

{23} Isaiah

King James Version

King James Paraphrase

Chapter 40

(1) Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.
 (2) Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.
 (3) The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
 (4) Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:
 (5) And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see *it* together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken *it*.
 (6) The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all the goodliness thereof *is* as the flower of the field:
 (7) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people *is* grass.
 (8) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Chapter 40

(1) Comfort yourselves, comfort yourselves My people, says your God.
 (2) Speak comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry to her, that her warfare is completed, that her sin is pardoned: because she has received of the LORD's {Jehovah's} hand double for all her sins.
 (3) The voice of him who cries in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the LORD {Jehovah}, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.^a
 (4) Every valley will be exalted, and every mountain and hill will be made low: and the crooked will be made straight, and the rough places plain:
 (5) And the glory of the LORD {Jehovah} will be revealed, and all flesh will see *it* together: because the mouth of the LORD {Jehovah} has spoken *it*.
 (6) The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh *is* grass, and all its goodness *is* as the flower of the field:
 (7) The grass withers, the flower fades: because the Spirit of the LORD {Jehovah} blows upon it: surely the people *are* grass.
 (8) The grass withers, the flower fades: but the word of our God will stand forever.

40:3a – Mat. 3:3; Mk. 1:3; Lk. 3:4; Jn. 1:23

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(9) O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift *it* up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
(10) Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong *hand*, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward *is* with him, and his work before him.
(11) He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry *them* in his bosom, *and* shall gently lead those that are with young.
(12) Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?
(13) Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* his counsellor hath taught him?
(14) With whom took he counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?
(15) Behold, the nations *are* as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

(9) O Zion, that brings good news, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that brings good news lift up your voice with strength; lift *it* up, do not be afraid; say to the cities of Judah, Look, your God!
(10) Indeed, the Lord GOD {Jehovah} will come with strong *hand*, and His arm will rule for Him: indeed, His reward *is* with Him, and His work before him.
(11) He will feed His flock like a shepherd: He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry *them* in His bosom, *and* will gently lead those who are with young.
(12) Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and measured out heaven with the span, and weighed the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?
(13) Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *being* His counselor has taught Him?
(14) With whom did He take counsel, and *who* instructed Him, and taught Him in the path of judgment, and taught Him knowledge, and showed to Him the way of understanding?
(15) Indeed, the nations *are* as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: indeed, He takes up the islands as a very little thing.

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(16) And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.
(17) All nations before him *are* as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.
(18) To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?
(19) The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.
(20) He that *is* so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree *that* will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, *that* shall not be moved.
(21) Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth?
(22) *It is* he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof *are* as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:
(23) That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the judges of the earth as vanity.

(16) And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering.
(17) All nations before Him *are* as nothing; and they are counted to Him less than nothing, and vanity.
(18) To whom then will you compare God? or to what likeness will you compare to Him?
(19) The workman melts a graven image, and the goldsmith over lays it over with gold, and casts silver chains.
(20) He who *is* so impoverished that he has no offering chooses a tree *that* will not rot; he seeks for himself a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, *that* will not be moved.
(21) Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
(22) *It is* He Who sits upon the circle {sphere}^b of the earth, and those who live in it *are* as grasshoppers; Who stretches out the heavens as a curtain, and spreads them out as a tent to live in:
(23) Who brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth as vanity.

40:22b - circle - chug {גִּוּג} - sphere - see Pro. 8:27; Job 22:14

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(24) Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.
(25) To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.
(26) Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these *things*, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that *he is* strong in power; not one faileth.
(27) Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?
(28) Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of his understanding.
(29) He giveth power to the faint; and to *them that have* no might he increaseth strength.
(30) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:
(31) But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

(24) Indeed, they will not be planted; yes, they will not be sown: yes, their stock will not take root in the earth: and He will also blow upon them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away as stubble.
(25) To whom then will you compare Me, or will I be equal? says the Holy One.
(26) Lift up your eyes on high, and see Who has created these *things*, Who brings out their host by number: He calls them all by names by the greatness of His might, because *He is* strong in power; not one fails.
(27) Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, My way is hidden from the LORD {Jehovah}, and my judgment is passed over from my God?
(28) Have you not known? have you not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD {Jehovah}, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint, neither is weary? *there is* no searching of His understanding.
(29) He gives power to the faint; and to *those who have* no might He increases strength.
(30) Even the youths will faint and be weary, and the young men will completely fall:
(31) But those who wait upon the LORD {Jehovah} will renew *their* strength; they will mount up with wings as eagles; they will run, and not be weary; *and* they will walk, and not faint.