

Isaiah Chapters 31-40

The Beginning of the Prophecy Proper

February 4, 2018

God is a Covenant Keeping God—He Keeps His Word

In the context of Isaiah 40:8 the "Word of our God" does not mean the whole of Scripture (though it is nonetheless just as true about all 66 books). This verse is a specific promise that God has made to Israel (Judah). God will always keep His promises, no matter how hopeless circumstances may seem.

I. "Comfort, O comfort My people," says your God (40:1-8)

God will make a way for His coming through the wilderness. No earthly thing or person can stop Him. All of creation has a time span, a limitation, but the Word of God stands forever. He is eternally trustworthy and reliable and His Word is absolutely true.

II. Proclaim without fear the victory of our God (40:9-11)

God will come with might and power and like a shepherd He will lead His people. He will be just as tender toward His own as He is powerful and triumphant toward His enemies.

III. God is able to keep His word because of Who He is. (40:12-27)

- A. He is both the Creator and the Lord of the Creation (12-14)
- B. He is the Sovereign Ruler of the nations (15-17)
- C. He is the Supreme Ruler of all humanity (18-25)
- D. He is omnipotent, therefore He is able to do whatever He chooses (26)
- E. He is omniscient (27)
- F. He is tireless and never weary (28)

IV. He is the Sustainer and Enabler of those who wait on Him (40:29-31)

To "wait" means eagerly to expect, actively to look forward to His coming and to anticipate His power. There are special promises to those who wait upon Him (see also I John 3:3):

- A. They will renew their strength
- B. They will mount up with wings like the eagles
- C. They will run and not be weary
- D. They will walk and not faint

God has not given us a spirit of fear; are you fearful over some circumstance in your life? God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us; do you feel alone in some trial? Do you feel weary and unable to face the uncertainties of the future? The writer of Hebrews says, *therefore strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble and make straight paths for your feet so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.* But how do we do that? They that wait upon the Lord will renew their strength. They will mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary and they shall walk and not faint. Our covenant keeping God has given us great and precious promises that we might trust in Him.