

# “COMFORT MY PEOPLE”



In Isaiah 40, the prophet described who God is, His power, and how He treats us.

Isaiah also recommended to us how to answer the divine call: “Cry out! [...] Lift up your voice with strength [...] Lift up your eyes on high, and see [...]” (Isaiah 40:6, 9, 26).



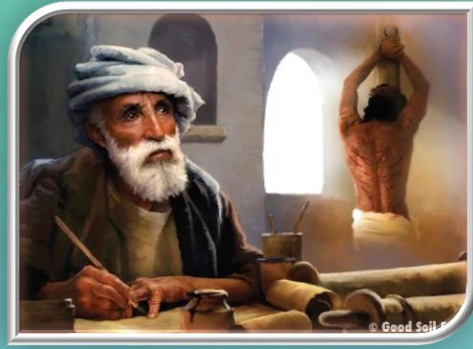
- 🌸 **Comfort.** Isaiah 40:1-2
- 🌸 **Preparation.** Isaiah 40:3-8
- 🌸 **Evangelism.** Isaiah 40:9-11
- 🌸 **Strength.** Isaiah 40:12-18, 21-31
- 🌸 **Worship.** Isaiah 40:19-20



# COMFORT

**"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!  
Says your God." (Isaiah 40:1)**

**Chapters 1 to 39 of Isaiah cover events in the history of Israel during the prophet's life (and some predictions about the future of the nations around them).**



**From chapter 40 on, the message is focused on the future. It revolves around two main events: (1) The Babylonian exile and the return of the remnant, and (2) the coming of the Messiah.**

**Hezekiah had shown his wealth to the Babylonian. That wealth and the people in Jerusalem would be taken to Babylon as a punishment for their sins.**

**According to Isaiah 40:1-2, God will forgive His people, and He will comfort them.**



# PREPARATION

"The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
'Prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in  
the desert a highway for our God.'" (Isaiah 40:3)

How will God comfort His people? There are two "voices" that explain it:



**Isaiah 40:3-5.** Preparing the way for the presence of God being fully manifested in our lives



**Isaiah 40:6-8.** Through the Word of God that "stands forever".



After the exile, the people of God got what they had rejected back: the presence of God and His Word.

John the Baptist explained what we should do to prepare (Luke 3:2-8): repenting and rejecting sin, so we can receive the comfort of God's presence and forgiveness.



# EVANGELISM

**“O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’” (Isaiah 40:9)**

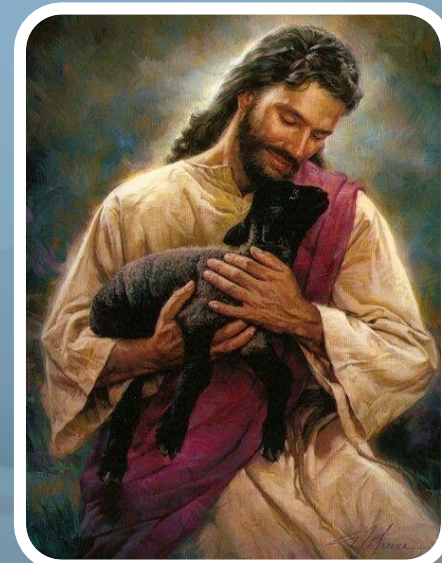
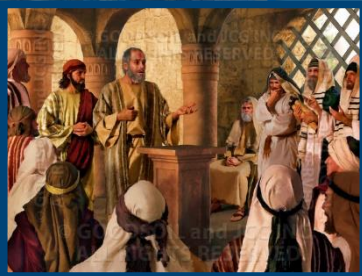
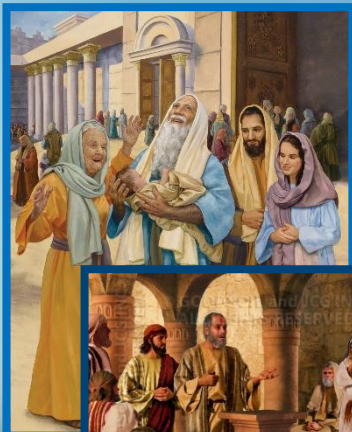


**Once the way is prepared, “Zion” must introduce Christ to the world: “Behold your God!”**

**The message we should announce is based on the wonderful power of God, and His faculty to judge and reward (v. 10; see Rev. 14:6-7).**

**The Gospel we should preach goes beyond this message. We should also announce that our Redeemer truly cares for us. He is a Shepherd who tenderly takes care of His sheep (v. 11; see John 10:11).**

**Let us follow the example of people like Simeon and Anna, Mary Magdalene, the apostles, and others. They lifted up their voices to introduce our Savior—Jesus of Nazareth.**



# STRENGTH

**"But those who wait on 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." (Isaiah 40:31)**

**Two facets of God's nature are introduced in chapter 40:**



**Powerful (v. 12-26). He is the Only One worthy of praise**

**Merciful (v. 27-31). He strengthens those who trust Him**



**Isaiah used questions to glorify God's power (v. 12-14), as God did when talking to Job.**



**Isaiah explained that no one can compare to Him. God is never tired, and those who trust Him will never be.**



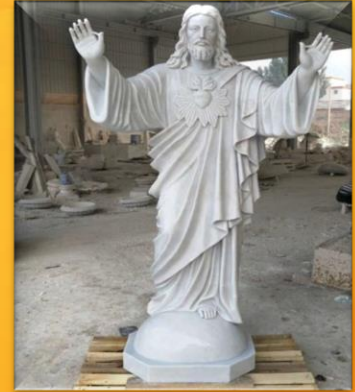


# WORSHIP

**“The workman molds an image, the goldsmith overspreads it with gold, and the silversmith casts silver chains.” (Isaiah 40:19)**

**“To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?” (Isaiah 40:18). Can we worship God Almighty through an image?**

**Israel represented God as a calf (Exodus 32:4; 1 Kings 12:28). However, God emphatically rejected worship through images (Deuteronomy 4:15-16; Exodus 20:4-5).**



**The Bible is clear about the uselessness of idols and those who worship them (Psalm 115:4-8). We may worship “something” through an image, but not God.**

**Remember that an idol may not necessarily have a physical shape. “Anything that men love and trust in instead of loving the Lord and trusting wholly in Him becomes an idol.” (E.G.W. 5T, cp. 26, p. 250)**



**“Many were the messages of comfort given the church by the prophets of old. ‘Comfort ye, comfort ye My people’ (Isaiah 40:1), was Isaiah’s commission from God; and with the commission were given wonderful visions that have been the believers’ hope and joy through all the centuries that have followed. Despised of men, persecuted, forsaken, God’s children in every age have nevertheless been sustained by His sure promises.”**

E.G.W. (Prophets and Kings, cp. 60, p. 722)