

Part II, Lesson 5

Isaiah

The Lord is Salvation

God
Is The
Redeemer

Isaiah

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*Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex
Curriculum*

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God Is The Redeemer

In this lesson, we will study the forty-first chapter. We need to look it as a unit. It is a poem made up of several stanzas, or verses. In the first part of the chapter, we read about God, who will save His people by bringing Cyrus as king of Babylon. Read Isaiah 41:1-4. This chapter is written like a trial in court, with God as the judge.

The “one from the east” is identified by many Bible students as Cyrus II who was the king of Persia, who conquered Babylon and let the Jewish captives return to Judah. What was behind the success of this great leader? God says, “I, the Lord—with the first of them and with the last—I am He.”

The next verses are sort of poking fun at the people who trusted in idols. Read Isaiah 41:5-7. They see the enemy coming, and they encourage one another to “be strong.” The manufacturers of “gods,” idols, get really busy because they need help against the enemy. Isn’t that just like humans. We think we are fine without God until something comes up and makes us afraid. We call on God for help. We think our religion is all about us. Sermons are preached and lessons are taught about what being religious can do for you. If we only call on God to help us get our way, we do the same thing that the people were doing here. They were saying, “Let’s hurry and make us a god in our image so that he or she will help us.”

Read Isaiah 41:8-10. The judge in the trial suddenly turned to Israel and spoke to her. He said that He knew Israel. He used strong words of His covenant with Israel. He spoke of them as the ones he had “chosen.” They are the descendants of His friend, Abraham, with whom He made the covenant. He calls them Jacob, His servant.

He wanted to comfort them. He said, “I called you...I am your God...I will strengthen you...help you...I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” What more could they ask? If you are old enough, you may remember these words from the hymn, “How Firm A Foundation.” The words of the second verse are, “Fear not, I am with thee; O be not dismayed, For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I’ll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand, Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.” What a promise!

It might be good for us to remember that we never need to ask God to be with us. He already is.

In the next verses God assures Israel of His righteous judgment. The two before the court are Israel and the nations who are Israel’s enemies. Read Isaiah 41:11-13. God says that anyone who is against Israel will be disgraced, will perish and disappear. This is the promise of God.

Read Isaiah 41:14-16. God speaks to Israel again. He refers to Jacob (Israel) as a worm. In the next line He refers to them as “little Jacob.” That’s how their enemies saw them and how some of the Israelites saw themselves. God said that He was on their side. That makes them bigger than anyone else. Maybe more of us ought to think of ourselves less as “little” and more as friend of God. God spoke this as “the Lord...your redeemer...the Holy One of Israel.” This is the first time the word *redeemer* has been used by Isaiah.

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It is important to understand how the word *redeemer* was used in Israel at that time. It was a common word describing a task. The word is go-el' pronounced something like Noel with a "g" instead of an "n." It was used to describe the avenging of the blood of a relative, of buying back property that had been taken over by someone claiming it for a debt, of buying back someone sold into slavery, and of marrying your brother's widow and having children with her to carry on your brother's name.

God said that He would do whatever was necessary to make His children His own. He would redeem them from whatever the circumstances were in their lives.

Another important picture is the sled, or sledge. A sled was built to drag across the grain to separate the good grain from the shells. God said that sharp edges on the sled would do a better job. Israel should not be afraid of her enemies. The enemies will be defeated, but Israel will "rejoice in the Lord."

Read Isaiah 41:17-20. This is a beautiful picture of what God will do for His people who seek Him and who depend on Him for spiritual strength. These verses are a kind of break in the trial.

God then calls on the nations to present their case. He said to call the idols as their witnesses. Read Isaiah 41:21-24. He dared them to have their idols talk about what had happened before and to predict what would take place in the future. He, and those in the courtroom, waited to be dismayed and terrified. But the idols were silent. They had absolutely nothing to say. Their actions were an embarrassment to them and a disappointment to those who believed in and depended on them.

Finally, we read God's judgment of the idols. Read Isaiah 41:25-29. This also becomes God's judgment of those who believe in the idols. God said that someone was coming from the north. Now we have no proof that Cyrus II ever became a worshipper of God alone. But we have much proof that he was used by God to carry out God's purpose. Cyrus II was unstoppable, just as God said here, and was used by God to judge the nations.

Then God asked, "Did the idols tell you this was going to happen?" No, there were no words of warning coming from the idols. But, God did predict it through His prophets.

In verse twenty-eight, God warns that there is absolutely no help available from the idols. They are false and make no difference in the lives of humans.

*Underlined words and phrases are to be used in completing the Student Worksheet.

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Scripture Memory: "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." Isaiah 41:10

Lesson Goal: To guide the student to see God as the great redeemer.

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Student Worksheet

Listen during the lesson for this information:

1. God spoke of Israel as the ones he had “_____.” They are the descendants of His friend, _____.
with whom He made the covenant. He calls them _____, His _____.
2. It might be good for us to remember that we never need to ask God to be _____ us. He _____ is.
3. What happens to those who are against Israel?
4. What did the word “redeemer” mean to the people in Isaiah’s time?
5. What is the picture of the sled?
6. What did God dare the idols to do?

Page Four

Scripture Memory: “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.” Isaiah 41:10

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that the God of the Bible is the true God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.