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SOVEREIGN GOD

Isaiah 40

INTRODUCTION:

We think of the greatness of God in things that are vast and big and powerful.

But God's care is personal, true, he cares for the universe, but He cares for the little child who prays to him. He orders the affairs of the universe, yet comes to help you in the little daily affairs of life. Augustine, "God made us for Himself, & that our souls are restless until they find rest in Him!"

In (James D. Morrison) religious verse he wrote a masterpiece:

"Every morning lean Thine arms awhile,
Upon the window sill of Heaven
And gaze upon Thy Lord,
Then, with the vision in Thy heart,
Turn strong to meet the day."

1997 Stock Market crashed plunged
508 points, Record loss - Visions of
1929 - lost thousands -

How different - Soviet cosmonaut Gherman S. Titov returned from orbiting the earth in his spaceship, he reported jubilantly that he had neither seen God nor angels.

The Prophet Isaiah summons us to consider the Sovereign God of this universe. He gives you a description of God in Chapter 40.

Outline:

- I. Sympathy 1-9.
- II. Strength 10-17.
- III. Supremacy 18-31.

Before beginning my outline, I give a word for students who desire further study. The first 39 Chapters emphasized judgment first and then mercy. Chapters 40-66 emphasized mercy first and judgment second. Reason some believe in (Dentero-Isaiah)

I prefer one Isaiah. He gives prophecy going up into N. T. Days. Example.

40 - John Baptist -- voice crying in wilderness.

61 - Luke 4:17-21 - Lord confirming.

Matt. 8:17.

John 12:37-41.

Acts 8:26-40 (Eunuch) reading Isaiah.

Rom. 10:16-21.

Wrote of Cyrus before he was born. Of Temple destruction 140 years before.

Ch. 40-48 - Closed words - No peace to the wicked.

Ch. 49-57 - Closed words - No peace to the wicked.

Ch. 58-66 - Closed words - Finally ^{No} peace to the wicked.

Prophets begins to (write his Gospel) This is the Gospel of Redemption.

I. Sympathy - V. 1-9.

Verse 1 - Good news - comfort - heart to heart. Commission of all preachers -
comfort ye my people.

(My People) - God, not leave his own to enemy. Egypt, Babylon, Persia, Rome,
Antichrist, Devil, Death.

Comfort ye - twice - Grace added to grace. Gospel of the O. T.

Affliction - give way to comfort.

What if God should not pardon me at last?

Great comfort to know Gospel offers forgiveness now - Prodigal Son - returns
Father's house.

Comfort of peace of mind - comes in believing. Not judge religious state by
feeling or sight - by faith.

Jailor -- "Feel that you have the Gospel in your heart" - no believe.

Instructions from God - comfortable words. God has people in the world and they
need comfort!

Woman: "It is remarkable how these people stand by one another". *But didn't "Young*

Tragic: Sometimes people who deserve our sympathy and we fail them! *But not do as much as should!!!*

*82 - tremble in voice - Preacher - I think about all of could have done for David & ch
God, forgives - speak to Nurses to plant seeds - Play piano some -*

Verse 2 - Speak to heart with tears.

This to shall last!

Warfare God limits time of suffering for his Saints.

Iniquity pardoned palsied man - Thy sins be forgiven - take Thy bed.

Days of trouble numbered - not last always. Nothing more comforting than Thy sins be forgiven Thee. The end of trouble - comfort restored.

Jerusalem amply punished - Mother comforts child. Don't chastise the child further.

Verse 3 - Voice - Sounds crying repentance.

I Hear a Voice!

Way must be prepared for Christ.

Matt. 3:2,5. Literal fulfillment of Verse 3 in John The Baptist.

✓ Call -- "God is coming this way, get ready".

Obstructions in the way - Highway straight, through the desert.

Verse 4 - Valley - Filled, mountain - low, crooked - straight, rough - plain!

Food!

Thorough - ministry of John Baptist. Wild, pathless wilderness.

Every valley, (False Religion), crooked, uneven doctrines.

Levelling Force - Preaching of the Gospel - straightens - takes the crooks out, smoothes the rough hearts.

Verse 5 - Glory of the Lord - splendor - Bethlehem - Messiah will come. Luke 1:17.

All Flesh - part yet to be - 2nd coming.

The Lord's word.

Verse 6 - Sad Announcement - Decay of Autumn. Things seem alive, leaves, flowers, grass -- perish! Real life is deeper than eye can see. Uncertainty of life.

Verse 7 - Flowers - grass - But Spirit of Christ never die. Good deeds live on forever.

Preaching difficult - what could be preach - all flesh is grass! Growth even of grass. Fall no growth.

Verse 8 (Abiding) - Word of God relied upon. Flesh and grass - power of man, not be trusted - shifting.

life maintains so many things that can not be counted on. Many people disappoint

Vol. to recall when you were comforted - just factors that helped!
Pray - visit - Bible -

-4-

Gospel stand forever - I Peter 1:23. Same yesterday. The way of Salvation the same. The invitation to sinful same. Men may modify their opinions - essential nature of Gospel cannot change!

Verse 9 - Good Tidings -- Part of the comfort ye V. 1

Temple stood here -
God's purpose for Zion. This stands as written in the Bible.

Same defeated voices sounded in 1892. "The Pulpit has lost its power; The Church has lost its hold upon the people; Multitudes are hopelessly alienated from the public services of religion." Wm. Young.

What is the place of the church in the world? With a loud, certain, sure voice, say, "Behold your God!"

Church is to give good tidings - world in ruin. Sick in sin. Unwilling to be cured.

The Revelation of God!

How is God revealed? What characteristics?

II. Strength - V. 10-17.

Verse 10 - Mighty God - Strong - irresistible against foe.

(Arm) - symbol - strong armed to defend and accomplish his purpose.

Verse 11 - (Shepherd) *leading his sheep -* tenderness - care for weak - arms - gentle. Mother, child, Precious lesson.

Verse 12 - Unlimited Power - Majesty.

Who is like him as God?

- Measurers:
- The hollow of His hand.
 - Meted out Heaven with the span.
 - Measure dust of earth.
 - Weighed mountains in scales.
 - And Hills in a balance.

SOLAR SYSTEM - Dr. H. W. Schwetzer
Present telescope see over Sextillion miles -
(1 followed by 21 zeroes).
Number of stars in our galaxy is 100 Billion.
Distance across our galaxy is 500
Quadrillion miles (5 followed by 17 zeroes).
Total Number Stars now visible 100
Septillion (1 followed by 23 zeroes).
Figure Stagger your imagination -

God who does this can surely heal your broken heart!

Man's hand can cover a few inches but God measures the waters of the earth.

Verse 13-14 *Lord of Creation -* Founder of the Earth - Spirit moved on water. (Did anyone aid him?)

Or (instruct) him in right path? Who (taught) him knowledge? Who gave him understanding?

Who (trained) him as you teach a child?

Verse 15 *Compare with God, The Nations - Babylon* Drop of a bucket - last small particle on the rim, hangs on while bucket comes from the well. *dot - crumb - trifle - atom - fraction - littlemas -*

(Fleck) of Dust - weighs nothing on scale.

(Isle) as something small - little thing.

God so great - man needs to settle up with God.

Verse 16. How are you to worship this sovereign God? Whole forest of Lebanon would not be enough wood on the altar.

All the clean beast of that tract of forest not sufficient sacrifice on the altar.

Man's boastful powers nothing -- all fall short.

Verse 17 All the Nations of the earth put together "Less than nothing".

Impossible.

1. Conceive of God.
2. Conceive of less than nothing.

III. Supremacy - V. 18-31.

Are there other gods?

Verse 18 - Challenge -- (To whom then will ye liken God?)

Incomparable - people making themselves gods.

Verse 19 - Finest - Costliest idol cannot represent God.

Verse 20 - Poorer man gets block of wood -- cannot afford stone or silver --

"Chooseth a tree" - to make a god.

Secret idols.

"The dearest idol I have known
whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from Thy throne,
And worship only Thee".

Verse (21) - Searching Questions.

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Have you not understood?

Can you not see - discern - reason out!

Sin against light - Rom.1:23.

Verse (22) - (Sits Above) Vault that encircles the earth. Upon the circle - undisturbed.

Isaiah 2600 years ago and 2300 years before man found it out declared the world is round. Science is a long ways behind the Bible.

Moses wrote Gen. 1:9. Let waters be gathered together -- How did he know waters were in one place. How did Isaiah know the world was round?

Man like a grasshopper - less instinct than any other creature - folly.

Spreads out the Heavens like drawing a curtain.

Verse (23) - Brings (Princes) to nothing. (Judges) great authority - make nothing of those about them.

He will blast them.

Verse (24) - (Not Be) - Past tense - Meaning princes and judges of earth are not fixed in their places - have no firm root in the soil - easy to overturn.

Sea weed - no root - blown about.

Verse (25) - Repeats - Verse (18).

Will you dare liken me unto a hand made idol?

Verse (26) - Answer - lift up your eyes.

A. Origin of the Universe. Col. 1:16-17.

B. How the universe is sustained.

Appeal - "Let the Heavens declare the glory of God; let the firmament show his handiwork".

Look up and see - perfect order - heavens his might and strength - where can find one.

Verse (27) - Turns To Jacob.

Reproves people of God for unbelief.

Care of his people.

Verse (28) - Six things known of God.

1. Everlasting God.
2. The Lord.
3. Creator.
4. Fainteth not.
5. Neither is weary.
6. No searching of his understanding.

[R. A. Bertram] Things of which God is weary.

- ✓1. Obstinacy of sinners.
- ✓2. Backsliding of His professing people.
- ✓3. Heedless praises and hypocritical prayers.
- ✓4. Our cruelty of each other.

Not weary of caring for his people.

Not weary of hearing prayer.

Not weary of punishing sin.

Not weary of pardoning sinners.

Verse (29) - Power to bring about salvation.

Verse (30) - All that trust in own strength tire out.

Verse (31) - Use of Grace.

3 Ages - Stager

Flying - Running - Walking

Youth - Middle Age - Old Age

(Life of Wings)

1. Pure air - bouyancy. *Repower - Recharge*

Not matter circumstances.

Seek things above.

2. Untroubled quiet.

3. Clear and wide vision —

4. Rare landscape.

unclouded sunshine.

*Edward Bok tells story, of Indian
braver - climbing Mt. one single effort.
He left before Day Break.*

1st branch of spruce, (mid AM)

2nd. Twig of pine (Noon)

3rd. alpine shrub. (mid afternoon)

*4th - light of moon - exhausted - what did
you bring?*

*Sir: where I went no spruce or pine to
shelter me from sun -*

No flowers to cheer me on way -

only rocks & snow -

My feet are torn -

But I saw The sea -

immensity, limitless, glory -

*"And,
The Lord will draw all men into me."*

Dr. C. Oscar Johnson sermon -

"We have a lift"

*He began relating arrival ship into
Bremer Germany -*

*Busse various Hotels transport -
only one Hotel had an elevator*

which they called a "lift" -

*Sign written German windmill but
read "we have a lift" -*

words referred ^{little} Christ cross

Home - school Dominus "we had a lift" -

*each time repeated just as if lifted a
off the pent -*

A saviour ^{lift} out

Gives strength adequate for your needs! No more or less

He does not chain ^{hooked} to the ground -

A CALL TO COMFORT GOD'S PEOPLE

ISAIAH 40:1-20

- I. God's Call to _____ (vv. 1-11)
- A. A call to _____ God's people who have been chastened for their sin (vv. 1-2)
- B. A _____ for God's people to prepare for the revelation of the glory of God (vv. 3-5)
- C. A _____ of the mortality of God's people to the abiding presence of God as seen in His word (vv. 6-8)
- D. A _____ of good news (vv. 9-11)
1. God is _____ (v.10).
2. God is _____ (v. 11).
- II. God's Claim to _____ (vv. 12-31)
- A. God's _____ (v. 12)
- B. God's _____ (vv. 13-14)
- C. God's _____ (vv. 15-16)
- D. God's _____ (vv. 18-28)

APPLICATION: All who _____ in expectant faith receive His strength to live as He desires.

A CALL TO COMFORT GOD'S PEOPLE

ISAIAH 40:1-20

I. God's Call to Confess to the people who have been chastened for (vv. 1-11)

A. A call to Confess God's people who have been chastened for their sin (vv. 1-2)

B. A Challenge for God's people to prepare for the revelation of the glory of God (vv. 3-5)

C. A Contrast of the mortality of God's people to the abiding presence of God as seen in His word (vv. 6-8)

D. A Claim of good news (vv. 9-11)

1. God is Mighty Ruler (v.10).

2. God is Gentle Shepherd (v. 11).

II. God's Claim to Supremacy (vv. 12-31)

A. God's Creativity (v. 12)

B. God's Wisdom (vv. 13-14)

C. God's Greatness (vv. 15-16)

D. God's Irresistible Power (vv. 18-28)

APPLICATION: All who wait for the Lord in expectant faith receive His strength to live as He desires. v.11