**The glory of the Messiah – Isa. 40: 1 – 8**

**Focal Truth: God’s word is eternally comforting to repentant sinners**

**The Prophets & the Holy Spirit**

1. The prophets were filled with the Holy Spirit
2. The Holy Spirit spoke through the prophets concerning the sufferings and glories of Jesus the promised Messiah

2 Pet. 1:19 -21 – *so we have prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God*

1. The Holy Spirit led the prophets in their ministry & preaching

1 Pet. 1:10 – 12 – *as to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,* ***seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them*** *was indicating as* ***He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them*** *that they were not serving themselves, but you, in* ***these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven*** *– things into which angels long to look*

Isa. 61:1 – *the Spirit of the Lord God is upon me…*

John 16:13 – 14 - *but when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak of His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

1. The words of Isaiah are the words of the Holy Spirit predicting & promising the sufferings & glories of Jesus Messiah
2. The words of Isaiah are the words of promise to Israel who will after the times of the Gentiles be saved as a nation

Rom. 11:25 – 26 - *I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery – so that You will not be wise in your own estimation – that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved…*

**Observations**

1. **The Holy Spirit assures Israel that God will comfort them in their troubles – 40:1**
2. Isaiah predicts the Babylonian captivity before it comes – 59:6 -7
3. Isaiah predicts that Israel will return to the land from Babylon – 13: 11 – 16; 12:1
4. God comforts Israel reminding them He still loves them even though they have sinned against Him

2 Cor. 1:3 – 5 - *blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For just as the suffering of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ*

1. **The Holy Spirit assures Israel that God forgives repentant sinners – 40:2**
2. The Holy Spirit promises that the war of sinning Israel with God is coming to an end
3. The Holy Spirit promises that God will forgive the sins of Israel by Messiah – 53:5
4. The Holy Spirit promises that Israel judgment will be over in the days they believe on the Messiah
5. **The Holy Spirit calls to Israel to repent& prepared to receive their promised Messiah 40: 3 -5**
6. The Holy Spirit is calling for Israel to repent & prepare for the coming of the Lord
7. The Holy Spirit spoke through John Baptist to prepare Israel to meet the Lord Jesus when He began His ministry
8. Repentance leads to seeing the Lord in all His glory!
9. **The Holy Spirit declares to Israel that man is temporary but God’s Word & promises are eternal 40:6 -8**
10. The Holy Spirit declares that humans are flower & fade like grass
11. The Holy Spirit declares that humans live only a short while on the earth
12. The Holy Spirit declares that God’s Word and promises stand forever!

What God predicts will happen

What God promises will come to pass

What God says is permanent & unchanging

1 Pet. 1:23 -25 – *for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. All flesh is grass, and all its glory like the flow of grass. The grass withers and the flower falls off, but the word of the Lord endures forever. This is the word which was preached to you*

**Today if you hear the Spirit’s voice to not harden your heart!**

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**