

This portion of Isaiah (chapters 40-66) begins with the verse, “‘Comfort, O comfort My people,’ says your God.” In chapters 1-39, we were bombarded with judgments and woes. At the onset of chapter 40-66, there is a definite difference in the tone set for this segment of Scripture. This difference is so striking that some scholars have made a case that there were two Isaiahs that wrote the book of Isaiah. We know that this is not the case for in John 12:37-41, the Lord Jesus refers to passages in Isaiah chapters 1-39 and chapters 40-66 as both coming from the book of Isaiah. “The” is a definite article. The same message is found in both sections of Isaiah and also in both the Old and New Testaments. However, Isaiah approaches this segment (chapters 40-66) with God’s overwhelming character trait of grace. This grace also happens to be God’s overwhelming character trait through His Son in the New Testament, as well. So, since this division starts out with a command to comfort God’s people, what do you think the theme of this section might be?

Day 1 – Great God Our Father Will Forgive - He Wants Us to Lay Our Burdens on Him and Rest– Isaiah 40:1-2ⁱ

We will just work through Isaiah 40 for this week. In order to shed some light on this chapter, I would like you to look at some other passages of Scripture.

Please read **Matthew 11:28**.

What does Jesus beckon us to do in this verse?

What was the main focus in Isaiah 1-39?

What can the Remnant do with those burdens and woes, the sins and failures, of the earlier chapters of Isaiah?

How does the living Messiah take on this role of burden-bearer?

Read **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**.

What person of the Godhead is called the Comforter in these verses?

Read **John 14:16-17**.

Who would the Father send as the Comforter in response to Christ’s plea or prayer in this passage?

Please read **Isaiah 40:1-2**. Why would God want Jerusalem to know that she had received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins, that her warfare had ended and her iniquity removed?

How could these thoughts be comforting to God's people?

Look for any special notes written by different commentators in the margin or page bottom of your Bible. God is waiting to pardon even the worst sinner if he/she would turn to Him the first time or return to Him.

Day 2 – Great God our Father will Prepare the Way for Us– He Wants Us to Follow Him - Isaiah 40:3-5ⁱⁱ

Please read **Isaiah 40:3-5**. Isaiah 40:3 is one of those familiar verses that you should have marked in last week's work. Do you have a definite marking on this verse and where did you find its counterpart in the New Testament? I will give you a hint, but you must find the references yourself: this verse is referenced in all four of the gospel accounts.

Many years from Isaiah's time, 70 years after the first Babylonian siege on Jerusalem, the Remnant will return to the land that God exiled them from. God goes ahead of them to prepare the way, but as you read in **Ezra** and **Nehemiah** you will see that their return and efforts to rebuild the city and the Temple were met with much opposition from the enemy. See **Ezra 1:2-4, 4:11-22, 5:7-17, 6:2-12** and **Nehemiah 2,4**. However, if God had not gone ahead of the Israelites when they returned to their homeland, they would not have been able to accomplish their God-given tasks of rebuilding the Temple and the wall around the city of Jerusalem. What can we learn from their experience?

John the Baptist was appointed by God to go ahead of Christ to prepare the soil for Christ's message, but again, even John the Baptist and Christ, both, met with much opposition from the enemy.

Do you see a picture of the Millennial Kingdom in **Isaiah 40: 4-5**? Or is this strictly about the Messiah's first coming?

How will the glory of the LORD be revealed in such a way as all flesh shall see it together?

Did the Shekinah Glory prepare the way for the Israelites in the desert?

Day 3 - Great God Our Father Will Perform His Word – He Wants Us to Be Strong in (Believe) His Word - Isaiah 40:6-8ⁱⁱⁱ

Please read Isaiah 40:6-8

What is Man compared to in these verses?

How can the remnant find comfort in being compared to grass?

Does Man wither and die just like the grass of the field?

Is Man weak or strong?

Is God's Word weak or strong?

What can Man rely on even though he is feeble and weak? Look in your concordances and find references to God's Word. Write some of them down and report how God's Word is described in Scripture.

Isaiah 40:8 should be another one of those verses that sounds very familiar and should be marked and referenced in the New Testament. Can you find the reference for this verse in the Gospel of Matthew? Write that verse here.

What will happen to nations and their leaders as they fulfill their purposes?

Day 4 – Great God Our Father Will Grant Us Peace (Reconciliation) – God Wants Us to Extend that Peace (Reconciliation) to Others.^{iv}

What does the word reconciliation mean? Look it up in your dictionary. Please Read Isaiah 40:9-11.

Reconciliation is made between two parties who want peace. Who were the parties when Jesus died on the cross? How can we pray for the peace of Jerusalem? What are we actually praying for Jerusalem to receive?

Who is Zion and who is Jerusalem? Are they one in the same in verses 40:9-11?

What is the good news in the Remnant's day? See Isaiah 52:7-9.

What is the good news in Jesus' day and today? See Isaiah 61:1-3, Luke 4:18-19.

What one word does "the good news" become in the New Testament? Is the good news reconciliation between God and Man?

Some of the versions of the Bible have "Behold your God," in verse 9 instead of "Here is your God." In each of the cities today where the Messianic Jews preach Jesus, this verse is used to call the Jewish people to their Savior, Yeshua.

Isaiah 40:10 tells us the Lord GOD is coming and His reward is with Him. What or who is His reward and who will be awarded this reward? Does this refer to His first or His second coming? Also read Zechariah 14: 1-11; 14:16.

God's arm is explained or described in two ways in 40:10 and 40:11. What are these two ways?

Day 5 – Great God Our Father will give us strength - He wants us to know that He is greater than anything in Heaven or on the Earth and yet we are important to Him – Isaiah 40:12-31^v

Read Isaiah 40:12-26.

What can you learn about creation from Isaiah 40:12

What can you learn about the Creator from Isaiah 40:12-14?

What are the nations to God? See Isaiah 40:15-17.

Compare God and an idol from the Scripture in 40:18-26. You may use your notes from class last week.

To those who had seen the victories of these nations, did the false gods of the Assyrians, the Babylonians, and the Persians seem stronger than the Israelites' God?

Please write down what you learn about God from all of Isaiah chapter 40.

Read Isaiah 40:21-22 in the KJV. How do you think that Christopher Columbus knew that the world was round?

Did Christopher Columbus trust God's Word?

Is Man insignificant from 40:13-25?

Great God Our Father Knows Us Intimately – He Wants Us to Wait on Him for Our Needs – Isaiah 40:27-31^{vi}

Read **Isaiah 40:27-31**

Is Man significant in God's eyes, from 40:26-31?

How can Man be both insignificant (verses 13-25) and significant (verses 26-31)?

Look up the definition for "circumstances" in your dictionary.

How will you see God through your circumstances?

How will you view your circumstances if you first look at God?

How was Judah/Jerusalem viewing their situation? Did they think they were getting justice from their God?

What does God give to those who are weary, lack strength, those who are tired and stumble badly? (Those who know Him)

Is the promise of Isaiah 40:31 just for the Jews? Or are we, the Gentiles included in this, also?

ⁱ Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Comforted*, USA, SP Publications, 1992, p. 109.

ⁱⁱ *Ibid*, pp. 109-110.

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid*, p. 110.

^{iv} *Ibid*.

^v *Ibid*, pp. 110-111.

^{vi} *Ibid*, pp. 111-112.

GOD IS GREATER THAN OUR CIRCUMSTANCES

Isaiah 40:1-31

Isaiah 40
Part 5
Lesson 3-1*

God would pardon the past, provide for their future, perform His Word & give them peace				God gazing would provide them with the proper perspective on their circumstances		God's strength will sustain them if they wait on Him in all their circumstances	
God would pardon Remnant vs 1-2	God would provide for Remnant vs 3-5	God would perform His Word for Remnant vs 6-8	God would give Remnant peace vs 9-11	God is greater than anything on earth- vs 12-20	God is greater than anything in heaven - vs 21-26	God is all powerful, all knowing, and is always present to be called upon - vs 27-31	God knows His own & what they feel & fear - vs 27-31

*Warren W. Wiersbe, *Be Comforted*, SP Publications, Inc., USA, 1992, pp.108-120.