

Week Five: March 11, 2021 Isaiah Study

Chs. 40-55 take place in exile in Babylon 597 (587?)-539 BCE and are primarily words of comfort, thus known as "2nd Isaiah" or the "Book of Consolations." Comfort the afflicted.

Isaiah 40-43 Comfort and Hope for Israel in exile. God will prevail against the Nations
To prepare: Read Chapters 40:1-11 and 27-31, 42:1-9, 43:1-7 and 18-19

Leftover question from last week:

I'm hearing that the people weren't doing right; they weren't taking care of those that are weak and needy; they have broken the sacred covenant with God. God lets them be taken into exile. Many generations suffer for the sins of their ancestors. How do we reconcile this with our image of a loving God who loves like no other, a God who cares for such as me?

the·od·i·cy
/THĒ'ädəsē/
Noun

the vindication of divine goodness
and providence in view of the
existence of evil.

"the question of theodicy"

Definitions from Oxford Languages

Simply put, both philosophically and theologically, if:

1. God is all powerful
2. God is good and loving.
3. Bad/evil/horrible things happen

then at least one of those 3 assertions can't be true.

#3 is certainly tough to deny as true, so either God is all powerful but not good and loving, or God is good and loving but powerless to do anything about bad things. It is THE theological dilemma of the ages.

Theodicy in scripture:

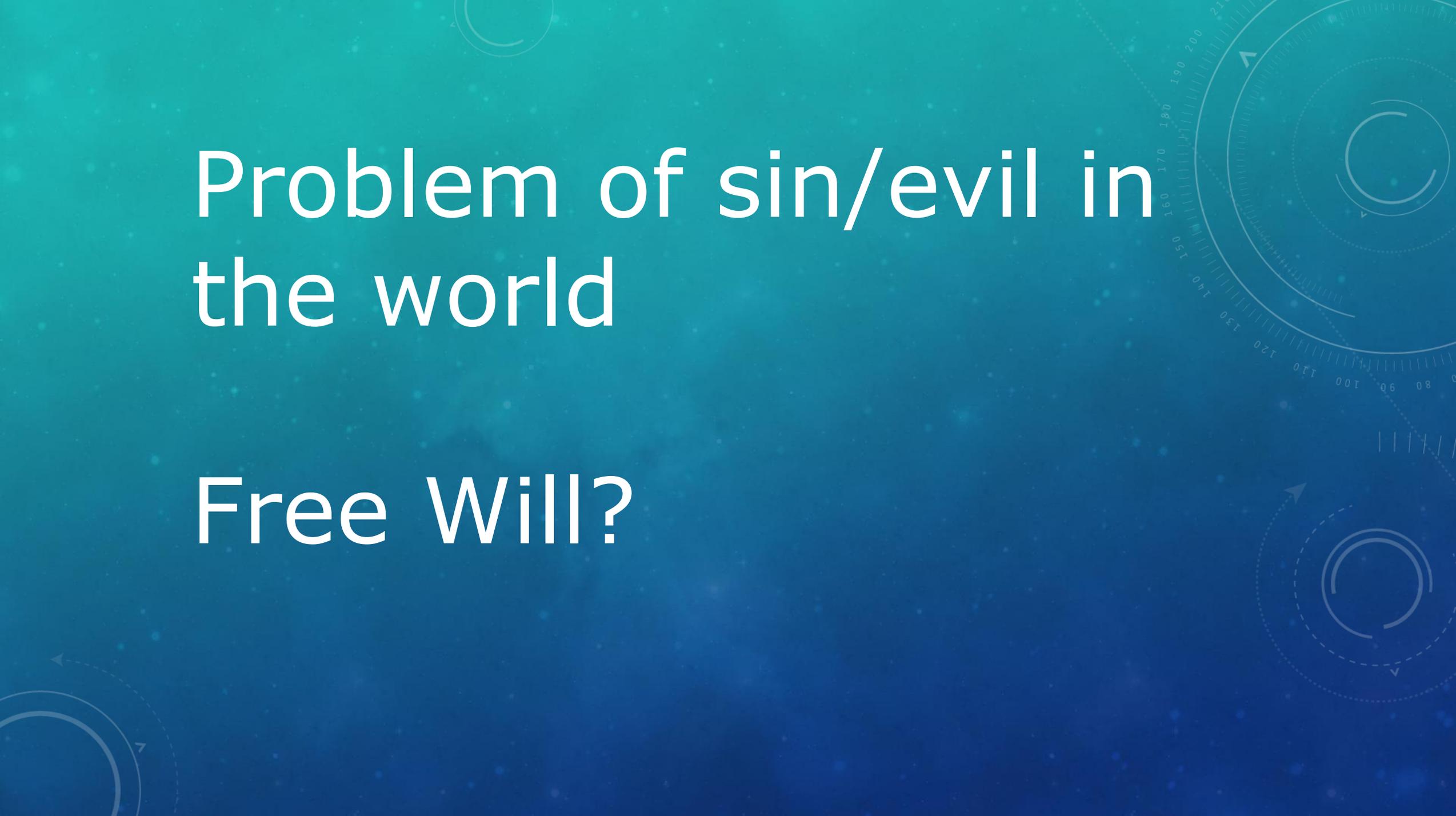
Job

Psalms

Daniel

Romans (esp 8:28)

Gospels (man born blind)



Problem of sin/evil in
the world

Free Will?

Ultimate vs Penultimate

All will be well/fullness of God's reign and will in the end. If all is not well, this is not the end.

Eschatology: Already/not yet

What, according to Genesis was the first and original sin?

To want to know everything, good and evil (the tree of which they weren't supposed to eat).

The lie of the serpent: Answers are fundamental, foundational.

Scripture: Presence is fundamental, foundational.
Worst that can happen is to be utterly and completely alone.

Part 1 of Handel's Messiah from Chapter 40

40: 1-3 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

40: 4 Ev'ry valley shall be exalted, and ev'ry moutain and hill made low; the crooked straight and the rough places plain.

40: 9 O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain. O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, behold your God!

40: 11 He shall feed His flock like a shepherd; and He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those that are with young

Ch. 40: Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her

that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

Ch. 40: 3 A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our
God.

4 Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

5 Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”





Punctuation Matters:

I find inspiration in cooking my family and my dog.

I find inspiration in cooking, my family, and my dog.

I'd like to thank my parents, Tiffany and God.

I'd like to thank my parents, Tiffany, and God.

Isaiah 40: 3 A voice cries out, "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord."

Mark 1:3 A voice cries in the wilderness, "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Ch. 40: 6 A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

7 The grass withers, the flower fades,

when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers, the flower fades;

but the word of our God will stand forever.

Ch. 40: 9 Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"
10 See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead
the mother sheep.

Ch 40: 27 Why do you say, O Jacob,
and speak, O Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord,
and my right is disregarded by my God”?
28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He does not faint or grow weary;
his understanding is unsearchable.
29 He gives power to the faint,
and strengthens the powerless.
30 Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
31 but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.



Servant Songs

Song #1: Isaiah 42:1-9

Isaiah 42 presents the servant to the world with the Lord's approval and backing ("whom I uphold, my chosen"). The servant is bestowed with the Holy Spirit and given a task: to faithfully bring justice to the nations while protecting the vulnerable ("a bruised reed he will not break"). Normally this task would be a king's to do for his country, but here, the servant goes further by establishing a perfect justice in a worldwide kingdom.

Ch 42 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

42:5 Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
6 I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have
given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
8 I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.
9 See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare; before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Ch. 43 But now thus says the Lord,

he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;

I have called you by name, you are mine.

2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;

when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.

3 For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

4 Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.

40:5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
6 I will say to the north, "Give them up,"
and to the south, "Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the
earth—
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made."

43:18 Do not remember the former things,

or consider the things of old.

19 I am about to do a new thing;

now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

Rev 21:5: "Behold, I make all things new."