

# ISAIAH

"The Light in the Darkness"

40-41 - "Take a deep breath"

“True comfort and strength is only found by weak people who turn their dependence and trust to God alone.”

# 1. From Warning to Comfort - God's Discipline Has a Purpose

## God Comforts - (Isaiah 40:1-2)

After judgment, God brings *comfort* to His people, showing His discipline is meant to *restore*, not destroy.

- Isaiah 28–39: false foundations were exposed and torn down so that God could rebuild them on Himself.
- Hebrews 12:10-11 - God disciplines for our good so that we may share in His holiness.
- If God is bringing comfort, in our narrow-mindedness the question becomes, *why should we trust Him?*

## 2. God's Word vs. Human Instability

### God Speaks what lasts - (40:6-8)

While everything else fades, God's *word* stands forever and gives us something unshakable to *trust*.

- Human strength, nations, and plans are temporary (“grass withers”).
- God's promises endure regardless of circumstances.
- Matthew 24:35 - Jesus affirms that God's word outlasts heaven and earth.
- If His Word stands forever, then we need to understand who this God actually is.

# 3. God Is Greater Than We Think

## God Rules Creation - (40:12-31)

God's power over creation reminds us that He is greater than our fears and gives *strength* to those who depend on Him.

- God's Scale vs. Ours (40:12, 15)
- The Honest Struggle (40:27)
- Strength for the Weary (40:28-31)

## 4. Strength for the Weary

### God sustains the Weak - (40:28-31)

Those who wait on the Lord find renewed strength, showing that **dependence** is the goal.

- Trust is a *cognitive* attitude
- Dependence is a *behavioral* measure



## 5. His Story

### God Controls History - (41:1-7, 25)

God directs nations and leaders, proving that all of history is under His *control*.

- **Isaiah 10:5-12** - God used Assyria as an instrument of judgment.
- Even human arrogance is ultimately overruled for God's glory.
- What feels chaotic or threatening is still under God's authority.
- This sovereign God is not distant. He moves toward His people personally.

## 6. Fear not, I Am with you

### God is present with His People - (41:8-13)

The God who rules the world draws near, beckoning His people not to fear because He is with them and *will help* them.

- **41:10, 13** - God strengthens, helps, upholds, and holds their hand.
- From cosmic power (chapter 40) to intimate care (chapter 41).
- **Deuteronomy 31:6** - “He will not leave you or forsake you.
- God’s nearness transforms weak people into useful instruments.

# 7. The Folly of False Trust

## God Exposes False Hopes - (41:21-29)

Idols and false trusts are revealed as empty, calling us to place our *trust* in God alone.

- God's challenge: "Do anything real."
- Control, security, success, relationships, self-reliance.
- **Psalm 20:7** - "*some trust in chariots... but we trust in the Lord.*"
- Anything we trust besides God will ultimately fail us.
- Stop trusting what is empty and start trusting the God who is *real*.

*"True renewal replaces complaining with dependence and repentance."* (cf. **Nehemiah 9**).  
- D.A. Carson