

Isaiah

“The Evangelical Prophet”

- I. God’s *Denunciation* of **Judah** (1:1-12:6)
- II. God’s *Denunciations* against **other Nations** (13:1-23:18)
- III. Isaiah’s *Description* of **End Time Events** (24:1-27:13)
- IV. Isaiah’s *Dire Warnings* to Ephraim and **Judah** (28:1-35:10)
- V. Isaiah’s *Description* of the **Fourteenth Year of King Hezekiah** (36:1-39:8)

VI. Isaiah’s Divine *Prophecies* of **Consolation** for **Israel** (40:1-48:22)

A. The *Pronouncement* of **Judah’s** time of **Comfort** (40:1-11)

40 **“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.”

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.

⁷ 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**.

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.

The New Testament Connection— Words of Isaiah *affirmed* in the New Testament

1. *Isaiah's* declaration of comfort, peace, and the **removal** of Israel's **iniquity** (40:2) are also **affirmed** in *New Testament* scripture.

For I do not want you, **brethren**, to be uninformed of this **mystery**—
so that you will not be **wise** in your **own estimation**—
that a **partial hardening** has happened to **Israel**
until the **fullness** of the **Gentiles** has **come in**;

and so **all Israel** will be **saved**; just as it is **written**,

"THE **DELIVERER** WILL COME FROM **ZION**,
HE WILL **REMOVE** **UNGODLINESS** FROM **JACOB**."

"THIS IS **MY COVENANT** WITH THEM,
WHEN I **TAKE AWAY** THEIR **SINS**." (Romans 11:25-27)

2. *Isaiah* declared that “a voice” is calling, commanding that a “way” in the wilderness be cleared, and a “highway” in the desert be made smooth in preparation for the coming of the LORD. This “voice” also, using various landscape features, described how that Israel needed to repent, and be “smoothed out” spiritually before the revealing of the glory of the LORD (40:4-5).

In the *New Testament*, this voice is said to be that of **John the Prophet**, who came as a forerunner of the **Messiah**, and testified of **His coming**. **John** proclaimed and ministered a **baptism** of repentance—a “clearing away” of one’s sin in preparation of the Lord’s coming. All four New Testament gospel writers proclaimed **John** as this first “voice” in *Isaiah*’s text tonight. (Matthew 3:3, Mark 1:3, Luke 23:4-6, John 1:23)

Now in those days **John the Baptist** came,
preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

For this is **the one** referred to by **Isaiah the prophet** when he said,

“THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS,
‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’” (Matthew 3:1-3)

3. In response to a “second” voice, *Isaiah* describes a “third” voice declaring that “all flesh is grass,” and *withers* when the **breath** of the LORD blows upon it (40:6-7). The prophet then contrasts the *perishable* nature of all flesh (humanity) with the *imperishable* nature of the word of God (40:8).

In the *New Testament* **Peter** quotes these verses in *Isaiah* in describing how that the *spiritual birth* of believers was brought about through the *imperishable* “seed” of the word of God (I Peter 1:23-24).

...for you have been **born again** not of seed which is *perishable* but *imperishable*, that is, **through** the living and enduring word of God. For,

“ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS,
AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS.
THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF,
BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER.”

And this is **the word** which was *preached to you* (I Peter 1:23-25).

4. *Isaiah* describes the coming of the Lord in *two* ways:

- 1) Behold, the **Lord God** will come with might, with **His arm** *ruling* for Him. (40:10)

- 2) 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 (40:11)

In the *New Testament*, the **first** and **second coming** of the **Lord** are also **contrasted** this way. During the **first coming** of **Jesus the Messiah**, **He** came as the **good Shepherd** who **gathered** and **tended** His sheep (40:11).

“I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep...

I (**Jesus**) have **other sheep**, which are **not** of **this fold** (the **Gentiles**);
I must **bring them** also, and they will **hear My voice**; and they will
become **one flock** with **one shepherd**.” (John 10:11, 16)

Also, in the *New Testament*, when **Messiah returns**, **He** will indeed “come with **might**,” and with “**recompense**,” and **rule** the *arm* of the Lord (40:10).

“But immediately after the **tribulation** of *those days*...
the **powers** of the **heavens** will be **shaken**.”

And then the **sign** of the **Son of Man** will **appear** in the **sky**,
and then **all** the **tribes** of the **earth** will **mourn**,
and they will see the **SON OF MAN COMING ON THE CLOUDS OF THE SKY**
with **power** and **great glory** (Matthew 24:29-31).”

Personal Application

Like Israel, God has given us *Comfort*

A. The *Comfort* of His spiritual Presence

And I (**Jesus**) will **pray the Father**, and he shall give you **another Comforter**,
that he may **abide with you forever**; even the **Spirit of truth**...

I will not leave you **comfortless**: I will **come to you** ;..(John 14:16-17a, 18)

B. The *Comfort* promised us in our Afflictions

Blessed be the **God** and **Father** of our **Lord Jesus the Messiah**,
the **Father of mercies** and **God of all comfort**,
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*** (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

C. The *Comfort* of an enduring Hope

Now may our **Lord Jesus the Messiah Himself** and **God our Father**,
who has ***loved us*** and given us ***eternal comfort*** and ***good hope*** by ***grace***,

comfort and **strengthen your hearts** in every **good work** and **word**
(II Thessalonians 2:16-17).