



Growth Group discussion questions for Isaiah 40
Week of Oct. 7 – Oct. 10, 2018

1. Scripture memory: Memorize, meditate on, and be ready to recite Ephesians 2:1-5a.
2. Read Isaiah 40 at least twice.
3. Isaiah chapters 1-35 emphasized the coming divine judgment of Judah for its iniquity. Now the prophet shifts the focus of his message. How does this message seem different? (v. 1-2) How does the message of judgment relate to the message of comfort? Martin Luther famously said, "*The Law is for the proud and the Gospel for the brokenhearted.*" What danger exists from preaching law and judgment without Gospel? What danger exists in preaching Gospel and comfort without law?
4. Along with comfort, God gives a message of hope. (v 3-5). What is the message of hope? Why is the coming of the Lord a hopeful message to His people? How is this prophecy of preparation for the Lord's coming fulfilled in the New Testament (see Matt 3:1-3; Luke 1:76-79)?
5. While the prophecy of the Lord's coming (c.f. John 1:29; Luke 19:10) and glory (c.f. John 1:14; 2 Cor 3:18; Heb 1:3) was fulfilled in Jesus, what in verse 5 indicates that there is yet an ultimate fulfillment coming (See Matt 24:30; Mark 14:62; Job 19:26-27; Rev 1:7)? How should we be comforted and encouraged by the second coming of the Lord?
6. Verses 6-8 affirm that everything dies. Natural things die. People die. What stands forever in the midst of death and decay (v.8; c.f. Matt 5:18; 1 Peter 1:25)? Why is this promise a comfort to the Christian? Like people, kingdoms also die. Assyria (Isaiah 10:12) and Babylon (Isaiah 13:19-20) were gone after they served God's purposes. What does that suggest about our own modern culture and society? Should we expect a kingdom that can last forever (See Mark 1:15; Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; Heb 11:10)?

7. After the promise of the Lord's coming and His eternal Word, the next source of hope is that the Lord will powerfully protect and lead His people (v 9-11). How is the imagery of a shepherd used throughout Scripture (Gen 49:9-10; Psalm 23:1, 78:71-72, 80:1; Ezekiel 34:12-14, 31; Micah 5:4)? How is all this Scripture fulfilled in one person (John 10:11-16; Heb 13:20; Rev 7:17)?

8. What reasons do verses 12-20 give that God is incomparable to and superior to all of creation? How does human reason and understanding measure up to that of God's (v 13-14; Col 2:3; Romans 11:13; 2 Cor 10:5)? How is this understanding a further comfort to you?

9. In what ways do you see God above all other powers in heaven and earth in verses 21-26? If creation shows God's wisdom, power, and immensity then why do we sometimes think of our circumstances as bigger than God? What in verse 26 tells about God's intimate knowledge of His creation? If God knows every star, what does He know about you (John 10:3, 27; Romans 8:30)?

10. Given all the reasons preceding verse 27 that God's people should be comforted by his power and strength, why would they think their trouble is because of God's neglect (v. 27)? Do you ever feel like the God is unconcerned about your troubles? The promise of patient expectation for the Lord's plan and working of our redemption comes with what Biblical promises (v29-31, see also Lam 3:25-26; 2 Cor 12:8-10; 1 Thess 1:10)?

11. **PRAY IN THE GROUP:** Consider those that you personally know who need the comfort of the Lord and assurance from Scripture. Pray for them. Ask the Lord how you might be that instrument of comfort in their life. Pray that God would work in the lives of our men and women in the upcoming Women's Ministry meetings and men's breakfast.