

CRAWFORD BIBLE COMMENTARY

BIBLE STUDY

Isaiah Chapter 40 — Comfort for God’s People

A Verse-by-Verse Bible Study from the Crawford Standard Bible

Introduction

Isaiah Chapter 40 marks one of the great turning points in the book of Isaiah.

Isaiah 39 ended with:

Babylon.

Exile.

Loss.

Future judgment.

Isaiah 40 opens with:

Comfort.

The very first words are:

“Comfort, comfort My people.”

That repeated word sets the tone.

God’s people will experience:

Discipline.

Exile.

Weariness.

Fear.

But judgment will not have:

The final word.

The Lord speaks of:

Forgiveness.

Restoration.

Preparation.

Revelation.

The enduring Word.

The coming of God.

His shepherd care.

His incomparable greatness.

His power over nations.

His rule over kings.

His knowledge of the stars.

His strength for the weary.

The chapter moves from:

A hurting people.

To:

A glorious God.

That movement matters.

Israel's problem is not merely:

Exile.

Its deeper problem is that suffering has distorted how the people see:

God.

They begin to think:

My way is hidden.

My cause is forgotten.

God does not see.

God does not care.

Isaiah answers that despair by reminding them:

Who God is.

He is:

Everlasting.

Creator.

Never weary.

Unsearchable in understanding.

The One who gives strength.

The One who calls every star by name.

The One before whom nations are like:

A drop in a bucket.

Dust on scales.

The One to whom no idol can compare.

The One who rules kings.

The One whose Word stands forever.

The chapter also contains one of the clearest prophetic connections to:

John the Baptist.

The voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord.”

The New Testament applies this directly to:

John.

His ministry prepared people for:

Jesus Christ.

This means Isaiah’s comfort is ultimately connected with:

The coming of the Lord.

God does not merely send:

A message.

He comes.

And when He comes, He is pictured in two remarkable ways.

First:

Powerful King.

Second:

Tender Shepherd.

Verse 10:

“The Lord God comes with power.”

Verse 11:

“He will feed His flock like a shepherd.”

The same God who rules:

Nations.

Carries:

Lambs.

The same arm that exercises:

Power.

Also gathers the weak:

Close to His heart.

The chapter then exposes:

Idolatry.

How can anyone compare God to:

Metal.

Wood.

Craftsmanship.

An object that must be made.

An object that must be stabilized so it does not:

Topple.

The Creator needs:

No support.

Then the final verses bring the message personally home.

Even:

Young people.

Strong people.

Healthy people.

Grow tired.

But:

God does not.

Therefore the hope of the believer is not:

Human stamina.

It is:

Divine strength.

The great promise comes:

“Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.”

They will:

Soar.

Run.

Walk.

Not because they become:

Naturally inexhaustible.

But because they continually draw strength from:

The everlasting God.

The central truth of Isaiah 40 is:

God comforts His disciplined people by announcing pardon and restoration, preparing the way for the revelation of His glory, contrasting frail humanity with His eternal Word, revealing Himself as both mighty King and tender Shepherd, exposing the emptiness of idols, and promising renewed strength to all who wait upon the everlasting Creator.

I. “COMFORT, COMFORT MY PEOPLE”

Isaiah 40:1 — The God Who Still Calls Them His People

“‘Comfort, comfort My people,’ says your God.”

Notice the relationship.

After:

Discipline.

Warning.

Coming exile.

God still says:

“My people.”

And:

“Your God.”

Judgment has not erased:

Covenant relationship.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 1:4

God comforts His people in trouble so that they can become instruments of comfort to others.

Isaiah 61:2

God’s saving work includes comfort for those who mourn and hope for those crushed by grief.

Psalms 85:8

The psalmist listens for God’s message because the Lord speaks peace to His people when they return faithfully to Him.

Spiritual Principle

God’s discipline does not mean:

God has stopped loving His people.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who corrects His people is still the God who says:

“They are Mine.”

II. SPEAK TENDERLY TO JERUSALEM

Isaiah 40:2 — Hard Service Finished

“Speak kindly to Jerusalem, and tell her that her hard service is finished, her sins are forgiven, and she has received from the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

The message is:

Tender.

Personal.

Restorative.

Three announcements appear:

Hard service:

Finished.

Sin:

Forgiven.

Discipline:

Completed.

The language of “double” should be understood as emphasizing:

Full measure.

Complete dealing.

Not as though God punished unjustly beyond what was deserved.

Cross References

Lamentations 4:22

Jerusalem is told that her punishment will not continue indefinitely and that exile will come to an end.

Isaiah 61:7

Instead of shame, God’s people will receive abundant restoration and lasting joy.

Romans 5:1

Those justified by faith have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Spiritual Principle

God’s comfort is rooted in:

Sin dealt with.

Not merely feelings improved.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

True comfort goes deeper than circumstances.

It begins where guilt is answered.

III. PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD

Isaiah 40:3 — The Voice in the Wilderness

“A voice cries out: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.’”

Ancient kings were often preceded by:

Road preparation.

Isaiah uses this imagery for:

The coming Lord.

The New Testament directly identifies this voice with:

John the Baptist.

John prepared people by calling them to:

Repentance.

Readiness.

Faith.

Cross References

Matthew 3:3

Matthew identifies John the Baptist as the voice Isaiah foretold, preparing the way for the Lord.

Mark 1:3

Mark applies this prophecy to John’s ministry announcing and preparing for the coming of Jesus.

John 1:23

John the Baptist personally identifies himself as the voice crying in the wilderness to make straight the Lord’s way.

Spiritual Principle

The way of the Lord is prepared in:

Repentant hearts.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Before the King’s glory is welcomed, the road of the heart must be made ready.

IV. VALLEYS LIFTED, MOUNTAINS LOWERED

Isaiah 40:4 — Every Obstacle Removed

“Every valley shall be lifted up, every mountain and hill made low; the crooked places will be made straight, and the rough ground smooth.”

The imagery is:

Road-building.

Obstacles removed.

Low places raised.

High places lowered.

Crooked places straightened.

Rough places smoothed.

Cross References

Luke 3:5

Luke quotes Isaiah’s imagery when describing the preparation for the Messiah’s coming.

Isaiah 45:2

God promises to go before His servant, flatten obstacles, and break barriers.

Zechariah 4:7

A great mountain becomes level ground before God’s appointed work.

Spiritual Principle

God can remove:

What appears impassable.

V. THE GLORY OF THE LORD WILL BE REVEALED

Isaiah 40:5 — All Flesh Will See

“The glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

The certainty rests on:
God's mouth.
Not human probability.

Cross References

Luke 3:6

Luke continues Isaiah's prophecy by declaring that all flesh will see God's salvation.

Habakkuk 2:14

The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord's glory as waters cover the sea.

Numbers 14:21

God swears that His glory will ultimately fill the earth.

Spiritual Principle

God's glory is not:
Permanent hiddenness.
It will be:
Revealed.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God speaks, fulfillment does not depend upon human permission.

VI. HUMANITY IS LIKE GRASS

Isaiah 40:6 — Human Beauty Fades

“A voice said, ‘Cry out!’ And I asked, ‘What shall I cry?’ ‘All people are like grass, and all their beauty is like the flowers of the field.’”

Human life is:
Real.
Beautiful.
Fragile.
Temporary.

Cross References

1 Peter 1:24

Peter quotes this passage to emphasize the temporary nature of human glory compared with God's enduring Word.

Psalms 90:6

Human life is compared to grass that flourishes briefly and then fades.

James 1:10

Human prosperity and status are compared to a flower that passes away.

Spiritual Principle

Human glory has:

An expiration date.

VII. THE FLOWER FADES

Isaiah 40:7 — Human Frailty Before God

**“The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.”**

Isaiah repeats the point because:

People forget it.

Strength.

Beauty.

Youth.

Power.

All fade.

Cross References

Psalms 103:15

Human days are like grass and flowers flourishing briefly in the field.

James 1:11

The rising sun scorches the flower, and its beauty disappears, illustrating human frailty.

Job 14:2

Humanity blooms like a flower and quickly withers.

Spiritual Principle

Mortality should produce:

Humility.

VIII. GOD’S WORD STANDS FOREVER

Isaiah 40:8 — The Great Contrast

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.”

People:

Fade.

God’s Word:

Stands.

Empires:

Pass.

God’s promise:

Remains.

Cross References

1 Peter 1:25

Peter quotes Isaiah and declares that the Word of the Lord remains forever.

Matthew 24:35

Jesus says heaven and earth will pass away, but His words will never pass away.

Psalms 119:89

God’s Word stands forever, established in heaven.

Spiritual Principle

Build your life on:

What survives you.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Everything human eventually withers.

The Word of God does not.

IX. “BEHOLD YOUR GOD!”

Isaiah 40:9 — Good News from Zion

“O Zion, messenger of good news, go up on a high mountain. O Jerusalem, bringer of good news, lift up your voice with strength; lift it up, do not be afraid. Say to the towns of Judah, ‘Behold your God!’”

The message is not merely:

Better circumstances are coming.

It is:

“Behold your God!”

Cross References

Isaiah 52:7

The messenger bringing good news announces peace, salvation, and the reign of God.

Nahum 1:15

The arrival of good news is celebrated because oppression is being broken.

Romans 10:15

Paul quotes prophetic good-news imagery in connection with those who proclaim the gospel.

Spiritual Principle

The greatest good news is:

God Himself.

X. THE LORD COMES WITH POWER

Isaiah 40:10 — The Mighty Arm

“See, the Lord God comes with power, and He rules with a mighty arm. His reward is with Him, and His recompense goes before Him.”

The coming Lord is:

King.

Judge.

Ruler.

Cross References

Revelation 22:12

Christ declares that He is coming with recompense to repay according to deeds.

Isaiah 62:11

Zion is told that her salvation comes and that the Lord's reward accompanies Him.

Psalms 62:12

The Lord possesses steadfast love and repays people according to their deeds.

Spiritual Principle

God's coming brings both:

Reward.

Justice.

XI. THE MIGHTY KING IS ALSO THE SHEPHERD

Isaiah 40:11 — Lambs in His Arms

“He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs in His arms, carry them close to His heart, and gently lead those that are with young.”

What a contrast.

Verse 10:

Mighty arm.

Verse 11:

Tender arms.

The same God who rules nations:

Carries lambs.

Cross References

John 10:11

Jesus identifies Himself as the Good Shepherd who gives His life for the sheep.

Ezekiel 34:23

God promises one shepherd from David's line who will care for His people.

Psalm 23:1

The Lord is the Shepherd who provides, leads, protects, and restores.

Spiritual Principle

God's strength does not make Him:

Harsh.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The arm strong enough to rule the universe is gentle enough to carry a lamb.

XII. GOD HOLDS THE WATERS IN HIS HAND

Isaiah 40:12 — Creation Displays His Greatness

“Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, or marked off the heavens with the span of His hand? Who has weighed the mountains on scales, and the hills in a balance?”

Isaiah stretches human imagination.

Oceans:

In His hand.

Heavens:

Measured.

Mountains:

Weighed.

Cross References

Job 38:4

God asks Job where he was when the foundations of the earth were laid.

Proverbs 30:4

The question is asked who has gathered wind, bound waters, and established the earth.

Job 26:10

God establishes boundaries and order over the created world.

Spiritual Principle

Creation is enormous to us.

It is not enormous to:

God.

XIII. NO ONE COUNSELS THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD

Isaiah 40:13 — God Needs No Adviser

“Who can measure the Spirit of the Lord, or who has been His counselor?”

The implied answer:

No one.

Cross References

Romans 11:34

Paul quotes this verse while celebrating God’s unsearchable wisdom.

1 Corinthians 2:16

No one possesses the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him, though believers receive spiritual understanding through Christ.

Job 15:8

No human has access to God’s council in a way that makes him God’s teacher.

Spiritual Principle

God does not need:

Advice.

XIV. WHO TAUGHT GOD?

Isaiah 40:14 — Divine Wisdom Is Self-Sufficient

“With whom did He consult to gain understanding? Who taught Him the right way, or showed Him knowledge, or gave Him understanding?”

Again:

No one.

God never:

Learns.

Improves.

Receives correction.

Cross References

Job 21:22

No one can teach knowledge to God, who judges the highest beings.

Jeremiah 23:18

Humans are challenged regarding who truly stands in the Lord's council and hears His Word.

1 Corinthians 1:25

Even what humans might foolishly regard as God's weakness is stronger than human strength and His wisdom exceeds human wisdom.

Spiritual Principle

God never faces a situation and says:

"I did not think of that."

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You can trust God's wisdom even when you cannot understand His plan.

XV. NATIONS ARE LIKE A DROP

Isaiah 40:15 — Human Greatness Reduced

**"Look, the nations are like a drop in a bucket, and are regarded as dust on the scales.
He lifts up the islands like fine dust."**

Nations feel:

Huge.

Powerful.

Permanent.

Before God:

A drop.

Dust.

Cross References

Psalms 62:9

Humanity, whether low or high, is ultimately lighter than breath when weighed apart from God.

Micah 7:16

Nations will be humbled and silenced before God's saving power.

Job 26:14

Even the mighty works humanity observes are only the outer edges of God's ways.

Spiritual Principle

Do not fear a nation as though it were:

God-sized.

XVI. LEBANON CANNOT PROVIDE ENOUGH

Isaiah 40:16 — God's Worth Exceeds Every Offering

"Lebanon is not sufficient for firewood, nor are its animals enough for a burnt offering."

Lebanon was known for:

Forests.

Wildlife.

Yet even all of it would be:

Insufficient.

To match:

God's greatness.

Cross References

Psalms 50:10

Every animal belongs already to God.

Malachi 1:10

God rejects empty offerings and calls for worship that truly honors His name.

Micah 6:7

No quantity of sacrifice can purchase righteousness or equal God's moral demands.

Spiritual Principle

God cannot be:

Bought.

XVII. ALL NATIONS ARE NOTHING BEFORE HIM

Isaiah 40:17 — God Alone Is Ultimate

“All the nations are nothing before Him; He regards them as worthless, less than nothing.”

This is not saying human beings have:

No value.

The comparison is about:

Power.

Magnitude.

Sovereignty.

Beside God:

National greatness is:

Nothing.

Cross References**Daniel 4:35**

The inhabitants of earth are as nothing before the sovereign God who acts according to His will.

Psalms 39:5

Human life is brief and insubstantial when compared to God's eternity.

1 Corinthians 1:28

God chooses things regarded as nothing to humble what the world considers significant.

Spiritual Principle

No earthly power belongs in:

God's category.

XVIII. WHO CAN BE COMPARED WITH GOD?

Isaiah 40:18 — The Incomparable One

“To whom, then, will you compare God? What likeness will you set beside Him?”

This question exposes:

Idolatry.

There is:

No adequate comparison.

Cross References

Isaiah 46:5

God asks whom anyone could compare or liken to Him.

Acts 17:29

Paul argues that the divine nature should not be imagined as gold, silver, or stone shaped by human design.

Psalms 89:6

No heavenly or earthly being is comparable to the Lord.

Spiritual Principle

Anything small enough to represent God fully is:

Too small to be God.

XIX. THE IDOL HAS TO BE MADE

Isaiah 40:19 — The Craftsman Creates the “God”

“An idol? A craftsman casts it, a goldsmith overlays it with gold and fashions silver chains for it.”

The irony is deliberate.

The worshiper:

Makes.

The object he then:

Worships.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:12

Isaiah later mocks the craftsman who expends strength to manufacture an idol.

Isaiah 46:6

People pour out wealth, hire craftsmen, and create an image before bowing to it.

Jeremiah 10:9

Idols are decorated with precious metals and made through human craftsmanship.

Spiritual Principle

A created object cannot become:

Creator.

XX. THE IDOL NEEDS HELP TO STAND

Isaiah 40:20 — A God That Must Not Topple

“A poor man selects wood that will not rot, and seeks out a skilled craftsman to set up an idol that will not topple.”

The absurdity is clear.

The idol needs:

Good wood.

Good craftsmanship.

Stable support.

God needs:

None.

Cross References

Isaiah 44:9

Those who make idols produce objects that cannot truly see, know, or save.

Jeremiah 10:3

A craftsman cuts wood and shapes what people later treat as sacred.

Habakkuk 2:18

A carved image teaches lies because its maker trusts something he himself created.

Spiritual Principle

If your god needs you to keep him standing, he cannot keep:

You.

Standing.

XXI. “DO YOU NOT KNOW?”

Isaiah 40:21 — Creation Has Always Testified

**“Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?
Have you not understood since the earth was founded?”**

Isaiah appeals to:

Revelation.

History.

Creation.

The evidence concerning God has not been:

Absent.

Cross References

Isaiah 40:28

The same questions return when Isaiah reminds Israel that the Lord is the everlasting Creator.

Romans 1:20

God’s invisible attributes are made evident through what He has created.

Psalms 19:1

The heavens continually declare God’s glory.

Spiritual Principle

Creation itself argues against:

Idolatry.

XXII. GOD SITS ABOVE THE CIRCLE OF THE EARTH

Isaiah 40:22 — The Enthroned Creator

“He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers. He stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.”

This is poetic imagery of:

Majesty.

Scale.

Sovereignty.

The earth does not:

Contain God.

God rules above:

It.

Cross References

Job 26:7

God stretches out the heavens and suspends the earth according to His power.

Psalms 103:19

The Lord establishes His throne in heaven and His kingdom rules over all.

Numbers 13:33

Grasshopper imagery is used to emphasize overwhelming difference in apparent scale.

Spiritual Principle

Human beings look enormous to one another.

Before the Creator:

We are small.

XXIII. GOD BRINGS PRINCES TO NOTHING

Isaiah 40:23 — Rulers Are Temporary

“He brings princes to nothing and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.”

Kings:

Rise.

Rule.

Fall.

God:

Remains.

Cross References

Psalm 107:40

God humbles princes and causes human greatness to wander in helplessness.

Job 12:21

God pours contempt upon nobles and weakens the strength of the mighty.

Daniel 2:21

God changes times and seasons, removes kings, and establishes kings.

Spiritual Principle

No ruler is:

Permanent.

XXIV. HUMAN POWER WITHERS QUICKLY

Isaiah 40:24 — A Whirlwind Sweeps Them Away

“Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely do they take root in the ground, when He blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like stubble.”

Human rule can appear:

Established.

Yet be:

Brief.

Cross References

Job 14:2

Humanity blossoms and withers like a flower.

Psalms 103:16

The wind passes over the flower and it is gone.

Nahum 1:4

God rebukes waters and causes flourishing places to wither.

Spiritual Principle

Do not confuse:

Recent establishment.

With:

Eternal permanence.

XXV. “WHO IS MY EQUAL?”

Isaiah 40:25 — The Holy One Has No Rival

“To whom will you compare Me? Or who is My equal?” says the Holy One.”

The answer:

No one.

Cross References

Job 40:9

God challenges human beings regarding whether they possess strength or voice comparable to His.

Psalms 71:19

God’s righteousness reaches the heavens, and none can compare with His great works.

Exodus 15:11

Moses asks who among all supposed gods is like the Lord, glorious in holiness and mighty in wonders.

Spiritual Principle

God has:

No equal.

XXVI. LIFT UP YOUR EYES

Isaiah 40:26 — God Names the Stars

“Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created all these? He brings out their starry host one by one and calls them each by name. Because of His great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”

Look:

Up.

The stars testify.

Countless to us.

Named by:

God.

Cross References

Psalms 147:4

God counts the stars and calls them all by name.

Genesis 1:16

God created the heavenly lights, including the stars.

Psalms 8:3

The heavens, moon, and stars display the work of God’s fingers.

Spiritual Principle

The God who knows every star is not likely to have:

Forgotten you.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

If God does not lose one star, do not assume He has lost track of one of His children.

XXVII. “MY WAY IS HIDDEN”

Isaiah 40:27 — Israel’s Complaint

“Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God’?”

This is the emotional center of the chapter.

Israel feels:

Unseen.

Ignored.

Forgotten.

Cross References

Isaiah 49:14

Zion later says the Lord has forsaken and forgotten her.

Job 23:3

Job longs to find God in the midst of suffering and apparent divine silence.

Lamentations 3:44

The sufferer feels as though prayer cannot penetrate the cloud of trouble.

Spiritual Principle

Feeling forgotten is not proof of:

Being forgotten.

XXVIII. THE LORD NEVER GROWS WEARY

Isaiah 40:28 — The Everlasting Creator

“Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not grow tired or weary; His understanding no one can fathom.”

This verse answers:

Verse 27.

Your way is not hidden because:

God never becomes:

Too tired to notice.

Too distracted to care.

Too limited to understand.

Cross References

Psalm 121:4

The One who watches over Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps.

Romans 11:33

God's wisdom and knowledge are immeasurably deep and His ways beyond complete human tracing.

Genesis 21:33

Abraham calls upon the name of the Lord, the everlasting God.

Spiritual Principle

God's strength is:

Inexhaustible.

His understanding:

Unfathomable.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

You may become too tired to understand your situation.

God never does.

XXIX. GOD GIVES STRENGTH TO THE WEARY

Isaiah 40:29 — Strength for the Weak

“He gives strength to the weary and increases power to the weak.”

God does not merely:

Possess strength.

He:

Gives it.

Cross References

2 Corinthians 12:9

God's grace is sufficient, and divine power is displayed most clearly in human weakness.

Psalms 68:35

God gives strength and power to His people.

Ephesians 3:16

Paul prays that believers would be strengthened with power through God's Spirit in the inner person.

Spiritual Principle

Weakness can become:

The place of divine supply.

XXX. EVEN THE YOUNG GROW TIRED

Isaiah 40:30 — Human Strength Has Limits

“Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;”

Isaiah chooses:

Youth.

The symbol of:

Energy.

Strength.

Endurance.

Even they:

Fail.

Cross References

Psalms 89:48

No human being escapes mortality or possesses unlimited strength.

Ecclesiastes 9:11

The race does not always belong to the swift nor victory simply to the strong.

Psalms 90:10

Even a long life is marked by toil, weakness, and rapid passing.

Spiritual Principle

Natural strength eventually reaches:

Its limit.

XXXI. THOSE WHO WAIT ON THE LORD RENEW THEIR STRENGTH

Isaiah 40:31 — Eagles, Running, Walking

“But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.”

This is one of Isaiah’s great promises.

Waiting means:

Trusting.

Hoping.

Depending.

Remaining expectant toward:

God.

The promise is not that believers never:

Feel tired.

It is that divine strength is continually:

Renewed.

Notice the three pictures:

Soar.

Run.

Walk.

Sometimes faith:

Soars.

Sometimes faith:

Runs.

Sometimes the greatest victory is simply:

Keep walking.

Cross References

Psalms 103:5

God renews strength so that His people are pictured with vigor like the eagle.

Lamentations 3:25

The Lord is good to those who wait for Him and seek Him.

Galatians 6:9

Believers are told not to grow weary in doing good because a harvest will come in due time if they do not give up.

Spiritual Principle

Waiting on God is not:

Passive resignation.

It is:

Active dependence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes God gives wings.

Sometimes He gives running strength.

Sometimes He simply gives enough grace to take the next step.

XXXII. TWELVE GREAT LESSONS FROM ISAIAH 40

1. God Comforts His People

Principle:

Judgment is not the final chapter for those whom God redeems.

2. Forgiveness Is Central to Comfort

Principle:

The deepest burden is guilt, and true comfort addresses sin.

3. The Lord Himself Is Coming

Principle:

Salvation is ultimately centered in the presence of God.

4. John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Christ

Principle:

Isaiah's prophecy points directly toward the coming of Jesus.

5. Human Life Is Temporary

Principle:

Grass fades, flowers fall, and human glory passes.

6. God's Word Is Eternal

Principle:

Build upon what does not wither.

7. God Is Both King and Shepherd

Principle:

Infinite power and tender care meet perfectly in Him.

8. God Needs No Counselor

Principle:

His wisdom is original, complete, and perfect.

9. Nations Are Small Before God

Principle:

No empire deserves the fear that belongs only to God.

10. Idols Are Absurd Substitutes

Principle:

The Creator cannot be replaced by something the creature manufactured.

11. God Has Not Forgotten His People

Principle:

Feeling hidden does not mean being unseen.

12. God Renews the Strength of Those Who Wait

Principle:

Human strength fails, but divine supply does not.

XXXIII. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT COMFORT

Comfort is not merely:

Kind words.

It rests on:

Forgiveness.

Restoration.

God's presence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Biblical comfort tells the truth about sin and then tells the greater truth about God's grace.

XXXIV. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT CHRIST

John the Baptist fulfills:

The wilderness voice.

Jesus reveals:

The glory.

Jesus is:

The Shepherd.

The New Testament therefore reads Isaiah 40 as part of the great announcement that:

The Lord has come.

Spiritual Principle

The comfort of Isaiah ultimately moves toward:

Christ.

XXXV. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S WORD

Everything else:

Fades.

The Word:

Stands.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Anchor temporary lives in eternal truth.

XXXVI. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT GOD'S GREATNESS

Waters.

Heavens.

Mountains.

Nations.

Islands.

Stars.

All reveal:

His greatness.

Spiritual Principle

Worship grows when our vision of God:

Expands.

XXXVII. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT IDOLATRY

Idols are:

Made.

Carried.

Supported.

Stabilized.

God:

Makes.

Carries.

Supports.

Sustains.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never worship what depends upon you for existence.

XXXVIII. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT GOVERNMENT

Princes and rulers:

Rise.

Fall.

God remains:

King.

Spiritual Principle

Political power is temporary stewardship, not ultimate sovereignty.

XXXIX. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT WEARINESS

Weariness is not necessarily:

Spiritual failure.

Even youths:

Grow tired.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Being weary means you are human.

Staying disconnected from the Source of strength is the greater danger.

XL. WHAT ISAIAH 40 TEACHES ABOUT WAITING

Waiting means:

Trust.

Expectation.

Dependence.

Patience.

Spiritual Principle

Waiting on God is faith refusing to run ahead without Him.

XLI. THE DOUBLE “COMFORT”

God repeats:

Comfort.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes wounded hearts need the promise repeated.

XLII. “MY PEOPLE”

Even after:

Failure.

God claims:

His people.

Spiritual Principle

Covenant mercy speaks identity before restoration is complete.

XLIII. “YOUR GOD”

Not:

A distant deity.

But:

Your God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Comfort becomes personal when theology becomes relationship.

XLIV. THE WILDERNESS ROAD

The wilderness becomes:

A highway.

Spiritual Principle

God can turn the place of exile into the road of return.

XLV. THE MOUNTAIN MADE LOW

Pride.

Obstacle.

Barrier.

All come under:

God’s leveling work.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

No mountain is too high for the Lord’s arrival.

XLVI. THE VALLEY LIFTED

What is:

Low.

Can be:

Raised.

Spiritual Principle

God's coming transforms both high places and low places.

XLVII. "THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN"

This guarantees:

Fulfillment.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's promise is certain because God's character is reliable.

XLVIII. PEOPLE ARE GRASS

This humbles:

Pride.

Spiritual Principle

We are valuable because God gives value, not because we are permanent.

XLIX. THE FLOWER OF HUMAN GLORY

Beauty:

Fades.

Reputation:

Fades.

Fame:

Fades.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never sacrifice eternal faithfulness to protect temporary applause.

L. THE WORD THAT OUTLIVES US

Generations:

Come.

Go.

Scripture:

Remains.

Spiritual Principle

Read what your grandchildren will still need after you are gone.

LI. THE GOOD NEWS IS “BEHOLD YOUR GOD”

Not:

Behold your prosperity.

Behold your nation.

Behold your strength.

But:

God.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The gospel ultimately points beyond gifts to the Giver.

LII. POWERFUL ARM, TENDER ARMS

Verse 10:

Mighty arm.

Verse 11:

Carries lambs.

Spiritual Principle

God's power and tenderness do not compete.

LIII. THE SHEPHERD CARRIES THE LAMBS

Lambs are:

Weak.

Small.

Vulnerable.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Weakness attracts the Shepherd's care; it does not repel Him.

LIV. GENTLY LEADING THOSE WITH YOUNG

God adjusts:

His pace.

Spiritual Principle

The Shepherd does not drive every sheep at identical speed.

LV. OCEANS IN HIS HAND

What overwhelms us:

Fits in His hand.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never measure God by the size of the thing frightening you.

LVI. NO COUNSELOR

God never attends:

A meeting.

To discover what He should do.

Spiritual Principle

His plan does not improve through outside advice.

LVII. DUST ON THE SCALES

The nations barely move:

The balance.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

What looks enormous on earth can look very small from heaven's perspective.

LVIII. LEBANON IS NOT ENOUGH

All the timber.

All the animals.

Still:

Insufficient.

Spiritual Principle

God's worth exceeds every sacrifice creation could offer.

LIX. THE IDOL OVERLAID WITH GOLD

Expensive:

Does not equal divine.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Cost cannot transform a created thing into God.

LX. THE IDOL THAT MUST NOT TOPPLE

It needs:

Support.

Spiritual Principle

A god that can fall over cannot uphold the universe.

LXI. GOD SITS ENTHRONED

Human rulers sit on:

Temporary thrones.

God sits:

Above the earth.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The ultimate throne never faces an election, invasion, succession crisis, or overthrow.

LXII. PRINCES BECOME NOTHING

Power is:

Brief.

Spiritual Principle

Never fear a temporary ruler more than the eternal King.

LXIII. LIFT UP YOUR EYES

Israel's eyes had fallen toward:

Circumstances.

Isaiah says:

Look up.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Sometimes renewed faith begins with changing where we are looking.

LXIV. HE CALLS THE STARS BY NAME

Billions of lights.

None:

Anonymous to God.

Spiritual Principle

Infinite greatness does not prevent:

Detailed knowledge.

LXV. “NOT ONE IS MISSING”

Stars:

Not missing.

People:

Not forgotten.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The God who tracks the heavens is fully capable of tracking your life.

LXVI. “MY WAY IS HIDDEN”

This is what suffering:

Feels like.

Spiritual Principle

Emotional experience should be acknowledged without being allowed to redefine divine reality.

LXVII. EVERLASTING GOD

He has:

No beginning.

No ending.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Temporary problems exist inside the rule of an eternal God.

LXVIII. CREATOR OF THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

There is no place:

Outside His reach.

Spiritual Principle

Exile cannot take God's people beyond:

God.

LXIX. HE DOES NOT GROW TIRED

God never says:

I am too exhausted to help.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Divine compassion has no fatigue limit.

LXX. HIS UNDERSTANDING CANNOT BE FATHOMED

We cannot:

Fully trace His plan.

Spiritual Principle

Mystery is not the same as:

Mistake.

LXXI. HE GIVES STRENGTH

God's greatness becomes:

Personal.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Creator's power is not merely something to admire.

It is strength He gives.

LXXII. YOUTHS FALL

Natural strength:

Fails.

Spiritual Principle

Youth is an advantage.

Not:

Infinity.

LXXIII. WAITING RENEWS STRENGTH

The Hebrew idea carries the sense of:

Hopeful dependence.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Waiting is where human weakness is exchanged for continued dependence upon divine strength.

LXXIV. SOARING LIKE EAGLES

There are seasons of:

Lift.

Spiritual Principle

God can raise His people above circumstances that once overwhelmed them.

LXXV. RUNNING WITHOUT WEARINESS

There are seasons of:

Intensity.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

When God calls you to run, He can supply endurance for the assignment.

LXXVI. WALKING WITHOUT FAINTING

This may be:

The most practical promise.

Walking is:

Daily.

Ordinary.

Long-term.

Spiritual Principle

Most faithfulness is not soaring.

It is:

Walking.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not despise walking grace while waiting for eagle-wing moments.

LXXVII. ISAIAH 39 AND ISAIAH 40

Isaiah 39

Babylonian exile announced.

Isaiah 40

Comfort announced.

Key Truth

God announces discipline before exile, but He also announces comfort before the exile even arrives.

LXXVIII. ISAIAH 35 AND ISAIAH 40

Both chapters speak of:

Wilderness.

Highway.

God coming.

Glory revealed.

Restoration.

Spiritual Principle

Isaiah repeatedly connects salvation with:

God making a way where there appeared to be no way.

LXXIX. CHRIST IN ISAIAH 40

The New Testament gives direct warrant for seeing:

John the Baptist.

The Lord's coming.

The gospel.

The Shepherd.

In connection with:

Jesus Christ.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Isaiah's comfort is not abstract optimism.

It ultimately takes flesh in the coming of Christ.

LXXX. TEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 40

- 1. Judgment → Comfort**
- 2. Exile → Highway Home**
- 3. Human Frailty → Eternal Word**
- 4. Fear → Good News**
- 5. Mighty King → Tender Shepherd**
- 6. Nations → Drop in a Bucket**
- 7. Idols → Incomparable Creator**
- 8. Earthly Rulers → Eternal King**
- 9. Feeling Forgotten → God's Complete Knowledge**
- 10. Human Weariness → Renewed Strength**

Key Truth

Everything unstable in human life is contrasted with the stability, greatness, tenderness, wisdom, and strength of the everlasting God.

LXXXI. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR PERSONAL STUDY

Question 1

What is the first message of Isaiah 40?

“Comfort, comfort My people.”

Question 2

What three things are announced to Jerusalem in verse 2?

Her hard service is finished, her sin is forgiven, and her discipline has reached its full measure.

Question 3

Who fulfills the voice crying in the wilderness in the New Testament?

John the Baptist.

Question 4

Whose way does John prepare?

The way of the Lord, fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ.

Question 5

What happens to valleys, mountains, crooked places, and rough ground?

They are transformed to prepare the highway.

Question 6

What will be revealed?

The glory of the Lord.

Question 7

What is human life compared with?

Grass and flowers.

Question 8

What stands forever?

The Word of our God.

Question 9

What message should Zion proclaim?

“Behold your God!”

Question 10

How does the Lord come in verse 10?

With power and sovereign rule.

Question 11

How is He described in verse 11?

As a Shepherd who feeds, gathers, carries, and gently leads His flock.

Question 12

Who taught God wisdom?

No one.

Question 13

How are nations described before God?

Like a drop in a bucket and dust on scales.

Question 14

Can anything be adequately compared with God?

No.

Question 15

What is ironic about idols?

Human beings make and stabilize them, then worship them.

Question 16

Where does God sit?

Enthroned above the earth.

Question 17

What does God do to rulers?

He can bring them to nothing.

Question 18

What does God do with the stars?

He brings them out and calls each by name.

Question 19

What complaint does Israel make?

That its way is hidden and its cause ignored by God.

Question 20

Why is that complaint mistaken?

Because the everlasting Creator never grows tired, never loses understanding, and does not forget His people.

Question 21

To whom does God give strength?

The weary and weak.

Question 22

Who eventually grows tired?

Even youths and young men.

Question 23

Who renews strength?

Those who wait upon the Lord.

Question 24

What three pictures describe renewed strength?

Soaring like eagles, running without weariness, and walking without fainting.

LXXXII. PERSONAL APPLICATION

Isaiah 40 asks several searching questions.

Do I Need God's Comfort?

Am I trying to:

Hide grief?

Carry guilt?

Manage weariness alone?

Have I Received God's Forgiveness?

Or am I looking for comfort without dealing with:

Sin?

Is the Road of My Heart Prepared for the Lord?

What needs to be:

Straightened?

Lowered?

Raised?

Smoothed?

Am I Building My Life on Grass?

Money?

Appearance?

Reputation?

Political power?

Human approval?

Or on the Word that stands forever?

When I share good news, do I ultimately say:

“Behold your God”?

Do I believe God is both:

Powerful enough to rule.

Gentle enough to carry me?

Have I made something created into an idol?

Am I afraid of nations, rulers, or circumstances as though they were:

God-sized?

Have I been saying:

“My way is hidden from the Lord”?

Do I believe the God who names stars also knows:

My name?

My way?

My burden?

Am I trying to live on:

Natural strength?

Do I know how to:

Wait?

Right now, do I need:

Eagle strength?

Running strength?

Or simply enough grace to:

Keep walking?

LXXXIII. A CRAWFORD BIBLE STUDY PRINCIPLE

“The God Who Names the Stars Has Not Forgotten Your Name”

Israel says:

My way is hidden.

Isaiah says:

Look up.

The stars are:

Countless.

Yet God calls:

Each one.

Principle:

God’s greatness never makes Him too large to notice you; His greatness is the reason He is fully able to know you.

LXXXIV. COMFORT AFTER JUDGMENT

Isaiah does not remove:

The reality of discipline.

He announces:

What comes after it.

Spiritual Principle

God's correction has:

Purpose.

Not merely pain.

LXXXV. PARDON BEFORE PEACE

Verse 2 links comfort with:

Forgiveness.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The deepest peace begins where sin is reconciled.

LXXXVI. THE VOICE IN THE DESERT

God often begins new work in places that look:

Empty.

Spiritual Principle

A wilderness can become:

A pulpit.

LXXXVII. THE ROAD FOR THE KING

The highway is not primarily:

For Israel's convenience.

It is prepared for:

God's coming.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

True revival is not merely asking God to improve our lives.

It is preparing our lives for His rule.

LXXXVIII. ALL FLESH SHALL SEE

The vision is:

Global.

Spiritual Principle

God's saving glory is too great to remain a local secret.

LXXXIX. HUMANITY WITHERS

Every generation has:

Famous people.

Powerful leaders.

Beautiful faces.

Strong bodies.

They fade.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not spend eternity's resources chasing grass.

XC. THE ETERNAL WORD

The Word stands:

After us.

Spiritual Principle

Scripture belongs to every generation because its Author does not age.

XCI. GOOD NEWS REQUIRES COURAGE

Zion is told:

Lift your voice.

Do not fear.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The message "Behold your God" should not be whispered apologetically.

XCII. THE KING COMES

God does not remain:

Distant.

Spiritual Principle

Biblical hope is rooted in:

The coming of the Lord.

XCIII. THE SHEPHERD GATHERS

He sees:

Lambs.

Mothers.

Different needs.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

The Shepherd's care is personal enough to distinguish weakness from weakness.

XCIV. THE GOD WHO MEASURES OCEANS

Imagine:

All the seas.

In:

His hand.

Spiritual Principle

What feels immeasurable to us remains measured by Him.

XCV. THE GOD WHO MEASURES HEAVENS

The universe does not overwhelm:

Its Maker.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Never tell the Creator your problem is too big without remembering what He created.

XCVI. THE COUNSELOR WHO DOES NOT EXIST

No one advises:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Prayer is not informing God of options He failed to consider.

XCVII. THE NATIONS AS DUST

Human empires love:

Scale.

God has:

A different scale.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Keep national power in proper proportion before divine sovereignty.

XCVIII. THE IDOL THAT NEEDS A CARPENTER

False religion reverses:

Reality.

The maker becomes:

Worshiper.

The object becomes:

“God.”

Spiritual Principle

Idolatry always shrinks God and enlarges creation.

XCIX. THE EARTH UNDER HIS THRONE

The world can feel:

Chaotic.

God remains:

Enthroned.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Chaos on earth does not imply vacancy in heaven.

C. THE PRINCES WHO BARELY TAKE ROOT

Rulers appear:

Permanent.

God sees:

Stubble.

Spiritual Principle

Never make a temporary ruler your ultimate hope or ultimate fear.

CI. THE HOLY ONE

The incomparable God is not merely:

Powerful.

He is:

Holy.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

God's greatness is morally perfect greatness.

CII. LOOK AT THE STARS

Isaiah commands:

Lift your eyes.

Spiritual Principle

Creation can become a classroom for:

Trust.

CIII. THE COMPLAINT OF THE WEARY

“My cause is disregarded.”

That complaint may be:

Emotionally honest.

But:

Theologically false.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Bring the complaint to God, but do not let the complaint become your creed.

CIV. EVERLASTING, CREATOR, UNWEARY

Three truths answer:

Despair.

Everlasting:

He outlasts the crisis.

Creator:

He outranks the crisis.

Unweary:

He has strength for the crisis.

Spiritual Principle

The theology of verse 28 becomes the strength of verse 29.

CV. STRENGTH FOR THE WEARY

God does not shame:

Weariness.

He supplies:

Strength.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Bring God your weakness instead of pretending you are strong enough without Him.

CVI. YOUTHFUL STRENGTH FAILS

The strongest human category still:

Falls.

Spiritual Principle

Self-reliance has an expiration date.

CVII. WAITING IS NOT WASTING

Waiting on God can feel:

Slow.

But it is not:

Pointless.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Time spent depending on God is not lost time.

CVIII. SOAR, RUN, WALK

Three speeds.

One source:

God.

Spiritual Principle

Faithfulness does not always look dramatic.

CIX. WALKING MAY BE THE GREATEST MIRACLE

Some days:

No wings.

No sprint.

Just:

One step.

Crawford Bible Study Principle

Do not despise the grace that simply keeps you from fainting.

CX. ELEVEN GREAT CONTRASTS IN ISAIAH 40

- 1. Exile → Comfort**
- 2. Guilt → Forgiveness**
- 3. Wilderness → Highway**
- 4. Hidden Glory → Revealed Glory**
- 5. Grass → Eternal Word**
- 6. Human Fear → “Behold Your God”**
- 7. Mighty Ruler → Tender Shepherd**
- 8. Nations → Dust**
- 9. Manufactured Idols → Creator**
- 10. Forgotten Feeling → Perfect Divine Knowledge**
- 11. Human Exhaustion → Renewed Strength**

Key Truth

Isaiah 40 dismantles every reason for despair by repeatedly contrasting human frailty with the permanence, greatness, tenderness, wisdom, and strength of God.

CXI. SEVEN GREAT MOVEMENTS IN ISAIAH 40

1. God Announces Comfort

Jerusalem’s discipline will not last forever.

2. The Way of the Lord Is Prepared

The coming King is announced.

3. God's Word Is Declared Eternal

Humanity fades, but revelation stands.

4. Zion Announces Good News

“Behold your God!”

5. God Is Revealed as King and Shepherd

Power and tenderness meet.

6. God's Incomparable Greatness Is Proclaimed

Nations, rulers, idols, and stars are all placed in proper perspective.

7. Strength Is Given to the Weary

Those who wait upon the Lord are renewed.

Key Truth

The chapter moves from comfort to revelation, from revelation to worship, from worship to confidence, and from weariness to renewed strength.

CXII. FINAL APPLICATION

Isaiah Chapter 40 begins with:

People who need:

Comfort.

Why?

Because Isaiah 39 just announced:

Babylon.

Exile.

Loss.

That means God gives:

Comfort.

Before some of the people who will need it are even:

Born.

Think about that.

God prepares:

Grace.

Before the crisis arrives.

The first words are:

“Comfort, comfort My people.”

Not:

They failed too much.

Not:

I am finished with them.

But:

My people.

Then:

“Speak kindly to Jerusalem.”

God knows wounded people sometimes need truth delivered:

Tenderly.

Then comes:

A voice.

Prepare:

The way.

The New Testament tells us that voice is:

John the Baptist.

He points toward:

Jesus.

That means the ultimate comfort of Isaiah 40 is not simply:

Coming home from Babylon.

It is:

God coming to His people.

Then Isaiah says:

People are grass.

That sounds almost:

Discouraging.

Until we see the contrast:

“The word of our God will stand forever.”

You are not asked to find security in:

Your own permanence.

You are asked to find security in:

God’s permanence.

Then comes:

“Behold your God!”

Maybe that is the command we need when life gets:

Too complicated.

Look at:

God.

Not only:

The crisis.

Not only:

The future.

Not only:

The enemy.

Behold:

Your God.

Look how Isaiah describes Him.

He comes with:

Power.

Then carries lambs:

Close to His heart.

He measures:

Oceans.

Yet gently leads:

The vulnerable.

He rules:

Nations.

Yet notices:

The weary.

He names:

Stars.

Yet hears:

Jacob complain.

He never:

Tires.

Never:

Forgets.

Never:

Needs counsel.

Never:

Learns something new.

Never:

Loses a star.

Never:

Misplaces one of His people.

Then Israel says:

“My way is hidden from the Lord.”

No.

Isaiah says:

Look up.

Do you see those stars?

He knows:

Every one.

If He knows them:

He knows you.

Then the chapter reaches its famous ending.

Young people:

Get tired.

Strong people:

Fall.

That means the Christian life cannot be sustained merely by:

Youth.

Personality.

Willpower.

Energy.

Natural talent.

We need:

Renewed strength.

And that strength belongs to those who:

Wait upon the Lord.

Sometimes He gives:

Eagle wings.

You rise above:

The storm.

Sometimes He gives:

Running strength.

The assignment is intense.

You keep:

Going.

And sometimes:

You walk.

One step.

Then another.

No dramatic breakthrough.

No soaring.

No sprint.

Just:

Faithful walking.

Do not think that is:

Less spiritual.

Sometimes walking without fainting is:

The miracle.

So when you are tired:

Wait.

When you feel forgotten:

Look up.

When rulers frighten you:

Remember they are grass.

When idols attract you:

Remember they need craftsmen.

When the future feels uncertain:

Remember His Word stands forever.

When the wilderness looks empty:

Prepare the highway.

When your heart needs comfort:

Behold your God.

The everlasting God.

The Creator.

The Shepherd.

The Holy One.

The One who never grows weary.

And the One who gives:

Strength.

Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for speaking:

Comfort.

To Your people.

Thank You that discipline is not:

The final word.

Thank You for:

Forgiveness.

Restoration.

Grace.

Father, prepare:

Our hearts.

Remove every:

Crooked place.

Proud mountain.

Deep valley.

Rough path.

Make us ready for:

Your presence.

Thank You for Jesus Christ.

Thank You for John the Baptist who prepared:

The way.

Thank You that in Christ:

Your glory has been revealed.

Father, remind us that:

We are grass.

Our beauty fades.

Our strength weakens.

Our days pass.

But:

Your Word stands forever.

Help us build our lives on:

What lasts.

Father, teach us to say:

“Behold your God!”

Lift our eyes above:

Fear.

Politics.

Nations.

Human power.

Earthly rulers.

Remind us that all nations are:

Small.

Before You.

You need:

No counselor.

No adviser.

No teacher.

You are:

Perfect in wisdom.

Father, destroy every idol in our hearts.

Anything created that has taken the place of:

The Creator.

Help us worship:

You alone.

Thank You that You are:

Mighty King.

Tender Shepherd.

Gather the weak.

Carry the lambs.

Lead gently.

Father, when we say:

“My way is hidden,”

Remind us:

You call every star by name.

You have not:

Forgotten us.

When we are:

Weary.

Give:

Strength.

When we are:

Weak.

Increase:

Power.

Teach us to wait upon:

You.

When we need:

Wings.

Lift us.

When we need:

Running strength.

Sustain us.

And when all we can do is:

Walk.

Keep us from:

Fainting.

May our lives proclaim:

You are the everlasting God.

The Creator of the ends of the earth.

The God who never grows tired.

The God who never forgets.

The God who strengthens His people.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.

Key Verse

**“But those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not faint.” —
Isaiah 40:31**

Central Truth

The everlasting God comforts and forgives His people, prepares the way for the revelation of His glory in the coming Lord, declares His Word eternal while humanity fades, reveals Himself as incomparable Creator, mighty King, and tender Shepherd, assures His people that they are neither hidden nor forgotten, and renews the strength of all who wait upon Him.

Isaiah 40 in One Sentence

Isaiah announces comfort and forgiveness to God's people, foretells the wilderness voice preparing the way for the Lord, contrasts fading humanity with God's eternal Word, calls Zion to proclaim “Behold your God,” reveals the Lord as both sovereign Creator and tender Shepherd, exposes the emptiness of idols and earthly rulers, and promises that those who wait upon the everlasting God will receive renewed strength to soar, run, and walk without fainting.