

HAVE YOU
NOT
HEARD?



STUDY ON ISAIAH 40

Read Isaiah 40

The first 39 chapters of Isaiah are mostly to do with judgement, with little of comfort and hope. However, chapter 40 is a turning point. It speaks of comfort, strength, and help for God's people. In effect, they are entering into a new phase with God.

For me, this chapter is on a par with the first chapter of John's Gospel for the magnificence of its poetic language whilst laying out a wonderful truth.

In his *Enduring Word Bible Commentary*, David Guzik explains that Isaiah is a book in three sections. Chapters 1-35 are prophetic and have the theme of CONDEMNATION. Chapters 36-39 are historic with the theme of CONFISCATION. Chapters 40-66 are MESSIANIC where the theme is CONSOLATION (or COMFORT). To illustrate this, 2 Corinthians 1:3, says: **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation."** In verses 3-7 of this chapter, he uses forms of the word 'consolation', ten times! He explains that this God of all consolation is the God who has known suffering from the inside in Jesus, and who thus provides comfort for all who are afflicted and empowers them to console others.

There are many parallels between Isaiah 40 and the New Testament, as this chapter is designed to take our focus away from everything else, and consider the Sovereign Lord, ([verses 1-2](#)), the one true living God. It starts with a message of comfort and redemption and points us to the coming of Christ ([verses 9-11](#)).

- Do we see God in the light of 2 Corinthians 1:3? How does this affect us in our thinking, and walk with him?
- Do we take comfort from the fact that our God understands suffering?

In [verse 2](#) God says: *"Speak tenderly to Jerusalem. Tell her that her sad days are gone and that her sins are pardoned. Yes, the Lord has punished her in full for all*

her sins.” This was under the Old Covenant. Under the New Covenant, **our sins have been pardoned because they have been completely paid for – by the sacrifice of Jesus. He took the punishment for our sins.**

Read verses 3-5 Before the beginning of the ministry of Jesus, we know that God sent a messenger: John the Baptist (Luke 3:2-6).

2 During the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John, son of Zechariah in the wilderness.

3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet: “A voice of one calling in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

5 Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

6 And all people will see God’s salvation.’ ”

Isaiah 40 Verses 6-9

6 A voice says, “Cry out.” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All people are like grass, and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

7 The grass withers and the flowers fall, because the breath of the LORD blows on them. Surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever.”

*9 You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who bring good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with a shout, lift it up, do not be afraid; say to the towns of Judah, “**Here is your God!**”*

Can you picture the bringer of good news telling the people what has been revealed to him?

So, who and what is our God?

Read verse 10: Firstly, he is Sovereign (a supreme ruler, possessing supreme or ultimate power).

Read verse 11: He is like a shepherd (John 10).

Read verse 12: He is Creator. “God uses no pre-existing material to create the universe. God’s act of creation causes matter, space, time, and even the very laws which govern the universe to exist. Regardless of the scientific explanations of ‘how’ it came to be, God, in one divine action from all of eternity, **creates and sustains all that exists.** (Chris Baglow).

Read verses 13-14: He knows all things. (Read Psalm 139)

Read Psalm 86: 18-20: He is incomparable (matchless). Among the gods there is none like you, Lord; no deeds can compare with yours. All the nations you have made will come and worship before you, Lord; they will bring glory to your name. For you are great and do marvellous deeds; you alone are God.

Read Jeremiah 10:2-6 "Do not learn the ways of the nations or be terrified by signs in the heavens, though the nations are terrified by them.

3 For the practices of the peoples are worthless; they cut a tree out of the forest, and a craftsman shapes it with his chisel.

4 They adorn it with silver and gold; they fasten it with hammer and nails so it will not totter.

5 Like a scarecrow in a cucumber field, their idols cannot speak; they must be carried because they cannot walk. Do not fear them; they can do no harm, nor can they do any good."

6 No one is like you, LORD; you are great, and your name is mighty in power.

- Do we believe this last verse, or do we have idols in our lives? Think carefully about this. What things can easily become an idol to us if we are not alert?

Isaiah 40:21-22

"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? 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."



Verses 25-26

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

Verses 28-31

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

AND THIS GOD IS OUR GOD FOREVER AND EVER (*Psalm 48:14*)

- What picture of God emerges from this chapter?
- Has it helped in your understanding of God and his purposes in your life?
- Has God become bigger to you?
- Has this encouraged you?
- Are you going to say to others, *“Have you not heard”*?



Prayer:

Father God, help me to gain a clearer perspective of your greatness and your love and compassion for me.

Amen