

Theme: Our God is the Self-sufficient, Inexhaustible Ruler of the universe, and He has promised to deliver His people who expectantly wait on Him.

## I. Intro – Background, Text, Intro

- A. Remind of background - exile for sin
- B. Chapter 40 is intro to rest of book
- C. Read whole text to give feeling of impact
- D. Powerful words of comfort for exiles
- E. What basis for comfort? Can God help? Will He?

## II. God's Comforting Promise

- A. The call to comfort God's people (vv1-2)
  - 1. Double command for emphasis (v1)
  - 2. My people, your God - covenant motto (v1)
  - 3. Tender words to her heart (v2)
  - 4. All is paid for - triple assurance of full (v2)
- B. Calling voices of assurance (v3-11)
  - 1. Voice 1 - Prepare way for God's coming (v3-5)
    - a. Wilderness - crooked, uneven - obstacles
    - b. Prepare it for God's glory will be revealed!
    - c. God has spoken - it will happen!!!!
  - 2. Voice 2 - call out man's frailty, God's firm Word
    - a. Man is frail like grass & flowers (vv6-8a)

- b. 'Glory' in Heb - hesed - covenant loyalty
- c. Breath - eastern desert wind - dries all
- d. But God's Word - faithful, enduring (v8b)

### 3. Voice 3 - Zion shouts out (vv9-11)

- a. Zion is now to speak of God's coming (v9 ESV)
- b. Speaks to God's people - towns of Judah (v9)
- c. Young/Calvin quote
- d. Speaks to all - God the Conqueror comes (v10)
- e. Speaks of God the Shepherd - tender to His own (v11)

## III. The Self-Sufficient, Inexhaustible, Ruler

- A. Immense & Self-Sufficient over creation (vv12-14)
- B. Sovereign Ruler over the nations (vv15-17)
- C. The only true God - not the idols (vv18-20)
- D. Summary - No one like God! (v25)

## IV. The Call: Live in Expectant Hope

- A. Summary - God is inexhaustible (v28)
- B. God - A Source of strength (v29)
- C. A contrast and a call (v30-31)
  - a. Contrast - even youth get tired/weak & fall (v30)
  - b. Call - live in expectant waiting on God (v31)
    - 1. Hope/wait - expectant - trusting

2. Seeking God - Psalm 69:6; Lam 3:25

3. Walking righteously - Psalm 25:3; 37:9

D. God calls us to live in expectant hope - seek & obey!

## **V. Jesus - The Lord Has Come!**

A. Isaiah's vision of God's coming fulfilled in Christ!!

B. John the Baptist - Voice crying 'prepare the way!'

C. Peter - 'this is the word preached to you'

D. The Gospel has spread - all mankind seeing it!

E. Word of the prophets made more certain!

## **VI. Applying the Word**

A. Do we see God as He truly is?

1. Do we see He is self-sufficient, exalted, Sovereign?

2. Do we see He is inexhaustible?

3. Do we see He has not grown tired or old?

B. Do we see God's heart for us?

1. God is a shepherd to us!

2. He comes to give us strength

3. He comes to us - even in exile, wilderness

C. Do we live in expectant hope?

1. Do we trust Him & promises even when no sign?

2. Do we seek Him and live as if it is true?

3. Charlie Peacock - Wouldn't It Be Strange

4. Hope - Living like strangers in a foreign land

5. God strengthens us as we live in hope

D. Communion - Nourishing our hope & comfort

1. Behold the truth - Christ has come

2. Behold the comfort - Christ has died

3. Behold the glory - Christ is risen

4. Behold the hope - Christ will return

5. Come and be nourished in hope!

## **Comfort for God's People**

Isaiah 40

Luke 3:2-6

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Communion

Romans 15:13

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!"  
Isaiah 40:9 (ESV)

In these words is found the heart of the Gospel, 'the sum of our happiness,' as Calvin puts it, 'which consists solely in the presence of God.' This the great theme of the remainder of the prophecy; it is the very center of the Gospel. If we have not God, we have nothing; and if we have Him, we have all things.  
EJ Young

May those who hope in you  
not be disgraced because of me,  
O Lord, the LORD Almighty;

may those who seek you  
not be put to shame because of me,  
O God of Israel.  
Psalm 69:6

The LORD is good  
to those whose hope is in him,  
to the one who seeks him;  
Lamentations 3:25

No one whose hope is in you  
will ever be put to shame,  
but they will be put to shame  
who are treacherous without excuse.  
Psalm 25:3

For evil men  
will be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD  
will inherit the land.  
Psalm 37:9

I've got a question for your consideration  
I'll make you privy to my contemplation  
Let me say in my defense  
I know it goes against all common sense

It's not our nature  
Not what we've been taught  
Flies in the face of every lie we've bought  
It's hard to see it  
Harder to explain  
I know it cuts against the grain

Wouldn't it be strange if riches made you poor  
And everything you owned left you wanting more?  
Wouldn't it be strange to question what it's for?  
Wouldn't it be strange?

I know we've got some interest to protect  
A set of dots we're committed to connect  
It makes us nervous in light of how it's been  
To play a little game of pretend

Wouldn't it be strange if power made you weak  
And victory came to those who turned the other cheek?  
Wouldn't it be strange to welcome your defeat?  
Wouldn't it be strange?

Wouldn't it be strange to find out in the end  
The first will be the last and all the losers win?  
Wouldn't it be strange if Jesus came again?  
Wouldn't it be strange?