

Hezekiah's Failure

Isaiah 39

Greatest spiritual defeats often follow greatest spiritual victories

A. The Pride of Hezekiah (Isaiah 39:1-2)

1. Brought about by flattery (39:1-2a)

Proverbs 29:5, Proverbs 26:28

2. Brought about by failure to acknowledge God (39:2b)

Proverbs 3:6, Romans 1:28

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B. The Problem of Hezekiah (Isaiah 39:3-4)

1. In God's eyes (39:3a)

Numbers 32:23

2. God's warnings about Babylon ignored (39:3b-4)

Isaiah 13:5

a. A roadmap given to the future oppressors (39:3b)

b. Nothing hid from the future oppressors (39:4)

Hezekiah's Failure

Isaiah 39

Greatest spiritual defeats often follow greatest spiritual victories

C. The Prophecy Pronounced To Hezekiah (Isaiah 39:5-7)

1. The Word of the Lord (39:5)

2. Riches taken away (39:6)

2 Kings 24:8-16

3. Rulers taken away and cut off (39:7)

2 Kings 25:6-7, Daniel 1:1-6

D. The Pitiful Response Of Hezekiah (Isaiah 39:8)

“At least it won't happen to me”

God's Message of Comfort

Isaiah 40

God can only provide relief from His judgment

1 Peter 1:10-13

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

I. Comfort, A Message From God (Isaiah 40:1-11)

A. For his people (40:1-2)

Isaiah 40:1-2

1 Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.

**2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her,
that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is
pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double
for all her sins.**

I. Comfort, A Message From God (Isaiah 40:1-11)

B. From his forerunner, John the Baptist (40:3-8)

1. His identity revealed (v 3a)

Isaiah 40:3a

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness...,

I. Comfort, A Message From God (Isaiah 40:1-11)

**B. From his forerunner, John the Baptist (40:3-8) -
continued**

2. His message prophesized (vv 3b-8)

a. Prepare (vv 3b-4)

Isaiah 40:3b-4

**... Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the
desert a highway for our God.**

**4 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:**

I. Comfort, A Message From God (Isaiah 40:1-11)

**B. From his forerunner, John the Baptist (40:3-8) -
continued**

2. His message prophesized (vv 3b-8)

b. Perceive (v 5) (John 1)

Isaiah 40:5

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.

I. Comfort, A Message From God (Isaiah 40:1-11)

**B. From his forerunner, John the Baptist (40:3-8) -
continued**

2. His message prophesized (vv 3b-8)

c. Proclaim (vv 6-8)

Isaiah 40:6-8

**6 The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All
flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower
of the field:**

**7 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit
of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.**

**8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of
our God shall stand for ever.**

I. Comfort, A Message From God (Isaiah 40:1-11)

C. From the Messiah (40:9-11)

1. The Gospel brought from Zion (v 9)

Isaiah 40:9

O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

I. Comfort, A Message From God (Isaiah 40:1-11)

C. From the Messiah (40:9-11) - continued

2. Christ – The Judge (v 10)

Isaiah 40:10

Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him.

3. Christ – The Shepherd (v 11)

Isaiah 40:11

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

II. Creation, A Revelation of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)

A. Man not creator – God (Christ) is (40:12)

Isaiah 40:12

Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance?

B. Man not spiritual – God (Christ) is (40:13)

Isaiah 40:13

Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

II. Creation, A Revelation of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)

C. Man not righteous – God (Christ) is (40:14)

Isaiah 40:14

With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and shewed to him the way of understanding?

II. Creation, A Revelation of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)

D. Man not powerful – God (Christ) is (40:15-17)

Isaiah 40:15-17

15 Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing.

16 And Lebanon is not sufficient to burn, nor the beasts thereof sufficient for a burnt offering.

17 All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity.

II. Creation, A Revelation of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)

E. Man's idols not God – God (Christ) is (40:18-26)

1. Doesn't matter what they look like (v 18)

Isaiah 40:18

To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?

2. Doesn't matter what they are made of (vv 19-20)

Isaiah 40:19-20

19 The workman melteth a graven image, and the goldsmith spreadeth it over with gold, and casteth silver chains.

20 He that is so impoverished that he hath no oblation chooseth a tree that will not rot; he seeketh unto him a cunning workman to prepare a graven image, that shall not be moved.

II. Creation, A Revelation of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)

**E. Man's idols not God – God (Christ) is (40:18-26) –
continued**

**3. Doesn't matter what you think about creation
(vv 21-22)**

Isaiah 40:21-22

**21 Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not
been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood
from the foundations of the earth?**

**22 It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the
inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth
out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a
tent to dwell in:**

II. Creation, A Revelation of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)

**E. Man's idols not God – God (Christ) is (40:18-26) –
continued**

**4. Doesn't matter what governments you establish
(vv 23-24)**

Isaiah 40:23-24

**23 That bringeth the princes to nothing; he maketh the
judges of the earth as vanity.**

**24 Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be
sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and
he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and
the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble.**

II. Creation, A Revelation of God (Isaiah 40:12-26)

**E. Man's idols not God – God (Christ) is (40:18-26) –
continued**

5. God is real (vv 25-26)

Isaiah 40:25-26

25 To whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One.

26 Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

III. Consideration, A Call From God (Isaiah 40:27-31)

A. Israel's problem – You cannot see God when you are not truly looking (40:27)

Isaiah 40:27

Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the LORD, and my judgment is passed over from my God?

III. Consideration, A Call From God

(Isaiah 40:27-31)

B. God's answer (40:28-31)

1. You must see things God's way (v 28)

Isaiah 40:28

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.

2. You must do things in God's strength (vv 29-30)

Isaiah 40:29-30

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

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

III. Consideration, A Call From God

(Isaiah 40:27-31)

B. God's answer (40:28-31) - continued

3. You must have faith (v 31)

Isaiah 40:31

But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

III. Consideration, A Call From God

(Isaiah 40:27-31)

B. God's answer (40:28-31) - continued

3. You must have faith (v 31)

a. The young Christian shall mount up as an eagle

2 Timothy 2:22

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

III. Consideration, A Call From God

(Isaiah 40:27-31)

B. God's answer (40:28-31) - continued

3. You must have faith (v 31)

b. The adult Christian shall run

Hebrews 12:1

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

III. Consideration, A Call From God

(Isaiah 40:27-31)

B. God's answer (40:28-31) - continued

3. You must have faith (v 31)

c. The mature Christian shall walk

Galatians 5:16

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

**Have You Received God's
Message of Comfort?**