



# SMALL GROUP STUDY

## Consolation

In the book of Isaiah he goes in two different directions, condemnation in chapters 1-39 and comfort in chapters 40-66. The first half of Isaiah is all about Woe. The second half of Isaiah is all about Wow! Isaiah now speaks of the blessings that come from God's heart. His prophecies are a comfort to the people coming back to Jerusalem from their Babylonian captivity, an event that is 150 years in the future! His prophecies regarding the Messiah, also came to pass hundreds of years in the future.

## Israel's Salvation (40-48)

Depending on the condition of your heart, the bible can be either comforting or convicting. We see God's pattern for dealing with children. First comes discipline, then comes comfort. Isaiah comforts the people who will be returning from captivity in Babylon. He assumes the captivity and the return and speaks words of encouragement to the people on their long trek home from captivity.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. Which scripture in this section do all four gospels quote?
- b. Isaiah 40:6-8; All flesh is grass. What does this mean?
- c. Who is/are the "Servant of the Lord?"
- d. What does it mean to "wait on the Lord?"

## Israel's Salvation (49-57)

The servant of the Lord, Jesus, is in this section's prophecy. He describes Christ as the submissive, sovereign and suffering servant. He describes in detail, even more than any of the four gospels, the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. Why did Isaiah describe the crucifixion in such detail while the 4 gospels do not provide a high level of detail?
- b. What is the definition of vicarious atonement?

## Israel's Splendor (58-66)

When Jesus comes the second time he will come from heaven back to the Mount of Olives to judge wicked men. Isaiah prophecies of a new creation and the birth of a new nation.

### *Discussion Questions:*

- a. Why is Isaiah considered to be the Bible in miniature?
- b. Isaiah 61:2; What does "we are living in the age of the comma" mean?
- c. Jesus read Isaiah 61 in the synagogue at the beginning of his ministry (Luke 4). What did He say when he closed the scroll that made the leaders wish to kill him?
- d. Why do we need a millennium? Why not go right away to the new heaven and the new earth?
- e. Examine your heart: How does fulfilled prophecy encourage you and give you hope?
- f. You have this letter from the future telling what will be. How then will you live your life?