

**“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”**  
**August 19, 2016**

**Isaiah 39:1–40:31.** Hezekiah and Babylonia.

**Luke 14:1–35.** Count the cost!

**Job 9:12–19.** The frailty of life.

**COMMENTS:**

**Isaiah 39:1–40:31.** In the first eight verses of **chapter 39**, Hezekiah proudly (and foolishly) showed the visiting Babylonians the riches of his storehouses. It was this kind of self-sufficient attitude that would eventually bring the nation’s downfall. The Lord used the occasion to announce through Isaiah that the Babylonians would someday conquer Jerusalem and carry the royal riches and even some of Hezekiah’s own descendants into exile. Note how Hezekiah readily submits to the prophet’s words, confident that the rest of his reign would be peaceful. His tone of resignation contrasts sharply with his earlier unwillingness to accept the announcement of his own impending death in 38:1–3. **Chapter 40** begins the message of the prophet’s words of comfort and hope for God’s people who have been deported to Babylonia, where they are in exile from their beloved homeland. The message of comfort shows that God of Israel hasn’t been defeated by Marduk or any of the other gods of Babylon. God Himself has been punishing his people for their sin. The punishment will come to an end, and God will bring his people back home. Note the power of God in **40:12** and His wisdom in **40:13-14**. Note how ridiculous it is for man to worship an idol in light of the Lord of earth and heaven, time and space: He appoints and removes princes (**40:23**), sets all the stars in place (**40:26**) and knows every detail of the lives of his people (**40:27**). He himself is tireless, and is able to revive and sustain all who look to him for strength (**40:28–31**). This last passage has provided comfort for millions of believers through the ages: There is nothing like putting all of our trust in the Lord. If we trust ourselves, we will faint and fall; but if we wait on the Lord by faith, we will receive strength for the journey. The word “wait” (יָקוּ) does not suggest that we sit around and do nothing. It means “to hope,” to look to God for all that we need. This involves loving Him, meditating on His character and His promises, praying, and seeking to glorify Him. The word “renew” (יִתְקַלְּפֵנוּ) means “to exchange,” as taking off old clothes and putting on new. We exchange our weakness for His power (2 Cor. 12:1–10). As we wait before Him, God enables us to soar when there is a crisis, to run when the challenges are many, and to walk faithfully in the day-by-day demands of life. We are so blessed to have the grace resources to live truly supernatural lives every day.

**Luke 14:1–35.** Note the lame excuses in **14:18-20**. Are they not the same excuses Christians use today for rejection of God’s will regarding being part of a local body of believers and daily devotion in Bible study, reflection and contemplation of God? No time? Other things more of a priority? Man always has time for what he deems his greatest goods. As far as priority in life what does Jesus teach in **14:26**? which is but a forceful way of saying that one must make a conscious choice to place all others in second place; Jesus is not teaching malice. Every believer is to sit down and count the cost of the Christ-centered life, **14:28-32**. There are only a handful of believers today who are really that serious about Jesus Christ today. If you are married to one, or have one as a friend, you are blessed beyond measure, perhaps even more than you realize,

unless you too have considered what is involved in really following and growing in the Lord *by knowledge and by love.*

**Job 9:12–19.** Most of this section deals with the fragility of life as illustrated by plants, spiders' webs, and gardens. The idea is that just as nobody pulls up a good plant and destroys it, so there had to be something wrong with Job for God to so uproot him. God doesn't cultivate weeds and cast away the good plants! Bildad is reaffirming his earlier promise that God would restore Job's fortunes if he would only admit his sins and get right with God

*Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

*Pastor Don*