

A Comfort. Isaiah 40:1-2.

- ❖ Chapters 1 to 39 of Isaiah cover events in the history of Israel during the prophet's life (and some predictions about the future of the nations around them).
- ❖ From chapter 40 on, the message is focused on the future. It revolves around two main events: (1) The Babylonian exile and the return of the remnant, and (2) the coming of the Messiah.
- ❖ According to Isaiah 40:1-2, God will forgive His people, and He will comfort them.

B Preparation. Isaiah 40:3-8.

- ❖ How will God comfort His people? There are two "voices" that explain it:
 - Isaiah 40:3-5. Preparing the way for the presence of God being fully manifested in our lives.
 - Isaiah 40:6-8. Through the Word of God that “stands forever.”
- ❖ John the Baptist explained what we should do to prepare (Luke 3:2-8): repenting and rejecting sin, so we can receive the comfort of God's presence and forgiveness.

C Evangelism. Isaiah 40:9-11.

- ❖ Once the way is prepared, “Zion” must introduce Christ to the world: “Behold your God!”
- ❖ The message we should announce is based on the wonderful power of God, and His faculty to judge and reward (v. 10; see Revelation 14:6-7).
- ❖ The Gospel we should preach goes beyond this message. We should also announce that our Redeemer truly cares for us. He is a Shepherd who tenderly takes care of His sheep (v. 11; see John 10:11).

D Strength. Isaiah 40:12-18, 21-31.

- ❖ Two facets of God's nature are introduced in chapter 40:
 - Powerful (v. 12-26). He is the Only One worthy of praise.
 - Merciful (v. 27-31). He strengthens those who trust Him.
- ❖ Isaiah used questions to glorify God's power (v. 12-14), as God did when talking to Job.
- ❖ Isaiah explained that no one can compare to Him. God is never tired, and those who trust Him will never be.

E Worship. Isaiah 40:19-20.

- ❖ Can we worship God Almighty through an image?
- ❖ Israel represented God as a calf (Exodus 32:4; 1 Kings 12:28). However, God emphatically rejected worship through images (Deuteronomy 4:15-16; Exodus 20:4-5).
- ❖ The Bible is clear about the uselessness of idols and those who worship them (Psalm 115:4-8). We may worship “something” through an image, but not God.
- ❖ Remember that an idol may not necessarily have a physical shape. “Anything that men love and trust in instead of loving the Lord and trusting wholly in Him becomes an idol.” (E.G.W. 5T, cp. 26, p. 250)