

## Walk with Me! Pt 5

### Isaiah 40:1-31

- After finding out who we are, what we are, why we're here, and how we should live, the question now arises "**what to do with all this information**"? Thankfully the author of the book of Hebrews has showed us the way, for in **Hebrews 4** the chapter is all about "**resting in God**". Its one thing to hold onto God's hand initially, but quite the other to keep clutching His hand in the midst of everything that we face on this earth, in our flesh, and from the Devil, but as hard as it is, scripture tells us that it's still essential in order to protect us from wandering off His Path.
- Thankfully the answer to this question is found in Isaiah chapter **40** where God after giving Judah **39** chapters of warning and judgment in announcing the coming Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem and the exile of the nation suddenly shifts from a tone of **doom-destruction** to **comforting- blessing**, as the writer begins to highlight the glory of God. Isaiah's written in three sections **Chapters 1-35- prophetic, Chapters 36-39- Historic, and Chapters 40-66- Messianic.**
- The announcement that the Babylonians would someday capture Jerusalem and take the people into exile was a devastating prophecy because how could Judah who would survive the Assyrian invasion when their Northern brethren the **10** tribes of Israel would not celebrate the downfall of Assyria when everyone knew that a more powerful invader was on the way? Here's how!
- **V1-2** over half their nation is gone taken into a godless society all because of their disobedience and sin and now because of the Godly leadership of Hezekiah the Lord spared the Southern Kingdom of Judah because he humbled himself and repented to the Lord for all their pride and idolatry. The Lord says although they have received double for their sins Isaiah is told by God to tell them to take comfort despite all that is happening because "**her iniquity is pardoned**"
- These last couple of years have been unprecedented, as we've seen illness, death, job loss, inflation, food and gas price rises, supply chain shortages, racial tensions, canceled trips, postponed weddings, and the list goes on and on as the stress levels go up and up as what we knew to be normal no longer seems to exist. So as our plans change and the challenges keep coming what are we to do? Because it doesn't seem to be stopping anytime soon!
- That is how the people felt during Isaiah's time, the nation was in turmoil, the circumstances heavy, the news overwhelming, as the crisis was mounting, and during those times just like during these times that's when the Comforter steps to remind us that the message is still the same > "**take comfort**". How can we "**take comfort**" were going into captivity? The Lord wasn't saying their situation was changing, and that the Babylonians would be kind, circumstances would be bad, but their perspective can still be good, for the Lord will allow His Spirit to meet us in our uncertainties, disappointments, and failures, and still provide for us peace.

- **V3-11** In the midst of this seemingly barren place the Lord tells them there is a **Voice of Pardon V1-2-** your forgiven, a **Voice of Providence V3-5-** there's always a messenger of God crying out even in barren places showing us the way if we'll listen, a **Voice of Promise V6-8-** that these things are never meant to destroy us but to remind us to get on our knees in total and complete dependence upon the Lord, a **Voice of Peace V9-11-** God is in control and given us the victory.
- **V12** just in case you still doubt then answer this "who controls the seas in the palm of His hands, Who knows the full extent and vastness of the universe from one end to the other, Who can calculate the dust of the earth, or weight the mountains and the hills? In other words you who are so few in number especially after what has happened to the Northern Kingdom if I can know and do all these things can't take care of a remnant of you? Let's make it a little more personal the Lord Who does all this can't take care of us or you personally, are we serious in doubting the Lord, it seems pretty stupid after reading **V12** and all that the Lord does for us to doubt Him.
- **V13-17** these next verses God tells them that He is greater than anything on earth or anything in heaven, His wisdom and power is greater than person's or nation for His greatness surpasses them all, so again why do we fret or fear them? Lord calls china, Russia, the United States "a drop in the bucket" you know how insignificant one drop of water is in a bucket that how all the nations look in comparison to the Lord. **V18-20** people make up things to worship and all it does is lead them back to where they stated (emptiness), as these things won't stand because it can't stand when you are faced with the circumstances and situations which make us cry out.
- **V21-26** Isaiah illustrates how God sits above all creation, for He has created all, and yet with all his greatness evident through everything He's created we still doubt him and put the creation above the creator, as people will worship images of birds and creatures but not the Lord or give credence to His Word. **V27-28** Judah instead of praising the Lord they were complaining about the Lord as if He didn't care or know about their situation, but they refused to examine themselves and their part in what was happening, as it wasn't the Lord Who changed but them.
- **V29-31** after explain the greatness of God Isaiah now tells Judah of God's mercy as He gives "**Power to the Weak**". Those who are proud and confident in their own wisdom and strength will receive no strength from God, but those who humble themselves and cry out will receive Power from on High. Even those who thought themselves strong will find themselves weak and in those times will you rely on self or go to God; that will determine how you view what is going on around you. Were told to "wait on the Lord" but this is not a passive waiting, it means it comes to us strength as we seek Him and rely on Him instead of trusting in our own strength.
- In doing this it will renew our strength and those who came to the Lord weak and with no might or power shall mount up with wings of Eagles and shall run and not be weary, and walk and not grow faint, for this is why God gives us strength so we can continue to move forward and progress for Him, not to show off ourselves. Notice the order **1<sup>st</sup> we mount up, 2<sup>nd</sup> run, 3<sup>rd</sup> walk.**

- At first glimpse it seems backwards but not at all from a spiritual perspective, **1<sup>st</sup>** by **mounting up** > **Eph 2:6**- we soar into heavenly places in Christ Jesus as He shows us Who He is and who we are to Him, **2<sup>nd</sup>** **we run** > **Heb 2:1** - after getting on that horse now were ready to gallop with the Lord and run that race as were so excited about all the things He has done for us and that we can now do for Him, **3<sup>rd</sup>** **we walk** > **Col 2:6**- after all these things were now in a place where we can walk the walk with Him, we know when to soar, and to run, but mostly we are content to walk beside Him holding His hand knowing that we are firmly in His grasp Amen!