

1 **THE VOICE**

ISAIAH 40:1-5

2 **ISAIAH 40:1-5**

"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. ² "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." ³ The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare 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 brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; ⁵ The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

3 **Isaiah 40:6-8**

▶⁶ *The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever."*

4 **THE VOICE OF COMFORT**

▶v. 1: *"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" Says your God. ² "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her."*

5 **THEIR NEED OF COMFORT**

▶Isaiah 39:5-7 : *Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah, "Hear the word of the LORD of hosts: ⁶ 'Behold, the days are coming when all that is in your house, and what your fathers have accumulated until this day, shall be carried to Babylon; nothing shall be left,' says the LORD. ⁷ 'And they shall take away some of your sons who will descend from you, whom you will beget; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.' "*

6 **Their Response – Shock – Disbelief**

- ▶What about God's Promises?
 - ▶They would be a great nation.
 - ▶Their descendants like stars in the sky in number.
- ▶What about God's Covenant?
- ▶What about the Promised Land?

7 **The Reality**

- ▶The Prophecy
- ▶The Fulfillment
- ▶Was the Israelites sin more than God could handle? Had Yahweh abandoned His people?

8 **Israel's Question:**

- ▶Has God abandoned us?
- ▶Isaiah 40 answers three questions:

- ▶ Does God *want* to deliver us?
- ▶ *Can* He deliver us?
- ▶ *Will* He deliver us?
- ▶ GOD'S EMPHATIC ANSWER – Isaiah 40:1

9 **The God of All Comfort**

- ▶ Psalm 23:4: *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."*

10 **The God of All Comfort**

- ▶ 2 Corinthians 1:3-4: *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*



11 **THE VOICE OF PARDON**

- ▶ Israel's Need for Pardon
 - ▶ Covenant Breakers
 - ▶ Worship of foreign gods
 - ▶ Law Breakers
- ▶ God's Declaration of Pardon for Israel: v. 2: *"That her iniquity is pardoned;"*

12 **God's Declaration**

- ▶ Isaiah 1:18: *"Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool."*
- ▶ Isaiah 55:7: *"Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."*

13 **God's Picture of Pardon**

- ▶ v. 2: *"For she has received from the Lord's hand Double for all her sins."*
- ▶ Does this mean that God made them pay for their sins twice? No, God doesn't just keep punishing us over and over for our sin. God is consistent. So what does this mean?
- ▶ An Eastern Custom

14 **Our Need for Pardon**

- ▶ Romans 3:23: *"... for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
- ▶ Romans 6:23a: *"The wages of sin is death."*
- ▶ James 2:10: *"For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all."*

15 **God's Declaration of Our Pardon**

- ▶ Colossians 2:13-14: *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

16 **God's Declaration**

- ▶ Psalm 32:1: *"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, Whose sin is covered."*
- ▶ Acts 13:38-39: *"Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins; 39 and by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from*

which you could not be justified by the law of Moses."

17 **God's Declaration**

Hebrews 8:10-12: *"For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 11 None of them shall teach his neighbor, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. 12 For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."*

18 **THE VOICE OF PREPARATION**

▶ The Design of the Architect, vv. 3-4:

▶ *"Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.*

▶ *⁴ Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low;*

▶ *The crooked places shall be made straight*

▶ *And the rough places smooth."*

19 **The Preparation for the Messiah**

▶ The Roman Empire

▶ The Greek Language

20 **The Voice of the Messenger**

▶ The Man – John the Baptist

▶ The Message – "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

▶ The Ministry – John 1:29: *"Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."*