

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan

ISAIAH 40

Isaiah 40

through the cleansed lips of the prophet. He has spoken words of warning, chastisement, coming judgment for the wickedness of idolatry, from a heart of love for the people. Chapter forty begins with a call to comfort and solace. God's heart is to love Israel and redeem them. He longs for them to love Him. He speaks peace to Jerusalem, a synonym for the people who will be in exile and then returned to their beloved homeland. Because much was given to Israel as a people, much was required and will be. Israel had "received from the LORD's hand double for her sins." Now her warfare would end for a time. ***"The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and the flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."*** (vv.3-5)

These are the words spoken by John, that we call the immerser, the forerunner of Jesus, the Messiah (John 1:19-

23). Many times in the book of Isaiah, as in other prophets, you will see a dual fulfillment of prophesy. This means that a prophet will often speak to an issue that is prominent or present in the day of the prophesy and God will speak to the time in which the prophet lives or shortly to come. However, there is a wider and future fulfilment in the prophecy that will happen. These dual fulfillment prophecies are usually related to Messianic promises or events; certainly, this is so in these present passages in Isaiah. Isaiah 40:8 was the favorite passage of Scripture in all the Bible for my first mentor and Senior Elder under whom I served, W. A. Criswell. He signed every letter with this verse. ***"The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God Stands forever"*** (40:8). The Word of God is sure. He gives power to the weak.

Prayer and Action Steps

Read vv.29-31 and pray this prayer, "Lord help me to wait on and trust in YOU. Trust your Word. Please renew my heart today. Amen."

Date _____ Scripture _____

- *Read the chapter. If you have time, read it again.*
- *Highlight, underline or circle the Key Verse or Verses of the chapter.*
- *Ask yourself these questions as you read through the chapter.*

Is this historical narrative, analogy, metaphor, allegory, or some other element of speech or communicating truth?

What is the Context? Old Testament? New Testament? What is the writer speaking or writing about? To whom is he writing?

Is this a clear passage of Scripture (can only be interpreted one way)? Or could the passage be interpreted legitimately, in two or more ways, according to grammar and context?

Does the passage teach a Biblical Precept; that is, tells you something to be, do or act? _____

Are there principles in this chapter that if followed, would require me to change my attitudes or actions? _____

Does the passage give a Biblical Pattern that is followed here and other places in the Bible? _____
