

STRUCTURE OF 40-55 WITH BRIEF NOTES

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- 40.1-5 A voice of comfort for Israel, preparing the way for the revelation of Glory
40.6-8 Man is transient, but the word of the Lord is eternal --- Peter identifies this “word” as the message of salvation preached to those who trust in Messiah (1 Pet 1.25)
- 40.9-31 Nothing can come close to comparing with Yhwh; he will strengthen the weak and faint
41.1-7 Yhwh has raised up a king from the east to conquer the nations before him
41.8-20 Yhwh makes sure Israel knows that he has not forsaken or forgotten them; he is Israel’s helper, just as he helped them at the Exodus, so he will now
41.8, 9 --- Servant is Israel
- 41.21-29 This “stirred up one” from the north will trample down idolatry in Israel
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- 42.1-9 **SERVANT SONG #1 – The Servant**
Yhwh puts his Spirit on the Servant to ensure that justice is brought forth throughout the nations – the nations wait in darkness for his *torah*, and he will be for them a covenant and a light, opening the eyes of the blind and freeing the captives from prison
- 42.10-17 Celebration in light of Servant Song #1, the Lord will lead the blind into a lighted and leveled path (c.f. 40.1-3)
42.18-25 Yhwh speaks again to rebellious and disobedient Israel – they caused their own exile because they did not listen to or observe Yhwh and his words
42.19 --- Servant is Israel
- 43.1-28 Yhwh will lead Israel on a new global exodus, freeing them from Babylonian captivity; former things (judgment) are being done away with and new things (salvation) is being declared; they were to be his witnesses to all nations that he is the only God, the only Savior, but they did not call upon Yhwh or listen to him, burdening him with their sins and iniquities; Yhwh, however, will blot out their sins for his own sake
43.10 --- Servant is Israel
- 44.1-8 SONG – Servant Israel
Israel should not fear because Yhwh is going to lead through on a new Exodus and will pour out his Spirit on their descendants; He is the only God
- 44.9-20 All who fashion idols are going to be put to shame
44.21-28 the Lord plans to restore Jerusalem through Cyrus, will accomplish his plans of old, and will redeem Israel, taking away their sins
44.21, 26 --- Servant is Israel
- 45.1-13 Cyrus will be used to subdue nations so that the whole world may know that Yhwh alone is God; he will use Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem and let exiles free
45.4 --- Servant is Israel
- 45.14-25 Yhwh is the Savior of Israel, but his vision is that the whole earth would be saved (22-23)
46.1-13 There is no other God but Yhwh, his righteousness is near and he is going to put his salvation in Zion
- 47.1-15 Babylon will fall from their false security “in a moment”
48.1-11 Yhwh declared former things well ahead of time to protect Israel from idolatry, and is now declaring new things (he is deferring his anger into the future) for the sake of Israel
- 48.12-22 A summary of 40-48 with a final statement that the wicked will not have peace
48.20 --- Servant is Israel

49.1-7 **SERVANT SONG #2 – The Servant**

Both Servant Israel (1-4) and The Servant speak (5-7). The nation acknowledges the previous judgment (48) and that its labor has been in vain, yet also turns to trust in Yhwh. The Servant’s purpose is to not only bring Jacob back to Yhwh, but also to be a light to the nations so that salvation would reach to the ends of the earth. There are remarkable similarities between Song 1 (42.1-9) and what is said of The Servant here

49.3 --- Servant is Israel

49.5-7 --- The Servant

49.8-26 The Servant is a covenant to the people (42.6), seems like 44.1-4 are accomplished through the Servant

50.1-11 **SERVANT SONG #3 – The Servant (50.4-9)**

Yhwh addresses Israel as the disobedient son of a divorced wife, though still can be redeemed. The Servant is described as one who speaks comfort to the weary, and as one who hears toward obedience to Yhwh. He willingly gives himself up to his adversaries in order to be disgraced, though he is innocent. Yhwh is his confidence. His afflictions seem to be as a result of their rejection of him, as they “walk by the light of their own fire” or “in darkness”

50.10 --- The Servant

51.1-11 Yhwh will recreate Zion like Eden, with a new *torah*, and justice set up as a light for all people; the “arm” of Yhwh takes on the role of the Servant for the nations; though the heavens and earth will die, salvation will remain forever; this means that even though the nation rejected the Servant, he would still send him out to save the righteous;

51.12-16 Israel still fears man more than God, though Yhwh has removed their oppressors and declared them as his people

51.17-23 Devastation and destruction have come upon Zion, with no one to comfort them; so Yhwh comforts them by telling them that their oppression has ended

52.1-12 Foreigners are removed from Zion, and the city is now free from oppression; though oppression has lasted long for many, even going back to Assyrian captivity, peace is now proclaimed in Jerusalem, it’s God reigns; now that they have awoken, they are now to “depart” and follow Yhwh back to Zion; Yhwh has shown his salvation to all nations

52.13-53.12 **SERVANT SONG #4 – The Servant**

The last of the Servant songs. The “arm” of Yhwh is the Servant, who will bring salvation to all nations. Having acted wisely, he accomplished his mission and he is exalted (52.13). As an atoning sacrifice for many nations and astonishing kings, he would be greatly disfigured, appalling many (14-15). In his own day none would believe him, but seem to later return and marvel at their unbelief (53.1). They would ignore him, reject him, and despise him (2-3). Yet, he would be a sin offering for the afflictions and sorrow of others (4-12).

52.13; 53.12 --- The Servant

54.1-17 Singing breaks out in light of the news of the Servant; like the days of Noah, Yhwh makes a new covenant of peace that would last forever

54.17 --- servant(s) of Yhwh, all inclusive

55.1-13 An open invitation for all nations to come and celebrate this covenant of peace, made with a future Davidic ruler; Yhwh has mercy on all nations, and the wicked are urged to forsake their ways; all of this will be accomplished because God’s word never fails.