

THE BIBLE WAY TO HEAVEN

Realize That God Loves You.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16).

The Bible Says That All Men Are Sinners.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory to God." (Romans 3:23).

God's Word Also Says That Sin Must Be Paid For.

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

The Good News Is That Christ Paid for Our Sins.

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8).

We Must Personally Pray and Receive Christ by Faith as Our Personal Saviour.

The Bible Says, *"For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (Romans 10:13).

COLLEGIANS FOR CHRIST
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Scripture Text- Isaiah 40:1-8

Memory Verse- Isaiah 40:8

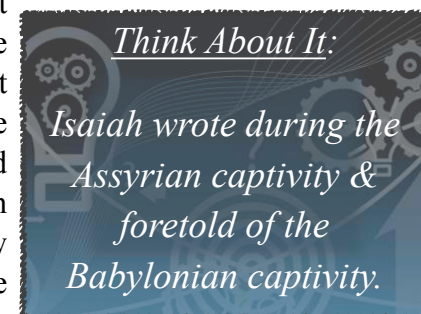
*"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth:
but the word of our God shall stand forever."*

Do you desire to know more about God? Do you desire to know more about His power, His majesty, and His attributes? We begin our study of the book of Isaiah in chapter forty. This chapter is packed full of amazing truths about God! I find myself coming time and time again to study the endless truths in this chapter.

Isaiah is like a mini Bible. It contains sixty-six books which can be divided into two sections. The first thirty-nine chapters resemble the thirty-nine books of the Old Testament while the last twenty-seven chapters resemble that of the New Testament. Chapter forty is the transition between the division.

The theme of chapter forty is found in verse nine, *"Behold your God"*. Behold means to fix your eyes upon or observe with care. The Bible makes the same statement about Jesus Christ in John 1:29 *"behold the Lamb of God"* & 19:14 *"Behold your King"*. Isaiah is calling our attention to look upon the greatness of our God. As Isaiah begins this chapter, he focuses attention on the fact that comfort is coming.

*Your
Thoughts*



*Your
Thoughts*

The Coming of Comfort (1-2)

In the first thirty-nine chapters, Isaiah has spoken much about Israel’s sin and the judgment of God. The Old Testament was all about the law and justice to carry out the law. God immediately begins to speak of comfort in this transition chapter. Comfort means to strengthen the mind when depressed, invigorate, or to cheer. A word of conviction must follow with a word of comfort.

God tells Israel that a big change is coming. The greatest event in human history is going to take place. We see that God’s justice is accomplished in verse two. God has judged and punished Israel according to their sins.

Think About It:

*A word of conviction
must follow with a
word of comfort.*

“*Comfort ye, comfort ye*” is the heart cry of God. The Bible describes God as the the God of all comfort in II Corinthians 1:3-4 and the Holy Spirit is described as the Comforter in John 14:16 & 14:26. God is calling out to a depressed people that comfort is coming.

The Coming of John the Baptist (3-4)

Before this great transition would take place, one had to come to prepare the way. The greatest event in human history would be heralded by John the Baptist. Read Mark 1:1-9. The Bible describes John as, “*the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness*”. Notice that John is only a voice. Read John 1:19-23. This voice was preparing the way for the coming of Jesus Christ.

Notice in verse four that the poor and despised will be exalted, the proud and high will be made low, the sinners will be made straight, and the hard cases will be made plain.

*Your
Thoughts*

John came preaching repentance towards God. He was merely a voice announcing Christ’s coming and preparing people’s minds and hearts to receive the coming Saviour.

The Coming of Jesus Christ (5-8)

The comfort that was to come was in the coming of Jesus Christ. We see God’s glory revealed to man. God was manifest in the flesh and never ceased to be God. Jesus Christ was fully God and fully man yet without sin. God walked this earth for all to see. Read II Peter 1:15-18. Man saw the glory of God with their eyes. People witnessed the miracles, healing, and teachings of Jesus Christ. He was the comfort that Isaiah spoke about. Jesus Christ came to heal a world of its sin problem.

God spoke of the coming comfort from the beginning. We see the coming of Jesus Christ foretold in Genesis 3:15. Peter exclaims that Jesus Christ coming “*was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*”.

Verses six through eight, speak of man as withering grass. Where is the comfort in that? Read I Peter 1:23-25. We will all die and fade away like grass, but God’s Word will stand forever. Many are trusting the eternity of their souls with evolution, science, philosophy, life, achievements, and false religious beliefs. All this will all fade away, but God’s Word about salvation only in Jesus Christ will stand in the end!

**We have the task of John the Baptist.
To prepare the hearts of people for Jesus Christ.**

Think About It:

*Jesus Christ became
man never ceasing
to be God.*