

Isaiah Chapter 40 – God’s People Are Comforted! The Word of God Stands Forever

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL – Bliss/Stafford – Maranatha Singers

1 When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll

Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say. It is well, it is well, with my soul

Refrain: It is well (it is well) With my soul (with my soul) It is well, it is well with my soul

2 My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought, My sin, not in part but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul. (Refrain)

3 And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll (Is. 34:4, Rev. 6:14);

The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, Even so, it is well with my soul. (Refrain)

PLEASE NOTE UPCOMING CLASS SCHEDULE:

NEXT WEEK: 10/21-10/22 NO CLASS - I'LL BE IN CYPRUS AT THE M.E. CONFERENCE

THE FOLLOWING WEEK 10/28/10/29 - BACK ON SCHEDULE -- CLASS AS USUAL

CHAPTER 40:

COMFORT AND STRENGTH FOR GOD’S PEOPLE - The Word of the LORD prepares the way of the LORD.

The previous 39 chapters of Isaiah certainly had passages of comfort and hope, but there was a strong tone of judgment and warning throughout the section. As we enter into this second section, it is like entering into the New Testament.

There is a whole new tone. There’s a whole new excitement, as we contemplate now, more fully, and completely, the promised Messiah, and the glorious age, and Kingdom that He will set up! The first part of Isaiah would be as man relating to God through the law. Now, we begin to relate to God through His grace towards us in Christ Jesus. The second section of Isaiah begins with the words...*Comfort yes, comfort My people, says your God (40:1).*

GENERAL OUTLINE OF ISAIAH: Referred to as the “Fifth Gospel” since the third century!

Possible date of kings reign” - Uzziah, - 792-740; Jotham, - 750-736; Ahaz, - 735-720 Northern Kingdom of Israel falls to Assyria in 722BC; Hezekiah, - 715-699/686; Manasseh – 687-642

Isaiah’s time of prophecy - About a minimum of 40 years and possibly more than 60 years!

In the tenth year of Nabopolassar (616 BC) the Babylonians defeated the Assyrian army.

Cyrus takes Babylon. In October (539 BC), the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon.

- I. **THE ASSYRIAN PERIOD - CONFLICT AND VICTORY (Isa 1-39)**
 - A. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING JUDAH AND JERUSALEM (Isa 1-12)**
 - B. **PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE NATIONS (Isa 13-27)**
 - C. **DELIVERANCE FOUND NOT IN EGYPT, BUT IN THE LORD (Isa 28-35)**
 - D. **HISTORICAL INTERLUDE (Isa 36-39)**
- II. **THE BABYLONIAN PERIOD - HOPE FOR TROUBLED TIMES (Isa 40-66)**
 - A. **THE ONE TRUE GOD VERSUS IDOLS (Isa 40-48)**
 - B. **LORD'S SERVANT WILL BRING SALVATION THROUGH SUFFERING (Isa 49-57)**
 - C. **THE FUTURE GLORY FOR GOD'S PEOPLE, THE NEW ZION (Isa 58-66)**

Isaiah – Bible Timeline

739 BC	Isaiah Complains of Zion's Corruption	Isaiah 1 - 5
739 BC	Isaiah's Vision and Commission	Isaiah 6
735 BC	Isaiah's Prophecy of Immanuel	Isaiah 7
734 BC	Uriah/Zechariah Verification	Isaiah 8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a Child Is Born	Isaiah 9
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgments Upon Israel	Isaiah 9:8
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Judgment on Assyria	Isaiah 10
730 BC	Isaiah Prophecies The Root of Jesse	Isaiah 11
730 BC	Isaiah's Joyful Thanksgiving	Isaiah 12
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies against the Nations	Isaiah 13 - 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Valley of Vision	Isaiah 22
725 BC	Isaiah's Burden of Tyre	Isaiah 23
725 BC	Devastation on the Earth	Isaiah 24
725 BC	Isaiah's Songs of Praise	Isaiah 25 - 27
725 BC	Isaiah's Further Warnings	Isaiah 28 - 32
725 BC	Isaiah Prophecies a King Shall Reign	Isaiah 32
725 BC	Isaiah Declares God's Judgments	Isaiah 33, 34
725 BC	Isaiah Declares the Joyful Will Flourish in Zion	Isaiah 35
712 BC	Hezekiah's Illness and Healing	2 Kings 20, Isaiah 38
711 BC	Hezekiah Shows Treasures	2 Kings 20:12, Isaiah 39
711 BC	Isaiah Prophecies Captivity and Restoration	Isaiah 40 - 66
701 BC	Sennacherib Threatens Jerusalem	2 Kings 18, Isaiah 36, 2 Chron. 32
701 BC	Hezekiah's Prayer	2 Kings 19, Isaiah 37

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Comfort for God's People

Isa 40:1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God.

Isa 40:2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her warfare is ended, That her iniquity is pardoned; For she has received from the LORD's hand Double for all her sins."

Isa 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

Isa 40:4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

Isa 40:5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

vs. 1-2 Comfort (sigh, repent, obtain relief), *yes, comfort My people!* Isaiah knew what it was to warn and instruct God’s people; but the LORD also wanted His people to receive His *comfort*. 2Co 1:3-4 speaks of our Lord as *the God of all comfort*; God wants His messengers to speak *comfort* to His people! There are always hurting hearts whenever a group of people gather together, who need to hear a word of *comfort* from God’s messenger. *Speak comfort to Jerusalem*: Jerusalem needed a word of comfort. God had comfort to give them, which was not a shallow, positive-thinking, self-help kind of message. God always gives His people reasons for comfort. The comfort comes with tender words, spoken to the heart. *Speak comfort* literally means to speak to the heart with tenderness and love, like a young man courting his girl. *That her warfare is ended*: This may very well have been a prophetic word; even though there was still an army against them, as far as God was concerned, *her warfare is ended*. This was reason for comfort. This is similar to being told by God that we are *more than conquerors through Him who loved us (Rom 8:37)*. The battle still looms, but as far as it concerns the believer in Jesus Christ, *her warfare is ended*, because *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world (1Jn 4:4)*. *That her iniquity is pardoned*: Isaiah had made Jerusalem well aware of her sin. Yet, he speaks of a day when comfort can be offered because *her iniquity is pardoned*. This is real comfort; to be recognized as a sinner - as one having *iniquity* - yet knowing just as much that our *iniquity is pardoned*. This was reason for *comfort*. *For she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins* (smitten two fold for all her sins): This declares the basis for the pardon of iniquity - the sin as been completely, exactly, paid for. (Ex. 22:4, 7,9) Isaiah, speaking in Old Covenant terminology, speaks of Jerusalem bearing the curse for disobedience described in passages like Lev. 26 and Dt. 28. But the same principle applies to the believer under the New Covenant; our *iniquity is pardoned* because our sin has been paid for. This is reason for comfort. Does it seem unfair that God would have a *double* payment for sin? “*Double* means when something is folded over, each half corresponds exactly with the other half, and this would yield the thought of exact correspondence between sin and payment. A payment has been made, and it was exactly the payment that was needed! Our *iniquity* is never *pardoned* because God has simply decided to excuse the iniquity. That would make God and unrighteous, wicked judge, something He could never be. But under the New Covenant, it is not we who have *received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins*; it is our sin-bearing Savior Jesus Christ, who *received* the cup of wrath *from the LORD's hand double for all* our sins.

vs. 3-5 (Isa 40:3-5) have a direct fulfillment in the New Testament, in the person and ministry of John the Baptist. Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, knew this at the birth of his son (Luk 1:76). And three gospels directly relate this passage to the ministry of John (Mat 3:3, Mar 1:3, Luk 3:3-6 and John 1:23). Jesus was the coming Messiah and King, and John the Baptist’s ministry was to be *one crying in the wilderness*, and through his message of repentance, to *prepare the way of the LORD*. We often fail to appreciate how important the preparing work of the LORD is. Any great work of God begins with great preparation. In this case fulfilled by John the Baptist! *The voice of one crying in the wilderness*: Isaiah speaks for the LORD’s messenger, who cries out to the barren places. *Prepare the way of the LORD*: The LORD is coming to His people as a triumphant King, who has the road prepared before Him so He can travel in glory and ease. Every obstacle in the way must be removed: *every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth*. Whatever was wrong in the road must be corrected. In places, the road in the valley needed to be lifted up; other times a road had to be cut through a passage in the mountains. The idea of preparing the way of the LORD is a word picture, because the real preparation must take place in our hearts. When the way is prepared, then *the glory of the LORD shall be revealed*. It is revealed without regard to nationality; *all flesh shall see it together*. This glory of the LORD is revealed to every prepared heart. The certainty of this word is assured, because *the mouth of the LORD has spoken*. (Jn 1:14; Heb. 1:3)

vs. 1-2 What words of comfort! My sin, oh the bliss of this wonderful thought! My sins, not in part, but the whole were nailed to the cross, and I bear them no more! It is well! It is well with my soul! Oh what comfort, to know that there is no condemnation to those that are in Christ Jesus! That I can relate now to God, in full confidence, through the work of Jesus Christ. Oh the glorious comfort in our hearts! So, “*Speak comfort*”, the Lord said. Although the good news of the Messiah is being given as though it had happened, (His coming will be 700+ years future), only God can speak of future things as being in the present - *God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did; (Rom 4:17b)*

vs. 3-5 Every believer needs to realize that we have the same call as John the Baptist and that is to prepare a way in the wilderness of this world for our Lord Jesus Christ!

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The Word of God Stands Forever

Isa 40:6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

Isa 40:7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; Surely the people are grass.

Isa 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."

The Greatness of God

Isa 40:9 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!"

vs. 6-8 The message of the voice in the wilderness. *What shall I cry?* The voice in the wilderness knew he had an important work, but wanted to know more exactly what his message should be. The message is *the frailty of man: All flesh is grass*. Isaiah thinks of the beautiful green grass covering the hills of Judah after the winter rains, and how quickly the grass dies and the hills are left brown and barren. This is how frail and weak man is. Even the beauty of man is fleeting, and passes as quickly as spring wildflowers (*all its loveliness is like the flower of the field*). *Because the breath of the LORD blows upon it:* Man is in this frail state at the pleasure of God. It is to God’s glory and according to His plan that man is this frail, and the glory of man is so fleeting. The message is *the permanence of God and His word: The word of our God stands forever*. In contrast to the frailty and fleeting glory of man (*The grass withers, the flower fades*), *the word of our God* endures. *The word of our God* certainly *has* endured. It has survived centuries of manual transcription, of persecution, of ever changing philosophies, of all kinds of critics, of neglect both in the pulpit and in the pew, of doubt and disbelief - and still, *the word of our God stands forever!* This message, cried out by the voice in the wilderness, was meant to prepare hearts for the coming of the LORD by leading them into repentance. The understanding of our frailty and fleeting glory, contrasted with the eternal enduring of God and His word, should humble us in repentance before the LORD. It certainly worked in the ministry of John the Baptist ([Luk 3:7-18](#)). Peter makes reference and application to this passage, giving a call love among the believers in [1Pe 1:22-25](#). *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, And why believers should love one another this way in [\[23\]](#)having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, [\[24\]](#)because “All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, [\[25\]](#) but the word of the LORD endures forever.” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.* Peter makes a beautiful connection, showing that the enduring word Isaiah spoke of is the same word of the gospel that is preached and believed, bringing salvation. Also, he makes a beautiful application. Since this eternal, always potentially fruit-bearing seed is in us, we have both the obligation and the ability to have a sincere love of the brethren. Perhaps we could say that if we need more love to others, it begins with having more of the incorruptible seed set in our hearts and allowed to grow.

v. 9 An invitation to behold your God.. *You who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain:* Isaiah speaks of a message so great - tidings so good - that they must be spread as widely as possible. From on top of *the high mountain*, the messenger can proclaim this great message to as many people as possible. It is a message that should be shouted out, so the messenger is told, *Lift up your voice with strength. Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”* What is the great message, that should be shouted so loud? It is an invitation to *behold your God*. There is nothing greater for a believer to do than to study and to know their God. Not just a passing glance, but we are invited to *behold your God*. To study, long term. To know the greatness and the character of our God. It also shows how important it is for the message of God’s preacher to focus on God. After every sermon, a preacher should ask, “Did I help the people to *behold your God?*”

vs. 6-8 We need to remember and tell everyone possible that the word of God abides forever in contrast to the withering grass and fading flower, as well as our earthly bodies, which also wither and fade away. But our soul is like God’s word, we being in the image of God, will endure forever. The question is which of the two places, defined in His enduring word, will we choose?

v. 9 Anyone who brings the good tidings of our Savior God will be living a life of purpose and substance. We have that opportunity to tell people they can be clean and forgiven by believing in what Jesus Christ has done for them on the cross – “Behold Your God!”

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Isa 40:10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him; Behold, His reward is with Him, And His work before Him.
Isa 40:11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And gently lead those who are with young.

Isa 40:12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?

Isa 40:13 Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, Or as His counselor has taught Him?

Isa 40:14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

vs. 10-11 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand: One aspect of our God we should behold is *the fact of His return*. Our God will return to this earth, and He will come with power, *a strong hand . . . His arm shall rule*). When the LORD comes back, *His reward is with Him*. He comes to inspect *His work before Him*, which is something important for us to know about our God. *He will feed His flock like a shepherd:* Another aspect of our God to behold is His loving care as a shepherd. The first thing a shepherd must do for his sheep is feed them, and the LORD feeds us like a shepherd feeds his flock. Sheep must be directed to the good pasture, and must be moved on to new pasture when they have stripped the grass bare. We need as much carefully directed feeding as sheep! God loves to identify Himself with a shepherd. Many of the greatest men of the Bible were shepherds, and their character as shepherds points to Jesus Christ. Abel, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David were all a picture of Jesus, the shepherd. *He will gather the lambs with His arm:* Our LORD shows special care for *the lambs*. The youngest, the weakest, are not despised, but are given special care by the LORD who gathers them and then will *carry them in His bosom*. He doesn't cast the weak *lambs* over his shoulder, as a shepherd might carry a sheep. Instead, He lovingly cradles *them in His bosom*, close to His heart, a safe place and a tender place. *And gently lead those who are with young:* The shepherd carries a rod and a staff, and knows how to use them; but He also knows how to **gently lead those who are with young**, knowing exactly when to be gentle, and when more severe guidance should be used. Jesus is given three great titles regarding His work as a shepherd. *Jesus the Good Shepherd (Joh 10:11-15; the Great Shepherd (Heb 13:20); the Chief Shepherd (1Pe 5:4)*. He is the Chief over all His people in His return. At His return, Jesus also exercises another aspect of His role as Shepherd: He divides the sheep from the goats (*Mat 25:31-33*).

v. 12 Behold, the God over all creation. Another aspect of our God to behold is His authority over all creation. Our God is so great, and so do He *has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand*, and has *measured heaven with a span*. This is an example of an anthropomorphism - speaking of God in human terms so we can partially understand who He is and what He does. The Bible tells us that God the Father is spirit, so He does not have a body as we know it (*Joh 4:24*). But we understand exactly what the LORD tells us through the prophet Isaiah - God is so great, so dominant over all creation that we should stand in awe of His power and glory. *And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure:* It isn't just about size; it's also about how God is so great in His wisdom and intelligence that He *calculated the dust of the earth in a measure*. God knows exactly how many grains of dust there are on the earth. Even if a person knew the number of hairs on their head (as God knows, according to *Luk 12:7*), they could never calculate the dust in their own house - much less *the dust of the earth!* *Taking it further*, God knows how heavy the mountains are! He *weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance*. The Earth's weight is estimated at **13 billion, trillion tons!**

vs. 13-14 Another aspect of God to behold is *His great wisdom*. He has the intelligence to know how much dust there is in the earth, and how heavy the mountains and the hills are. But more than that, God *has the wisdom to use that knowledge*. God is so wise, that no one *has directed the Spirit of the LORD*; In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Hebrew Old Testament used in the days of Jesus and the disciples), this is translated *Who has known the mind of the Lord?* *Rom 11:34. Or as His counselor has taught Him*. God needs no **counsel**, no instruction, no teacher, and no one to show Him **the way of understanding**.

vs. 10-11 How thankful we are that Jesus our Shepherd Himself carries closest to His heart the weakest of us and leads all those who have slowed down to a halt with cares and concerns of this world.

v. 12 Jesus Christ is not only our gentle Shepherd, but also the powerful Creator! He *measured the waters in the hollow of His hand* and knows precisely the *weight of the earth, mountains and hills!* A hand that big can certainly handle any challenge or problem that we may have!

vs. 13-14 We should not be advising or giving counsel to our LORD in our prayers, but share our burdens with Him and pray that not my will, but Your will be done because You know and always will know what is best!

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INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Isa 40:15 Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing.

Isa 40:16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering.

Isa 40:17 All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless.

Isa 40:18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

Isa 40:19 The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains.

Isa 40:20 Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution Chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image that will not totter.

Isa 40:21 Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

Isa 40:22 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.

vs. 15-17 God’s greatness surpasses all nations. ***Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket***: The glory of a powerful nation is something to behold. The greatest glory of the greatest nation is ***as a drop in a bucket*** compared to the greatness and glory of the Lord GOD. ***Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering***: If man were to take all the wood in the mighty forests of Lebanon, and use it to make a burnt offering of all the animals of the land, it would not be enough to satisfy God. Man’s best efforts can not satisfy the honor and glory of God. ***They are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless***: In this chapter, God declares His greatness over all creation, but He never says of creation that it is ***less than nothing and worthless***. But the nations have an arrogance, a pride against God that puts them lower than creation itself - He accounts them ***less than nothing and worthless***.

vs. 18-20 God’s greatness surpasses all idols. ***What likeness will you compare to Him?*** There are many likenesses that represent the gods of the nations. How do they compare to God? They don’t compare at all, because they are only the work of men’s hands (***the workman molds an image***). Maybe we are not as crude as the ancient Israelites, though some nations are. However, some people worship a crucifix, others will worship the church, or idolize the preacher. ***To prepare a carved image that will not totter***: The empty images that are the idols of the nations are so insignificant that they must be made so that they ***will not totter***. They can’t even stand up on their own! God has no rivals.

vs. 21-22 God’s greatness is evident, as He is the Creator of all. ***Have you not known? Have you not heard?*** Isaiah can’t believe that anyone could doubt the greatness of God when they see the glory of God’s creation. First, He sits above all creation (***It is He who sits above the circle of the earth***). Second, He created it all (***Who stretches out the heavens like a curtain***). Isaiah is amazed! How can anyone look at the glory and design evident in creation, and fail to understand that there must be a glorious designer behind such a glorious design? ***..who sits above the circle of the earth***. How could Isaiah possibly know that the earth’s shape was a circle? He probably didn’t know; but the LORD who spoke through Isaiah did know!

vs. 15-17 Psa 2:1, 4 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?[4] He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. It’s so comforting to know that our LORD is on the throne and that the nations threaten the world are no problem for Him!

vs. 18-20 “To whom then will you liken God?” God strictly forbids us in the scriptures to make any image, or likeness, or try to make any likeness of Him! Why? Because He is so vast, that there is nothing that we could make that could ever be a likeness of Him. He is so huge that our minds cannot even comprehend Him! He defies being likened to anything that we might carve with our hands! What an awesome God He is and He loves each of us so, so much, as evidenced by what His Son did for us on the cross!

vs. 21-22 What an amazing revelation by Isaiah about 2700 years ago, that the earth is not flat – that was hundreds of years before man found that to be true! Idol worship - Men making these little images in wood and all, and they’re saying, “That’s God!” He said, “No! No! Haven’t you heard? Don’t you know? Don’t you understand? God is so vast, He stretched out the heavens like a curtain! We’re like grasshoppers before Him!

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Isa 40:23 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless.

Isa 40:24 Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

Isa 40:25 "To whom then will you liken Me, Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One.

Isa 40:26 Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

Isa 40:27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God"?

Isa 40:28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

vs. 23-26 He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless: God’s power and glory is not only exalted above the inanimate creation, but also over men of power on the earth. When people have political power (*princes*) or legal power (*judges*) it is easy for them to think of themselves as gods! Through the message of Isaiah, the LORD sets this straight. All God needs to do is to *blow on them, and they will wither. Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name:* God’s mastery over all creation is shown by the fact that He can bring out all the stars *by number*, and then *He calls them all by name*. With the billions and billions of stars in the universe, it is staggering to know that God can number and name them all! Astronomers are still counting and classifying the stars, but Christ has already described, counted and ordered them. The **number of galaxies has been estimated to be 100 billion**, with the **number of stars per galaxy of 100 billion**, resulting in total of stars in the universe estimated at **70 billion trillion!** ...*see who has created these things (Rom. 1:22,25)*

vs. 27-28 Applying the knowledge of God’s greatness. Having confidence in God’s power and wisdom. Having spent all of this chapter showing us the greatness and the glory of God, now Isaiah shows us how understanding this makes a difference in our lives - beyond the obvious compulsion we should feel to honor and worship this great God! *Why do you say, O Jacob . . . "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my just claim is passed over by my God"?* Understanding the greatness and glory of God persuades us that there is nothing in our life hidden from God, and there is nothing neglected by God. *Have you not known? Have you not heard?* The people asked this question in [Isa 40:21](#) doubted there was a God who created all. The ones asked the same question in this verse seem to know there is a creator, but live as *practical* atheists. They don’t seem to understand that the fact there is a God of all creation makes a difference in everyday life. These practical atheists need to hear what they already know: that the Lord GOD is *the Creator of the ends of the earth*. Then they need to hear *about* the Creator: that He *neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable*. Those who really believe these truths about God should live as if God is really there.

vs. 23-26 God warns us not to put too much confidence in world *princes* and *judges*. None are perfect and flawless! **The only Perfect One is Jesus Christ!** Of the *host* of heaven – the stars – we’re told that God knows each one by name. He also put them and keeps them in their place. **If in one galaxy there are a billion stars and if there are a billion galaxies in the universe and God has named and knows them all, is your problem and mine too big for Him?**

vs. 27-28 As we are told of the vastness and greatness of God, can we really believe that God would be interested in us, individually? In Isaiah’s day, it wasn’t that they disputed His greatness, they just didn’t think that He cared for them! He does care so much about each of us! We’re told also here that He is *The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable*. **May we never think He is too busy, too vast, or too limited in anything, including His understanding, to take perfect care of each us forever!**

Isaiah Chapter 40 – God’s People Are Comforted! The Word of God Stands Forever

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:00pm, H 112 (1st floor, backside of the High School, facing Mac Arthur, near the east corner, adjacent to the High School office), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – [Phil Twente, cell #714 425 9221](mailto:ptwente@gmail.com); email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: www.ptwente.com Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by numerous pastor/teachers.

Isa 40:29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength.
Isa 40:30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,
Isa 40:31 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.

vs. 29-31 Receiving the strength of the LORD. *He gives power to the weak*: After explaining all the greatness and glory of God, now Isaiah explains another benefit we can receive from our God - He gives us His great power! Notice who God gives power to: *the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength*. Those who are proud and confident in their own wisdom and strength will receive no *strength* from God. *Even the youths shall faint and be weary*: Those who thought themselves strong find themselves weak. God’s strength is reserved for those who know they are *weak*, and know they *have no might*. *But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength*: How do we receive this strength from the LORD? We receive it as we *wait on the LORD*. The idea behind *wait on the LORD* is not a passive sitting around until the LORD does something. Yes, God gives us strength; but we don’t expect it to come as if He were pouring it into as you sit passively. He brings it to us as we seek Him, and rely on Him, instead of our own strength. If we are weak, it is because we do not *wait on the LORD*! We are told that we *renew* our *strength*. It is strength that was once received when we first came to the LORD in *weakness* and *no might*. Then, that strength is renewed – to keep putting on fresh strength - as we wait on the LORD. *They shall mount up with wings like eagles*: This is the *measure* of strength the LORD gives us - strength to soar above everything else. *They shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint*: This is the purpose of the strength the LORD gives us - strength to move forward and progress for Him. It isn’t strength to show off, but strength to go forward in. *Weak...faint* are the same Hebrew word, which means “failure through loss of inherent strength.” *Weary* is a different word, which means “exhaustion because of the hardness of life”. If we are worn out for either reason, God is here to give us strength - if we will wait on Him! Notice the order, because it seems strange. First we *mount up with wings like eagles*. Then we *run*. Finally we *walk*. Does it seem out of order? Not at all. First, we recognize that we soar up into heavenly places in Christ Jesus (*Eph 2:6*). Then we set ourselves on the course to run the race (*Heb 12:1*). Then we are in the good place to walk the walk (*Col 2:6*)

vs. 29-31 We’re told here to wait on the LORD who promises to serve us! But like our receiving from a good waiter at a restaurant, we’re to be active in pleasing Him! We want to honor Him by prayer and worship every morning and through the day. We’re to look for ways to ways to serve Him by loving others throughout the day. We’re to be a living sacrifice with our minds transformed and not be conformed to the world, that we may complete His perfect will in us!

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