

Isa 40
Promise of Comfort and Restoration
Oct 3, 2021

Words of comfort and grace 40:1-2

1 “Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God. 2 “Speak kindly to Jerusalem; And call out to her, that her warfare has ended, That her iniquity has been removed, That she has received of the LORD’S hand Double for all her sins.”

“Comfort” my people

Isa 51:3 Indeed, the LORD will comfort Zion; He will comfort all her waste places.

Isa 61:2 ... To comfort all who mourn,

Isa 66:13 “As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; And you will be comforted

Ac 9:31 So the church ... enjoyed peace, ... in the comfort of the Holy Spirit,

2Cor 1:3-4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2Thes 2:16-17 Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us eternal comfort and good hope by grace, 17 comfort and strengthen your hearts in every good work and word.

“Speak kindly” literally “to the heart”

Mt 11:28-30 “Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. 29 “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. 30 “For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

“her warfare has ended”

Ps 102:13 You will arise and have compassion on Zion; For it is time to be gracious to her, For the appointed time has come.

Isa 54:15-17 “If anyone fiercely assails you it will not be from Me. ... 17 “No weapon that is formed against you will prosper; And every tongue that accuses you in judgment you will condemn. ...

Col 2:15 When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.

“her iniquity has been removed”

Eph 1:7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace (Col 1:14; 2:13; Rev 1:5)

A voice calling in the wilderness 40:3-8

3 A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. 4 “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” 6 A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever.

Fulfilled in John the Baptist 40:3-5 (Lk 3:4-6; Mt 3:1-6; Mk 1:1-8; Jn 1:6-8)

Mk 1:4 John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Words of repentance

“Clear the way for the LORD;” “Make a highway for our God” (v. 3)

“valley be lifted up;” mountain and hill be made low;” (v. 4)

“the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley”; (v. 4)

The message

We (people) are temporal [like grass and flowers], - God [the word of our God] is eternal.

1Pt 1:23-25 for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. 24 For, “ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, 25 BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.” And this is the word which was preached to you. (Jas 1:0-11; Mt 24:35)

Declaration of the gospel 40:9-11

9 Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news, Lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news; Lift it up, do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” 10 Behold, the Lord GOD will come with might, With His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him. 11 Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will gather the lambs And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

Zion is the bearer of “**good news**” = gospel

John the Baptist preached the gospel of repentance (Lk 3:15-18)

So did Jesus (Mt 4:23; Mk 1:14)

Jesus commission the church to do the same all (Mk 16:15-18)

Rom 1:16-17 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

“Here is your God”

The conquering Messiah (v.10) - “the Lord GOD (Adonai Jehovah) will come”

“with might, His arm ruling for Him” “His reward is with Him And His recompense before Him.”

The suffering Messiah (v.11) - “like a shepherd tending His flock”.

“the lambs He gathers in His arms, and carries them in His bosom, gently leading the nursing ewes.”

The greatness of God 40:12-31

His omnipotence (40:12-17)

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, And marked off the heavens by the span, And calculated the dust of the earth by the measure, And weighed the mountains in a balance And the hills in a pair of scales? 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has informed Him? 14 With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge And informed Him of the way of understanding? 15 Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the

islands like fine dust. 16 Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. 17 All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.

He is omnipotent - He is master over all nature.

He is omniscient - He knows and understands all things and needs no one to counsel or advise him.

He is sovereign - He exercises supreme authority over all nations and peoples.

He is greater than any idol 40:18-20

18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? 19 As for the idol, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver. 20 He who is too impoverished for such an offering Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter.

He is the creator of the universe and holds it together 40:21-26

21 Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? 22 It is He who sits above the circle of the earth, And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in. 23 He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless. 24 Scarcely have they been planted, Scarcely have they been sown, Scarcely has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely blows on them, and they wither, And the storm carries them away like stubble. 25 "To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?" says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing.

Man's ways are not hidden from God 40:27-28

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God"? 28 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable.

God's promise 40:29-31

29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the LORD Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

He has superabundant energy (strength and power) to impart to any that are weary and lacks power.

The restorative power of waiting on God.

Ps 147:11 The LORD favors those who fear Him, Those who wait for His lovingkindness.

Ps 130:5 I wait for the LORD, my soul does wait, And in His word do I hope.

Ps 37:7-9 Rest in the LORD and wait patiently for Him; ... do not fret ... But those who wait for the LORD, they will inherit the land.