

# A Hopeful Isaiah: The Lessons for a New Rabbi

Source Sheet by Rabbi Zevi Lowenberg

## Isaiah 6:8

(8) Then I heard the voice of my Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me.”

## ישעיהו ו':ח

(ח) וְאָשַׁמְעַע אֶת-קוֹל אֲדוֹשָׁם  
אָמַר אֶת-מִי אֶשְׁלַח וּמִי יֵלֶךְ-  
לָנוּ וְאָמַר הִנְנִי שְׁלֹחְנִי:

## Isaiah 40:1-10

(1) Comfort, oh comfort My people, Says your God. (2) Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, And declare to her That her term of service is over, That her iniquity is expiated; For she has received at the hand of the LORD Double for all her sins. (3) A voice rings out: “Clear in the desert A road for the LORD! Level in the wilderness A highway for our God! (4) Let every valley be raised, Every hill and mount made low. Let the rugged ground become level And the ridges become a plain. (5) The Presence of the LORD shall appear, And all flesh, as one, shall behold— For the LORD Himself has spoken.” (6) A voice rings out: “Proclaim!” Another asks, “What shall I proclaim?” “All flesh is grass, All its goodness like flowers of the field: (7) Grass withers, flowers fade When the breath of the LORD blows on them.

## ישעיהו מ':א-י

(א) נַחֲמוּ נַחֲמוּ עַמִּי יֹאמַר אֱלֹהֵיכֶם:  
(ב) דַּבְּרוּ עַל-לֵב יְרוּשָׁלַם וְקִרְאוּ  
אֵלֶיהָ כִּי מְלֵאָה צָבָאָה כִּי גֵרָצָה עֲוֹנָהּ  
כִּי לָקְחָה מִיַּד ה' כַּפְלַיִם בְּכָל-  
חַטָּאתֶיהָ: (ג) קוֹל קוֹרֵא בַמִּדְבָּר  
פָּנוּ דֶרֶךְ ה' יִשְׂרוּ בְעַרְבָה מִסְלָה  
לְאֲלֻקֵינוּ: (ד) כָּל-גֵּיא יִנְשָׂא וְכָל-תֵּר  
וְגִבְעָה יִשְׁפְּלוּ וְהָיָה הָעֵקֶב לְמִישׁוֹר  
וְהָרְכָסִים לְבִקְעָה: (ה) וְנִגְלָה כְבוֹד  
ה' וְרָאוּ כָל-בְּשָׂר יַחְדָּו כִּי פִי ה'  
דָּבַר: (ו) קוֹל אָמַר קְרֵא וְאָמַר  
מָה אֶקְרָא כָּל-הַבְּשָׂר חֲצִיר וְכָל-  
חֲסִדּוֹ כְּצִיץ הַשָּׂדֶה: (ז) יִבֶּשׂ חֲצִיר  
גִבֵּל צִיץ כִּי רוּחַ ה' גִּנְשָׁבָה בּוֹ אֲכַן  
חֲצִיר הָעֵם: (ח) יִבֶּשׂ חֲצִיר גִבֵּל צִיץ  
וְדָבַר-אֲלֻקֵינוּ יָקוּם לְעוֹלָם: (ט) (ט)  
עַל הַר-גְּבוּהָ עָלִי-לֶךְ מִבְּשָׂרְתָּ צִיּוֹן  
הָרִימִי בְכַח קוֹלְךָ מִבְּשָׂרְתָּ יְרוּשָׁלַם  
הָרִימִי אֶל-תִּירְאֵי אִמְרֵי לְעַרְי יְהוּדָה

Indeed, man is but grass: (8) Grass withers, flowers fade— But the word of our God is always fulfilled!” (9) Ascend a lofty mountain, O herald of joy to Zion; Raise your voice with power, O herald of joy to Jerusalem— Raise it, have no fear; Announce to the cities of Judah: Behold your God! (10) Behold, the Lord GOD comes in might, And His arm wins triumph for Him; See, His reward is with Him, His recompense before Him.

הִנֵּה אֱלֹקֵיכֶם: (י) הִנֵּה אֲדוּשִׁים ה' בְּחִזְקֵךָ יָבֹא וְזָרְעוּ מִשְׁלָה לְךָ הִנֵּה שָׁכְרוּ אֹתוֹ וּפְעֵלְתוֹ לְפָנָיו:

**Isaiah 40:27-31**

(27) Why do you say, O Jacob, Why declare, O Israel, “My way is hid from the LORD, My cause is ignored by my God”? (28) Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is God from of old, Creator of the earth from end to end, He never grows faint or weary, His wisdom cannot be fathomed. (29) He gives strength to the weary, Fresh vigor to the spent. (30) Youths may grow faint and weary, And young men stumble and fall; (31) But they who trust in the LORD shall renew their strength As eagles grow new plumes: They shall run and not grow weary, They shall march and not grow faint.

**ישעיהו מ': כ"ז-ל"א**

(כז) לָמָּה תֹאמַר יַעֲקֹב וּתְדַבֵּר יִשְׂרָאֵל נִסְתָּרָה דַרְכֵי מֶה' וּמַאֲלָקֵי מִשְׁפָּטֵי יַעֲבֹר: (כח) הֲלוֹא יָדַעְתָּ אִם־לֹא שָׁמַעְתָּ אֱלֹקֵי עוֹלָם | ה' בּוֹרֵא קִצּוֹת הָאָרֶץ לֹא יִיָּעַף וְלֹא יִיָּגַע אֵין חֶקֶר לְתַבּוּנָתוֹ: (כט) נָתַן לִיָּעַף כֶּסֶח וּלְאֵין אוֹנִים עֲצָמָה יִרְבֶּה: (ל) וַיַּעֲפוּ נְעָרִים וַיִּגָּעוּ וּבַחֲוָרִים כְּשׂוֹל יִכְשָׁלוּ: (לא) וְקוֹי ה' יַחֲלִיפוּ כֶסֶח יַעֲלוּ אֶבֶר כְּנֹשְׁרִים יִרְוּצוּ וְלֹא יִיָּגַעוּ יִלְכוּ וְלֹא יִיָּעֲפוּ: (פ)

**Isaiah 54:9-10**

(9) For this to Me is like the waters of Noah: As I swore that the waters of Noah Nevermore would flood the earth, So I swear that I will not Be angry with you or rebuke you. (10) For the mountains may move And the hills be shaken, But my loyalty shall never move from you, Nor My covenant of friendship be shaken —said the LORD, who takes you back in love.

**ישעיהו נ"ד:ט-י**

(ט) כִּי־מִי נֹחַ זֹאת לִי אֲשֶׁר  
נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי מֵעַבְרַי מִי־נֹחַ עוֹד עַל־  
הָאָרֶץ כֵּן נִשְׁבַּעְתִּי מִקֶּצֶף עָלֶיךָ  
וּמִגְעָר־כָּבֹד: (י) כִּי הַהָרִים יִמְוָשׁוּ  
וְהַגְּבָעוֹת תִּמְוָטְנָה וְחֶסְדִּי מֵאַתָּה  
לֹא־יִמְוָשׁ וּבְרִית שְׁלוֹמִי לֹא  
תִמְוָט אָמַר מְרַחֵמְךָ ה': (ס)

**Isaiah 54:14-17**

(14) You shall be established through righteousness. You shall be safe from oppression, And shall have no fear; From ruin, and it shall not come near you. (15) Surely no harm can be done Without My consent: Whoever would harm you Shall fall because of you. (16) It is I who created the smith To fan the charcoal fire And produce the tools for his work; So it is I who create The instruments of havoc. (17) No weapon formed against you Shall succeed, And every tongue that contends with you at law You shall defeat. Such is the lot of the servants of the LORD, Such their triumph through Me —declares the LORD.

**ישעיהו נ"ד:י"ד-י"ז**

(י"ד) בַּצְדָקָה תִּכּוֹנְנֵי רַחֲמֵי מַעֲשֶׂיךָ  
כִּי־לֹא תִירָאֵי וּמִמַּחְתָּה כִּי לֹא־  
תִקְרַב אֵלֶיךָ: (טו) הֵן גִּזֹר יִגֹּר אָפֶס  
מֵאוֹתֵי מִי־גָר אֶתָּה עָלֶיךָ יִפּוֹל: (טז)  
הֵן [הַגָּה] אָנֹכִי בְרָאתִי חֶרֶשׁ נֹפֵחַ  
בְּאֵשׁ פֶּחֶם וּמוֹצִיא כְלֵי לְמַעֲשָׂהוּ  
וְאָנֹכִי בְרָאתִי מִשְׁחִית לְחַבְלֵ: (יז)  
כָּל־כְּלֵי יוֹצֵר עָלֶיךָ לֹא יִצְלַח וְכָל־  
לְשׁוֹן תִּקְוִים־אַתָּה לְמִשְׁפָּט תִּרְשָׁעֵי  
זֹאת נִחַלְתָּ עַבְדֵי ה' וְצִדְקָתָם מֵאַתָּה  
נִאֲמַר־ה': (ס)

When he prophesied the good that awaited the righteous and the darkness that would befall the evil, the Jews asked, “What is holding back the arrival of the good, when will the ‘morning’ arrive?”

Isaiah answered, “As soon as you desire it, G-d is willing.”

“What is withholding it?” they pressed further.

“*Teshuvah*,” said Isaiah, your heartfelt return to G-d.

**Isaiah 2:4**

(4) Thus He will judge among the nations  
And arbitrate for the many peoples, And  
they shall beat their swords into plowshares  
And their spears into pruning hooks:  
Nation shall not take up Sword against  
nation; They shall never again know war.

**ישעיהו ב':ד'**

(ד) וְשָׁפַט בֵּין הַגּוֹיִם וְהוֹכִיחַ  
לְעַמִּים רַבִּים וְכַתְּתוּ חַרְבֹתָם  
לְאֵתִים וְחַנְיֹתוֹתֵיהֶם לְמִזְמֵרוֹת  
לֹא-יִשָּׂא גּוֹי אֶל-גּוֹי חֶרֶב וְלֹא-  
יִלְמְדוּ עוֹד מִלְחָמָה: (פ)

**Isaiah 11:6-9**

(6) The wolf shall dwell with the  
lamb, The leopard lie down with the  
kid; The calf, the beast of prey, and  
the fatling together, With a little boy  
to herd them. (7) The cow and the  
bear shall graze, Their young shall  
lie down together; And the lion, like  
the ox, shall eat straw. (8) A babe  
shall play Over a viper's hole, And  
an infant pass his hand Over an  
adder's den. (9) In all of My sacred  
mount Nothing evil or vile shall be  
done; For the land shall be filled  
with devotion to the LORD As  
water covers the sea.

**ישעיהו י"א:ו'-ט'**

(ו) וְגַר זֵאֵב עִם-כֶּבֶשׂ וְנִמְרַת עִם-גְּדִי  
יִרְבֹּץ וְעֵגֶל וְכִפִּיר וּמְרִיא יִחְדָּו וְנֹעֵר  
קִטָּן נִהְגָּ בָם: (ז) וּפָרָה וְדָב תִּרְעִינָה  
יִחְדָּו יִרְבְּצוּ יִלְדִיָהוּ וְאַרְיֵה כִפְקָר  
יֹאכַל-תְּבֹן: (ח) וְשִׁעִשְׁע יוֹנֵק עַל-חֵר  
פֶּתֶן וְעַל מְאוּרֵת צָפְעוֹנִי גָמוּל יָדוֹ  
הִדָּה: (ט) לֹא-יִרְעוּ וְלֹא-יִשְׁחִיתוּ  
בְּכַל-חֵר קִדְשֵׁי בְּיַמְלֹאָה הָאָרֶץ דַּעַה  
אֶת-ה' פְּמִים לַיָּם מְכַסִּים: (פ)