

ROOTS TO FRUITS

February 4, 2024 • Pastor Daryl Ellis

Series: Bible Basics

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31

Key Focus: Isaiah and Exile

Notes:

1. Isaiah has two halves: _____-exile and _____-exile.

- The first half (chapters 1-39) announces _____ on Israel's leaders because of their idolatry and corruption and names _____ as the price of their rebellion.
- The second half (chapters 40-66) announces the _____ that God will save Israel through a suffering _____.

2. Exile is a _____ human condition that describes our experience of disconnection, longing, and grief. (40:1)

- The first word that God speaks to his suffering people is _____ (Is. 40:1)
- When we are at our _____ that we are most open to receive God's comfort (*or reject God again*).

3. Isaiah gives four reasons for _____ God in our suffering:

- God is the _____ of the universe (v. 21-22, v. 25-26).
- God _____ the world's powers and nations (v.23-24)
- God is a source of _____ strength, with a particular soft spot for those who are weak and weary. (vv. 28-31)
- God is building a new _____ through his true "servant" (Jesus) for those who trust him (e.g. Is. 61:1-3).

Discussion Questions

1. How do you feel when need to ask for help from someone? Does it come easily for you? How do you respond when people ask you for help?

Discussion questions continue on the back

2. What are three descriptions that Isaiah gives to describe God as the creator of the universe in (vv. 21-22 and vv 25-26)?

- Which one sticks out to you as awe-inspiring?

3. What images does Isaiah use to describe God's control over the world's powers and politics in v. 23-24?

- This is a common theme in the Bible that is often overlooked. For instance, Psalm 2:4 says that God "laughs" and "scoffs" at the world's powers and governments for thinking that they are in control.
- If true, what effect do you think this had on Isaiah's original audience in exile?
- How might this bring us peace as we face our country's current political disagreements and controversies?

4. What does it say about God that he allows his people to go through suffering like the exile?

- What is one reaction that God hopes that we will have in response to our suffering?
- How do you feel that this is part of God's love for us?
- If you need help, look up Luke 15:13-20, 2 Corinthians 7:10, or Isaiah 48:10.

5. Pastor Daryl mentioned several emotions or questions about God that exile would have produced in the Israelites. For example: feeling like you don't belong, forgotten, confused, sad, powerless, unseen, alone, anxious, homeless, angry, or just longing for something more.

- Is there one of these that you identify with the most?
- How might God's promises in vv. 28-31 and Jesus' offering of a new home help us face those emotions or questions?

Prayer Requests: