

Study 73: Isaiah, Part 29 Isaiah 40

Isaiah 40

Comfort, comfort my people,
says your God.
2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and proclaim to her
that her hard service has been completed,
that her sin has been paid for,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

[Compare **Rev 18:6**, which also describes Jerusalem under the moniker of "Babylon":
Give back to her as she has given;
pay her back double for what she has done.
Pour her a double portion from her own cup.

[**Rev 17:6** says:
"I saw that the woman [Babylon the Great] was drunk with the blood of God's holy people, the blood of those who bore testimony to Jesus."

[**Rev 18:24** says:
"In her was found the blood of prophets and of God's holy people,
of all who have been slaughtered on the earth."

[Jesus said, "...surely no prophet can die outside Jerusalem!" (**Luke 13:33**)

[**Matt 23:35-37**:
"And so upon **you** will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth [in the land].... 36 Truly I tell you, all this will come on **this generation**. [Cp. Matt 24:34]
37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you...."

[**Luke 11:50-51**:
Therefore **this generation** will be held responsible **for the blood of all the prophets** that has been shed since the beginning of the world.... Yes, I tell you, this generation will be held responsible for it all.

[**Rev 19:1-2** says:
After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting:
"Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
2 for true and just are his judgments.
He has condemned the great prostitute [Babylon]
who corrupted the earth by her adulteries.
He has avenged on her the blood of his servants."]

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3 A voice of one calling
in the wilderness, "Prepare
the way for the Lord;
make straight in the desert
a highway for our God [LXX: *make straight the paths of our God*].
4 Every valley shall be raised up,
every mountain and hill made low;
the rough ground shall become level,
the rugged places a plain.

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

6 A voice says, “Cry out.”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”

“All people are like grass,
and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.

7 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
Surely the people are grass.

8 The grass withers and the flowers fall,
but the word of our God endures forever.”

9 You who bring good news to Zion,
go up on a high mountain.

You who bring good news to Jerusalem,¹
lift up your voice with a shout,
lift it up, do not be afraid;
say to the towns of Judah,
“**Here is your God!**”

10 See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power,
and he rules with a mighty arm.

See, **his reward is with him,**
and his recompense accompanies him.

[In Matt 16:27-28. Jesus said:

“27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father’s glory with his angels, and then he will reward
each person according to what they have done.

28 “Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man
coming in his kingdom.”

[In Rev 22:12. Jesus said:

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they
have done.”

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11 He tends his flock like a shepherd:
He gathers the lambs in his arms
and carries them close to his heart;
he gently leads those that have young. [Cp. **Ps. 23**]

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand,
or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens?
Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket,
or weighed the mountains on the scales
and the hills in a balance?

13 Who can fathom the Spirit [or *mind*] of the Lord,
or instruct the Lord as his counselor?

14 Whom did the Lord consult to enlighten him,
and who taught him the right way?

Who was it that taught him knowledge,
or showed him the path of understanding?

¹ Isaiah 40:9 Or Zion, bringer of good news, / go up on a high mountain. / Jerusalem, bringer of good news.

- 15 Surely the nations are like a drop in a bucket;
they are regarded as dust on the scales;
he weighs the islands as though they were fine dust.
16 Lebanon is not sufficient for altar fires,
nor its animals enough for burnt offerings.

[Cp. **Heb 10:4**: It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.]

- 17 Before him all the nations are as nothing;
they are regarded by him as worthless
and less than nothing.
18 With whom, then, will you compare God?
To what image will you liken him?
19 As for an idol, a metalworker casts it,
and a goldsmith overlays it with gold
and fashions silver chains for it.
20 A person too poor to present such an offering
selects wood that will not rot;
they look for a skilled worker
to set up an idol that will not topple.
21 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?
22 He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth,
and its people are like grasshoppers.
He stretches out the heavens like a canopy,
and spreads them out like a tent to live in.
23 He brings princes to naught
and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.
24 No sooner are they planted,
no sooner are they sown,
no sooner do they take root in the ground,
than he blows on them and they wither,
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.
25 “To whom will you compare me?
Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.
26 Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens:
Who created all these?
He who brings out the starry host one by one
and calls forth each of them by name.
Because of his great power and mighty strength,
not one of them is missing.

[Cp. **Ps 19**:

- 1 The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
2 Day after day they pour forth speech;
night after night they reveal knowledge.
3 They have no speech, they use no words;
no sound is heard from them.
4 Yet their voice[b] goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.]

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- 27 Why do you complain, Jacob?

Why do you say, Israel,
“My way is hidden from the Lord;
my cause is disregarded by my God”?
28 Do you not know?
Have you not heard?
The Lord is the everlasting God,
the Creator of the ends of the earth.
He will not grow tired or weary,
and his understanding no one can fathom.
29 He gives strength to the weary
and increases the power of the weak.
30 Even youths grow tired and weary,
and young men stumble and fall;
31 but those who hope in the Lord
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.