

032



The Father Knows Best

School of the Bible Class

Isaiah

Isaiah 40:6-31

032

January 29, 2023

Donald L Goertzen Presenter

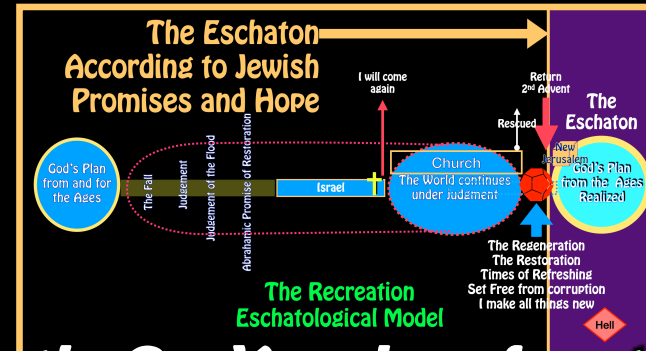
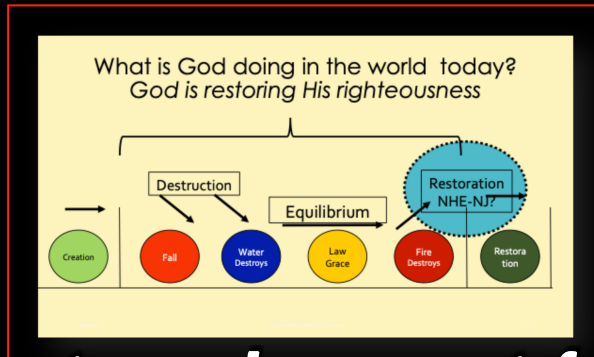
Indian Hills Community Church

Detectives looking for Eschatological Evidences in Isaiah

Tribulation and Kingdom Truth

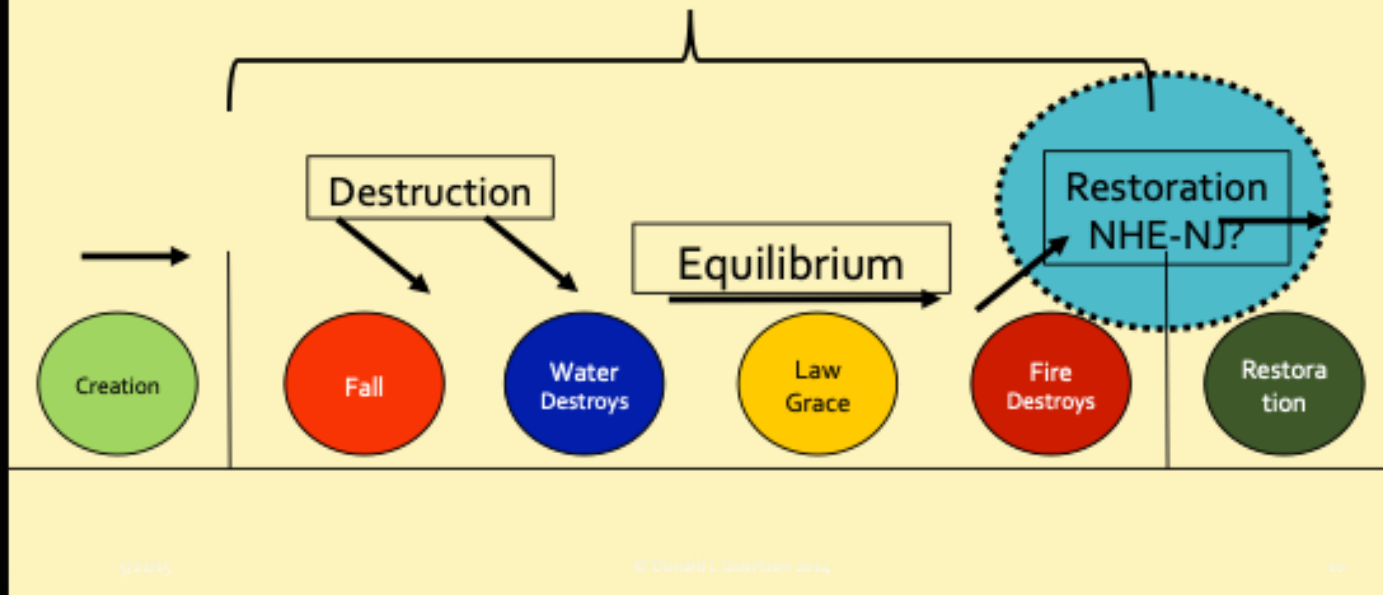


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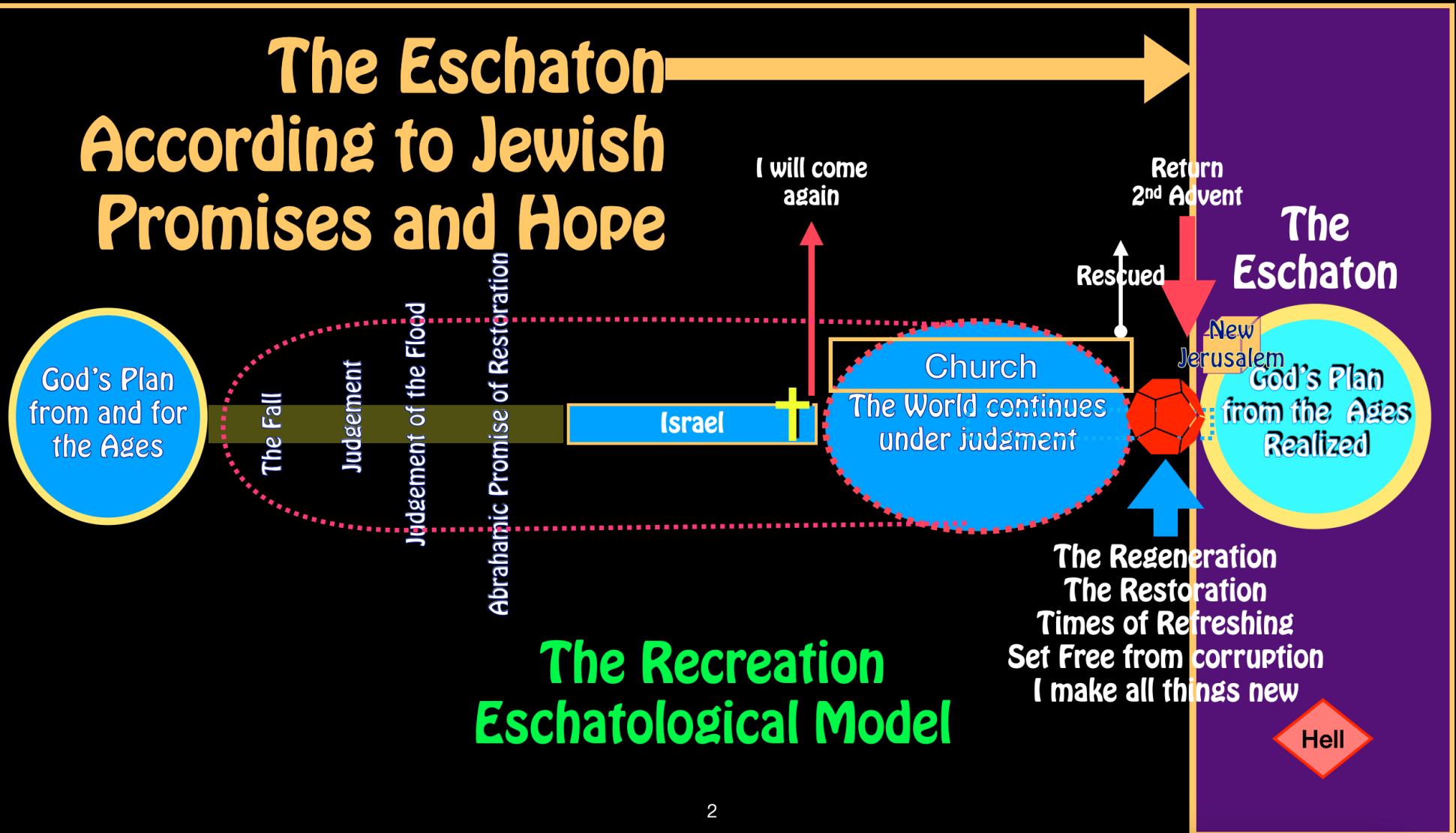


- Last week we set forth God's plan for the restoration of all creation— God's plan for the ages —
- We suggested that the first five verse of Isaiah 40 captures the truth of full redemption.
- As Israel receives redemption and comfort—
- It easily becomes the model for our personal redemption. It is the same grace extended.

What is God doing in the world today?
God is restoring His righteousness



The Eschaton According to Jewish Promises and Hope



Last Week

- Isaiah 40 begins with “Saving Israel.”
- It is the declaration of their God—that **Israel is to be comforted**—is to be delivered in **double** grace.
- He can speak kindly to them, because their warfare, their rebellion against them has ended—for they have been fully pardoned for their inquiry.
- Remember the movie “Saving Private Ryan”?
- When he was found he went home— it cost his army a great many lives but for him warfare was over.

Isaiah 40:1-5

- The next instruction shows that there must be cooperation—that is to make the path of the Redeemer—His acceptance straight and smooth —no obstacles for the Lord—plainly they are to receive Him without opposition—a straight highway “for God” who delivers their redemption.
- ❖ Next God raises the valleys and lowers the mountains explained as the rugged terrain made smooth (think the Rockies or Himalayas, the mid-oceanic Mariana Trench).
- This is an expression of a return to a pre-judgment—pre-flood earth. On a global scale for God this is a minor adjustment.



A fuller explanation

Changes in the Earth's Surface?

Restoring the earth to the created Edenic Earth

Isaiah 40:3-4 Expression?

- 3. A voice is calling,
 - A. “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness;
 - B. Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

Hebrew couplets are above—and is below a new subject?
- 4. (A voice is calling another message.)
 - A. “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low;
 - B. And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley.

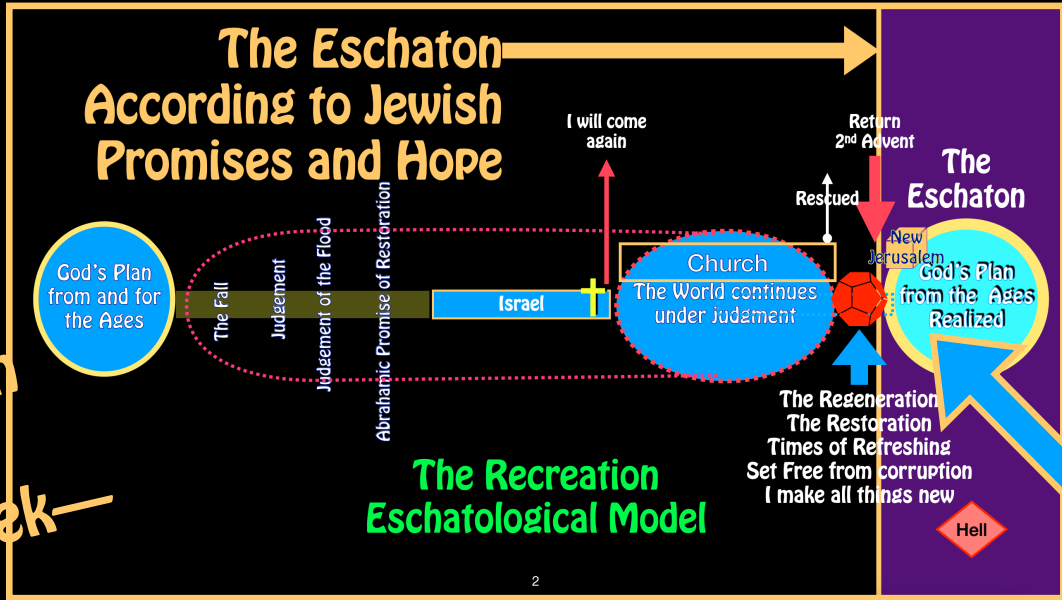
- **Positive Statement:** 4. “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley.”
- **Negative Statement:** Revelation 6:14 “The sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.” (See Isa. 24—esp. 1,3, 19-20)
- 15 “Then the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; 16 and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; 17 for the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

- **Positive Statement:** 4. “Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley.” Matt 24:21 (never will again.)
- **Negative Statement:** Revelation 16:18 “And there were flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder; and there was a great earthquake, such as there had not been since man came to be upon the earth, so great an earthquake was it, and so mighty. 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath. 20 And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found. 21 And huge hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, came down from heaven upon men; and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail, because its plague was extremely severe.”

Conclusion Reasonable

- Because other verses support the “destruction of the earth’s surface (and more)” **there is ample reasons to believe that these verses are in agreement.**
- This conclusion is helped by the **larger context of the earth’s restoration**, regeneration, refreshing, and its deliverance from corruption—when the Lord makes all things new.
- In this summary statement (1-5) it would be strange that the earth’s “recreation” would not be mentioned.

**In the Restoration
No Sea
Mentioned last week—**



Restoration Statement



Advance look in Isaiah

Reflecting 40:1-5

Isaiah 44: 22 “I have wiped out your transgressions like a thick cloud And your sins like a heavy mist. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you.” 23 Shout for joy, O heavens, for the Lord has done it! Shout joyfully, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into a shout of joy, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it; For the Lord has redeemed Jacob And in Israel He shows forth His glory. 24 Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, and the one who formed you from the womb,

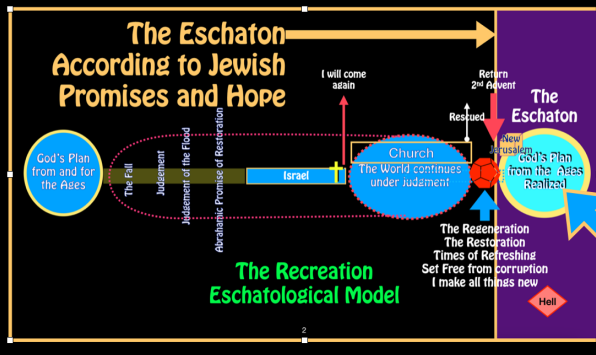
Reflecting 40:1-5

- PAST: Isaiah 44:24 “I, the Lord, am the maker of all things, Stretching out the heavens by Myself And spreading out the earth all alone,
- PRESENT/FUTURE: ²⁵Causing the omens of boasters to fail, Making fools out of diviners, Causing wise men to draw back And turning their knowledge into foolishness, ²⁶Confirming the word of His servant And performing the purpose of His messengers.
- FUTURE: “It is I who says of Jerusalem, ‘She shall be inhabited!’ And of the cities of Judah, ‘They shall be built.’ And I will raise up her ruins again. ²⁷“It is I who says to the depth of the sea, ‘Be dried up!’ And I will make your rivers dry. Isaiah 44:22–27 See // Rev. 21:1 in the new earth, “there is no longer any sea.”



Hemlock Chain of Interpretation

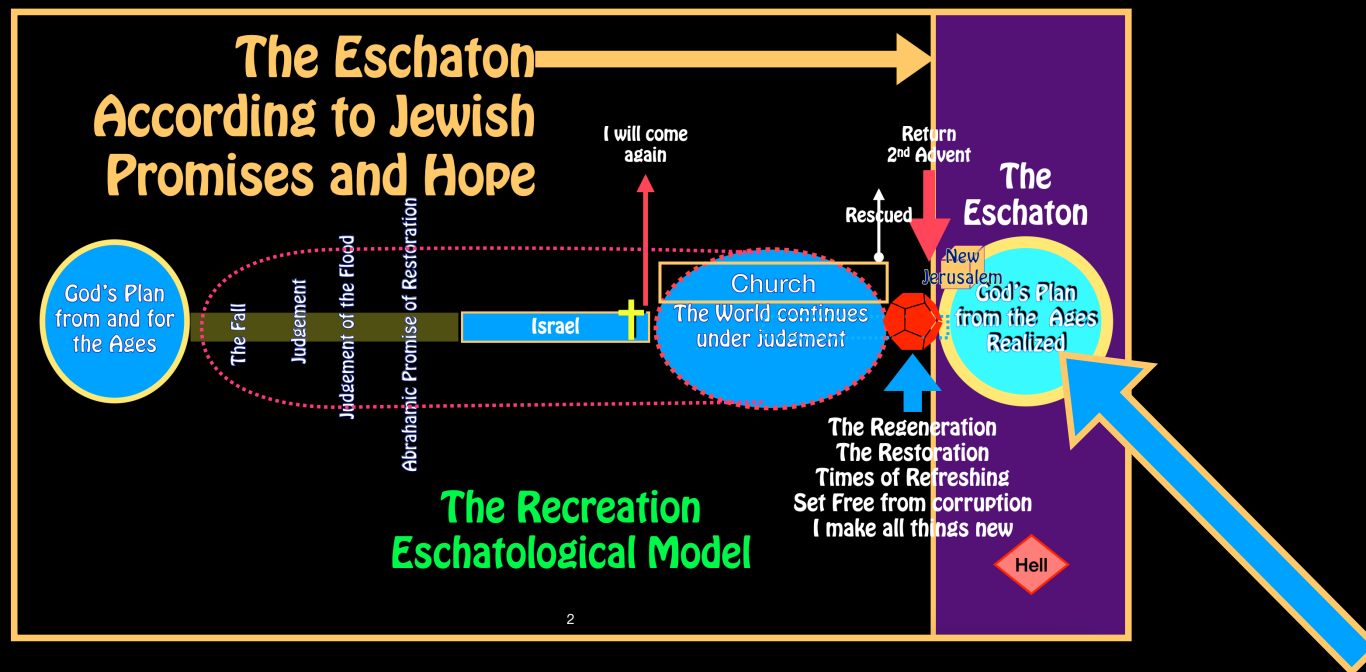
- Some of these conclusions may seem strange—to make connections based on the literal sense of the text. (Dry the sea)
- But this is our safe haven! Else—
- If these “sea” statements are taken as figures with shades of meaning determined by scholars we have resorted to building biblical truth based on the Hemlock Chain of interpretation. (Socrates was poisoned by Hemlock derivatives). That is—
- One false link tied to another false link may return a “satisfying” interpretation but departing from the literal sense is poisonous to biblical theology.



This is in the Eschaton

- **U. 5 Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed!**
- This is the inaugurated Eternal Kingdom of the Messiah the Son of David—Jewish and Gentile hope.
- **Finally now all Men will see the fullest Glory of God.**
- **Something even Adam and Eve did not see—but now here in the consummation, end of the Ages God will recover the Shekinah Glory and forever be held in the highest esteem.**

- What is the assurance offered that this is true?
- **THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IT!**



Anticipating the Next Section

- What is the next important subject? We dare not trust man's last word to this great statement of God's Glory.
- So we have again God speaking through “a voice” a voice that is told what to say. It speaks for and on behalf of God—the personage is not important.
- The next section is a contrast in what we have just witnessed (1-5). It starts with a related subject—“the flesh”—humanity!
 - (Not the “Now all flesh will see it” —the different subject).



All Flesh is Grass!

It has a loveliness like the flower
Limitation



Contrasting God's Word to Man's Word

The message just delivered

- ⁶A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
- ⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, When the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. (The inability to stay alive—the smallest thing.)
- ⁸The grass withers, the flower fades, But the word of our God stands forever. Isaiah 40:6–8

Contrasting God's Word with Man's Word

- “Just as sinful Isaiah could not stand before the glory of a holy God in 6:3-5, so in the future when God reveals his glory to "all flesh" (40:5), **the sinners among them will not be able to stand in his glorious presence.**
- Smith, Gary U. Isaiah 40-66: Volume 15 (The New American Commentary) (p. 114). B&H Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.
- Also—compare this with Rev. 20:11 “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for (that flesh) them.”

Contrasting God's Word with Man's Word

- Compare with Rev. 20:11 “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them.”
- So great is the contrast between “all things” and “God” that at the GWT even the personified “Heaven and Earth” (created by God) has no INDEPENDENT STANDING thus are embarrassed, thus they must “fee away.” This is a metaphorical or imagined picture of the holiness of God.
- This verse is inappropriately used to show the annihilation of the earth!

The Duty of Judah/Israel is to Proclaim Him!

- ⁹Get yourself up on a high mountain,
 - O Zion, bearer of good news,
- Lift up your voice mightily,
 - O Jerusalem, bearer of good news;
 - Lift it up, do not fear.
- Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” Isaiah 40:9

Is this for
Isaiah's day?
Not possible.
Judah was in no
condition to go
out and make any
declaration to
Judean cities or
for that matter
the world.

The Duty of Israel is to Proclaim Him!

Preparing for the Second Advent

- ⁹Get yourself up on a high mountain,
 - O Zion, bearer of good news,
- Lift up your voice mightily,
 - O Jerusalem, bearer of good news;
 - Lift it up, do not fear.
- Say to the cities of Judah, “Here is your God!” Isaiah 40:9

But in the Tribulation there are the 144k untouchables (Rev. 7:3) who apparently declare the Eternal Gospel (Rev 14:1-6) to Judah and by extension the world,

Text Confirming the 2nd Advent

- ¹⁰Behold, the Lord God will come with **might** (Armageddon)
- With His arm **ruling for Him.**
 - **Judgment rendered next—**
- Behold, His **reward** is with Him
- And His **recompense** before Him. Isaiah 40:10

V. 10. Puts this in terms of the 2nd Advent. Lord will come with rewards and reparations/ judgments “on his arm”

Confirming in the 2nd Advent

Comfort My People

- ¹¹Like a shepherd He will tend His flock, In His arm He will **gather the lambs** (return of the diaspora) And carry them in His bosom; He will gently lead the nursing ewes. Isaiah 40:11
- **Notice the same thing said of Israel at the time of Armageddon—**
- ⁷I shall make mention of the loving-kindnesses of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, According to all that the Lord has granted us, And **the great goodness toward the house of Israel**, Which He has granted them according to His compassion And according to the abundance of His loving-kindnesses. Isaiah 63:7

Contrast Between All things and God

Summary: This is not a contest yet to be decided

Contrast Between All things and God

- ¹²Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand,
 - And [Who] marked off the heavens by the span,
 - And [Who] calculated the dust of the earth by the measure,
 - And [Who] weighed the mountains in a balance
 - And [Who] the hills in a pair of scales?
- ¹³Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, Or [Who] as His counselor has informed Him? Isaiah 40:12–13
- Rhetorically answered: NO ONE!

Contrast Between All things and God

- ¹⁴With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding?
 - And who taught Him in the path of justice and
 - taught Him knowledge
 - And informed Him of the way of understanding?
- ¹⁵Behold, the nations (leaders best advice) are like a drop from a bucket, And are regarded as a speck of dust on the scales; Behold, He lifts up the islands (Outlying nations) like fine dust. Isaiah 40:14–15

Nations are inconsequential Opposing Him at the 2nd Advent

- **¹⁶Even Lebanon is not enough to burn, Nor its beasts enough for a burnt offering. (Their beauty is nothing,)**
- **¹⁷All the nations are as nothing before Him, They are regarded by Him as less than nothing and meaningless.**
- **¹⁸To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare with Him? Isaiah 40:16–18**
- **NOTHING KNOWN OR IMAGINED COMPARES.**

Contrast Between All things and God

- **19** **As for the idol**, a craftsman casts it, A goldsmith plates it with gold, And a silversmith fashions chains of silver.
- **20** **He who is too impoverished for such an offering**
Selects a tree that does not rot; He seeks out for himself a skillful craftsman To prepare an idol that will not totter.
- **21** **Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been declared to you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?** Isaiah 40:19–21

Contrast Between All things and God

- **REMEMBER—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.
- **²³He it is who reduces rulers to nothing, Who makes the judges of the earth meaningless.**
- **²⁴Scarcely** have they been planted, **Scarcely** have they been sown, **Scarcely** has their stock taken root in the earth, But He merely **blows** on them, and they wither, And the **storm** carries them away like stubble. Isaiah 40:22–24

Contrast Between All things and God

- ²⁵“To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?” says the Holy One.
- **CHALLENGE OF FINDING AN EQUAL—²⁶Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. Isaiah 40:25–26**

God is a Patient and Waiting God

- ²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, “My (Israel says) way is hidden from the Lord, And the justice due me (Israel) escapes the notice of my God”?
- ²⁸Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. Isaiah 40:27–28

Will They Wait—

- ²⁹He gives strength to the weary,
 - And to him who lacks might He increases power.
- ³⁰Though youths grow weary and tired,
 - And vigorous young men stumble badly,
- ³¹Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles,
 - They will run and not get tired,
 - They will walk and not become weary. Isaiah 40:29–31

Security is in the Word of God

- Chapter 40 thus becomes a favorite text.
- It explains the future—the eschaton on a recreated earth!
- The (how) operational questions: **It explains (again) the steadfast loving kindness of God towards all those who serve Him (In faith)—Israel is the example, do not loose this in God changing His mind about Israel—where is the hesed?**
- This God who spoke the world into being speaks—ends with it in a recreation/salvation reminiscent of the Garden of Eden.
SINCE GOD CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS WHAT ARE WE TO FEAR—EVEN IF WE LOSE OUR VERY LIFE.

Thus Far—