

ISAIAH –Lesson 45

Learn: The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye 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 shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. Isaiah 40:3-5

Read: Isaiah 40:1-11

Isaiah chapter 40 begins the second half of Isaiah. It is the section of God's comfort to His people. This comfort is based on the sovereignty of God. Chapter 40 shows the power of God. We see His power in that His word is infallible, it cannot fail. We also see His power in His incomparable worth. There is no other that is like Him.

1. What does Psalm 103:19 tell us of God's sovereignty?
2. What is the comfort offered in these verses based upon? vv 1, 5b
3. How do we know that the Lord is touched by our suffering? vv1, 2
Also see Isaiah 12:1; II Corinthians 1:3, 4
4. What is the comfort that the Lord is bringing in vv 2-5?

NOTE: The word "comfort" appears 66 times in the English Bible. The Hebrew word is "nacham" and is found 109 times. The root word means "to breath" or "to sigh" or "to console" or "have pity" or "be compassionate" and is often translated with the word "repent."

In the New Testament we have at least five words involved in the meaning of "comfort": "parakaleo"- to come alongside of- used 140 times. "paramutheomai"-to speak to another by coming close to his side- used 6 times "parewgoria" –to address-

used once in Colossians 4:11 “thargeo”-to be courageous-used 9 times “eupsuchoe”-to be well souled; refreshed; braced up-used once in Philippians 2:19

II Corinthians 1:3 calls God “the God of all comfort.” In II Corinthians 1:4, God the Father comforts us; In I John 2:2, our Lord Jesus is called “the Advocate” or “Comforter”; and in John 14:16, 26, the Holy Spirit is called the “Comforter.”

I Thessalonians 4:18 says “comfort one another with these words.” I Thessalonians 5:11 adds “Wherefore comfort yourselves together.”

COMFORT YE MY PEOPLE pp246, 247 Dr. David Hocking

5. How is the comfort of the Lord produced in our hearts? Romans 15:4

6. We see part or all of verses 3-5 quoted in Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:2-3; Luke 3:4-6
Who is the one prophesied of in Isaiah that would prepare the way of the Lord?

7. What do we learn about this one who would prepare the way of the Lord in Malachi 3:1; 4:5, 6

8. Because of the Malachi passage the people of Israel were looking for Elijah of the time of King Ahab. How does Jesus explain to the people who is the Elijah spoken of as the one that would prepare the way of the Lord? Matthew 11:7-14; 17:10-13

9. What miracles will take place in the preparation for the Lord? vv3, 4

10. What is the purpose of the preparation of the way of the Lord? v 5

11. Who will make the preparation possible and how will it be accomplished? v 5
Also see Isaiah 22:25; 25:8; 58:14

12. What is the contrast given in vv 6-8?

Use the following passages to add to your explanation to this contrast.

I Peter 1:22-25; Psalm 119:89

13. Use your concordance to find other verses that speak of the surety and permanence of God's Word?

14. Why should Zion and Jerusalem be such a great focus in the lives of God's people?

v 9a

Should it then be an insult to be called a Zionist?

Explain your answer.

15. How should a believer respond to words that belittle Zionism?

Why?

Give scripture to back your answer.

16. How and where should these "good tidings" (good news) be announced? v9

17. When will the "good tidings" be accomplished? v 10

18. Why is the Lord's coming such good news? vv 10, 11 Also see Zechariah 9:9.

19. What two sides of the Lord do we see in vv 10, 11?

Why is each of them such an encouragement to us?

20. Use Isaiah 59:16-18 to explain the phrase "his arm shall rule for him," found in verse 10.

21. What is the reward that the Lord will bring, and the work that He will do?
Isaiah 62:11; Revelation 22:10-15