

THE LORD'S MESSAGE OF COMFORT TO JERUSALEM (40:1-8)

The LORD **40** "Comfort, O comfort My people,"

Isaiah says your God.

²Speak to the heart of Jerusalem
and call to it,

because its hard service is fulfilled,
because its iniquity is pardoned,
because it has taken from the LORD's hand, double for all its sins.

³A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

John the Baptist "Prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

Isaiah ⁴Every valley will be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill will be made low;
the uneven ground will become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed,
and all flesh will see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

⁶A voice said,

The LORD "Call out!"

Isaiah And I said, "What will I call out?"

The LORD "All flesh is grass,
and all its loving-kindness like the flower of the field.

Isaiah ⁷Grass withers,
a flower fades
when the LORD's Spirit blows upon it.

Surely, the people are grass.

⁸Grass withers;
a flower fades,
but the word of our God stands forever."

THE LORD COMES LIKE A SHEPHERD (40:9-11)

Isaiah ⁹O Zion, that brings good tidings, go up on a high mountain;
O Jerusalem, that brings good tidings, lift up your voice
with power.

O lift up, fear not, say to the cities of Judah,

Zion's inhabitants “Behold your God!
¹⁰ Behold, the Lord, the LORD will come with strength,
 and His arm rules for Him.

Behold, His reward is with Him,
 and His recompense is before Him.

¹¹ Like a shepherd He will tend His flock;
 He will gather lambs in His arm,
 and He will carry them in His bosom.
 He will lead the sucklings.”

WHO IS LIKE UNTO THE LORD? (40:12-25)

Isaiah ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
 and marked off the heavens with the width of His hand,
 and gauged the dust of the earth in a measure?

And weighed the mountains in the scales
 and the hills in a balance?

¹³ Who directs the Spirit of the LORD?
 Or what man shows Him his counsel?

¹⁴ With whom did He counsel? Who made Him understand,
 and who taught Him the path of justice,
 and taught Him knowledge,
 and made Him know the way of understanding?

¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket,
 and they are regarded as dust on the scales;
 behold, He takes up the isles like fine dust.

¹⁶ And Lebanon is not sufficient for burning,
 and its beasts are not sufficient for a burnt offering.

¹⁷ All nations are as nothing before Him.
 They are regarded by Him as nothingness and chaos.

¹⁸ Then, to whom will you liken God?
 Or with what likeness do you compare Him?

¹⁹ A craftsman casts the idol,
 and a smith overlays it with gold and forges chains of silver.

²⁰ The poor chooses an offering of wood that will not rot.
 He seeks for himself a skilled craftsman to prepare an idol that
 will not topple.

Isaiah ²¹ Will you not know?
 Will you not hear?
 Has it not been told to you from the beginning?
 Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²² He who is enthroned above the circle of the earth
 and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers,
 who stretches out the heavens like a curtain
 and stretches them like a tent to dwell in,
²³ who brings rulers to nothing.
 He makes the judges of the earth as chaos.

²⁴ No sooner are they planted,
 no sooner are they sown,
 no sooner has their stem taken root in the earth,
 when He blows upon them and they wither,
 and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

The LORD ²⁵ “To whom will you liken Me,
 that I may be compared?”

Isaiah says the Holy One.

THE LORD SUSTAINS HIS PEOPLE WITH HIS POWER (40:26-31)

Isaiah ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see—
 Who created these?
 He who brings out their hosts by number,
 calling them all by name.
 Through abundant might and mighty power,
 not one is missing.

²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob,
 and speak, O Israel?

**God’s
 covenant
 people** “My way is hidden from the LORD,
 and from my God my judgment is passed over?”

Isaiah ²⁸ Did you not know?
 Did you not hear?
 The LORD is the Everlasting God,
 Creator of the ends of the earth!

He does not faint;
He is not weary.

His understanding is unsearchable.

²⁹ He gives power to the faint,
and to him who lacks might, He increases strength.

³⁰ Even youth will grow faint and weary,
and young men will certainly stumble,

³¹ but those who wait for the LORD will renew their strength;
they will go up with wings like eagles,
they will run and not grow weary,
and they will walk and not faint.

ISRAEL IS THE LORD'S SERVANT (41:1-20)

The LORD **41** Be silent before Me, O islands,
and let the peoples renew their strength;
let them approach,
then let them speak:

People “Let us draw near together for judgment.”

**Isaiah or
the LORD** ² Who stirred up a righteous one from the east,
calling him to his feet?

He gives up nations before him
and made him rule over kings,
who makes them like dust with his sword,
like wind-scattered stubble with his bow.

³ He subjugates them, he passes in peace,
by paths his feet have not trod.

⁴ Who has performed and done this, calling the generations
from the beginning?

The LORD “I, the LORD am the first,
and with the last ones, I am He!”

⁵ The islands have seen and feared;
the ends of the earth tremble.

They have drawn near,
and they have come.

⁶ Everyone helps his neighbor
and to his brother says, “Be strong.”