

Isaiah 40 – Comfort and Strength from the Everlasting God

God’s Word of Comfort (Isaiah 40:1–2)

*“Comfort, yes, comfort My people!” says your God.
“Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her,
That her warfare is ended,
That her iniquity is pardoned;
For she has received from the LORD’s hand
Double for all her sins.”*

After thirty-nine chapters filled with warnings of judgment, God shifts His tone. The message now is one of comfort and pardon. Though judgment was real, it would not have the final word. God promises forgiveness and restoration.

This reminds us of the gospel: sin brings real consequences, but in Jesus Christ there is full pardon, reconciliation, and peace with God.

Preparing the Way (Isaiah 40:3–5)

*“The voice of one crying in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the LORD;
Make straight in the desert
A highway for our God.’”*

These words were fulfilled in John the Baptist (John 1:23). His mission was to prepare hearts for the coming of the Messiah. Every valley lifted up, every mountain made low, every crooked path straightened—this is a picture of God removing barriers so that people can clearly see His glory.

When Jesus returns, this prophecy will reach its ultimate fulfillment: *“Every eye shall see Him”* (Revelation 1:7).

The Frailty of Man and the Enduring Word of God (Isaiah 40:6–8)

Human life is compared to grass and flowers—temporary and fragile. But in contrast:

*“The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.”*

Generations come and go, but God’s Word remains unchanged and trustworthy. This truth anchors us in a world that constantly shifts.

Behold Your God (Isaiah 40:9–11)

Isaiah calls God’s people to proclaim good news boldly: *“Behold your God!”*

The Lord is described both as a conquering King and as a gentle Shepherd. He comes with might to rule, but He also gathers His lambs in His arms and carries them close to His heart.

This balance of strength and tenderness is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He is the King of kings and also the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the sheep.

The Greatness of God (Isaiah 40:12–26)

Isaiah paints a breathtaking portrait of God’s majesty:

- He measures the waters in the hollow of His hand.
- He stretches out the heavens with His span.
- Nations are like a drop in a bucket before Him.
- Idols are nothing compared to Him.
- He sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers.
- He calls the stars by name, and not one is missing.

This is the God we serve—unmatched in wisdom, power, and glory. The idols of human imagination are worthless compared to Him.

God’s Care for the Weak (Isaiah 40:27–29)

Israel sometimes complained, *“My way is hidden from the LORD.”* They felt overlooked, forgotten, and weary. But Isaiah reminds them:

*“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.”*

The God who never grows weary gives strength to those who trust Him.

Renewed Strength (Isaiah 40:30–31)

*“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.”*

Even the strongest human beings eventually grow tired. But those who wait upon the Lord—who look to Him in trust and hope—are given supernatural strength. They rise above circumstances like eagles soaring in the sky. They endure life’s trials with stamina that only God can supply.

Personal Application

1. **God's Word Still Stands** – While our lives are fleeting, God's Word endures. Build your life on Scripture, not on shifting cultural opinions.
2. **Behold Your God** – Don't let idols—whether of wealth, success, or self—take God's place. Lift your eyes and behold Him in His greatness.
3. **Wait on the Lord** – Strength is renewed not by self-effort but by patiently trusting God. Learn to rest in Him when life feels overwhelming.
4. **Live for Generations to Come** – Unlike Hezekiah in Isaiah 39, think beyond your own comfort. Invest in passing down faith and truth to your children and those who follow.

Message of Salvation

Isaiah 40 opens with the promise of pardon and ends with the promise of strength. Both are found in Jesus Christ. He is the One who pardons sin through His death and resurrection, and He is the One who renews weary souls with His Spirit.

If you have never repented of your sins and trusted Jesus as your Savior, today is the day. Life is fleeting, but God's Word endures. The Shepherd is calling you to Himself. Come, be forgiven, be renewed, and receive eternal life.

Pray sincerely: *"Lord Jesus, I turn from my sin and place my trust in You. Be my Savior and Shepherd. Strengthen me to live for You each day."*

A Challenge for Believers

If you already know Christ, then Isaiah 40 challenges you:

- **Proclaim good news:** *"Behold your God!"* Point others to Jesus with confidence and joy.
- **Wait on the Lord:** Stop relying on your own strength. Learn the discipline of waiting in prayer and expectation.
- **Live with eternal perspective:** The nations are like dust before God, but His Word is forever. Anchor your life in what lasts.

Soar in faith like the eagle, endure like the runner, and walk faithfully without fainting—because your God is everlasting, and His strength is enough.