

WEEK #20

Isaiah 40 - Comfort





Isaiah by Mail

A Bible Study Born in the Midst of
Covid

Monday, October 20, 2020

Hi Everyone!

Merry Christmas!!!

The questions you are going
work on this week, from Isaiah
Chapter 40, are all about
Christmas! All about the First

Coming of Jesus Christ into our wonderful, damaged world.

We're going to look at some verses which help us think about the amazing future God has planned for all who believe in Him, and we're going to talk about how we can know that once we have believed in Him we don't have to just "hope" we make it to heaven – we can know for sure today that the One we have believed in can and will get us all the way home.

I'm praying for all of you, that no matter what your plans are for December 25th this year, you will be awestruck for these next few weeks at the wonderful Christmas plans the Lord made for you in the coming chapters in Isaiah. Over 2,500 years ago the Lord gave Isaiah the words in Chapters 40-66 to comfort your heart over and over and over again. I guarantee you will be filled with joy and peace as you read and study the remaining chapters of Isaiah in the next 10 weeks leading up to Christmas!



Kathleen

Isaiah 40 Comfort Questions

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:1

“Comfort, yes comfort my people!” Says your God.”

Hezekiah failed his God in chapter 39. But his God will not fail him....

1. Have you ever feared that you might lose your salvation? What happened to give you assurance? Or....Do you still struggle with that?
2. :1 Isaiah starts out this chapter with the main theme of the chapter. What is it?
3. :2 Why did the people of Israel need comfort? What do you think it means that Israel had received “double” for her sins?

If we will look at the first 11 verses of this chapter as a sort of “picture” of the First Coming of Jesus we will see a step-by-step drama:

4. :3-5 What is the first thing that was going to happen in order for payment to be made for Israel’s sins?
5. :6-8 What (or Who?) was going to appear in order to pay for Israel’s sins?
6. :9 Who is this “Word of God”?

7. :10 What does this “Word of God” do?

8. :11 What does the “Word of God” do after He has paid the price for Israel’s sin?

9. :12-26 For those who doubt Jesus, your Shepherd, can keep you saved....do you really not believe God will keep loving you and keep you safe? Make a list from these verses of what your God is like:

- 10.:27&28 This message is not just for us in the church age– who else is it for?

- 11.:29 When it is hard to believe, remember:
 - a.
 - b.

- 12.:31 So what’s the only thing left for you to do?

APPLICATION:

- 13.All the way from the beginning of time, what has been the only way to be saved and to stay saved?

Isaiah 40 Comfort

Kathleen's Answers and Comments

Memory Verse: Isaiah 40:1
“Comfort, yes comfort my people!” Says your God.”

Chapter 40 is a dividing line in Isaiah's prophecies.

In Chapters 1 – 39 Isaiah is preaching and prophesying to the Israelites of his own day – during the time when their enemy, the Assyrians, are attacking and pressuring down on them. We saw, in Chapters 36 & 37, the Assyrian army come all the way to the door of Jerusalem, only to be stopped and turned back by the Lord.

But now, with Chapter 40, Isaiah's preaching and prophesying is forecasting way off into the future – for things which would happen after Isaiah's day:

- First, Babylon, a tiny unimportant nation in Isaiah's day, would grow huge and strong and would conquer Judah, carrying away the Jews into exile.
- 70 years after that exile, another nation would conquer Babylon, led by a man named Cyrus, and the Jews would miraculously be allowed to return to Jerusalem.
- Many years later, the Messiah of Israel would finally appear, not as a King who puts Israel back on the map, but as a Suffering Servant who would die on a Roman cross.
- That same Suffering Servant, dead in a tomb, would rise from the dead!

(We live in the time between the Suffering Servant rising from the dead, and the return of the King.)

- And some time after that, that suffering servant, who is undeniably the One, True God and King, will return and bring into existence a reign of righteousness which will last forever.

All of the above bullet points, Isaiah preaches and prophecies in Chapter 40 through Chapter 66.

So Chapter 40 sets the stage for the long-term future of Israel, and the long-term future of the Messiah, and the long-term future of the church. This whole beautiful chapter speaks to me of the never-ending love of God for the people who belong to Him, and the never-failing power of God to keep those people safely in His arms, no matter what.

1. Have you ever feared that you might lose your salvation? What happened to give you assurance? Or....Do you still struggle with that?

If you still struggle with fear of losing your salvation, I am hoping this chapter will plant your feet firmly on the solid rock of God's unfailing ability to "keep you saved."

2. :1 Isaiah starts out this chapter with the main theme of the chapter. What is it?

Comfort. Chapter 40 begins with words of comfort...because the future God has planned is comfort! And the Lord knows how to keep us safely in His arms until the future arrives.

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (Jesus speaking) *John 10:28&29*

3. :2 Why did the people of Israel need comfort? What do you think it means that Israel had received "double" for her sins?

Israel had sinned much and often. They had suffered much and often. They needed a Savior to come and take away their sins and their suffering...but sins cannot simply be swept under the rug. This Savior had to come and pay for their sins.

If we will look at the first 11 verses of this chapter as a sort of "picture" of the First Coming of Jesus we will see a step-by-step drama:

- The suffering people of Israel, under the thumb of yet another nation, who are groaning in their need of a Savior to rescue them from the sin and sickness of their world. They desperately need comfort.
- The "Herald" of His First Coming – John the Baptist
- The glorious Coming of the "Word of God" – Jesus as a baby, and then as a grown man.
- The bold and outrageous statement that this Jesus is God Himself!
- The promise that Jesus will be the Shepherd of all who believe in Him.

4. :3-5 What is the first thing that was going to happen in order for payment to be made for Israel's sins?

First, a messenger will come to announce the Coming of the Messiah. John the Baptist. *John 1:19-28*

5. :6-8 What (or Who?) was going to appear in order to pay for Israel's sins?

The Word of God had to come. That's who Jesus is. The Word of God. The very expression of God. *John 1:1*

6. :9 Who is this “Word of God”?

Jesus, born as a baby with real flesh and blood, and growing up into manhood, a real person and also God at the same time. That’s the Word of God. *John 1:14*

7. :10 What does this “Word of God” do?

He comes with hands which touch the sick and heals them. He comes to do the miracles that God has set out for Him to do. He comes to die on the cross and rise from the dead. *Matthew 20:17-19*

8. :11 What does the “Word of God” do after He has paid the price for Israel’s sin?

He will be their Shepherd and tenderly protect and take care of them. *John 10:11-16*

9. :12-26 For those who doubt Jesus, your Shepherd, can keep you saved....do you really not believe God will keep loving you and keep you safe? Make a list here of what your God is like:

When you read verses 12-26 you can’t help but smile at your puny little unbelief. Seriously, He knows the weight of the mountains, and measured out the amount of water in the ocean in the palm of His hand! All the nations of the world are like a drop in a bucket compared to how huge He is! There isn’t enough wood in all the forests of the world to make an offering to Him! The inhabitants of the earth are like grasshoppers in His sight. The rulers of this world could be snuffed out in a minute if He chose to do it. He has named every star and planet He created!

This One, so mighty and huge...can you really think He would let you be snatched out of His hand once you believe in Him? *John 10:28&29 Ephesians 2:8&9, Galatians 2:21*

10.:27&28 This message is not just for us in the church age– who else is it for?

Israel. Someday Israel as a nation will come to belief in the Messiah they rejected 2,000 years ago. He will be there, welcoming them with open arms.

11.:29 & 30 When it is hard to believe, remember:

- a. Our salvation – our future - was never dependent on our own strength, and never will be.

- b. He will even give us the strength to believe, to trust Him, when we just don't have the strength to do it ourselves. Just ask Him.

12.:31 So what's the only thing left for you to do?

The word "wait" here doesn't mean just watching the clock and hoping for the best. It means putting your full weight down right where you are and trusting Him to provide all you need, including the strength to believe, until He comes to get you! *Psalms 142:5-7*

APPLICATION:

13. All the way from the beginning of time, what has been the only way to be saved and to stay saved?

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" John 3:16

"Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God..." 1st John 5:1

"And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand." (Jesus speaking) John 10:28&29

"Comfort, yes comfort my people!" Says your God." Isaiah 40:1