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<b>Principal Contributors</b> .....	Roy E. Gane
<b>Editor</b> .....	Soraya Homayouni
<b>Consulting/Contributing Editors</b> .....	Esther Doss, Margie English, William Fagal
<b>Publication Manager</b> .....	Lea Alexander Greve
<b>Editorial Assistant</b> .....	Sharon Thomas-Crews
<b>Art and Design</b> .....	Lars Justinen
<b>Line Drawings</b> .....	Jon Gilbertson
<b>Pacific Press® Coordinator</b> .....	Tricia Wegh
<b>E. G. White Estate Consultant</b> .....	Dwain Esmond

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## “Comfort My People”

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Isaiah wrote some of the best-known verses in the whole Bible. Isaiah is a powerful writer. His book is deep with meaning. His book also fills us with so much hope. Isaiah gives us many beautiful promises from God. Here are just a few examples: “‘God is with us’ ” (Isaiah 7:14, TLB). “God will give us a son who will be responsible for leading the people” (Isaiah 9:6, ERV). “But the servant was pierced [killed] because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us” (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).

Words “paint” pictures in our heads. Weak words make weak pictures. Powerful words make powerful pictures. This helps explain why the words of Isaiah continue to touch our hearts thousands of years after he wrote them.

Isaiah wrote a Suffering-Servant poem (Isaiah 52:13 to Isaiah 53:12). In this poem, Isaiah gives us a better understanding of the coming Savior more than any other writer in the Old Testament. This poem is one of the reasons why Bible experts named Isaiah the Good News preacher of the Old Testament.

Isaiah also tells us about the future. He announces that Cyrus will beat Babylon in war 150 years before it happens (Isaiah 44:28 to Isaiah 45:6). This special message about the future is so powerful. But some Bible experts refuse to believe it. So, they suggested another idea to “explain” how Isaiah knew the future before it happened. These Bible thinkers believe that there was a different person with the same name Isaiah who lived 150 years after the first Isaiah. So, the second Isaiah wrote the special message about Cyrus after he already beat Babylon. These thinkers show that they have no faith in the Bible or in God to know the future. But we who believe in the God of the Bible know better.

We know the words of Isaiah. But what do we know about Isaiah himself? What do we know about the time when he lives, prays, and writes? The Kingdom of Assyria is in control of the land around Judah at the time Isaiah lives. People at that time knew

the Assyrians were very mean to their enemies. So, Isaiah lives in a time of danger. Worse, the people of Judah continue to sin more during this time. Suffering and pain are everywhere. Isaiah tells his people to look to their God, the Holy One of Israel. God made the skies and the earth. God knows each one of His people by name. God promises to save them from being destroyed. But the people of God must obey Him.

Isaiah gives advice to kings. Isaiah gives a special message to King Hezekiah when the Assyrian army marches against the city of Jerusalem. The words of Isaiah come from God. This message gives strength and hope to King Hezekiah. Then King Hezekiah has faith to trust God to save Jerusalem. What if the king refuses to trust God to save him and his people from Assyria? Then Assyria will destroy Jerusalem and the Jews. With no Jewish people alive, the Savior that God promised cannot be born.

This quarter, we will take a look at Isaiah, his words, his times, and his troubles. More than anything, we will look at the God of Isaiah. God told His people, “ ‘Don’t be afraid. I saved you. I named you. You are mine’ ” (Isaiah 43:1, ERV). Dear friends, God says these same words to us today.

***Isaiah gives  
us many  
beautiful  
promises from  
God.***

*Dr. Roy Gane is an expert in the Hebrew language. He teaches the Old Testament at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, in Berrien Springs, Michigan.*