

The Lord's Day Morning

January 28, 1945

“Comfort Ye My People”
Scripture Lesson – Isaiah 40:1, 2; 6-20
Text – Isaiah 40:1

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Introduction

1. Isaiah 39:6, 7 – Prediction of trouble to Israel
 - a. Hezekiah had shown the emissaries from Babylon his great treasures and boasted of them.
 - b. Isaiah told him trouble which would come
 - c. Israel was in a precarious condition
 1. Was being attacked from all sides
 2. Fear came upon all the people
2. God commands Isaiah to speak comfort to His people
 - a. Verse 6 – Isaiah said what shall I cry?
 - b. God gave him the message of comfort to His people
 1. It was a revelation from God
 - c. It shows greatness of God
 1. Here was where they were to find their comfort

I. The Greatness of God

1. Verses 6-11 – Greater than man
 - a. Man as grass
 1. Grows today and is withered away tomorrow
 - b. Notice greatness of man – how limited
 1. Socially great
 2. State-wide
 3. National
 4. International
 5. Few have any influence upon history
 - c. God is eternal
 1. Hitler
 2. Mussolini
 3. Hirohito
 4. All shall soon vanish from scene and be gone
 - d. Our comfort is in God
 1. Should not fear man
 - e. Verses 10-11 – Promise of God
2. Verses 12-14 – Greater than universe
 - a. Picture God here under figure of great physical being
 - b. Measures water in hollow of hand

1. What a hand
 - c. Meted out heaven with a span
 1. His hand that large
 - d. Comprehended dust of earth in a measure
 1. We cannot weigh
 - e. Weighed mountains in scales, hills in a balance
 - f. Verses 13-14 – Who would give directions to such a God?
 1. Men say God cannot do this or that
 2. Could not believe in this kind or that kind of God
 3. Who would direct or limit God
3. Verses 15-17 – Greater than Nations
 - a. A drop in the bucket
 1. He holds waters in hand
 2. What are nations compared to Him?
 - b. Counted as small dust of balance
 1. Not enough to disturb equilibrium of balances
 2. Yet He measures hills in a balance
 - c. Taketh up their coasts as a very little thing
 1. Their boundaries
 - d. Why should we fear nations
 - e. Why should we depend upon nations
4. Verse 16 – Great than nature
 - a. Lebanon not sufficient to burn
 - b. Beasts not sufficient for burnt offerings
 - c. We are afraid of nature
 - d. God is greater
5. Verses 18-20 – Greater than idols
 - a. Verse 19 – man makes own gods of stone and gold
 - b. Verse 20 – man who cannot afford gold chooseth tree which will not rot
 - c. How many puny and insignificant compared to God
 - d. Yet never turn to these things for comfort instead of God
6. Verses 21, 22 – Summary of greatness of God
 - a. He sits upon circle of earth
 - b. Inhabitants are as grasshoppers

II. What He says to us

1. Isaiah 41:9 – He hath chosen us
 - a. What a mighty truth
 1. Inhabitants are grasshoppers
 2. Yet He hath chosen us
2. Isaiah 41:10 – Fear Not
 - a. Why
 - b. Notice verse
 - c. Isaiah 41:13
 1. “I Need Not Walk Alone” – Brace Harner Poffenberger

“Oh, precious thought, I need not walk alone;
A dear Companion waits not far away
To take my outstretched hand within His own,
And guide my faltering footsteps, lest they stray.
My human friends forsake me when I fall,
Humbled and spent, beside the path; but He
Seems not to think the less of me at all –
But raises me once more, so tenderly.
Life’s pathways may be dim and dark with doubt,
My eyes so often blind with bitter pain;
But all I need to do is just reach out
My hand to Him, nor ever is it vain.
Oh, precious thought, I need not walk alone;
There is a Friend whose hand awaits my own!”

3. Isaiah 42:6-7 – Called to a great task
 - a. God not only calls me
 - b. He trusts me with a great task
4. Isaiah 40:29-31
 - a. We may grow faint and weary in our own power
 - b. He will renew our strength day by day
1. Isaiah 46:4

Conclusion

1. God is great
2. God has chosen you
3. God has given you a great task
4. God has promised to keep
5. Let us face life’s difficulties with God