

ISAIAH: Prophecies of Messiah
DO YOU NOT KNOW?

Monday, August 10

Reading: Isaiah 40

Isaiah 40:3 *A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*

While the coming Savior had been introduced in the first 39 chapters, Isaiah 40 begins a more concentrated focus on Messiah's mission and reign which continues through the end of the book. After all the judgments and gloom of the previous chapters, God now speaks comfort to His people and assures them their time of punishment will come to an end.

The coming of God's forgiveness will be announced by a voice calling in the wilderness. (40:3-9). His message will urge repentance because life is brief and the coming of the Lord is near. John the Baptist claimed these words in describing his ministry of preparing the way for Jesus.

Isaiah then gives us a picture of the character of the Coming One. He comes with the power of God (40:10), but will be a gentle Shepherd to His people (40:11). He is the Creator and no one and nothing can compare or stand before Him (40:12-26).

The closing of this great chapter brings comfort to God's people. While some may say that God does not care for them, the prophet reminds them that God is always there. His great power is present to give them strength. Those who hope in the Lord and wait on Him will be victorious through His power working in their lives (40:27-31).

This chapter is so full that we have only scratched the surface. Take time to meditate on all that Isaiah proclaims and consider what the greatness of God means for your life.

POINTS TO PONDER:

1. Several times Isaiah uses the question "Do you not know?" The power and love of God are not a mystery. Like Isaiah and John the Baptist, we have this wonderful message to shout from the mountaintops! The Gospel proclaims that the God who created the universe came to earth so He might die to pay for our sins. Are you spreading this message of forgiveness and comfort to those around you?
2. Several verses in this chapter look forward to that day yet future when Christ will return and set up His kingdom (see 40:5, 10). At that time, everyone will see Christ's glory and He will reign. Verse 10 is a great verse because it reminds us that "His reward is with Him." One day, Christ Himself will say "well done" to those who have faithfully served Him. Are you looking forward to that day? Will you hear "well done" because you have lived your life for the Lord?
3. Three passages in the New Testament picture Jesus as a shepherd (John 10; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 5:4). Read these verses and describe what this image tells us about Jesus? How have you experienced his "shepherding" hand in your life?