

Isaiah 40 Under the Stars

Jesus

I. Comfort for those who Wait

1 **"Comfort, yes, comfort My people!"** Says your God. 2 "Speak **comfort** to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, That her **warfare is ended**, That her **iniquity is pardoned...**

2 Peter 2:7 [Since God] delivered righteous Lot, who was **oppressed [vexed]** by the filthy conduct of the wicked 8 (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)— 9 then **the Lord knows how to deliver the godly** out of temptations

- **War** on three fronts: World system, Devil, and our Own sin

Promise: One day the war will be over...We will be going home

2b... [Speak comfort...] For [My people have] received from the Lord's hand **Double** for all her sins."

- **War will one day be over.**
- **Right now?** Living in conflict/Wounded by sin
 1. Our sin/Sins of others. Collateral damage of both
 2. **Broken world with only One hope...Jesus Christ**

2000 Years ago ushered into our world by the Last OT Prophet J the B

3 The voice of **one crying in the wilderness:** "Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth..."

IOWs Get your house in order...You'll be receiving a visit soon

5 The **glory of the Lord shall be revealed**, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 The voice said, "**Cry out!**" And he said, "**What shall I cry?**" "All flesh is grass, And all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, Because the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, But the **word of our God stands forever.**"

**All Creation is Finite and passing away, thus we...
Trust in the Word of God that stands Forever**

Matthew 24:35 Heaven/earth will pass away, but **My words** will by no means pass away.

- **Word of God:** 66 Books/40 Authors/3 Continents/Thousands of years
- **Sinful men/devil have** not been able to disprove even one word

[For 2000 years sceptics] have been refuting and seeking to overthrow this book, and yet it stands today as **solid as a rock...** Sceptics/Unbelievers, with all their assaults, make about as much impression on this book as a man with a small hammer would on the Pyramids of Egypt... the hammers of infidels have been pecking away at this book for ages, but [it is] the hammers are worn out, as **the anvil still endures.** If this book had not been the book of God, men would have destroyed it long ago. Emperors and popes, kings and priests, princes and rulers have all tried their hand at it; they die...and **the book still lives.** [H.L. Hastings]

We can completely trust the Living Word of God

9 O Zion, You who bring good tidings, Get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, You who bring good tidings, Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up, be not afraid; Say to the cities of Judah, **"Behold your God!"** 10 **Behold, the Lord God shall come with a strong hand, And His arm shall rule for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him And His work before Him.**

Go tell it on the Mountain...Comfort is on the way Behold your God is coming to save you

- **He has** comforted those who waited for Him at His 1st Coming
- **He is** comforting us now waiting for Him...

John 14:1 "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that **where I am, there you may be also.**

That day is the day the war will end. Yet even now...
We can have peace in the midst of the conflict

John 16:33 [I give you My Word] ... that in Me **you may have peace.** In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.

11 He will **feed His flock like a shepherd;** He will gather the lambs with His arm, And carry them in His bosom, And **gently lead** those who are with young.

- **Courageous Commander** is also our **Good Shepherd**
 1. Feeds us by His Word under the mess tent
 2. Gathers us together by His HS into squads
 3. Gently leads families through war Zone
 4. Carries us through the mine fields

Jesus our Courageous Commander and Good Shepherd
None like Him. He is One of a kind. Not to be compared to anyone/thing

12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the

mountains in scales And the hills in a balance? 13 Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or as His counselor has taught Him? 14 With whom did He take counsel, and who instructed Him, And taught Him in the path of justice? Who taught Him knowledge, And showed Him the way of understanding?

- Who holds the seas in His hands? Who designed the heavens? Jesus
- Who weighs each mountain? Who need no instruction in anything? Jesus

Isaiah 55:8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are **My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.**

Commander/Shepherd: I know it's hard...but I got this!
I know the world is pressing in/sometimes seems losing ground... **but I got this!**

15 Behold, the nations are as a **drop in a bucket**, And are counted as the small dust on the scales; Look, He lifts up the isles as a very little thing. 16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, Nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. 17 All nations before Him are as nothing, And they are counted by Him less than nothing and worthless. 18 To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to Him?

- Doesn't go well for those who underestimate God...

Exodus 5:2 ... Pharaoh [to Moses], "**Who is the Lord**, that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I do not know the Lord, nor will I let Israel go."

Exodus 15:11 [Moses' victory song afterward] "**Who is like You, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like You, glorious in holiness, Fearful in praises, doing wonders?**

Exodus 14:13 [At the Red Sea God said] "**Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord.**" These words contain God's command to the believer when he is reduced to great straits and brought into extraordinary difficulties. He cannot retreat; he cannot go forward; he is shut up on the right hand and on the left; what is he now to do? The Master's word to him is, "Stand still." It will be well for him if at such times he listens only to his Master's word, for other and evil advisers come with their suggestions.

Despair whispers, "Lie down and die; give it all up." But God would have us put on a cheerful courage, and even in our worst times, rejoice in his love and faithfulness.

Cowardice says, "**Retreat**; go back to the worldling's way of action; you cannot play the Christian's part, it is too difficult. Relinquish your principles." But, however much Satan may urge this course upon you, you cannot follow it if you are a child of God. His divine fiat has bid thee go from strength to strength, and so thou shalt, and neither death nor hell shall turn thee from thy course. What, if for a while thou art called to stand still, yet this is but to renew thy strength for some greater advance in due time.

Impulsiveness cries, "**do something**. Stir yourself; to stand still and wait, is sheer idleness." We must be doing something at once--we must do it so we think--instead of looking to the Lord, who will not only do something but will do everything.

Presumption boasts, "If the sea be before you, march into it and expect a miracle."

But Faith listens neither to Presumption, nor to Despair, nor to Cowardice, nor to Impulsiveness, but it hears God say, "Stand still," and immovable as a rock it stands. "**Stand still;**"--**keep the posture of an upright man**, ready for action, expecting further orders, cheerfully and patiently awaiting the directing voice; and it will not be long ere God shall say to you, as distinctly as Moses said it to the people of Israel, "**Go forward.**" [Spurgeon]

19 The workman molds an image, The goldsmith overspreads it with gold, And the silversmith casts silver chains. 20 Whoever is too impoverished for such a contribution Chooses a tree that will not rot; He seeks for himself a skillful workman To prepare a carved image that will not totter.

Psalm 115: 8 Those who make them are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

Jeremiah 10:8 [NLT Captain Obvious Translation] **People who worship idols are stupid and foolish.** The things they worship are made of wood!

- **Today's Idolatry:** Worship anything but God

Idolatry begins by denying God as Creator...Ends in Vile Perversion
Howd' we get here? We looked up/said what an incredible accident!

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for **God has shown it to them.** 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse,** 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. 24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature **rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.**

Idolatry begins then moment we deny God as Creator...Devolves into Vile Perversion
This is the mission to which we have been deployed...for such a time as this

What are the orders from our Commander?

Trust in the Word of God that stands Forever. Keep Eternal Perspective

21 **Have you not known?** Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the **foundations of the earth?** 22 It is He who sits above the **circle of the earth,** And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, Who **stretches out the heavens** like a curtain, And spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.

Psalm 19:1 David. The heavens declare the glory of God... firmament shows His handiwork.

Science follows God's Word on a squeaky little tricycle...

- **Isaiah** declared the **circle of the earth** 700BC

- **Job described** the expanding heavens/Gravity/Water Cycle/Earths core
- Jeremiah spoke of stars likened in number to grains of sand **vs** 8000 believed at time

IOWs What we know after thousands of years of study God always knew

- Sovereign over **Creation**/Sovereign over **affairs of Mankind...**

23 He brings the **princes to nothing**; He makes the judges of the earth useless. 24 Scarcely shall they be planted, Scarcely shall they be sown, Scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, When He will also blow on them, And they will wither, And the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.

Psalm 75:6 ... exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south.
7 But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And **exalts another.**

Moves world leaders like chess pieces for His purpose
Sovereign over Creation. Sovereign over affairs of Mankind **thus He asks...**

25 **"To whom then will you liken Me,** Or to whom shall I be equal?" says the Holy One. 26 **Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number;** He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.

Call to look up at and meditate on God as Creator
Stand in Awe of the Living God who has not forgotten us...

27 Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel: "My way is hidden from the Lord, And my just claim is passed over by my God"? 28 **Have you not known? Have you not heard?** The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

- God never grows tired/God always understands

29 He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall...

Reality? Life is tough. Nobody can make it on our own

31 **But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength;** They shall mount up with wings like eagles They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

- **IOWs** Those who wait in expectation of God's strength will **receive God's strength**

David proved God's Word to be true

He waited/expected/received

Psalm 18:29 For by You I can run against a troop, By my God I can leap over a wall. 30 As for God, His way is perfect; The word of the **Lord is proven**; He is a shield to all who trust in Him.

This is War and we are under constant fire 24/7

- **Deployment Location** Evil and Perverse World
- **Superior Officer** Jesus. Courageous Commander/Good Shepherd
- **Official Orders** Trust His Word. Wait. Expects Reinforcements/Back-up
- **Rock Solid Promise** Soon the war will be over...**We will be going home**

Tonight, tomorrow and till Jesus comes back...

1 Peter 5:7 cast all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.