

## Things That Are to Come Hereafter

Isaiah 41:1 – 42:25

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~ Modern communication is so complex and vast, and information exchange so immediate that no individual or single-system could maintain facilitation of such mind-numbingly mass-quantities of data adequately. On a human plane, there is a finite amount of knowledge available at any particular moment concerning any particular subject; and limited understanding to be gained of any said particular subject. I don't know how much there is to know; but I do know it isn't very much.

On the divine side, however, knowledge and understanding are as infinite as the number of galaxies in outer space. Amazingly, even if we came to understand the entire Bible from cover to cover, we still wouldn't know everything there is to know about God. All a human being in the world is capable of comprehending about God is contained in Scripture as we know it – but I doubt anyone really understands even *half* of what we have written to and for us. Each one of us has forgotten more about the Bible than we are cognizant of having learned at any given moment. Personally, I am ashamed when I read certain passages that I have read one hundred times – yet I have completely forgotten about them. Even so, the Holy Spirit is going to move Isaiah to reveal a few hidden traits of the True and Living God to the nation Israel in this section of Scripture – but not in some outrageous and fantastically written sensational and emotional detail. No, he is just going to pull the veil back ever so gently and give us a quick glance inside....

### XLI

***1 Keep silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment.***

***2 Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow.***

***3 He pursued them, and passed safely; even by the way that he had not gone with his feet.***

***4 Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.***

~ If you have your own Bible opened, have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, have read the text portion of Scripture, prayed again for wisdom and understanding of knowledge, and then have read this report – the very latter of which I really don't even recommend – but, if you have done all of that, then these safari reports are going to make a whole lot more sense to you, and they will mean much more to your heart and life as Christ Jesus draws you closer and closer to Him. In chapter forty-one, we consider the contrast between the greatness of God and the weakness of man. Our previous chapter opened this almost incomprehensible topic regarding the greatness of God in His dealings with feeble man. Here, Isaiah makes a unique blend of creation and human history – which, of course, was purely eschatological when he wrote it. Now, if you understand what you just read, then there is *NO POSSIBLE WAY* you can make a credible and sustainable argument purporting there is no God. As God says, *“the atheist is a fool.”*

Alright, there are certain aspects of the truth in this section of Scripture that are enigmatic. As a result, they are extremely difficult to explain – and I make no promises, except that I will try. While Isaiah writes this second division of his prophecy, there is a present-tense comfort from God revealing that the Lord protects His Own as He safely leads them through this present evil world of pitfalls, dangers, and corruption. If you can see in that light, you will be comforted by this message. If you *can't* see in that light, then there is almost zero chance you are reading this report. If you are reading this report, then I highly suggest you go back and read at least our previous five reports. If you have just started reading this safari, then stay with us, and we'll go through the entire Bible and come right back here

again. God overrules situations and other individuals when leading His children. God makes an overture for us to trust Him on that basis. God destroys idols, too. Those are the three main focuses bundled up in this chapter of Isaiah.

As we have unmistakably learned previously in Isaiah, the world is moving towards certain and severe judgment. There will be an inevitable showdown between light and darkness, between God and mammon — faith and unbelief — with Christ Jesus prevailing in a world where His light is perpetual. Darkness will be driven out. Today, God is calling individuals out of the darkness of the world and into the church body of Christ to accept His offer of salvation; but He isn't demanding anything of anyone. God extends a free offer of grace by faith and, frankly, you can take it or leave it.

God's pronouncement of judgment upon our unconfessed sins isn't going to be a veiled technicality buried in eloquent prose and suddenly forgotten about. I wonder what Abraham thinks about when he looks down today and sees the continuing consequences of his faithlessness to God with Hagar. Ishamel is profound judgment on this world and Israel. There is no place in the Word of God for the pious nonsense that claims sinless perfection. You'll do well to learn that there is a very real consequence to sin. Isaiah is dead serious about this thing ahead of us called eternity; where Christ rules and reigns on this earth in holiness, righteousness, and justice....

***5 The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came.***

***6 They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.***

~ Because God will right the wrongs and relieve injustice, poverty, and oppression of the poor, in general, individuals who are right with God in the mind of Christ can be of good courage! The only hope for the poor in this world is to trust Him as their Savior, according to the Word of God. That person soon discovers he has no future of this world to worry about

anyways. Well, I recognize situations may not always seem to work out that way immediately, but God protects and over-rules in the affairs of His children, and they will work out that way in the Millennial Kingdom; when Christ rules and reigns upon the earth. That's what Isaiah is talking about. Interestingly, we now have an abrupt change of content as the focus shifts to idolatry.

It's easy to go off the prophetic rails quickly, my beloved. Covetousness is idolatry. God hates idolatry. If we seek comfort in idolatry, then we sure won't find the Comfort of the Holy Spirit of God in our life – I can promise you that. Instead of hammering out an idol, why not hammer out an educated, sincere, systematic, proper, correct, complete, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led Bible study? How about a little support for that Bible teacher? God already knows you're a sinner. God knew these people were sinners, too; and God still calls them Jacob – whom He hath chosen....

***7 So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the soldering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved.***

***8 But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.***

~ Remember, "Jacob" means crooked one! Jacob had no qualms about tricking people and misleading them. From Isaac to Esau to Uncle Laban, Jacob deceived them all — one way or another. However, God made a covenant with Abraham, and told Abraham he was a friend of His. God only desires to bring us into a right relationship with Christ, friends. This section of Scripture has been a pillar of strength and a wonderful source of comfort for me – and it should be for God's children throughout the ages. Anyone meeting together in the mind of Christ will naturally encourage each other. Any attempt to resist or oppose God's will in our lives reveals one's measure of foolishness. Resisting God is much more common than you might think it is, too, by the way – especially in the church – and there's more ways than one to deny Christ; the most egregious of which is a feigned, ignorant, and uncertain worship of Him. Apparently, a whole lot of

adjustments are going to have to be made *IN THAT DAY* to the entire universe as we know it, but let's move on....

***9 Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.***

***10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.***

***11 Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish.***

***12 Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.***

***13 For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.***

~ God wants to hold us in His confidence. Picture a dad attempting to carry a child, but the little one is crying and wiggling, and bending over backwards, screaming to be put down, so he can run off and get into trouble. That's exactly how most of us act with God. Unconfessed sins in our life mean we can have no fellowship with God the Father. However, when we have our lives laid bare to the Lord Jesus Christ, this world takes on a whole new dimension. I am amused, somewhat, at the natural man in the world without Christ who thinks he is so smart. He has no earthly idea what he is missing in terms of peace, rest, and spiritual well-being. We need to be careful, though; because some people even get so wrapped-up in church work that they miss the point of all of these tenets of Scriptural truth....

***14 Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.***

~ Worm – that’s nice, huh? Well, let’s just keep this real, shall we? You and I are nothing without Christ. Jesus saith, *“without Me ye can do nothing.”* Only God can ever make anyone somebody! Tragically, many, many people think they are somebody when they are not. Little man struts across the stage of life, either yelling a song out of key, or playing a support role in which very clever, pre-written, well-rehearsed lines are repeated until they don’t even make sense anymore. That’s life for the natural man. He is going nowhere and getting nothing out of it. This is where the Godless rich man sees the futility of life — and the contemplation of suicide typically follows. It happens every day. Where else do you expect a God-rejecting man to turn? I might do it if I had no hope, either. That’s life. That’s what’s real....

***15 Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.***

***16 Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.***

***17 When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them.***

***18 I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water.***

***19 I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together:***

***20 That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.***

**21 Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.**

**22 Let them bring them forth, and shew us what shall happen: let them shew the former things, what they be, that we may consider them, and know the latter end of them; or declare us things for to come.**

**23 Shew the things that are to come hereafter, that we may know that ye are gods: yea, do good, or do evil, that we may be dismayed, and behold it together.**

**24 Behold, ye are of nothing, and your work of nought: an abomination is he that chooseth you.**

**25 I have raised up one from the north, and he shall come: from the rising of the sun shall he call upon my name: and he shall come upon princes as upon mortar, and as the potter treadeth clay.**

~ I don't know about you, but I am not satisfied with the answers science and education provide. In all areas, from evolution to the creation of the earth, science is just not credible. Man doesn't know the origin of life. I don't care what you claim to know – you do not know. When you talk about science, you must first qualify *which* science you're talking about; because many scientific theories of the past have been found to be totally wrong and subsequently abandoned. Sociology is another skewed pursuit; because until we begin with the Biblical premise that the heart is desperately wicked, then we're going absolutely nowhere in terms of psychological advances. Fraud in science and academia, in general, is immensely extensive, and commonly well-known and documented - but still largely ignored.

Well, man doesn't know his origin, cannot explain the past, and he doesn't know the future, either. Ultimately, man is an outrageously empty and ignorant little creature. There was a man who had a doctorate degree studying the exciting subject of the Culicidae eye. Then, one day, while working in the laboratory, it occurred to him he didn't want to spend the rest of his life staring a dead mosquito in the eye. I can't say I blame him. I

might want to take a look or two at a mosquito eye under the microscope but, after that, I think I would reach the conclusion that this discipline would become quite monotonous; wholly unfulfilling in terms of a life's work. That's where Christ comes in. God is the only fulfillment we will ever have in this life. Our work for the Lord is the only thing worthwhile down here....

***26 Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and beforetime, that we may say, He is righteous? yea, there is none that sheweth, yea, there is none that declareth, yea, there is none that heareth your words.***

***27 The first shall say to Zion, Behold, behold them: and I will give to Jerusalem one that bringeth good tidings.***

***28 For I beheld, and there was no man; even among them, and there was no counsellor, that, when I asked of them, could answer a word.***

~ Hopeless confusion is the end result of every theory, philosophy, and religion known to mankind – and idolatry. Utter confusion and hypocrisy are the hallmarks of atheism. The world does not have the answers to the problems of life that we so desperately need. Any and all systems that exclude the Lord Jesus Christ as the front and center of that person's life cannot, and will never, satisfy the desires of the human heart. Those needs are the good tidings that can only be found when they are brought to us by the only One Who brings tidings of great joy – Christ Jesus! God is not the Author of confusion; but, if you regard the subtle iniquity of idolatry in your heart – then you are....

***29 Behold, they are all vanity; their works are nothing: their molten images are wind and confusion.***

## **XLII**

***1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.***

~ The Lord Jesus Christ was God's servant here on earth. Jesus said, "*the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto but to minister and to give His life a ransom for many.*" The servanthood of Christ on earth is something we have examined and emphasized myriad times on safari - and we see Christ again in the first six verses of this chapter. Beginning at verse eight, Isaiah continues to ease into the matter of the scourge of idolatry and graven images; and this chapter ends by speaking of the nation Israel as Jehovah's servant. Read this very carefully in your Bible, in the light of being a call to consider the Lord Jesus Christ. Apply everything to Him and see what that does to your world-view....

***2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.***

***3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.***

***4 He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.***

***5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:***

***6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;***

***7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.***

***8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.***

~ God does not promise to bless organizations or individuals. God has not even promised to bless the church. God does promise to bless *His Word*

that will never return to Him empty or void. God doesn't make anything void and without form, friends. God only creates, blesses and uplifts His Name for His glory — for His Names sake — and He won't share His glory with anyone else. So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Bible with strong warnings on the scourge of idolatry.

The nation Israel didn't even turn a page in the Bible after judgment before they turned to idols. I think most Christians would do well to look up "covetousness" in a good Bible dictionary. The physical earth will be affected by His judgment *IN THAT DAY* – but His people will be led through in safety – in spite of what's going on here. You and I are beyond blind to even one nanosecond of the future — but God isn't; and He leads each and every person who will put their trust in His Son in the everlasting way of truth and wisdom. We're really only hitting some very high points because this safari now has a lot of time invested in Isaiah – and we must move along reasonably. So, we'll resume in chapter forty-three in our next report....

***9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.***

***10 Sing unto the LORD a new song, and his praise from the end of the earth, ye that go down to the sea, and all that is therein; the isles, and the inhabitants thereof.***

***11 Let the wilderness and the cities thereof lift up their voice, the villages that Kedar doth inhabit: let the inhabitants of the rock sing, let them shout from the top of the mountains.***

***12 Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands.***

***13 The LORD shall go forth as a mighty man, he shall stir up jealousy like a man of war: he shall cry, yea, roar; he shall prevail against his enemies.***

**14 I have long time holden my peace; I have been still, and refrained myself: now will I cry like a travailing woman; I will destroy and devour at once.**

**15 I will make waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their herbs; and I will make the rivers islands, and I will dry up the pools.**

**16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.**

**17 They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods.**

**18 Hear, ye deaf; and look, ye blind, that ye may see.**

**19 Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD'S servant?**

**20 Seeing many things, but thou observest not; opening the ears, but he heareth not.**

**21 The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.**

**22 But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.**

**23 Who among you will give ear to this? who will hearken and hear for the time to come?**

**24 Who gave Jacob for a spoil, and Israel to the robbers? did not the LORD, he against whom we have sinned? for they would not walk in his ways, neither were they obedient unto his law.**

***25 Therefore he hath poured upon him the fury of his anger, and the strength of battle: and it hath set him on fire round about, yet he knew not; and it burned him, yet he laid it not to heart ~***

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