must not be afraid, but be strong and courageous. / God redeemed us.

/Verse 15. / "See, I will make you into a threshing sledge, new and sharp, with many teeth. You will thresh the mountains and crush them, and reduce the hills to chaff.

/God strengthened the Israelites. / God allowed them to crush their enemies. / This symbolizes that believers of Christ in the New Testament period would be strong.

/Believers will conquer the world with the gospel. / Zechariah 4:7 / Isaiah 6:12 / Romans 1:26 / Romans 8:2 / Philippians 4:13 / The gospel wins over and over again.

/Verse 17. / "The poor and needy search for water, but there is none; their tongues are parched with thirst. But I the LORD will answer them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.

/The "poor and needy" symbolize those who are poor in spirit. / God hears their prayers. / God gives the water of life and spiritual food to those who are poor in spirit.

/Verse 18. / I will make rivers flow on barren heights, and springs within the valleys. I will turn the desert into pools of water, and the parched ground into springs.

/This symbolizes Christ's work of redemption and the work of life. / Isaiah 35:7 / There will be water from dry ground. / There will be springs within the valleys.

/When the water of life flows, our spirits will be revived. / Our spirits will grow abundantly. / The work of salvation will take place. / Many lives will be saved through us. / The "barren heights" are fields without trees.

/Verse 21. / "Present your case," says the LORD. "Set forth your arguments," says Jacob's King.

/Idols are meaningless. / They have no life. / They cannot prove anything. / Idols cannot prophesy about the future. / They cannot bless people.

/Idols cannot bring wrath upon people. / Our God alone controls the life and death, fortunes and misfortunes of man.

/Verse 25. / "I have stirred up one from the north, and he comes--one from the rising sun who calls on my name. He treads on rulers as if they were mortar, as if he were a potter treading the clay.

/It says, "I have stirred up one from the north." / Historically, this refers to King Cyrus. / King Cyrus would come from the east. / This means that Cyrus would invade Babylon from the north.

/The "rising sun" is the birthplace of King Cyrus. / This also means that Christ would come and judge the wicked. / The nations of the world will ultimately be destroyed.

/Verse 26. / Who told of this from the beginning, so we could know, or beforehand, so we could say, 'He was right'? No one told of this, no one foretold it, no one heard any words from you.

/"This" is the time when the people of Judah would be freed from captivity in Babylon. / This also refers to Christ's work of salvation in the New Testament period.

/However, idols cannot prophesy. / Idols cannot save us. / Our God alone can save us.

/Verse 27. / I was the first to tell Zion, 'Look, here they are!' I gave to Jerusalem a messenger of good tidings.

/"Good tidings" is the news that the people of Judah would return from captivity in Babylon. / It is also the good news that Christ would fulfill the salvation movement. / In this way, our God alone can tell the future. / Idols do not know anything.

/Verses 28-29. / I look but there is no one--no one among them to give counsel, no one to give answer when I ask them. See, they are all false! Their deeds amount to nothing; their images are but wind and confusion.

/Idolaters cannot know about Christ's work of salvation. / They cannot answer. / Idols are like the wind and confusion. / They are empty.

/Therefore, idolaters are empty like idols. / Idolaters will be ruined along with idols. / Therefore, we must serve God alone, who reigns over our lives.

/God saves us believers. / God saves us who are as weak as worms. / Then God allows us to become a threshing sledge.

/God said this in verse 15. / We can defeat strong mountains with God's power. / We can defeat the powers of unbelief with the gospel.

/We can defeat powers that stand against God with the gospel. / We are weak. / However, when we rely on God's power, we can defeat anything with the gospel.

/Here we will conclude the eighth lecture on the book of Isaiah. / Thank you.