

A Comfortable Life!

December 10, 2017 – Isaiah 40:1-3; 11

“Comfort, comfort My people, says your God. Speak tenderly (To the heart) 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. A voice of one calling in the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God..... 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.”

We like things that make us feel good. We like comfort: Reclining chairs – warm homes - luxury cars - warm clothing - stylish clothing. etc. God through Isaiah proclaims those words of comfort to Judah.

Vs. 1 – Comfort, comfort

Why?

We need a bit of back ground information. In the previous Chapter of Isaiah – Chapter 39, the ambassador of Babylon had come to visit king Hezekiah in Judah. Hezekiah wanted to show off and showed the store rooms of Judah. It was because of this that God sent the Prophet Isaiah to inform Hezekiah that Judah would be carried away by the Babylonians. Not a pleasant thought to be a POW. Why would Judah be carried away? The same reason the Northern tribes of Israel had been carried away by the Assyrians in 722 B.S. Judah had fallen away.

Judah was worshiping idols such as Baal – Asherah and Molech which included sacrificing their children in the fires and indulging in temple prostitution. Some people thought that they would cover all the bases and worship the idols and the Lord. (Syncretism) And so God sent Isaiah to tell Hezekiah king of Judah in Chapter 39 of Isaiah that they would be carried away into slavery by the Babylonians. But it was to Hezekiah’s relief that this exile by the Babylonians would not be during his life time.

Answer: Despite the fact that God would carry away Judah, God still referred to Judah as “MY people”

Vs. 1 – Comfort, comfort **My** people, says **your** God.

Vs. 2 – **Speak tenderly (to the heart) 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.**

God would give Judah - Double Grace. God would repay their sins with - grace and favor and forgiveness and exaltation. This double grace of God, despite the sinfulness of mankind is referred to as The Foolishness of the Gospel in - I Corinthians 1:18-31. Not only does God call Judah “My People” God also makes the prophesy of John the Baptist, The forerunner of Jesus.

Vs. 3 – **A voice of one calling in the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God.**

John the Baptist was in the wilderness. Pointing to Jesus - the Lamb of God who taketh away the sin of the World. God is bringing forth Salvation from the most unlikely place – “In the Desert”. When the Baby Jesus was born, we see salvation coming from a most unlikely place. We see salvation of mankind comes from a baby born in Bethlehem, of the lowly Virgin Mary!!! Our Comfort of the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven comes from an unsuspecting place – From the Infant Jesus. The Infant – Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

Vs. 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.**

Jesus is our Good Shepherd Who laid down His life for the sheep. (John 10:11) We are the sheep whom Jesus gathers in His arms and carries close to His heart. God’s heart, and He carries us straight to heaven because of His innocent sacrifice on the cross and glorious resurrection. Amen!