

**“The Fifth Gospel”**  
***Studies in the Book of Isaiah***

**The Tapestry of Isaiah 40-53**

Six Threads or Themes in Isaiah 40-53

1. The futility and impotency of idolatry (**40:18-20; 41:7, 21-24, 29; 42:8, 17; 44:9-20; 45:16, 20; 46:1, 2, 5-7; 48:5**).
2. The incomparable nature, uniqueness and eternality of God in contrast to idols. In every chapter from 40 to 48 this theme is met: **40:18-26; 41:4; 43:10, 13; 44:6, 8; 48:12** with a crescendo in **45:5, 6, 14, 18, 21, and 22**. Note the significance of “I am the first and I am the last” (**41:4; 44:6; 48:12**) when compared to Rev. **1:8, 17; 2:8; 22:13**.
3. Words of comfort and promise of release (as in **49:15f**).
4. The gradual revelation about Cyrus who will free Israel from captivity (**41:2, 3, 25; 45:1-3, 13; 46:11; 48:14, 15**).
5. The servant passages that culminate with the Messiah’s redemptive work. In the early occurrences the word *servant* refers to Israel; in the later passages it refers to the Messiah.
6. Prophecies regarding the salvation of Gentiles (**42:1, 6; 45:22; 49:6; 52:15**; note also **58:8** and compare Jn. **10:16**).