

**FALL QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016**  
**THEME: GOD’S SOVEREIGNTY SEEN PROPHETICALLY**  
**UNIT ONE – HUMBLING OURSELVES BEFORE THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

**“A WORD OF HOPE AND ASSURANCE FROM THE  
MOUTH OF THE SOVEREIGN GOD”**



**Sunday School Lesson No. III– September 18, 2016**  
**Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III, Pastor-Teacher**

**Lesson Text:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 21-31

**Required Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-31

**Motto Text:** Isaiah 40:28-29, *“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.”*

**Reliable Resources:** Standard Lesson Commentary; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Precepts for Living (UMI Publishing); Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Logos Bible Software; Preacher’s Commentary; Visualized Bible Notes (Tyndale/Willmington)

**INTRODUCTION**

Now beloved, we turn again to the pages of scripture to visit with the “Prince of Prophets,” Isaiah. “Isaiah was a prophet who lived about 700 years before Christ. During this critical time in Judah’s history, God needed someone to take His word to a rebellious nation.” And in the words of the prophet Isaiah, “...*Then said I, Here am I; send me.*” Isaiah 6:8

As we continue this unit, the messages of Isaiah have not been very hopeful because of the practices of Israel. In chapters 1-39, Isaiah had been a voice of woe, gloom and doom, and may I say, “Rightfully so!” But God’s love for Israel and His promises to Abraham, David and their descendants would not let Israel be devoured by sin and Satan. Let us pick up with the second half of Isaiah’s prophecy beginning in chapter 40 and discover God’s Word of Hope and Assurance from His Sovereign Voice!

**Anticipated Power Points: The Sovereign God’s...**

- **Revelation Brings Hope. Isaiah 40:1-5**
- **Reverence Brings Hope. Isaiah 40:21-26**
- **Reassurance Builds Hope and Character. Isaiah 40:27-31**

## LESSON OUTLINE

### I. The Sovereign God's Revelation Brings Hope. Isaiah 40:1-5

#### A. Verses 1-2 – “*Comfort ye.*”

Only the revealed love of God can bring comfort in an hour of trial and distress, or chastisement towards his children. Isaiah, being enlightened of a very difficult captivity in Babylon and the fall of the capital city Jerusalem, writes, “*Comfort ye!*” (Read Isaiah 39:6-7). Isaiah is also told in verse 2 that the tone of his speech should be “as a mother would speak to a child.” When the 70 years of Babylonian captivity was completed, it would pay the price or penalty that God had exacted upon Israel’s sin against Him double (v. 2). Remember the covenant words of God to Moses and the nation as you read Deuteronomy 28:49-65 (NLT).

#### B. Verses 3-5 – “*Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*”

Isaiah speaks for Jehovah to encourage his generation and those yet to come that the way of comfort and peace cannot arrive until God’s Servant shall arrive and be received. Notice Isaiah says “*Prepare ye the way of the Lord.*” During the early days of the gospel writers, this scripture was appointed to John the Baptist and his heralding message to introduce Jesus Christ the first time. (Read Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 1:76 and John 1:23). Of course, when Jesus came He was as Isaiah wrote in chapter 53: “...*despised and rejected...*” But the glory of God will not be shone through another. Jesus is God’s Messiah and will appear the second time with great glory. (Read Revelation 19:11-16). Beloved, whether mankind wants to or not, all will one day bow before God’s Christ (Phil. 2:9-11).

### II. The Sovereign God's Reverence Brings Hope. Isaiah 40:21-26

From the Sovereign’s revelation we are reminded of the reverence that He is due by reading verses 6-20. Note the following: Isaiah declares that Jehovah is so awesome that there is no equal! According to H. L. Willmington, several of Jehovah’s attributes are presented in verses 6-26.

- “His eternity (40:6-9). God’s Word stands forever unlike people, and His people are called to proclaim the Lord’s coming.
- His gentleness (40:11). God will treat his own with the same tenderness a shepherd displays for his flock.
- His omnipotence (40:10, 12, 26). He is master over all nature.
- His omniscience (40:13-14). He knows and understands all things and needs no one to counsel or advise Him.
- His Sovereignty (40:15-17, 21-24)
  1. All nations are as a drop in the bucket, as dust on the scales to Him (40:15-17).
  2. He is enthroned above the circle of the earth (40:21-22). He spreads out the heavens like a curtain and makes his tent from them.
- He rules over all people (40:23-24).
- His uniqueness (40:18-20, 25). He cannot be compared to anyone or anything.”

Beloved, according to verse 26, all one has to do is just look up at the stars and heavenly bodies. God knows all of their names. Note: University of California Santa Barbara’s Science Line declares that “There are about 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 stars in space or roughly about 10 raised to the 21<sup>st</sup> power. This amount is equal to the number of grains of sand on ALL of the beaches on planet Earth!!! The whole idea is centered around giving God total reverence!

### III. The Sovereign God's Reassurance Builds Hope and Character. Isaiah 40:27-31

Please read these verses in the New Living Translation, then consider this: Though Israel was in the worst of trouble among the vilest of people, God’s Word declared cannot be withdrawn. If God says it, He will bring it to pass. So let all who trust in God learn to wait expectantly and trust Him exclusively. And the true God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ will prevail without fail!

### CLOSING

His eye is on the sparrow and I know He watches over you and me! Proverbs 3:5-6, “*Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*”



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Looking Ahead:                      September 25, 2016                      Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson and welcomes your questions and discussions.