Isaiah 40-66: The restoration promises of Isaiah
Bob Young

The following notes are from my presentation at the ACU Lectureship. The restoration promises of Isaiah can refresh our spirits. The second section of Isaiah has three clearly defined enneads (sections of nine chapters). These three sections focus on God, the necessity of redemption as the first step in restoring goodness to Israel, and the ultimate restoration of God's glory among his people. The focus of these three sections is not limited to Israel, but expands God's care and concern to the Gentiles, and foreshadows the universal emphasis of God's New Testament kingdom. As suggested below, these three sections focus on envisioning the universal God, anticipating the universal Savior, and accepting the universal promises.

[There is a link to an accompanying pdf file which shows the PowerPoint slides.]

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Reflecting God, Redeeming Goodness, Restoring Glory**
    – **Ever tempted to revival by the quick fix, we lack genuine spiritual refreshment because we do not know and build on the promises of God. Lasting solutions require solid foundations.**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Reflecting God, Redeeming Goodness, Restoring Glory**
    – **As OT "promise theologian" Isaiah's vision of the Holy One, his redefined Messianic expectations, and promises of restored glory make clear that renewal is every a goal, never a method.**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits**
    – **Isaiah as "promise theologian"**
    – **Isaiah's prophecy as a continuing reaffirmation of the promise of God to Abraham**
    – **Isaiah 40-66**
    – **Goals:**
        - **see God more clearly**
        - **renew our commitment to righteousness**
        - **seek God's glory**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits**
    – **Promise and blessing in the OT as a canonical center**
    – **The foundations of the promise**
        - **God's power and greatness**
        - **God's purpose in the coming Messiah**
        - **God's presence among his people**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits**
  - **From creation to Abraham**
  - **From patriarchal promises to the Law**
  - **From Abraham to David**
  - **The place of the sapiential and prophetic literature in relationship to the promise**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Envisioning the Universal God**
  - **Isaiah 40-48**
  - **God's goodness and glory**
  - **God's compassion and wisdom**
  - **God's greatness and worth**
  - **God's power and control**
  - **God's continuing strength**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Envisioning the Universal God**
  - **Isaiah 40-48**
  - **41:9-10, past-present-future**
  - **42:6-9, greatness--goodness--glory**
  - **43:1ff, creation--redemption--possession**
  - **43:14, Lord--Redeemer--Holy One**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Anticipating the Universal Savior**
  - **Isaiah 49-57**
  - **The Suffering Servant songs**
  - **The application to both Israel and the coming Messiah**
  - **49:5-7, creation--restoration--glory**
  - **Emphasis on righteousness**
  - **52:7ff, reigning--redemption--glory**
  - **54:5, maker--redeemer—glory**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Accepting the Universal Promise**
  - **Isaiah 58-66**
  - **Eschatological newness**
  - **58-59, new repentance**
  - **60, new dwelling, new order**
  - **62, new city inhabited by a new people**
  - **63, new presence**
  - **In the new, all is renewed.**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Accepting the Universal Promise**
  - **Isaiah 58-66**
  - **The new exodus leads to a new rest under a new leader.**
  - **With a clear vision of the Holy One of Israel--the Branch, the Emmanuel, Isaiah's message is one of judgment and warning amidst promises of deliverance and blessing in a restored Zion.**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits: Applying the Text to Our Lives**
  - **The foundation of renewal is seeing (hearing and believing), following (obeying), and accepting God's person, power, and promise.**
  - **The solution is not in gadgets and programs.**
  - **The solution is in a renewed commitment to the Word of God.**

- **Promises to Refresh Our Spirits (suggestions for application)**
  - **Distinguish invitation and demand**
  - **Distinguish promises vs. judgment**
  - **Preaching the gospel of power, purpose, and presence**
  - **The progressive purposes of God**
  - **A sermon or class, either in a short series or longer series**