

III. Assurance Comes with Power to Accomplish (27-31)

- A. Do you not know?

- B. God gives strength to the weary; power to the weak! (29)

- C. The best of man will eventually stumble and fall.

- D. But those who hope in/wait on the Lord receive His strengthening!

LIVE THE STORY

We must not only love the Gospel Story, we must begin to live the Gospel Story, indeed, to have the Central Character live in us.

- Why is the context of Isaiah 39 important for our understanding of Isaiah 40 and the rest of the book?
- Isaiah 40:27 identifies the kinds of questions Israel in captivity and exile were going to have. Do you ever have these kinds of questions about God? When?
- What does God use in Isaiah 40 to comfort His people in their exile? What do you see emphasized in vss. 1-11?
- Does the way God speaks to his people resemble the way you might speak to those who are downcast?
- Have you ever realized that you are the reward of Christ's labor at the cross? How does this adjust your perspective?
- Are you more prone to think of God holding you at arm's length or close to His heart? How does this effect you?
- Why is assurance so closely related to who God is?
- Why will we need strength from God along with assurance? How do we receive it? How do we wait on the Lord?

The Powerful Assurance of God

Jerry Cisar — May 1, 2011

Text: Isaiah 40

Introduction: Our Need for Assurance

- A. Isaiah 39 ends with an assurance!

- B. Desolation and Captivity Bring Fear, Doubt, & Despondency

In Isaiah 40, God is sending us messages to sustain us and deliver us through our days of captivity to our final liberation!

- i. Peter speaks of the church in the world as “*exiles of the dispersion.*” (1 Peter 1:1)

 - ii. We need assurance as we travel through captivity!

 - iii. What kind of questions did they have? (40:27)
- C. Isaiah 40 is about a 2nd assurance: Deliverance from Captivity and Desolation

I. Assurance Through a Message and Messengers (1-11)

A. God Persuades

B. God Promises

- i. Your hard service is over!
- ii. Your sin has been paid for. (Isaiah 52-53)
- iii. “She has received double”
 - a) Job 11:6—True Wisdom has 2 sides...

➤ Psalm 107:20

C. God Proclaims

- i. A Message of the Means (3-5)
 - Isaiah 52:10, 13
- ii. A Message of the Need (6-8)
- iii. A Message of the Means (9-11)
 - a) Behold Your God!

b) Behold the Sovereign YHWH!

c) Behold His Reward is with Him!

➤ God is not holding you at arm's length!

II. Assurance is Rooted in Who God Is! (12-26)

A. Creation was easy for God because of His power! (12)

B. Creation was easy for God because of His Wisdom (13-14)

C. Your deliverance will be easy for Him too! (15-17)

D. God is not like the idols of the nations! (18-26)

What seems impossible only seems so because we fail to understand who God really is!