

The Book of Isaiah

4

Morning Devotions

Select a passage in God's Word. Talk with the Lord as you read the passage, then go back and find one or two verses which the Lord has impressed on your heart and meditate on them.

Morning Study

This morning we continue studying the book of **Isaiah**, this time reading **chapters 40-48**. This section begins the second major division of **Isaiah**.

The two divisions of **Isaiah** are neatly divided as follows:

- First division – **chapters 1-39**
- Second division – **chapters 40-66**

Such is the stark difference between these two divisions that some scholars have proposed that they are in fact written by two (or more) different authors. These scholars generally label the first division as the true "Isaiah" and the second as "Deutero-Isaiah" (or the Second Isaiah).

The theory of the two Isaiahs is based upon some difference in writing styles between the two sections of the book. But the main reason is that the second division contains "future history," making specific mention of people such as Cyrus (**45:1**), who would not live for another 150 plus years. The main assumption behind the two-Isaiah theory, therefore, is one of anti-supernaturalism. From the start of **chapter 40, Isaiah** is supernatural in its character. It is essentially a continuous prophecy relating to future events and having little reference to events or issues in Isaiah's lifetime.

Each argument raised by liberal scholars in support of a multiple authorship of **Isaiah** has been countered by conservative scholars. For one thing, the tradition of a singular **Isaiah** appears as early as 185 BC. Furthermore, all parts of the book bear the marks of Isaiah's style, with many unique words and phrases indicating a singular author. Maybe most persuasive of all for Bible-believing Christians is the fact that Jesus himself testifies that Isaiah wrote **53:1 (John 12:38)**, **53:4 (Matthew 8:17)**, **44:1 (Matthew 12:17)**, and **61:1 (Luke 4:17)**.

Let's pull up that comfortable chair again and begin reading the fourth section of **Isaiah – chapters 40-48**, which focus on the hope of Judah and the fall of Babylon.

Memory Verse

...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.

Isaiah 40:31

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to memorize your memory verse:

- ➞ Ask the Lord to help you remember his Word (see [John 14:26](#)).
- ➞ Use the version of the Bible you are most familiar with. What you normally read in your Bible is what you need to be memorizing.
- ➞ Don't just memorize the contents of the verse; memorize its "address" (the verse reference) as well. You can do this by following this pattern: Step 1: **reference**; Step 2: **verse content**; Step 3: **reference**. Then repeat steps 1-3. Note that you are quoting the reference twice as many times as you quote the actual verse content. This gives the verse a clear "reference tag."
- ➞ After you have read your memory verse out aloud several times, try going through your memory verse *without* reading your computer screen.
- ➞ Look up your memory verse in your Bible. Look at its immediate context and read the verses that come before and after your memory verse.
- ➞ Print out your memory verse or jot it down on a piece of paper. Take this paper with you when you go to work or do other daily activities. Meditate on the meaning of the verse throughout the day.
- ➞ During your noon appointment with the Lord, take out your memory verse and go over it again. Talk to the Lord about what this verse means to you personally.
- ➞ In the evening (at either your evening study or your evening devotions), see if you can quote your memory verse from memory. Then, without looking at the memory verse itself, see if you can find it in your Bible.
- ➞ The next day, before you begin committing a new verse to memory, rehearse your previous day's memory verse and see if you can remember it (without cheating!).
- ➞ Finally, at the end of the week (possibly on the Sunday), collect all your week's memory verses, rehearse them and see if you can recall them without reading them. Spend a little extra time on any verses you have difficulty recalling.
- ➞ Remember: Don't just memorize a verse. Put it into practice ([James 1:22](#)). It is not being able to quote a verse from memory that counts. It is his Word *abiding* in your heart that counts ([John 15:7](#)). When you actually apply a verse consistently to your daily life, that is when you *truly* know that verse!