

**Note:** Although Isaiah prophesied about 100 years before the Babylonian captivity, his prophecies predicted it, as we saw at the end of Chapter 39. Isaiah 40–55, is called Deutero-Isaiah which means second Isaiah, or the Book of Consolation. It presupposes that the Babylonian exile has ended. Thus, second Isaiah’s prophecies gave the returning exiles and future generations a basis for renewed faith and hope, since God had made this promise to them through Isaiah a century before these events happened.

1. Under the leadership of King Ahaz, Judah sinned against the Lord. For what sins did the people need to be pardoned? (2 Chron 28:1-7, 22-26)
2. How were the people punished for their sins against the Lord? (2 Chron 29:8-10)
3. “A voice of one calling” refers to a herald, one who makes an important announcement from the Lord.
  - a. Who does the herald say is coming in Isaiah 40:3?
  - b. Who was the herald in the New Testament and who did he announce? (John 1:19-24)
4. *Reflection:* Deserts, valleys, and mountains have always been a hindrance to transportation and communication. All these “hindrances” need to be removed if people are to see the glory of the Lord. (Is 40:5) What kinds of “hindrances” do people of today *with* faith and those *without* faith face in finding their path to God?
5. A voice tells Isaiah, “Cry out.” What is Isaiah told to “cry out”? (Is 40:6-8)
6. What is God telling Isaiah to say and do? (Is 40:9)
7. Two seemingly contradictory images of God are presented in Isaiah 40:10-11.
  - a. What are the two images?
  - b. Is there a way to reconcile them?
  - c. *Reflection:* Have you ever experienced God’s power as well as God’s gentleness and caring?
8. List some of the attributes that are exclusively attributes of God. (Is 40:12-14)
9. God is trying to explain how He is incomparable to anything on earth or in the heavens. What are some of the images the prophet uses to explain God’s incomparableness, and do you have a favorite? (Is 40:25-28)
10. What is the dominant quality, expressed in different ways, that the Lord gives those who hope in him? (Is 40:29-31)