

Isaiah: The Lord Saves, Part 7
“Good News for Exiles” | Isaiah 40-48
 Pastor Andrew Jun

*Be steadfast in faith while in exile
 because of who God is.*

I. Take comfort because God is purposeful in history (40-41).

- Read 40:1-5: God’s announcement of good news was to get ready for the glory of YHWH to be revealed.
- Read 40:27-28: Israel wondered if God saw their trouble and listened to their case while in exile.
- Read 41:2-4: God “stirred up” the Medo-Persians (the nation “from the east”) to defeat the Babylonians
- God’s purpose for Israel in exile was to be a witness to the nations. See 1 Peter 1:23-25: The church are “exiles”- resident aliens on earth and citizens of heaven.
- **Life Application #1:** Seek out God’s purpose for you right now in this current situation with respect to your ministry at home, work, church, or community.

II. Fear not because God is gracious and with his people (42-44).

- Read 42:18-22: Israel’s chronic problem was their failure to see and listen to God- they willfully disregarded and rebelled against the Law.
- Read 43:1-4: God revealed himself (their God, the Holy One, Savior) and how he regarded Israel (precious, honored, beloved). See Daniel 3.
- Read 43:25: God would deal with Israel’s sins by his grace alone.

- **Life Application #2:** Seek out God’s grace and presence when you are in the “waters” and “fires” of affliction- they are God-given opportunities.

III. Listen well because God did and does “new things” (45-48).

- Read 45:1-4: God’s “anointed” instrument to accomplish his will was Cyrus, king of the Medo-Persian empire.
- Read 48:6-11: God said that he would do a “new thing”: 1) show Israel mercy, 2) refine them through affliction and 3) rescue them from Babylon.
- Read Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7: Jesus is the “servant of the Lord” who did a “new thing” and continues to do “new things”: showing mercy, refining faith, saving the lost.
- **Life Application #3:** Seek out “new things” that God is doing in you and through you this new ministry year- pray and prepare for them.

Simplified Overview of Isaiah

	Isaiah 1-39	Isaiah 40-55	Isaiah 56-66
Date and Setting	The eighth century B.C. (700s); the Assyrian threat	Prophecies about the sixth century B.C. (500s); the Babylonian exile	Prophecies about all times and occasions until the end
Audience	God’s rebellious people craving worldly security	God’s defeated people under worldly domination	All who hold fast to God’s covenant
Actions	God purifies a remnant of his apostate people through judgment	God consoles his discouraged people in exile	God prepares all of his true people for his promised salvation
Message	“In returning and rest you shall be saved; ... But you were unwilling” (30:15)	“the glory of the Lord shall be revealed” (40:5)	“Keep justice, and do righteousness” (56:1)