

ISAIAH 40 vs 1

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The book of Isaiah has two great divisions; **first**: chapters 1–39; God's Criticism of both rebel houses **Israel** and **Judah**, thereby affecting all the local neighbors in the hood; and **second**: chapters 40–66; God's Consolation to both houses who have separate histories. The great Isaiah scroll found in the Qumran caves, dated from the 2nd century BC has put to rest many wild speculations about prophet Isaiah.



¹ Comfort, O comfort My people, says your

God / 300 years ago Matthew Henry, wrote: Observe here: 1. There are a people in the world that are God's people. And 2. It is the will of God that His people should be comforted. This repeated command indicates: breathe forcefully to lament and have pity; and breathe again. Why? This abrupt declaration marks a change in the prophecy. Isaiah details the Messiah, coming in His energy to serve, and to reign.

² Speak comfort to Jerusalem and cry unto her, that her warfare is finished, that her crime is pardoned, for she has received from the hand of the LORD double for all her sins / clearly: speak to the heart, which was left in ruins; like a town crier; since they didn't have bullhorns or 24hour news service; shout her battle is over; in the Septuagint: her sin is loosed from her; for her faithless alliances, God handed her a double dose of His displeasure.

³ The voice of him who cries in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD make straight in the desert a highway for our God / **the forerunner John the Baptist is prophesied**; Matthew 3:3; like one running ahead of a governor giving direction and warning; scoping out any obstacles and pitfalls, shouting officially: **Comfort... not fear; not condemnation**; so clear the path for Him; watch for His coming, who comes in spirit and truth.

⁴ Every valley will be lifted up, and every mountain and hill will be made low: the crooked will be made straight, and the rough places smoothed: / Isaiah says there is a great leveling of all mankind coming; and God knows how to make it happen. The Puritans would say: the ground is level at the foot of the cross! Jesus concluded His parable of the two who went to the temple to pray, warning: for all who exalt themselves (something we all do)... will be humbled; and he who humbles himself (something we rarely do)... will be exalted.

⁵ And the Glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together; for it comes from the mouth of the LORD - He said it / so there is a glorious elevation coming, too. To the Romans, Paul wrote: [we all fall short of the glory of God](#). John penned: [we looked, we saw, we heard, we touched Him -- His glory](#); the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Psalm 19 affirms: [the heavens declare the Glory of God](#), an Athlete-soldier Bridegroom runs from heaven, excited in search of His Bride. We all will see this glorious One, someday; what a glorious news it is! If God said it we can count on it!

6 A voice said, Cry out, and he said, What will I cry out? / so here is second official announcement; the first having been, to comfort the Lord's people with the promise of brighter days; and the answer came swiftly; without hesitation or help from anyone:

All flesh is grass, and all its goodness is like a flower in the field / in Hebrew: **chatsiyr** = : green. Isaiah uses this illustration 9 times. You know, what freshly fills the prairies and meadows full green today; and cattle consume and trample, and leave their droppings on **that stuff = all flesh; no exception** is grass, all the short-lived, momentary, puny goodness of the field is like a flower:

7 The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it: surely this people is grass / it quickly dries like hay, give it a day or two; Isaiah uses this illustration 11 times: and whatever the miniscule bud that blossoms and crowns, the frail blade of grass, soon wilts and droops and dwindles away; the message is to all flesh, including God's people

8 The grass withers, the flower fades

but the word of our God stands for ever / this prophecy began with a repeated message to God's people: Comfort, O comfort; so this truth to all flesh is repeated: the grass withers the flower fades; whatever the changes of life -- be they small or great, Isaiah tells us: it does not matter: God's word of promise keeps going on. And that is what Jesus said: Heaven and earth will pass away; **but My words will never pass away**.

9 O Zion / the City of David; Those who bring good tidings to Zion get up to the high mountain the place where the flock of God gathers; Hebrew: **tsyion** this word appears 153 times in the OT; first, when king David and his men went 3,000 years ago to Jerusalem: 2 Samuel 5:7 and David took the stronghold of Zion; no more bad tidings; find the highest place to stand and shout it! so, **this good news is not something to keep secret;**



Those who bring good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength,

lift it up, do not be afraid, say to the cities of Judah,

Look, your God! / pay attention; and another repeated moment in this prophecy; turn up the volume; shake the eardrums of everybody; get excited with the good news, say it again! Even now, take this message to all the cities of the House of **Judah** – **to all the Jewish people**; in ever-expanding circles... go... go... **GO** to them also, with the good news.

¹⁰ Watch, the Lord GOD will come with a strong hand, and His right arm will rule for Him / so don't be snoozing! the One who created Adam and Eve... He will arrive... can you imagine? This is God's Right-hand Man who will rule!

See, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him / you get the impression Isaiah wants us awake; His great work was announced on the first page of Genesis: [Let Us make Adam](#) and those who come after [in Our image, and in Our likeness](#). Well, the first Adam messed up. But the second Adam got it right. In Isaiah 53, we read: He will see the struggle of His soul; and be satisfied, which makes sense, if we who believed the report, and the arm of the Lord is revealed; if you and I [make His soul our offering for sin](#) then, [He will see and be satisfied](#) evidence of His good work.

Now, can you hear the drum roll already? Who is this mighty LORD God whom we are to pay attention to... who will come one day, with a strong hand; His ruling arm.... What is this very powerful guy going to do? I mean, with all that POWER what is He going to do? Is He going to destroy the enemy? Well, read on!

¹¹ He will feed His flock like a Shepherd / like a Pastor – same word; He only is the Good Pastor:

He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them on His heart, and will gently lead those nursing their young / the Lord God is different than us; He is in NO competition with us. That's why His word says: Look... pay attention! Our Father in heaven is a loving Father. He always has been, He always will be, a loving Father. He invites us... to walk with Him.



Don't insult Him by trying to figure Him out! Psalm 62 says, [God has spoken once, twice I have heard all power belongs to God](#). And if we aren't too much of a hardhead, we might wonder, how many times does God need to speak... or repeat Himself? So, hear this mighty LORD God again...

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He will feed His flock like a Pastor / He does His job; He needs nobody's help:

He will gather the lambs with His arm / He will tirelessly search out and find all His sheep; He is kind... even to the littlest,

and carry them on His heart / this Good Pastor willingly carries you and me; we've been on His heart a very long time,

and will gently lead those nursing their young.



His Sheep Hear His Voice And Follow Him

Israeli Band: Psalm 150 |

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JESUS it is YOU

I Could Sing of Your Love Forever