

GOD'S UNFAILING COMFORT

LESSON 1

Isa. 40:27-31

INTRODUCTION:

A. None of Us are Without Challenges

1. Our experiences vary but we all have had our days.
 - (a) Some have gone through stuff
 - (b) Some are going through stuff
 - (c) Some are getting ready to go through stuff.
2. Our Pilgrimage here on earth is not without situations; circumstances will be experienced!!
 - (a) This fact is clearly seen in Scriptures (Matt. 5:10-12; 10:16-42, **highlight** Vv. 16-22; **1 Peter 4:4, 12**; etc.)
 - (b) Through Jesus Christ we have the victory because He is the Victorious One!! (**John 16:33**; Matt. 12:20; 1 Cor. 15:24; Rev. 6:2; etc.).
 - (c) We should always remember He is always with us!! (Matt. 28:20)
3. **"He didn't promise us smooth sailing but safe landing!"** (2 Tim. 1:12; Heb. 7:25; etc.).

B. Brief Background

1. The Book of Isaiah is centered on the Babylonian exile.
 - (a) Their captivity began 586BC ... Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon destroyed Jerusalem and enslaved the Jewish people.
 - (b) It ended 539BC ... when Cyrus of Persia allowed the Jews to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple.
2. In the Book of Isaiah, we note:
 - (a) Nebuchadnezzar was God's instrument to punish the Jewish people for their sins.
 - (b) After 70 years of captivity God used Cyrus to set them (Israel) free.

C. Isa. 40 (*Details not possible*)

1. **Isa. 40:1- 66:24**, we have "Words of Comfort."
 - (a) In these chapters, Isaiah focuses on events that will occur after the captivity.
 - (b) Isaiah also foretells the coming of the suffering Servant, Jesus Christ.
 - (c) The ultimate price for man's redemption will be paid and man's new world will become a reality.
 - (d) As a result, we have confidence in the future!
"We have a blessed hope of which we are not ashamed!" (Titus 2:1; 1 Peter 1:13).

2. Isa. 40 is a great chapter to study ... note the following highlights:
- (a) **Vv. 1-11** ... begins the chapter with a promise of comfort and deliverance.
 - (1) Vv. 1-02: Assurance of God's comfort for His people.
 - (2) Vv. 3-5: A voice in the wilderness.
 - (3) Vv. 6-8: God's Word stands forever.
 - (4) Vv. 9-11: God's strong hand and His care for His flock.
 - (b) **Vv. 12-26** ... promise that God has power necessary to deliver His people.
 - (c) **Vv. 27-31** ... promise that **"those who wait for God will renew their strength (and) will mount up with wings like eagles."** (Isa. 40"31)
 - (d) In essence the chapter (Isa. 40) deals with: "The Comfort and Majesty of God."
 - (1) For these exiles in captivity, they were:
 - In a state of humiliation and servitude (slavery).
 - They were helpless and powerless, not having the resources to liberate themselves.
 - They saw no way out! It was all darkness, despair and doom!!
 - **But God had not forsaken them and will bring about their deliverance!**
 - (2) Millions today are in similar or worst conditions but God has made a way through Jesus Christ! (Matt. 11:28-30; John 10:10; etc.).
3. **Brief note ... Isa. 40:27-31**
- (a) There has been much emphasis on Vv. 30-31.
 - (b) Again, I challenge you to prayerfully study the chapter (Isa. 40).
 - (c) **Vv. 27-31, I have entitled: "God's Unfailing Comfort."**
 - (1) We will discuss these verses in two lessons
 - **Lesson 1: Isa. 40:27-29**
 - First: V. 27 Clarification Necessary
 - Second: V 28 Creators Care and Comfort are Unparallel
 - Third: V. 28 Comprehensive Awareness
 - Fourth: V. 29 Consolation
 - **Lesson 2: Isa. 40:30-31**
 - Subtle Reality v. 30
 - Source of Sustenance v. 31a
 - Strengthened v. 31b
 - Soar v. 31c
 - Steadfastly Press Forward v. 31d

LESSON 1: Isa. 40:27-29**A. Clarification Necessary v. 27****1. Concealment Challenged**

“Why sayest thou ...” v. 27a

(a) The verse was meant to reprove Israel for their want of confidence in God.

(1) Why sayest thou to thyself and to those about you: “My condition is hidden from the Lord?”

(2) Why are you overcome with such difficult and sad conclusions concerning thyself and your present situation?

(3) Why are you acting in such desperate and hopeless manner?

(b) Sometimes that attitude is kept within.

(1) One of my frequent references is Psa. 42:5, 11 and 43:5

- Note the Amplified Bible Psa. 42:5a:

“Why are you cast down, O my **inner self**? And why should you moan over me and be disquieted **within me ...?**”

- Similar to our context (Isa. 40) Psalm 42 was written at a time when Israel was in exile (written by the sons of Korah).

(2) This is all I have time to say: “When you are feeling lonely or depressed, meditate on God’s kindness and love.”

2. Clarification of Status

“Oh Jacob” or “Oh Israel” Isa. 40:27b

(a) The same person!!

(1) Jacob and Israel were two names for the same person (See Gen. 32:24-32, NB v. 28).

(2) God not only calls the heavenly bodies by name, He calls His chosen people by name.

(b) **Covenants** (*At this time details not possible*)

(1) The nation Israel ... came through Abram (Abraham).

- For example see Gen. 12-15; Ex. 6:4; Num. 25:12; Jud. 2:1)

- Note carefully **Gen. 15 (NB Vv. 7-11, 12-18)**

- This is all I have time to note

➤ The conditions of the covenant:

- The agreement entered in by two parties ... who walked between the two halves of the slain animals.

- This act symbolized that; if they didn’t keep the promise of the covenant they would perish just like the slain animals (Gen. 15:17; Jer. 34:18=19).

➤ Observe carefully Gen. 15:17

- It was God alone who walked through the slain pieces of animals.

- God alone established the promises and obligations of the covenant.

- Abram (Abraham) had only to accept the promises and obligations in obedience (See Gen. 15:17:2)

- Note God's commitments ... see again Ex. 6:4; Num. 25:12-13; etc.
- (2) The Church has a covenant sealed with the blood of Jesus Christ (See Matt. 26:28)
 - See also Rom. 11:27; Heb. 8:8; 12:24
 - The Old and New Covenant (*Briefly noted*)
 - The Old Covenant was between God and Israel.
 - The New Covenant between God and the Church
 - Israel struggled to keep its covenant with God (Rom. 8:3; see also Gal. 2:19; Eph. 2:15).
 - In the New Covenant it is possible to keep the agreement through Jesus Christ (Rom. 8, NB Vv. 1017; Heb. 8:6-8, 9-13; **read carefully Heb. 8-10**).
- (3) As people under God's covenant, it is important to remember that He will never abandon nor forsake us!! (Ex.33:14; Matt. 28:20b; etc.).
- (c) Some facts that distinguishes us as the people of God:
 - (1) Chosen People (1 Peter 2:9)
 - (2) Children of God (Rom. 8, NB VV. 14-17)
 - (3) The Apple of God's Eyes (Zech. 2:8)
 - (4) A Peculiar Treasure (Ex. 19:5)
 - (5) Chosen by Jehovah (Deut. 14:2)
 - (6) Exalted Above all Nations (Deut. 26:19)
 - (7) Guided Like a Flock (Psa. 78:52; 100:3)
 - (8) Prepared for Service (Luke 1:17; Acts 15:14)
 - (9) The Law Written in Their Hearts (Heb. 8:10)
 - (10) Uniquely, the Church is the Bride of Christ (Rev. 21:9)

3. **Contemplating Incorrectly Isa. 40:27c**

KJV: "My way is hid from the Lord and my judgment is passed over from my God."

LASB: "O Jacob, how can you say the Lord does not see your troubles? O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights?"

(a) According to them "God does not see or noticed."

(b) **The word "way" (Isa. 40:27 KJV) indicates:**

- (1) Their state or condition
- (2) Or the manner of life
- (3) Or the calamities which they experienced.

(c) **Note also the word "hid" (Isa. 40:27)**

- (1) The meaning is obvious:
 - God is ignorant of their condition
 - He has not regarded their calamities.
 - He has not decided to save (deliver) them.

(d) Note carefully what they were saying: **"my judgment is passed from my God." (v. 27)**

- (1) My case is past; there is no hope of His help (comfort, aid, assistance, care, etc.)

- (2) The situation is so far gone that God Himself cannot amend (remedy, repair, fix, improve, etc.)
- (3) Their lamentation:
Ezek. 37:11 NKJV
 “Then He said to me. ‘Son of man, these bones say. Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off.’”
- (e) **Their manner of thinking was wrong! It was way off track!!**
- (1) How would God, who keeps track of His heavenly body, lose track of His own people – the people with whom He has covenanted?
- (2) How would God, who knows the way of each star and asteroid, not know the way of His people?
- (f) **This question (Isa. 40:27), suggests that the exiles think themselves treated unjustly.**
- (1) They believed that God has abandoned them and allowed them to be treated in an inappropriate manner.
- (2) In essence, they were accusing God of treating them unjustly – something totally out of character with God’s holiness, which requires Him to act holy.
- (3) Two examples of those who displayed similar attitude towards God.
- A young man in his early 30 stated: “God stays away from me and I stay away from Him.” His marriage fell apart, he then left the Pentecostal church he was attending, tried several other churches (of different denominations) and finally renounced Christianity.
 - A gentleman sacrificially sponsored someone through Bible College contributing not only towards all college expenses but gave towards family needs. This gentleman’s brother became ill and finally died, he could not understand how “God allowed such tragedy” and eventually renounced his Christian faith.
 - The study of Job is of tremendous value but to read of his suffering and for us to gracefully endure suffering is a different situation.
 - What Job went through brought chills and shivering, his suffering was hurtful and his closest allies added to his woes (mentally).
 - **In Job 13, note carefully his confidence in God**
Job 13:15a NKJV
 “Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”
- (g) **Note again Isa. 40:27. The reality is that the exiles by asking such question are disregarding the real facts.**
- (1) They disregarded their sins and sins of their fathers.
- Evident from their exodus to them acquiring the Promise Land thereafter:
 - A few highlights: Num. 14:11, 23; Ezz. 15:12; Psa. 106: 7; Isa. 3:8; Heb. 3:16; etc.
 - Highlighting **Psa. 78:40, 56 NKJV**

“How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, and grieved Him in the desert! . . . Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God and did not keep His testimonies.”

- Read carefully the Book of Judges and Prophetic Books for details of their continued transgressions.
 - For example the Book of Jeremiah
 - He spoke to the people of Judah and Jerusalem during the reign of their last five kings.
 - You will note that his words from God were rejected and the people continued a life of rebellion against the things of God.
 - Briefly note these facts (a) Jeremiah foretells of the Babylonian exile Chapters 25-29; (b) Note the sufferings and persecutions of the prophet in chapters 36-38.
 - Several points in chapters 37 and 38; I will highlight a few from Chap. 37 (a) Verses 1- 3, Zedekiah appealed for intercession yet rejected the word of God (NB v. 2) (b) Verses 6-10 God’s word to the prophet regarding Babylon’s victory (c) Jeremiah’s imprisonment Vv. 12-16
 - **Note the key verse in the Book of Jeremiah (Jeremiah 2:19).**

Jer. 2:19 LASB

“Your wickedness will bring its own punishments. Your turning from me will shame you. You will see what an evil, bitter thing it is to abandon the Lord your God and not fear Him. I, the Lord, the Lord of Heaven’s Armies, have spoken!”

- When it comes to man’s accountability for sins, amnesia, excuses and concealment sets in (Adam and Eve Gen. 3, NB Vv. 9-14; Aaron Ex. 33:24; King Saul 1 Sam. 13:12; 1 Sam. 15:21; King David 2 Sam. 11-12; etc.)
 - **The sins of the Jews were the reason for their calamities, for example see Isa. 59, NB VV. 1,2; 64:6; Jer. 16:12; Micah 7:13.**
- (2) Return to Isa. 40:27. They are disregarding the reasons why God **allowed** them to suffer this exile.
- They were warned time and time again: Deut. 27, NB Vv.1-26; 28, NB Vv. 15-46; 30, NB Vv. 11-12; Lev. 26, NB Vv. 14-39; etc.
 - **Despite their sins and resulting exile, God is a covenant keeping God!!** Note for example **Lev. 26:40-46** ... *discussion not possible, but note:*
 - **V. 40 KJV** “If they shall confess their iniquity ...” (Sins must be acknowledge ... Prov. 28:13; 1 John 1:9; etc.)
 - **V. 41 KJV...** “... if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled ...” (repentance/submission . . . 2 Chron. 7:14; Isa. 55:7; Rom. 6:13; James 4:7; etc.)
 - **V. 44 read the verse** (*They are still not abandoned or forsaken ... His words are sure!!*)
 - The restoration of Israel assured (Jer. 31, NB Vv. 35-37)
 - God’s divine faithfulness is assured (Jer. 33, NB Vv. 25-26)

- Remnant of Israel saved by God's grace (Rom. 11:1-29)

(3) Why God **allowed** Israel's captivity; why He allows us to be tried?

- Chastisement is a mark of sonship (Heb. 12:6-8)
- The purpose of chastisement Heb. 12:9-13
 - We shall **live** eternally (v.9)
 - We shall **be partakers of His holiness**, of His very character (v. 10)
 - Our lives will evidence the **fruit of righteousness** (v. 11; also Gal. 5:22-23)
 - It is **for our profit** (v. 10): God permits no testing except that which is for our good, to draw us closer to Him.
- The psalmist in Psa. 119:67 states:
"Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now Your word do I keep [hearing, receiving, loving, and obeying it]." **Amplified Bible**

(h) No need to worry, and live in uncertainty and despair ... God cares!! Oh, Yes! He cares!!

(1) God's people are not subjects of unheeding fate, nor their rights disregarded!!

- See Matt. 6:25-33
- See also Luke 12:29; Phil. 4:6; 1 Peter 5:7; etc.

B. Creator's Care and Comfort are Unparallel Isa. 40:28a-e

1. Tenets of God (Doctrine -- the belief of God)

(a) Do you not know God?

(1) Do you not know who He is?

- Do you not know what He is able to do?
- Do you not know of His love and compassion?
- Do you not know of His faithfulness to His people?
- Etc.

(2) Do you really not know or is it that you are reluctant to accept the real facts?

(b) The language of the prophet! Note two things:

(1) Reproving them for complaining of being forsaken by God and that God was not faithful to His promises.

- Some folks are professional complainers, no matter what; there is always something to complain about.
- This was also evident during the Exodus from Egypt: Ex. 14:11; 15:24; 16:2; Num. 11:1; 14:27; etc.

(2) This emphasis by the prophet continues through the chapter and remains the main area of emphasis. The priority is to persuade them to put their confidence in God and to believe that He is able and willing to deliver them.

(c) **Israel's unique opportunity.**

(1) Note verse 28a: "**Hast thou not known?**" This refers to the fact that the Jewish people had an abundant opportunity of learning:

- In their history and from their forefathers, the true character of God and His entire ability to save them.

- No other nation had in place such great opportunities of learning!!
- (2) **There's a great lesson here for the Church (Universal)!!**
 - It is well for the people of God in times of calamity and trial to recall God's former dealings with His Church.
 - History has furnished abundant sources of consolation, and abundant assurance that we are safe and secure in Jesus Christ!!

2. Traditional Transmission

"... hast thou not heard ..." v. 28b

(a) From the tradition of their fathers.

- (1) A large part of the Jewish history was traditionally passed on verbally and this includes God's attributes.
- (2) Example Deut. 6, NB Vv. 6-7, 20.
- (3) See also Deut. 4:9; 31:13; Prov. 22:6; Isa. 28:9.
- (4) **This is a greatly neglected responsibility today among the Church (Universal) and the results are evident because we have a generation in which so many do not know God ...**
 - Note **Judges 2:10**; 21:24-25; Jer. 4:22; 8:7; John 15:21; 16:3; Acts 17:23.
 - See also Deut. 32:5; Prov. 30:12; Matt. 3:7; 12:39.

3. Timeless God

"... that the everlasting God ..." v. 28c

(a) The God who existed from eternity

- (1) **Unlike idols, He always was and always will be!!**
- (2) If He was from eternity He is unchangeable and His purposes cannot fail!
- (3) All other gods are temporal, limited, and perishable ... God was, is and always will be!! There is none like Him!! (Ex. 8:10; 15:11; Deut. 33:26; 2 Sam. 7:22; 1 Kings 8:23; Psa. 89:6; Isa. 40:18).

(b) **God is eternal!!**

(1) **Psa. 9:2b NKJV**

"Even from everlasting to everlasting You are God."

(2) See also Deut. 33:40; 33:27; Psa. 135:13; 145:13; 2 Peter 3:8; Rev. 1:8

4. Transcendent Creator

"The Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth ..." v. 28d

(a) The creation: highlighted pointers:

- (1) The Bible does not debate the reality of God or the facts of creation.
 - The Bible simple states the facts: Example, Gen. 1:1 (KJV)"In the beginning **God created** the heaven and the earth."
 - Irrespective of man's denial of the creative acts of God; for physical life and earth itself, there was a beginning and there had to be a Creator.
- (2) **"The world is not a product of blind chance and probability; God created it."** (A quote from LASB)

(3) Also from LASB

“The Bible not only tells us that the world was created by God, more important, it tells us who this God is It reveals God’s personality, His character, and His plan for His creation. . . . It also reveals **God’s deepest desire: to relate to and fellowship with His people.**”

(b) God is Creator of the Universe!

(1) He is Creator of the ends of the earth v. 28d

- He has created everything from one end to the other – beyond our ability to see in one direction or the other.
- So whether we are talking about time or space, God stretches beyond our understanding in every dimension.

(2) See Gen. 1:1; Neh. 9:6; Job 26:7; Psa. 102:25; Acts 14:15; Heb. 11:13.

(c) Isa. 40:28a: “Creator of the ends of the earth.” The essence of the message:

He who formed the earth could not be exhausted or weary in so small a work of protecting His people!!

5. Tenacious Eternally Isa. 40:28c

KJV: “... fainteth not, neither is weary ...”

Amplified Bible: “... does not faint or grow weary; ...”

(a) The message here is very simple to understand. “God does not faint or become exhausted!!”

(1) He is persistently (unswervingly, tireless, etc.) faithful to His people! He is the same yesterday, today and forever the same!! He changeth not!! (Heb. 13:8; Psa.102:27; Mal. 3:6; Heb. 1:12; **James 1:17**).

(2) God who has formed and sustained all things, is not exhaustive in His powers, but is able still to defend and guard His people.

So much more information to this thought than we have time to share. Below I have listed a few highlights ... thoughts, lines from hymns, etc.

- He is the on-time God.
- He never fails me yet.
- Great is thy faithfulness.
- O for a thousand tongues to sing.
- Count your blessings
- My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness.
- No one understands like Jesus; He is a friend beyond compare.
- Leaning on the everlasting arms.
- Just when I need Him most, Jesus is near to comfort and cheer.

(b) Reliable! Dependable! Inexhaustible!!

(1) Just as there is no end to God with regard to time or space, there is also no end to God with regard to energy.

- He neither slumbers nor sleep (Psa. 121)

- Divine constancy is assured: Jos. 1:5; Isa. 54:10; John 13:11; 14:18; Heb. 13:5.
- (2) If we have any concept of limitless energy, it has to be with regards to the sun.
- We, humans, have limitations.
 - Our personal energy waxes and wanes.
 - Our supply of oil and gas and other natural resources grows smaller by the minute.
 - The sun shines today undiminished, just as it did a thousand years ago.
 - But astronomers catalog the death of stars, if not daily, then at least frequently.
 - Our sun is a star. The day will come when it will no longer shine.
- (3) **But God was here before the sun, and will be here long after the sun stop shining.**
- God doesn't faint! He never gets weary!!
 - His energy is the same yesterday, today, and forever more!!
- (c) God is eternally faithful to His covenant!!
- (1) Note the following:
- **Psa. 105:8 Amplified Bible**
 "He is [earnestly] mindful of His covenant and forever it is imprinted on His heart, the word which He commanded and established to a thousand generations."
- (2) "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (Thomas Chishlom)
- First Verse
 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father;
 There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
 Thou changest not; Thy compassion they fail not;
 As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.
- Refrain
 Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
 Morning by morning new mercies I see;
 All I have needed Thy hand hath provided.
 Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

C. Comprehensive Awareness Isa. 40:28f

KJV: "... there is no searching to His understanding"

Amplified Bible: "... No one can measure the depths of His understanding."

1. All Knowing God!!

- (a) God is Creator and is therefore infinitely wise!!
- (1) Think of the world, of the solar system, of man, etc. and it baffles the wisest man.
- (2) There is none like Him!!

1 Tim. 1:17 NKJV

“Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who **alone** is wise, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”

See also: Ex. 8:10; 15:11; 2 Sam.7:22; 1 Kings 8:23; Psa. 89:6; Isa. 40:18.

(b) Man is limited.

(1) Man may think he is wise but worldly wisdom is seen as foolishness (1 Cor. 1:18-25... note v. 20; see also Luke 10:21).

(2) For more on earthly wisdom see Isa. 29:14; Jer. 4:22; Rom. 1:22; 1 Cor. 3:19, 20; James 3:15.

(3) In regards to the natural man and the things of God see 1 Cor. 2:14-16, NB v. 14

(c) Everything about our infinite God is beyond the ability of our finite minds to comprehend.

(1) We cannot comprehend God’s eternal nature, stretching from beyond time to the end.

(2) We cannot comprehend the scope of God’s creation, extending beyond our horizons in every direction.

(3) We cannot comprehend God’s energy, which is infinite as everything else is about Him!

(4) **God is beyond our understanding.**

- But not beyond our knowing! Knowing is possible because God has made Himself known.

- He has revealed Himself to us. We can know Him!!

(5) We just can’t comprehend everything about Him, anymore than we can comprehend everything about the universe.

2. **All-inclusive Care**

(a) Man’s limitation to understand the deep things of God is beautifully expressed by Zophar in Job 11:7-9.

(b) Lessons to be learnt : **God who has made all things, must be intimately acquainted with all the wants of His people.**

(1) Israel (Isa. 40), therefore had no reason to complain that their way was hidden from God and their cause (rights) passed over without regard as if they were neglected.

(2) It should be remembered that God’s understanding is boundless (immeasurable, limitless, etc.) and they were not expected to comprehend the reasons for all His actions.

(3) The reasons of His doings are often hidden from His people, and their consolation is found in the assurance of His infinite wisdom and that He rules and knows what is and it’s important to remember He never makes a mistake!!

(c) David in Psa. 139, praise God for His all-seeing providence.

- (1) The psalm describes various aspects of God's attributes (characteristics, traits, etc.) of God especially His omnipresence and omniscience as these characteristics relate to His care for His people. For example:
 - Omniscience (all-knowing) Psa. 139:1-6
 - Omnipresence (present everywhere) Psa. 139:7-12
- (2) The God of heaven and earth created us and has perfect knowledge of us; He is always with us, and His thoughts are always directed toward us in every situation.
- (3) **"How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them!" (Psa. 139:17 NKJV).**
 - We are comforted knowing God is continually aware of our needs.
 - We are comforted knowing God is continually aware of our troubles and sufferings.
 - We are comforted knowing that He has plans for our care, forgiveness, salvation and sanctification.
 - To sum it all up, see **1 Cor. 2:9**.
- (4) God's Thoughts for us (His people)
 - Jeremiah also addressed the exile in Babylon
 - For example see Jer. 29
 - Note **verse 11 Amplified Bible**
 "For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome."
 - See also Psa. 40:5, 17; 139:17; Isa. 55:9.
- (5) "He Cares" (Lyrics by Rev. Brunson) partial quote.
 "So you think that you can't make it through
 And you feel like all hope is gone
 Just remember God cares for you
 And He knows just what's best for you
 He cares! He cares for you!

D. Consolation Isa. 40:29

1. Weary Invigorated v. 29a

KJV: "He giveth power to the faint ..."

Amplified Bible: "He gives power to the faint and weary ..."

(a) "Faint" a brief explanation.

- (1) In essence there is a lack of oxygen to the brain.
 - Symptoms can include falling down, blurred vision and confusion.
 - Possible cause dehydration, low blood pressure, alcohol use, and diabetes.
- (2) Should be treated as a medical emergency.
 - **Some** fainting can be a warning sign of a life-threatening situation.
 - In general, it is not a life threatening situation.

- (b) Some Scripture references (briefly noted)
- (1) Prayer should be consistent and not given up (Luke 18:1)
 - (2) Perseverance in well doing is necessary and will be rewarded (Gal. 6:9)
 - (3) Persecution may be experienced, but keep on keeping on (Eph. 3:13)
 - (4) Positively, stay focus on the purposes of your trials (Heb. 12:3, 5; read Vv. 1-6).
 - (5) Patience during trials, in opposition to going under is essential (Rev. 2:3).
 - (6) Perfect example of Christ's concern for the faint and weary (Matt. 9:36).
- (c) If fatigue tries to set in, remember, **"Look to God!!" "He giveth power to the faint."**
- (1) He is far from being "faint" Himself. He has superabundant energy to impart to any that are faint among His servants.
 - (2) **He gives power to the faint!!**
 - Those who are ready to faint under their afflictions or prevailing situations ...
 - They may not see any immediate deliverance
 - Despite their fasting and prayers there **seems** to be no answer.
 - Somehow, it seems to them that God's promises will not be fulfilled as expected but God gives fresh supplies of spiritual strength!! (*This thought will be briefly discussed below*).
 - He giveth power to the faint
 - Their consciousness of weakness is the condition of their receiving strength (Matt. 5:6; Luke 1:52-53; Luke 6:21)
 - He, who is never weary, strengthens those who are tired.
 - The prophet speaks with reference to those among God's people whose faith and hope were very low and he gives assurance of God's faithfulness and deliverance.

2. Weary and Weak Strengthened

Isa. 40:29 KJV

"He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."

(a) Wary discussed above but here we co-join it with weakness

(b) **The purpose of this verse (Isa. 40:29): To give consolation to the afflicted and down-trodden people in Babylon.**

- (1) He did this by reminding them that it was one of the characteristics of God that He ministered strength to those who were conscious of their own feebleness, and who look to Him for support.
- (2) It is a truth that is applicable to us ... a truth inestimably precious to those who feel they are weak and feeble, and who look to God for help.
- (3) See 2 Cor. 12:7-10, NB Vv. 8-9

2 Cor. 12:8-9 LASB

“Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time he said, **“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.”** So now I am glad to boast about my weakness, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” See also Psa. 8:2; 1 Cor. 1:27; 2 Cor. 12:10; Heb. 11:3, 34.

(c) **For Review and Emphasis.**

(1) Waterloo moment

- Details not possible ... **“waterloo”** goes back to 1815 when Napoleon (French) forces were defeated by the Duke of Wellington.
- The term “waterloo” became synonymous with anything difficult to master.
- If someone meets their “waterloo” they are defeated by someone who is stronger or by a problem that is very difficult to surmount (overcome, conquer, triumph over, etc.).

(2) **God does not grow faint but He does invigorate the weary and strengthen the weak!!**

- God has strength enough, not only for Himself, but for all, even the weakest of His creatures, who He can easily strengthen to bear all their burdens, and to vanquish all their oppressors.
- If God can be said to lose patience, it would be with those who appear strong and self-sufficient.
 - Such are more likely to trust in their own strength than in God’s.
 - They are more likely to be narcissistic (*narcissistic: vain, self-absorbed, conceited, etc.*) who dwell on their own concerns with no thought for God and neighbor.
- Unlike the self-sufficient it is different from those genuinely acknowledge their need.
 - The powerless- those who grow faint are more likely to approach God on their knees.
 - They are more likely to acknowledge their need for God’s help.
 - Having suffered themselves, they are more likely to be attuned to the suffering of their neighbor.
- So in Scriptures, God shows a decided difference for those who sincerely acknowledge their weakness that they are powerless – for those who grow faint. He is always available to such people to give them the strength that they need so desperately.

(3) **He, who is never weary, strengthens those who are tired.**

- One Bible scholar translates Isa. 40:29b as follows: “And upon him that is of no might, He lavisseth power.”
- **GOD IS OUR STRENGTH!!**
 - Moses in his song of praise after God destroyed the Egyptian army at the Red Sea (s Ex. 15:1-9)

Ex. 15:2 NKJV

“The Lord is my strength and song, and He has become my salvation;
He is my God, and I will exalt Him.”

- See also 2 Sam. 22:33; Psa. 28:8; 46:1; 73:26; 81:1; 84:5; 89:21.

2 Tim. 2:15

KJV: “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth

Lesson 1 Review Questions

1. Match the statements on the left with the correct reference on the right.

STATEMENTS	CORRECT REFERENCE	JUMBLED REFERENCES
The persecuted righteous will be blessed		Matt. 28:20
Do not think it strange to experience “fiery trials.”		2 Tim. 1:12
Despite the opposition, etc., in Jesus Christ we have peace.		1 Peter 4:12
Christ is always with us		John 16:33
I am persuaded He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him ...		Matt. 5:10-12

2. (a) What special event in the history of the Jews is the central focus of Isaiah? (b) When his experience began and by who? (c) When it was ended and by who?

3. (a) In essence, what subject does Isaiah 40 deals with? (b) Why was this message of importance?

4. What matter Isa. 40:27a: “Why sayest thou ...?” was meant to correct? (Briefly explain.

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5. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer (*a brief comment taken from the lesson*):

“This is all I have to say: ‘When you are feeling lonely and depressed, meditate on _____.’”

- (a) how unfortunate you are
- (b) how good you are
- (c) God’s kindness and love
- (d) God’s favor to others

6. Based on Scripture, what are the conditions of a covenant? Give references. (*Brief answer*)

7. Explain briefly what Israel was actually saying in Isa. 40:27c: “My way is hid from the Lord and my judgment is passed from my God” (KJV)

8. In reality Israel’s way of thinking expressed in Isa. 40:27 was wrong. (a) Why was it wrong? (b) What was revealed by the statement they made as to how they felt they were treated?

9. The real reason why Israel was in exile was not genuinely faced by them. What were the factors they were disregarding?

10. Why does God allows His people to be tried and tested ... briefly explain this thought as shared in Heb. 12:9-13.

11. Explain what is communicated by these words: "Hast thou not known?" Isa. 40:28a KJV.

12. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:

"The world is _____ and probability; God created it."

- (a) not here by good luck or mishap
- (b) not the work of man
- (c) not by wishful thinking, thoughtless
- (d) not a product of blind chance

13. Briefly explain what message is conveyed in Isa. 40:28c: "... fainteth not, neither is weary." (KJV) *Reading the verse should help or you may also want to read verse v. 27.*

14. Complete the following:

Psalm (a) _____: (b) _____ Amplified Bible

“He is [earnestly] (c) _____ of His covenant and (d) _____
it is (e) _____ on His (f) _____, the word which He
(g) _____ and (h) _____ to a
thousand generations.”

15. Explain: “... there is no searching of His understanding.” Isa. 40:28f

16. Man is finite, God is infinite. (a) List at least three ways God is beyond our comprehension. (b) Answer True or False. Explain your answer. “God is beyond our understanding but not beyond our knowing Him.

17. What are some reasons why Israel had no reason to complain that their situation was unknown or overlooked by God (Isa. 40:27-29),

18. Complete the following statement made in reference to **“He gives power to the faint...: (Isa. 40:29a):**

“The prophet (a) _____ with reference to those among God’s (b) _____ whose (c) _____ were very (d) _____ and he gives (e) _____ of God’s (f) _____ and (g) _____.”

19. (a) What was the intended purpose of Isa. 40:29? (b) How was this message effectively applied by the prophet?

20. Complete the following by choosing the correct answer:

“God does not grow faint but He does invigorate the _____.”

- (a) Selfish, self-centered, self-satisfied, and sarcastic.
- (b) Weary and strengthen the weak.
- (c) Self-righteous, spiritually blind and conceited
- (d) Devious, deceitful. Dishonest and disloyal.

We will discuss the answers to as many questions as possible in our next class.